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## President *(Continued from page 1)*

move on to other avocations. Nicole started as Treasurer on March 4.

A customer at the end of the January sale managed to distribute blood over the carpet of the Main Room causing us to call in a biohazard team to remove the carpet. But before they could get to work a small FOPAL crew had to remove everything from the floor except the bookshelves. Under ordinary circumstances there is no storage space. Every available bookshelf became a landing spot for book boxes, brooms, artwork, ladders and miscellaneous objects. The tiny shed became full to the rafters. And even with all that storing, it was necessary to follow the workers by moving chairs, tables and materials to a completed area as more carpet was removed. And a week later the same operation repeated as the new carpet arrived. After two weeks of ripping out and laying carpet and then a lot of cleaning and reorganizing, our volunteers were welcomed back to ready all the donations for the February sale in a two-week instead of four-week period. And their dedication made it happen.

And then the coronavirus became a reality in our area causing us to take additional precautions for our volunteers and customers. The board monitored reports carefully before deciding to cancel the March sale for the safety of its volunteers and community. This followed a statement from

the Santa Clara Department of Public Health urging those over 50 or over with health problems to avoid large gatherings. Cancelling a sale creates several problems aside from the loss of revenue, the largest being where to store the sale items along with continued donations. But since most volunteers and customers fit the description of who should avoid large gatherings, it seemed prudent to avoid making the sale site a “petri dish.” We also discontinued acceptance of donations. We then closed pursuant to an order of the Santa Clara Health Department regarding COVID-19. We hope conditions will allow us to be back in the selling business before long.

But other happier and unexpected events came our way. A wonderful donation from the Eitner family filled our shelves. See the article in this issue. Some unusual donation finds brought added joy such as the handwritten invitation from Abraham Lincoln and an original book by John Adams, *A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America from 1797*, Ansel Adams’ seminal *My Camera in Yosemite Valley*, an inscribed autobiography by astronaut Michael Collins, and a First Edition box set of Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*, all of which sold through PBA Galleries (see page 3). Unusual items were the focus of the FOPAL presence at the January 2020 San Francisco Antiquarian Book Print & Paper Fair – see article and pictures herein.

We also enjoyed a fruitful exchange with volunteers from other Bay Area friends of the library groups.

*Nancy Cohen*

*FOPAL invited volunteers from nine Bay Area Friends of the Library groups to meet at Mitchell Park Community Center on January 23 and exchanged ideas on many issues common to groups selling books for the benefit of their libraries. All had completed a questionnaire on the structure of their organizations, financial facts, physical sites, memberships, volunteer organizations, communications, and high value online sales, all of which were grist for a day’s discussion.*



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## PBA Galleries brings together rare booksellers to support the distressed

FOPAL has developed a strong working relationship with the Berkeley based PBA Galleries, one of the premier auction houses in America. We use them to sell through their auctions some of our highest value materials, both books and ephemera. We send them material for their consideration, they review it and if they accept it they advise us on what we could expect to receive from the auction. Over the last three years we have made more than \$30,000 with PBA selling such items as an invitation to a dinner party with Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, written by Lincoln, a signed first edition of Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* with an impregnated asbestos cover, and John Adams' *A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America 1787*.

PBA will do appraisals for material whose value is believed to be around \$200 and above; contact them if you have anything you would like them to review.

Recently PBA did a charity auction and they have written an article on it for this FOREWORD as seen here:

On February 6, 2020, PBA Galleries held an auction of Rare Books & Manuscripts immediately preceding the Pasadena Book Fair. The first half of the auction was devoted to books donated by Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America members to benefit the Antiquarian Booksellers' Benevolent Fund, a crucial resource for booksellers facing distress from financial disaster or other misfortune.

The auction represented an outstanding collaboration between the auction house and individual booksellers. Donor members wrote catalogue descriptions of their books and submitted them to PBA; then, the books were appraised and PBA cataloguers worked with the seller to set fair estimates for the wide range of fine material. The profits from each of these books directly benefited the Benevolent Fund, a donor-driven ABAA fund since 1952.

The fund "has been dedicated throughout its history to providing timely financial assistance to those in the book trade who find themselves in times of need." Uniquely, the funds may only be used for personal needs, not business needs. The money is not limited to members of the ABAA,

but may be dispersed for any needy persons "who have been engaged in the business of selling and dealing in books, manuscripts, and printed matter in general." The fund is a rare and welcome security blanket for antiquarian booksellers, most of whom are individual proprietors with limited liquid capital and especially vulnerable to accidents or ill-health.

Book people of all sorts and kinds showed up in spades to support their fellow dealers. PBA staff frequently heard exclamations from dealers who had either donated a book or who had shown up to bid on a book purely to support the fund and lend a hand to their community.

During the first half of the auction, bidders competed over the exceptional lots so generously donated by members of the rare book industry. Spirited bidding took place over a donation from Ken Sanders Rare Books (Salt Lake City, Utah): A first-edition biography of Sir Richard Burton, written by his wife, closed at \$390. Other highlights included an original watercolor signed by Ettore DeGrazia and donated by Back of Beyond Book (Moab, Utah), a deluxe Book Club of California edition of the *Life and Times of Jo Mora* donated by John Windle Antiquarian Bookseller (San Francisco), and a matched set of the first edition of Morse's *Gazetteers* donated by Kurt A. Sanftleben (Montclair, VA), to name just a few from an outstanding compilation.

"PBA Galleries was proud to organize a venue for booksellers to show support for one another," said Sharon Gee, President of PBA Galleries. "We look forward to continuing to drive efforts in building community amongst our trade."

*Karen DalColletto*



*Bruce MacMaken, SVP of PBA Galleries, conducting a live auction*

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# San Francisco Antiquarian Book Print & Paper Fair

In January FOPAL exhibited at the 2020 San Francisco Antiquarian Book Print & Paper Fair. We had two booths, one focused on all forms of ephemera and one focused on books – together totaling over 1,000 items for sale. The two main topics on the book side were Americana and Black Studies. Americana was broken out as The West, California and the Bay Area all of which sold very well. There is clearly a great deal of interest not only in histories but also first-hand accounts of the pioneers, and all kinds of fiction from Arizona cowboys to San Francisco detectives. The greatest area of interest with Black Studies was the Civil Rights movement with pamphlets and biographies selling very well. We were also successful with art books and high value vintage material. The highest selling book sold was a rare copy of a chess book by Marcel Duchamp and the highest selling set was a five volume history of the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.

Most FOPAL book sale patrons are familiar with our popular Saturday outdoor ephemera sales. We sell donated paper items for 25 cents: maps, old pamphlets, brochures, calendars, etc. Over time we amassed hundreds of like items that with a little research turned out to be much more valuable than a quarter. In 2019 we held two large special ephemera sales at Cubberley which were so popular we decided to bring our high-value ephemera “road show” to the San Francisco Antiquarian Book Print & Paper Fair alongside our very special books. We sold scrapbooks and photo albums from the late 1800’s to mid-1900’s, albums of Civil War cabinet cards, rare Tarot decks, unusual political screeds and hundreds of highly collectable brochures, games, magazines, postcards, small books and pamphlets dating from the 1800’s to the present. We encouraged browsers to take their time and noticed some shoppers came by two and three times to make sure they hadn’t missed anything!

It took teamwork and tremendous effort to research, package, transport, set-up/take-down and sell our items over the three days of the Fair. We are grateful to our stalwart FOPAL volunteers for devoting their time to make this sale such a big success.

*Nigel Jones, Karen Dalcolletto*



*Karen DalColletto surrounded by the ephemera she curated for the Book Fair*



*Bill Jones, Nancy Cohen and Karen DalColletto, FOPAL volunteers at Book Fair*



*Nigel Jones who curated the book side of the Book Fair*

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# Computer Cornucopia

Lots of FOPAL donors are heavy computer users, and when they clean their shelves, heaps of computer manuals and textbooks come in the door, destined for our Computer section, which is located in the far South-West corner of the sales room.

Last summer I was promoted from sorting, to manager of the Computer section, largely on the basis that I'm a long-time computer user with good knowledge of the jargon. One of the first things I did was to organize the books into small, topical sections. The hope is that a reader interested in one area of this large field can scan the spines along, at most, a yard of shelf, and quickly know what is on offer that matches their needs.

Several of the sections I set up relate to programming languages. One has books about the popular language Java, and its Java-based libraries. Next to it is a section of scripting languages, like Perl, Python and Ruby. Nearby is a block of books on the systems languages: C, C# and C++, and newcomers like Rust. Here one almost always finds a copy of C: A Reference Manual – this perennial comes in the door almost every month.

There's a section on "Opinion, Analysis, and History," with a potpourri of deep thoughts about computers and society (and often that classic, *The Mythical Man-Month*). Below it is a section on managing the software process and E-Commerce.

Nearby there are yard-long sections of books on computer graphics, and software engineering and algorithms. These shelves often have textbooks that once commanded hefty prices at the Stanford book store! A smaller group of books on networking usually features a well-known, three-volume set on TCP/IP.

Closest to the wall is a group of books specifically on mathematics and mathematical algorithms. Here you will usually find one or more of the Numerical Recipes books, and lately, some popular books on generating fractals.

Just above the math section are books about computer hardware. This topic ranges from OEM manuals for specific CPUs, to texts on digital logic design, to manuals on VHDL and Verilog design languages, to popular books on how to build robots.

Each of these sections shrinks and grows with the ebb and

flow of donations. You never know what gems and classics will be there.

What will not be found in the main room are books on outdated software and apps. FOPAL donors, like book lovers everywhere, keep their books long and carefully. That means that each month's intake contains stacks of thick manuals for older versions of everything: books about Windows XP, Mac OS Snow Leopard, Photoshop CS 3, Python 2, Oracle 5, and so on: stalwart software, once well-loved and -used, but now of interest only to a few. These books do not go to waste! They (along with software on CD- and DVD-ROM) go to the Bargain Room. Historians and people restoring old systems can find them there for \$1.

*Dave Cortesi*

## Children *(continued from page 1)*

Most of the books are of the less expensive variety, but every once in a while, along comes a 1st edition Anne of Green Gables (\$375) or Little Women (\$450) or a leather-bound book published in 1899 that is just simply beautiful.

Stocking the shelves for the monthly book sales is my favorite part of the job. In the older kids' vintage section, there's always a collectibles section (for those special books like that 1899 beauty) and sometimes a themed section (Foreign Language books in March, L. Frank Baum in February, books written by Albert Payson Terhune in lovely book jackets in January.) The younger kids have two outward-facing display shelves that highlight some of the best-looking books that I've come across that month.

The number of books that come to FOPAL for sale is truly staggering. For just my small section of children's vintage alone, I probably go through and value 15-20 boxes of books every month and divide them between the shelves and online sales. Sometimes it can seem a bit overwhelming because the books just keep coming, and the boxes of books to be listed online still line the hallway of the children's portable! BUT there is something so comforting about working in a room full of books, and I find something every day that makes me feel like I'm meeting up again with an old friend from my childhood. From casual volunteer to obsessive section manager, I have found my niche!

*Lisa Heitman*

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## Eitner Family Donation



In October 2019, FOPAL was the recipient of a generous donation from the estate of Trudi and Lorenz Eitner (*pictured left*). Dr. Eitner, renowned for his work on Théodore Géricault, was an expert in 18th and 19th century European art who came to Stanford in 1963 to chair the

Art Department and serve as Director of the Stanford Art Museum, now the Cantor. Among many distinguished accomplishments, Dr. Eitner was the driving force behind Stanford's Rodin collection and outdoor sculpture garden, brought Richard Diebenkorn to Stanford as its' first Artist-in-Residence in 1963, and attracted many accomplished artists and academics to Stanford.

At nearly 100 boxes of material, the depth and breadth of the Eitner collection contributed material to many sections at recent FOPAL sales, including: Books on Art and Architecture history and criticism; museum exhibition catalogs from the US and Europe of interest to historians, scholars, and collectors; antique children's books lovingly collected by Mrs. Eitner; first edition novels by H.G. Wells and others; and framed family art. Much of the collection was in German and French, greatly enriching our European Language department with material on all topics. Many interested buyers attended the November sale where the Eitner materials debuted, and much of the collection was quickly sold.

It was important to the Eitners' daughters that the collection go to their hometown, Palo Alto, to benefit the local community.

Aside from the appeal to scholars and historians, a few of the books were inscribed with charming handwritten notes and sketches with special resonance. While not generally of monetary value, they touched the hearts of buyers, and further extended the Eitner family legacy in the local community. These were especially poignant considering the Eitners' early life circumstances.

Dr. Eitner was born in Czechoslovakia, and educated in Germany; his family moved to Brussels about the time the

Nazis came to power. The family emigrated to the U.S. in 1935, and Lorenz Eitner eventually became a U.S. intelligence officer stationed in Europe, and served at the Nuremberg Trials. His future wife, Trudi von Kathrein, from Austria where they met after the war, had been the secretary to one of the leaders of the Austrian resistance.

FOPAL is excited to accept large collections like these from family estates. In addition to published books and artwork, we accept old diaries, letters, address books, and black and white photos, as these are highly collectible. We are able to pick up donations of more than 10 boxes. Advance notification is required to coordinate large pickups. Call 650-213-8755 for information.

*Nancy Tillman*

## FOPAL welcomes new carpet in sorting room



*FOPAL's sorting room after removal of contaminated carpet.*



*A nicer looking sorting room with new carpet.*

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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

## SECTION MANAGERS NEEDED!

Bring your love of books in areas like Photography, Drama, Vintage Books, Sets and Large Format to name a few sections available. All books are pre-sorted and ready to be priced and displayed! Proceeds go directly to the Palo Alto Libraries to fund literacy and enrichment programming. Flexible schedule is available.

## MITCHELL PARK LIBRARY - BOOKSTORE

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help in the new Mitchell Park Library Friends of the Library (FOPAL) Book Store- Monday- Friday 3- 5pm. (Other days/times available.) Neighborhood people who love books and libraries, and enjoy working with the public would make great volunteers!

## VOLUNTEERS @ BOOK SALES!

FOPAL Book Sale is the second weekend of every month. Monthly needs: cashiers, floor supervisors, set-up and break down volunteers. Meet hundreds of fellow bookaholics and experience the Thrill of the Marketplace!

## SUPER SLEUTH BOOK RESEARCHER

Find money hiding in our books! Help research books, decide on Amazon list price, and prepare listing description for book. Train to do: Basic research for High Value /Low Value triage, splitting out the common / recent books, by following specific guidelines. More advanced research to determine edition, price, etc.

Online book selling continues to be a big GROWTH revenue stream for FOPAL!

## SORTING SHIFTS AVAILABLE

Help on the front line for FOPAL, volunteering in the sorting room one afternoon a week. Sorters work Monday-Saturday 2- 4pm, greeting donors, accepting donations... and sorting incoming books. Added perk of this important volunteer opportunity, sorters see new inventory first! Tuesday and Thursday shifts open.

## BARGAIN ROOM/H2 BOOK SHELVING

By volunteering two hours a week H2 volunteers are able to take ownership of a specific section or two. Available Sections: Science, Asian Languages, Psychology, Children Non-fiction. Flexible schedule! No pricing needed, all books sell for .50cents - \$1!

## CHILDREN'S ROOM TUESDAY TEAM OPENING

Sort and price children's book donations (a friendly group of volunteers meets in the Children's Room each Tuesday afternoon), or work on your own schedule) see this featured story in the Palo Alto Weekly:

[http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show\\_story.php?id=27907](http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=27907)

## LOVE TO DRIVE?

If you have a van, SUV or truck, enjoy driving and meeting people, you can help with making pick-ups and deliveries using your vehicle. You'd be picking up donations from estate sales, private homes and offices and delivering them to FOPAL at the Cubberley Community Center. (Snacks a plenty when you drop off donations a plus and, we reimburse for gas and mileage)

To apply for FOPAL volunteer opportunities contact Janette Herceg via email at [jherceg@fopal.org](mailto:jherceg@fopal.org) or by phone at 650-494-1266

## Welcoming new volunteers!

Keran Abadian, Sebastian Bonolla, Ashley Buckner, Kyle Flynn, Karrie Huang, Lisa Heitman, Nate Hopkins, Laurie Jarrett, Laura Karr, Kai Park, Vincent Lomeland, Ryan Nair, Fabio Peruzzi, Anup Pydah, Geoffrey Rocca, Louise Roche, Marlene Strauss, Samyuktha Subramanian, Stephen Wang, Jiangli Wu, Corrine Zhao.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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### Book Sales:

Second Weekend Every Month  
Cubberley Community Center  
4000 Middlefield Road - Palo Alto  
(650) 213-8755

### 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](http://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.

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## 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

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City / State / Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone

\_\_\_\_\_ Email

**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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@fopal.org).

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