



Foreword

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Fall 2017

Members' Annual Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Time: 10:30 am

Place: Rinconada Library, Embarcadero Room

Agenda: Election of Board members and Officers, annual financial summary, other business from the members

Proposed for re-election to the Board for a two-year term:

Nancy Cohen, Nigel Jones, Karen Neier, and Martha Schmidt.

Continuing Board members:

Suzanne Brown Little, Tom Clark, Peter Dehlinger, Charlotte Epstein, Tina Kass, Shaun Maguire, Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, and Steve Staiger.

Proposed FOPAL Officers:

President: Nigel Jones
Vice President: Charlotte Epstein
Secretary: Tina Kass
Treasurer: Shaun Maguire
Assistant Treasurer: Karen Neier

Proposed Board Member:

Neelima Meka

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members, Volunteers and Supporters,

Our financial year, 2016 - 2017, was a banner year for the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. We exceeded our goals in terms of our monthly sales and our online sales, and by managing our expenses, we also exceeded our sales income goal. Coming off this good year we have been able to commit to funding \$140,000 in grants to the Palo Alto City Library covering a very broad range of programs for children, teens and adults, as well as the purchase of around 4,000 items towards their ongoing collection replacement project. Thank you for all your effort, time and dedication.

None of this could happen without you!

Nigel Jones, President
Nigelfopal@gmail.com

MEMBERS' CORNER

MEMBERS' EARLY BOOK SALE

Main Book Sale Room

Saturday, December 9, 2017

Life Members and Sponsors: 9am to 10am

All Members: 10am to 11am

General Public: 11am to 4pm

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.

The Science Fiction Section and I



Rich McAllister - Science Fiction Section Manager

The Science Fiction and Fantasy section at FOPAL's main sales room is large, usually packed with great books which sell quickly. I've been managing the section for four years now. When I started, I thought I was reasonably well informed in the subject, but I've still learned a lot.

I've been a reader of SF as long as I've been a reader. I combed the library shelves looking for the little rocket stickers on the spine; when I'd read all those I started on the used paperback stores. At the time, SF was mainly published in paperback; many absolutely classic SF novels like Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Left Hand of Darkness" were paperbacks first, only getting hardcover editions later. I eventually started reading most of the digest-sized SF magazines of the time – "Fantasy and Science Fiction", "IF", "Galaxy", "Amazing Stories,"

"Fantastic". I never read the most popular one, "Analog", though. The main SF paperback publishers, Ballantine and Ace, probably put out about 6-10 books a month between them, so it was entirely possible to read almost everything new each month.

From reading Isaac Asimov's columns in "Fantasy and Science Fiction", and the editorials and fanzine reviews in Ted White's "Amazing" and "Fantastic", I had always known that organized SF fandom existed, but I didn't contact it until college; I started attending SF conventions; there's a lot of shop talk among writers, editors, and publishers there. That's made me aware of the rise and fall of various fashions in the field.

Eventually, my consumption of SF slowed down. Especially after the popularity of Star Trek and Star Wars, a lot more SF was being published; it was no longer possible to read almost everything. After Tolkien, there started to be a vast amount of fantasy published. Since "The Lord of the Rings" was a three-volume set, fantasy is almost always published in series of three or more (sometimes many more) fat novels; far too much to get through.

Processing the incoming donations and stocking the shelves for the monthly sales is always an adventure; while I know most of the books I'm likely to see, at least by reputation, there are always some surprises.

Unlike most sections in the sale room, I shelve a lot of mass-market paperbacks – about half of the section. While they sell for less – \$1 and up instead of \$2 for hardcovers, since more paperbacks fit in a foot of shelf, we make just as much money from paperbacks as hardcovers. I think lots of the SF customers grew up on paperbacks like I did, so paperbacks are attractive.

The donations tend to come in batches. There's two distinct populations. Books a few years old to about 20 years old, and usually not the best; these are people culling their collections, I think. Books 30-60 years old, very often lots of absolute classics of the field. I love seeing these, but it's a little sad since they are often

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Science Fiction

(Continued from page 2)

donations from estates.

I've learned that I am not very good at all at judging which books will sell well; it's definitely not correlated with my opinions. Books I think are classics don't sell, ones I think are trash sometimes do.

There are things which I've learned sell reliably. Terry Pratchett's books will always sell, even if they're not in great condition. 1950s-1960s "Ace Doubles" – two short books published back-to-back – always go. In 1963-64, "Analog" broke from the common "digest" size for fiction magazines and released what were called the "bedsheet Analogs" in the large format like the "Saturday Evening Post" of the time. I love to find these in the incoming donations, since they'll sell quickly, especially if they have an installment of one of Frank Herbert's "Dune" books. There are fat yearly "best-of" anthologies that collect an editor's pick of the best stories published that year, these generally go.

There are definitely runs on certain books at particular times. A movie coming out will boost sales of underlying books like Andy Weir's "The Martian". George R. R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" books sell great when HBO is running new episodes of "Game of Thrones", but move slowly when the series is on hiatus.

On the other side, there are occasional boxes of run-of-the-mill fantasy which it's not a joy to go through. Recently a donation of 6 boxed sets of 4 fat novels each by Terry Goodkind came in. I knew he had been grinding them out regularly for decades, but it was astonishing to see the pile they made collected together.

Since I can't trust my judgement of the quality of a book to know if it will sell, I've developed a routine of taking pictures of the shelves before every sale and comparing to the picked-over remains after the sale. I'm often disappointed that books I think are great don't sell.

Take Poul Anderson, for example. He was one of the absolute best writers of the 1960s through the 1990s; unusually, he wrote science-based "hard" SF, heroic fantasy, humor, and space opera adventure, all successfully. When I get his books in, I put them out for sale, and they never do. I comfort myself that it's just that everybody who would be interested already has read the books.

One of the big surprises was how well certain series of books based on games like "Warhammer" sell, and at higher prices than I thought, I think what may be happening here is that the books were published by the game publishers, not by regular book publishers, and the game publishers have a schedule of a couple new books a month and never go back and reprint them, so people who start reading the series later generate demand for the earlier books.

I'm sure I'll continue to discover books I didn't know existed, books that I think shouldn't exist, and being surprised by the results.

Rich McAllister



The Children's Book Sale Room in the southwest corner of Cubberley Community Center

My Literary Journey and the Road to Misfit Island

By Tina Gibson

I wish I could say that my literary journey began at some tropical poolside resort, lounging around, blotting sunscreen-infused blobs of sweat with my napkin before they rolled off my chin and landed on my writer's notepad. Or sitting alone under a tree, breathing in the fine smell of Sierra timbers; the feeling of complete serenity as the sun heated up its core, giving planet Earth a proper welcome. Or even better—on a backpacking voyage, recording the detailed account of my Vision

Quest across the Utopian wilderness of Alaska. But that's not how it happened. Not for me, anyway. My story began all alone on a cold October morning in 2010... in the waiting room of a tire shop. I anticipated a long wait for my car so I brought a notepad and pen. From out of nowhere, an image formed in my mind. So simple and intentionally haunting—a young boy, sitting on the floor of his dank, darkened room, grinning at himself in the mirror, foreshadowing his future destiny of world domination and destruction. Then, all in a flash, words started forming together in my mind. At that moment I jotted down the opening lines: *"Did you picture yourself rising from the ashes - A proud, stoic figure ready to lead the masses? Some have described you as strapping and somewhat dashing - Arrogance distorts the memories of a boy who was never lacking - Let me set the stage in Technicolor, just for you - An impressionable youth left alone with self-guided fantasies to*

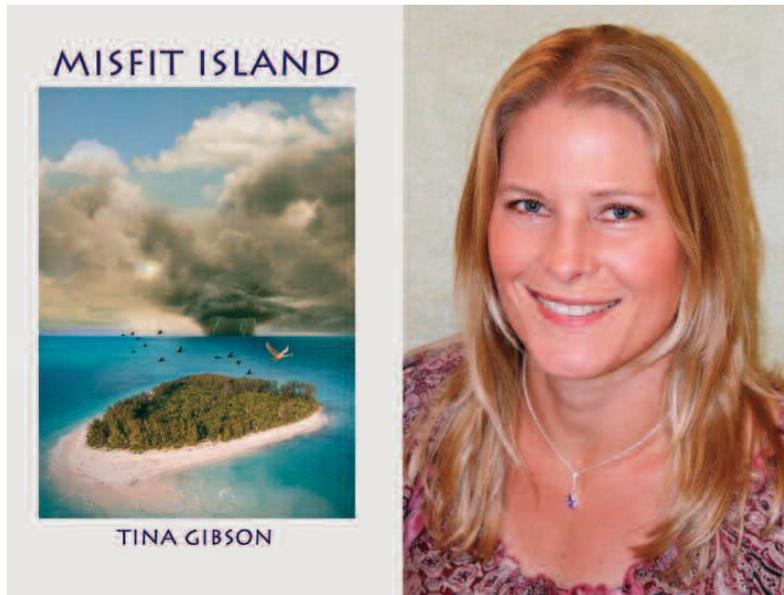
pursue - I imagine you sitting on your dirty carpet; an impressionable young boy playing drill sergeant - battle cries bounce off the walls of your darkened room - Generals and dictators rise from your toy box of doom - your allies promote nothing but one-world choices - and you fall prey to their melodic voices..." The message: pay attention to your children because you never know who they will grow up to be. That morning in the tire shop marked the beginning of my literary journey... and the day I wrote my first poem

"Nicolai in Technicolor."

After I wrote "Nicolai," I had an overwhelming urge to write more. At the time, I was 31 years old and living a boring, stagnant life. It was time for a new challenge. But why poetry? I've never been into poetry, so why the sudden interest? Perhaps I was

channeling something. As an Idealist, writing poetry became my new focus. Thanks to my Martial Arts background, I grew up to be a very self-disciplined person. At first, I threw myself into the literary routine and learned that being both a writer and a social butterfly did not mix well. Although I missed out on social events, my friends were understanding and supported my efforts. By January 2012, I had about 100 poems and a few short stories to my name. I wanted to go the self-publishing route, so I joined a writer's critique group and received helpful feedback. With help from the group organizer (who I am proud to call my friend and editing coach), my first book "One Page at a Time" was published in December 2012. I was on a high... both personally and professionally.

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Misfit

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One week before “One Page at a Time” was published, I wrote a quick draft of an anti-Tyranny poem with the working title “Misfit Island.” I wanted to include it, but further development was needed. I ended up throwing the unfinished draft in my desk. Out of sight and out of mind... but not for long. What started out as a one-page poem quickly turned into an Orwellian fairy tale world filled with animals. I added some Epic flare and used rhyming prose to tell the tale. I used a style called Metering, where each line had a specific syllable count. I chose my meter to read at a 12-10, 12-10 tempo, with the syllables tightening up at the climactic end. From 2013 to 2014, I outlined my modern Epic world; a young swan named Signa, struggling to find her place in the animal hierarchy, Greek Gods, a battle of good vs. evil, cannibalism, and a show of sacrifice by the swan that led to Divine Intervention. My twist is that Signa’s the Almost-Hero. She had a chance to be the Hero but didn’t take it. After I completed my first draft, I brought my manuscript to read at Open Mic. Afterwards, a few people in the audience told me that Misfit Island sounded like an Allegory, with the rhyming flare of a Shakespearian sonnet. Others said they could see it as an animated movie.

I honestly couldn’t tell you how many hours I spent on Misfit Island; writing and rewriting, co-editing with my writing coach, counting syllables with my fingers, looking up rhymes, plotting out character expansions—and doing it all over again! Or how many evenings I spent with my head buried in my keyboard, focusing on a single sentence—coming up for air and discovering I had to be showered and ready for work in two hours. After all that effort and those sleepless nights, I was satisfied with the outcome of my working manuscript. Initially, I was going to publish Misfit Island on Create Space but decided last minute to try and find a publisher. I consulted the

“Writer’s Market” guide and found some publishers who accepted unsolicited submissions. That proved to be quite a process, as each site had different submission guidelines. Eventually, I received responses from editors, thanking me for my submission. A few were kind enough to say they found my story “interesting,” and “very rare.” I took a chance with Misfit Island, knowing an Epic Poem with original illustrations would be difficult in today’s market. I came across an independent publishing company in the Bay Area called Quaci Press. I submitted my story and received an email from an editor at Quaci Press who called it “interesting,” and saw it as a “creative, unique piece of work.” Misfit Island was officially published by Quaci Press in November 2016. In addition to the printed format, the eBook edition was published on Kindle Direct Publishing in May 2017.

For the most part, 2017 has been a busy year of author events and poetry readings. Although I’ve been shamelessly promoting myself and my new book, I also have my volunteer work. I served as Fiction Editor for the Sand Hill Review and help each year at the San Mateo County Fair. I’ve met so many wonderful people and literary allies throughout this whole process. I met Janette and Tyler from FOPAL in the Spring of 2016 and they encouraged me to sign up as a volunteer for FOPAL and I’ve been hooked ever since. Because of my banking and customer service background, I am quite comfortable volunteering on sales day with cashiering and the checkout process. Sometimes I find myself just chatting it up with customers about the volume of books they buy, the authors they love, and the books that changed their lives. That is my favorite part of the FOPAL experience. I am pleased that FOPAL has such a loyal following of customers. Your patronage speaks volumes in this ‘Digital’ day and age.

tinagibson78@gmail.com
Monthly Book Sale Cashier

Palo Alto City Library and its Online Resources



*Dewey the Library Robot joins
M. Ryan Hess, Library
Services Manager, Digital
Initiatives*

Palo Alto City Library offers a number of online resources to entertain and enrich your life.

For Palo Alto students, the library now offers Brainfuse HelpNow!, a service providing online tutors. Brainfuse's state-aligned skills building lessons help students master key academic areas in engaging one-on-one

sessions from expert instructors. Features include writing lab specialists helping students produce better letters, term papers and reports, tutoring for Spanish speakers and help in most academic subject areas.

After all that study, it's time to treat yourself with an online movie. We now offer the Kanopy Streaming Collection of 30,000 films featuring titles from the Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, PBS, and many more. Stream these videos on a computer, or get the free app to stream or download on your iOS or Android smartphone/tablet.

And speaking of smartphones, if you're looking to buy a new gadget of any kind, you better consult Consumer Reports. And you guessed it, the Library offers Consumer Reports and dozens of other popular magazines online. Check out our online magazines using Flipster or RBDigital apps from anywhere.

Get started with these online resources and many others on the Library's eContent page: <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/lib/econtent/default.asp>

Collaborators for the Future: Libraries, Communities, and Information

October 10, 2017, 7 pm, at the Palo
Alto Art Center Auditorium



Alto Weekly moderating.

The event is an evening with Miguel Figueroa (left), of the American Library Association's Center for the Future of Libraries, Dan Russell (left center), research scientist at Google, and Professor Sandra Hirsh (bottom) of SJSU, talking about the future of libraries. As Miguel put it: "I'd like to get away from the idea that 'we' (anyone) is going to come up with the library of the future and instead help audience members understand that libraries have evolved through the development of the profession, the interests of communities, and the evolution of information.' They'll be presenting for about 5-10 minutes each and then will have a Q & A panel, with Gennady Sheyner of the Palo

*Monique le Conge Ziesenhenn
Palo Alto City Library Director*

Neelima Meka – proposed new Board member

I grew up in Hyderabad, India, graduated in 1997 in Engineering and, thanks to the Y2K bug and the explosion of the software industry, it paved my way to move to US. My first home in the US was in Michigan, in 1999, and I started working at H&R Block. With the guidance of two of the best mentors I've had, I was able to move into project management which is more to my liking than programming. We moved to California 10 years back to escape from the long cold months. I consulted at various IT organizations in the Bay Area until I quit working two years ago to spend more time with two teenage kids - 9th and 10th graders.

I happened to come across FOPAL a year ago and decided to volunteer for a few hours. I eventually realized, it's the most fulfilling experience and the insightful conversations with my co-volunteers are fascinating and motivating. Currently, I'm busy with high school chores, refreshing all my math and science knowledge to help kids and taking them around for tennis tournaments. Looking forward to life after high school! Until then a busy mom, with some rewarding time at FOPAL!

Charlotte Epstein – proposed Vice President

I was born in San Francisco but have lived in Palo Alto for more than 40 years. I graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in history, decided against teaching high school as a career, and found my way into software testing. I learned to program FORTRAN on punched cards which is now ancient history in the computer world. I enjoyed most of my jobs and enjoyed the necessity to constantly learn new languages and programs.

After I retired I found my way to the FOPAL sorting room where I was delighted to mix with other book loving people and contribute to the community and to the libraries that I have always loved. My childhood summers always involved the summer reading program so I am thrilled to help that tradition continue for all summer readers. After a while I took on the Music book section, then the Judaica section, then I was asked to be on the FOPAL board. I have served as Secretary and now serve as a member at large. I still work in the sorting room on Fridays for the pleasure of chatting with other book lovers and for the pleasure of hearing from donors how much they appreciate our efforts.

Got iPhones?



FOPAL needs iPhones - do you have one you could donate?

We use iPhones for our credit card cashiers, they don't need to have a phone number, only the ability to access the internet.

iPhone 4S or newer would be perfect. We can also use iPads and iPods with a Lightning connector.

If you have a device you could donate or a question please contact Frank at fmconnell@fopal.org

FOPAL - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Only a Few Hours a Week

Won't you consider contributing a few hours a week to help keep our five Palo Alto libraries up-to-date and thriving? FOPAL's monthly sales of donated books and media raise much-needed funds to purchase new books, technology, and special programs for children, teens and adults for the Palo Alto public libraries. These sales happen through the efforts of many individuals just like you!

Please join us.

Choose a Job to Suit Your Time, Talents, and Interests

Monthly Book Sale opportunities

SALES FLOOR MONITORS

It's a privilege to help people find what they are looking for during our monthly book sale. You will be trained before the sale to be ready to work with our long-time Saturday and Sunday floor monitors to help our customers with such things as finding the book or section they want. There are openings at all our time slots. If you like excitement come help us open on Saturday morning!

CREDIT CARD CASHIERS

We now offer credit card payment options to our customers in all rooms. Shifts are available in all of our rooms on either sale day. Training and equipment will be provided.

Book Pickup Team

FOPAL PICKUP TEAM COORDINATOR NEEDED!

Work from home, set your own schedule and make a difference! Train to connect via email and phone with FOPAL's Pickup Team volunteers and with FOPAL's friendly donors. Help schedule donation pickups from surrounding cities like Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, and Los Altos as well as from the Palo Alto libraries, businesses, local residents, and estate sales staff. Donations are FOPAL's lifeblood!

JOIN FOPAL'S PICKUP TEAM

If you have a van, SUV or truck, enjoy driving and meeting people, you can help with making book pickups and delivering them to FOPAL at the Cubberley Community Center using your own vehicle. Snacks a plenty when you drop off donations plus we reimburse for gas and mileage.

Book Sorters and Donation Serviced

BE ON THE FRONTLINE FOR FOPAL!

Interested in being the first to see the items being donated? FOPAL's sorters are on the frontline, greeting donors and receiving donations while figuring out what books go where. This is a terrific volunteer opportunity for 2pm - 4pm shifts, Monday through Saturday. Available to fill a shift? Please let us know.

Mitchell Park Library Store

Enjoy meeting our customers while restocking and arranging the book shelves at our store in the Mitchell Park Library. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the store at different shifts throughout the week.

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Volunteers (continued from page 8)

Section Managers and Assistants

Use your love and knowledge of books and enjoy the pleasure of being in charge of categories from Art to Young Adult fiction. We have many openings right now. You'll train to assist as a section manager and, if you are interested, become a section manager. You will check online for book prices to identify books for our online High Value store and organize and price books for our monthly sales. Once trained, flexible schedules are available.

Love Children's Literature?

Sort and price children's book donations with a friendly group of volunteers who meet in the Children's Room every Tuesday afternoon or work on your own schedule.

Super Sleuth High Value Book Researchers

You will be trained to help research books to find the High Value gems and list them on our online store. If you are fascinated by old or valuable books this is for you!

Contact Us

For questions about volunteering opportunities at FOPAL and to join our dedicated team of over 150 volunteers please contact Janette Herceg at 650-494-1266 or at jherceg@fopal.org

Welcoming new volunteers!

Vicky Evans, Michael Kim, Albert Chandar, Charlie Blum, Ellen Chung, Joan Walton, Alex Protopopescu, Kayra Vopinar, Kendric Yu, Emma Butner, Tom Chaltas, Ashley Xu, Wendy Frye, Max Klein, Otilija Ricketon, Raj Shetty, Lisa Knowles, Radwa Metwaali and Young-Jeh Oh.

Retiring volunteers-

Thank you for your service!

Janet Leigh, Ann Hillen, Jerry Watanabe.



Ready for the Sale

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Book Sales:

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

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

Free Books

After each sale, FOPAL gives away free books from its Bargain Room (H2/H3). On Sunday between 4pm - 6pm, teachers and nonprofits can take free books and on Monday between 6pm - 8pm, everyone can come and take free books. Be sure to bring your own bags and boxes

Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday

Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room
1305 Middlefield Road 7:30pm - 9pm
For information 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	_____ Name
_____ Individual	\$20	\$35	_____ Address
_____ Family	\$30	\$50	_____ City / State / Zip
_____ Sponsor	\$100	\$175	_____ Phone
_____ Lifetime	\$500		_____ Email
_____ Corporate	\$1000		

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:

Friends of the Palo Alto Library
P.O. Box 41 Palo Alto, CA 94302

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

Friends of the Palo Alto Library [FOPAL] Board of Directors: Nigel Jones, President; Susan Brown Little, Vice President; Tina Kass, Secretary; Shaun Maguire, Treasurer; Karen Neier, Assistant Treasurer; Tom Clark, Nancy Mahoney Cohen, Peter Dehlinger, Charlotte Epstein, Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, Martha Schmidt, Steve Staiger.