



Foreword

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Spring 2017

From Taos to FOPAL Growing up in Taos



*Tisa Walker, Native American Section Manager and
Ed Walker, High Value Librarian*

Several times recently I have been asked about my interest in the Native American people – that is, where does it come from? Well, the most direct answer is that I am an anthropologist and that my field area specialty is the native North American indigenous peoples. Which is an accurate academic answer, factual and precise, but actually it only deals with the surface.

When I take the time to answer more fully, I go back to my childhood summers in the 1950s, where I grew up in Taos, New Mexico. At that time the town of Taos was still quite small. Most of the folks there were Spanish-American, descendants of the first European colonizers who had emigrated north in the mid-1500s into the 1600s from what was then called New Spain, and then

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Members, Volunteers and Supporters,

On behalf of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library I would like to thank you all for your generosity both in terms of financial support and the many hours you spend making FOPAL a great success.

This year our annual appeal brought in over \$10,000, the largest amount in our history. Also, this year our sales revenues have exceeded expectations which will enable us to increase our support for the Palo Alto City Library. Our revenue comes from our sales of books, CDs, and DVDs in three different ways. We have three retail locations at the Cubberley Community Center, we have online Amazon and eBay stores, and we have outlets at three of the local libraries, all of which are doing extremely well.

This year we have committed to funding \$140,000 in grants for the library. This will cover children and teen programming such as the ever-popular Summer Reading project and Brainfuse, the homework tutoring service. For adults there will be classes for ESL, New Americans and technology. We will also be helping upgrade the library's non-fiction collection to ensure that the information available will be up to date.

All of this depends on your donations, your financial support, your time, and your attendance at our sales.

Your contribution makes a difference to our community and FOPAL thanks you. If you have any questions or suggestions please let me know.

*Nigel Jones, President
Nigelfopal@gmail.com*

Books for Children: Building Bridges and Tearing Down Walls



Liz and Honor Students

Eleven years ago, I retired from a job I loved as a children's librarian at the San Luis Obispo Library. I thought I knew San Luis but I discovered a San Luis I barely knew in Hawthorne School, just four blocks from my house.

No teachers are assigned to this joyful, largely working class, 50% Latino school unless they want to be. Hawthorne has become, for me and Dan, my husband of 53+ years, as well as for the families it serves, an oasis of "esperanza" or hope.

I started by volunteering in a special needs class and invited the children to our books-to-the-ceiling home. We wanted to help the kids "grow their own" libraries. Within a few years, we invited more and more classes and now every spring all classes in Gr. 3-6 walk to our home, which has evolved into a veritable treasure

house decked out in book character and multicultural art and overflowing with carefully chosen, gently used children's books, organized by subject. We have book and pizza garden parties where the kids get to search for and keep as many books as they want and, can carry easily. Some know exactly what book they want and if they can't hunt it down, we show them where it is hidden!

I had been overwhelmed by the book needs of my children and as a result of all this I am always in search for wonderful books that will entice kids into reading. This is how I came to discover the amazing riches of the Friends of the Palo Alto Children's Room and their dedicated volunteers. A few months ago, I made my third visit to your children's monthly sale and bought a trove of books at either fifty cents or five dollars a bag. Prices I could afford! There I met a book angel, Tyler Vinciguerra. I'd seen her staffing the sales desk before, but this time I showed her some photos of kids with big hearts but almost insurmountable barriers.

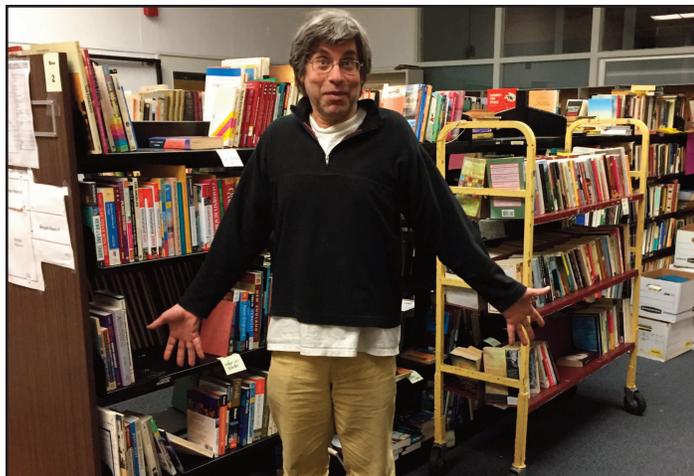
As Tyler helped carry my bags to the car, she told me about the boxes of remaindered books I could go through. That led to a fairy tale day in which volunteer Miriam Landsmen helped me go through the books to pick out all the ones I wanted. I was in Book Heaven with your incredible books, dear Friends of the Palo Alto Library! Bless you for all you do!

You are part of our village, helping children believe in hope rather than fear, building bridges and tearing down walls of ignorance, hate and wasted talents.

Liz Krieger

*Retired Children's Librarian
San Luis Obispo*

What Happens to the Books You Donate to FOPAL After the Sale



Preparing for the sale: Peter Gioumousis, Bargain Room Section Manager before the book sale (top) and after the book sale and recycling

Each year, Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) receives over 300,000 books donated from local residents, institutions and businesses. The books are sold at FOPAL's monthly sales, library-branch stores, and on our online Amazon store, generating about a quarter million dollars in total revenue each year. Net proceeds from the sales are given to the Palo Alto City Library in the form of grants to help support the rich variety of Library programs that fill their events calendar.

FOPAL has another important mission in addition to supporting City Library programs. It provides an efficient process for "recycling" the thousands of books donated each month into the hands of new, appreciative readers. As you will see below, virtually all of the roughly 25,000 books donated to FOPAL each month are bought by or given to new readers, keeping the joy and value of the donated books alive for others.

In the Spring, 2015 edition of the FOREWORD I described the journey of books donated to FOPAL as they move from initial intake and sorting, to purchase by the public at the FOPAL monthly sales. If books do not sell in our main book sale room or our Children's Room they are moved into our Bargain Room where they are sold for a dollar or 50 cents, given free to educators and non-profits on Sunday afternoon and free to everyone on Monday evening. What the article doesn't tell you however is what happens to the books after Monday night

The photos show the Bargain Room shelves before and after the end of a typical Saturday/Sunday monthly sale and Monday-night giveaway. Shelves that were full before the monthly sale now contain, on average, about 6,000 unsold, unclaimed books. That is, about 18-20% of the books donated to FOPAL each end up as orphans.

These books are then picked by DR3, the transport arm of St. Vincent DePaul, and trucked to their headquarters and central distribution site in Oregon. Here the books are sent to St. Vincent de Paul's thrift stores throughout the Northwest, and the proceeds given to programs for charitable institutions, such as orphanages, churches, and prisons.

Somewhere, in other words, a child or book-hungry adult will pick up a book that once had value to a Bay Area reader and find new value, entertainment, or information in a new location.

FOPAL encourages your donations of books, CDs and DVDs. Your contributions are good for the Palo Alto City Library and its programming, good for our local communities and by avoiding the land fill good for the environment.

The Palo Alto City Library Writing Contest



*Suzanne Brown Little, Vice President and Section
Manager for History and Historical Fiction*

The Palo Alto City Library Writing Contest is an important yearly event that encourages students in grades 2-12 to write creatively. It began in 2008 and has been an annual event with a short hiatus that occurred in the 2014/15 years due the library's openings/reopenings. We felt it was important to return to the contest as creative writing is an important writing process for students to experience, and of course it is a lot of fun. This year was a great success as we had 30 children and 26 teens participating. The three top writers received gift cards to Books Inc. and to celebrate all the contestants FOPAL awarded them all with FOPAL Book Bucks redeemable at their monthly book sales and in-library stores. Everyone that entered got to get new books to read!

Liz Stewart, Senior Librarian

MARY JEAN PLACE RIP



Many FOPAL members may have already learned of the passing of past FOPAL president Mary Jean Place, who died on February 7th, 2017 at the age of 90. Her lengthy obituary has appeared in three local newspapers, as she was well known in the community as a champion of libraries. She served as our president during a formative time in the late 1990s and early 2000s while the monthly book sales at the old Terman site were evolving into a significant source of revenue. During this time, Mary Jean was a strong advocate for the creation of the Library Advisory Commission, which is now an established entity advising the City on library matters. After leaving the FOPAL board, sensing the potential for raising funds for the libraries from local philanthropists and corporate donors, Mary Jean founded the Palo Alto Library Foundation, and served as its first president. She never forgot FOPAL, and directed that her personal library be donated to the book sale, and that donations in her memory may be made to FOPAL's Library Lover's Fund.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you enjoy books, CDs and DVDs, FOPAL is a volunteer's paradise. 1000s of boxes of them come in the front door, they are sorted into about 60 categories and each category has a Section Manager who prepares them for our monthly retail sales and online sales. We have over 150 volunteers but are always looking for more, here are some of our current openings:

MAIN ROOM SECTION MANAGERS & ASSISTANTS

Here's an opportunity to manage your own mini bookstore as a FOPAL Section Manager or Assistant Section Manager. Bring your love of books to FOPAL sections such as Politics, Science, Reference, Holidays, Annuals/Yearbooks to name several sections currently available.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE BOOK SALE

The FOPAL Book Sale is the second weekend of every month and we need volunteers for shifts on both Saturday and Sunday. We need cashiers, donation handlers, and floor monitors to help customers find the books they want and help keep our sales running smoothly.

Asian Languages

The Asian Languages section has two locations. One is in aisle 13, where you will find many Chinese CDs and DVDs of music, movies and dramas. The other location is in aisle 8 where there are books in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian and Vietnamese on subjects such as art, history, politics, fiction and cooking. Occasionally, we have collectible items as well as books autographed by authors.

Haiyan Chen
Asian Languages Section Manager

BOOK SALE "DAY OF EVENT" COORDINATOR

We are seeking a Sale Day Volunteer Coordinator to support our Volunteer Sales Manager to oversee the preparation and running of our monthly book sales.

BARGAIN ROOM BOOK SHELVING

Prepare our Bargain Room by organizing and shelving the books ready for the sales.

Learn to be the librarian of FOPAL's successful Amazon bookstore. With our on-line book sale business busier than ever we need volunteers to list, shelve, track and mail books out.

Join the FOPAL team to help sell more books & change people's lives. Flexible schedules are available. You can make a difference!

*For more information contact: Janette Herceg
Volunteer & Sale Manager
650-494-1266
jherceg@fopal.org*

FOPAL'S High Value Sales

FOPAL's High Value sales via our Amazon store have been very strong during the first calendar quarter of 2017 with science, technology and history leading the charge. The addition of two new listing volunteers has been a key factor as more listings lead to more sales. If you want to join our listing team we would love to have you!

We have opened up an additional sales channel by listing DVDs on eBay and have high hopes that this will significantly add to FOPAL's bottom line.

In February, we participated in the biennial California International Antiquarian Book Fair, exhibiting as a guest of the Fair in the "Special Exhibits" wing, giving us a chance to show off some of our finer offerings as well as soliciting new members and donations.

Taos (continued from page 1)

settled in what became called New Mexico. They were the backbone of the modern Taos community, being everything from local farmers and small-scale ranchers to holding positions in the various elected offices of the city government, as well as anchoring the police services.

The other, much smaller part of the town's populace was composed of Anglo-Americans. Anglo-Americans had actually been in the area since the late 1800s – for instance Kit Carson lived in Taos and in fact his body is buried in the local cemetery. But by the 1950s the Anglo population was made up of two main groups: one of small-business owners, who operated various shops, galleries, and merchandise stores; the other of Anglos who were members of the very prestigious Taos art colony.

This colony had been founded in the early 1900s by professional eastern artists traveling west and discovering the northern New Mexican idyllic scenery – especially its vibrant colors, high-altitude, and scintillating light. Over time many more Anglos had come as artists, and even into the 1950s the Taos artist community continued to remain quite vibrant.

As regular summer residents, my folks and I knew a number of people in all of these groups. We would share dinner parties, go to various concerts and theater productions, attend the openings of particular art exhibits, and such. It made for a very interesting social life, especially for my parents.

However, two miles north of this town of Taos is the even much older community of Taos Pueblo. And it is there where I had my closest friends. The family whom my folks and I knew the best had a daughter who was just my age – so we went through our teenage lives together. She also had a younger brother and eventually two younger sisters, one of whom was named for my mom and me. To say the least we were both very honored with that. These friends also touched my teenager Anglo heart because they had an Appaloosa horse, who for each

summer became “my horse”.

And so, every year we kids would do a lot of things together. We would ride our horses across the valley, play various games in the yard of the family home, and help prepare large family dinners. At other times we would, with our folks, load into our car and travel to other Pueblos, to visit various relatives, and to be part of the ceremonial world of the special dances held during the summer months. And always I would enjoy the laughter, the feasting, and the sibling friendship.

The Taos Pueblo community was (and still is) very traditional, having withstood a lot of the governmental pressures of forced assimilation, and had been able to maintain the ancient ways of thinking, being, and acting that went back to their long-time Pueblo lifestyle. But the Pueblo folks also were able to balance the old ways with the avalanche of new ways which had swept in, particularly after the Anglo-American population in New Mexico became more prevalent in the 1900s.

I was most fortunate to spend my teenage years as a honorary part-time daughter in a very kindhearted and knowledgeable Pueblo family. With this cross-cultural experience, I learned a lot about both their culture and my own.

Not surprisingly then, when I came out here to go to Stanford I decided to major in anthropology. My time with my Pueblo friends and their world had certainly sown that seed of interest in my eventual profession and, after I next went on into grad school, I indeed did choose as my primary field area the native peoples of North America – with of course a focus upon the Pueblos.

During my professional career which followed I taught anthropology at both Foothill College and later De Anza College. It was at Foothill College where I designed and taught the first course on Native Americans to be part of their curriculum in anthropology. And it was also there where I quickly learned that I had to prove myself – not to my anthropology colleagues, but to the Native American students.

First of all, the fact that I was trained as an

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anthropologist was rather problematic to them. In fact, there was an old Navajo joke which said that each Navajo family was made up of mother, father, two children, and an anthropologist, which wryly indicates what they thought about the profession.

Then also during the 1960s there was a very strong Native American civil rights movement, as exemplified for instance by the Native American occupation of Alcatraz. And then in the 1970s ironically there arose an 'Indian-is-in' attitude, where Anglos were romanticizing Indians yet again, and in a sense hoped to "become Indians". The New Age, hippie uninvited encampment among the Hopi people was an example of that. The real Native Americans called these folks "wannabe" Indians. And understandably they were both irked and dismayed by all of this.

So, on campus, not knowing my background in particular, but from my appearance realizing I'm obviously an Anglo-American, some of the local Native Americans new to me came to audit my classes and check me out, so to say. And once they learned more about my background, and also my approach to talking about Native American cultures, they became very thoughtful supporters. In fact, one local Native American gal, whom I'd asked to come to a class to present information on her tribal group the Apache, had us all chuckling when she said to the students "When God was passing out skins, Tisa took the wrong color."

From then on it was acceptable to them for me to be both an anthropologist and an Anglo-American teaching about Native Americans. So there at Foothill College and later as chairman of the department of anthropology at De Anza College I focused my classes around the Native American peoples, everything from their prehistory, to their traditional societies, to their lives as Native Americans in our various urban areas, to the contemporary social, political, and economic factors with which they must deal

I still recognize to this day that I had gained the trust and support of my Native American students and friends due to my Pueblo enriched childhood. Thus, my long and successful academic career is all thanks to my many summers with my Taos Pueblo family, and my "growing up in Taos".

And now? Well, here at FOPAL I am pleased to have become the section manager for our Native American collection, and to gladly share with my co-volunteers and our many customers my knowledge about and long-time involvement with these original peoples. And in the process to of course learn more!

Tisa Walker

Retired anthropologist, Foothill and De Anza College

MEMBERS' CORNER

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Life Members and Sponsors can each buy 100 books or other items between 9am and 10am at our biannual Members' Early Book Sale. All Members can buy 25 books or other items between 10am and 11am at the sale. Sets, regardless of size, count as one item.

MEMBERS' EARLY BOOK SALES

Main Book Sale Room

Saturday, July 8th, 2017

Saturday, December 9th, 2017

Life Members and Sponsors: 9am to 10am

All Members: 10am to 11am

General Public: 11am to 4pm

Friends of the Palo Alto Library
PO BOX 41
Palo Alto, CA 94302-0041

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Book Sales:

Second Weekend Every Month
Cubberley Community Center
4000 Middlefield Road - Palo Alto

Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday

Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room
1305 Middlefield Road 7:30pm - 9pm

For information see:
www.fopal.org

Saturday Hours

Bargain Room: 9:30am - 4pm [H2, H3]
Children's Room: 10am - 4pm
Main Room: 11am - 4pm
Sunday Hours
All rooms: 11am - 4pm
For details see www.fopal.org

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

"The Friends of the Palo Alto Library is a tax-exempt organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation is tax deductible."

Join / Renew	1 Year	2 Years
_____ Student/Senior	\$10	\$18
_____ Individual	\$20	\$35
_____ Family	\$30	\$50
_____ Sponsor	\$100	\$175
_____ Lifetime	\$500	
_____ Corporate	\$1000	

_____ Name

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Matching Funds: Many of our members and donors can increase their donation to FOPAL if their employers have a Matching Funds program for registered charities. Please contact info@fopal.org for more information.

Make checks payable to:

Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Return form to:

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P.O. Box 41 Palo Alto, CA 94302

If you would rather receive the FOREWORD by email please notify us at editor@fopal.org.

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