

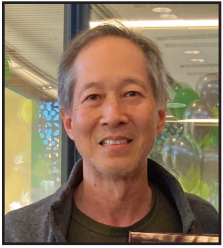


Foreword

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Fall 2025

President's Message



It's been a great year so far, with the onboarding of our new Manager of Volunteer Engagement Sven Geddes, the efforts of all our amazing volunteers, and the continued donations of salable items from our generous community. It was most gratifying that the Board approved the full \$150,000 grant that was requested by the Palo Alto Library.

The \$20,000 threshold for a monthly sale is one we often find ourselves almost or just achieving, but we managed to crack it decisively in August with a \$24,000+ month. As we look at sales from our three library stores, it's rewarding to learn we did at least \$15,000 from them combined for the

(Continued on page 2)

FOPAL BOARD ELECTION

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

Nancy Cohen, Karen DalColletto, Jenny Munro, Nancy Tillman, John Wang

Proposed for re-election of Officers

President: Henry Yu (second term)

Vice President: Nikole Miller (second term)

Secretary: Marcie Brown (second term)

Treasurer: John Wang (fifth term)

Assistant Treasurer: Steve Bellamy (second term)

Continuing Board Members

Steve Bellamy, Marcie Brown, George Chaltas, Tina Kass, Suzanne Little, Gerry Masteller, Nikole Miller, Young-Jeh Oh, Steve Staiger, Henry Yu

Proposed New Board Members

None

Nikole Miller



Hi everyone! I'm honored to step into the role of Vice President of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library.

By day, I teach 4th-8th grade at Imagination Lab School on Cubberley's campus, where I help students grow as creative thinkers and

engaged community members. Teaching has given me a front-row seat to how much people benefit from having access to spaces where they can explore, ask questions, and connect ideas—something our libraries provide for people of all ages.

I first joined FOPAL in 2023 as a Special Events Intern, and since then, I've become a core volunteer at our monthly book sales. I've helped run a few of the sales when needed, which has given me a real appreciation for the teamwork, organization, and dedication it takes to run sales on such a large scale. I've enjoyed getting to know fellow volunteers and seeing

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MEMBERS' ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Time: 10:30 am

Place: Matadero Room, Mitchell Park Community Center

Agenda: Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting, Financial report, Election of Board members and Officers, other business from the members.

Ice Cream Social Volunteer Event

One warm Saturday afternoon in July, FOPAL volunteers enjoyed our first Ice Cream Social, conceived by Sven-Erik Geddes, our new Volunteer Manager. With the help of Board members Nikole Miller and Jenny Munro, lots of volunteers (over 60) attended. There were at least ten flavors of Mitchell's ice cream - a San Francisco favorite - to choose from. In addition to old favorites, there were the more exotic Mango, Lychee, Green Tea, and Ube. We hope the Ice Cream Social will become a summer tradition!



President *(Continued from page 1)*

fiscal year ending June 30. Our High Value machine cranks on with sales approaching \$10,000 a month. We look for creative ways to increase awareness of FOPAL, through our social media efforts for example as well as participating in external sales events where we can also spread the word.

At FOPAL, books are the core of our donations and the core of our revenue and therefore our life's blood. Not too infrequently, the question is raised, what will happen when the old people are gone and the new generation raised in the digital age make up the majority of our customers?

Well for starters, there's nothing like the feel of a book. Once young children can turn their own pages and recognize text and images, watch out! Books become a badge of pride that toddlers love to drag around. They're hooked ever since their caregiver conjures up mesmerizing stories from books at bed time. I'd like to believe tactile and primitive attraction of physical books and pages stays with you throughout your life.

I can't predict this with any accuracy, but the used book market will always have a place in Palo Alto. From affordable paperbacks to high-end collector's items, people in our community will always want to buy books. Will our overall appetite for used books diminish and become an increasingly fringe fad? I welcome the thoughts of our loyal customers!



Nikole *(Continued from page 1)*

how our combined efforts support the library's programs and resources. Together, we not only raise funds but also foster a sense of community that enhances the library's impact.

Outside of FOPAL and teaching, I enjoy reading (fiction and mysteries especially), watching old movies at the Stanford Theater, playing games, and planning small events that bring people together.

I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had through FOPAL so far, and I look forward to supporting an organization that makes a difference for so many people in Palo Alto.

Summer Reading for a Cause

By RuthAnn Garcia, Library Services Manager,
Palo Alto Library

The Library's Summer Reading for a Cause program launched on June 1, and was quite a hit! The theme was Book a Trip! (<https://library.cityofpaloalto.org/book-a-trip/>) and staff planned a great series of programs and prizes for participants of all ages! Participants were challenged to read/listen for 25,000 minutes, in order to donate \$2000 to Pupcycled (<https://www.pupcycled.org/>), through our generous Friends of the Palo Alto Library. This high school-led organization works to minimize clothing waste while bettering the environment and nurturing happier dogs, by creating dog toys made from donated clothes. The Library has hosted a donation drive and several sewing events at its branches to support the local Palo Alto chapter, and was pleased to support this organization that works towards combating climate change and providing support for vulnerable pets in our communities.

Some highlights of our program include:

- The reading program ran from June 1 to August 1, but events continued through the end of August!
- We created a 3-tiered program on the Beanstack website (<https://cityofpaloalto.beanstack.org/or> app (<http://cityofpaloalto.org/resource/beanstack/> for kids (0-12), teens (13-17) and adults (18+), with each audience having a set goal of hours to read/listen to complete a tier
- After completing Tier 1 a participant earned their completion prize, but many kept reading to complete two additional tiers and be entered into a raffle drawing, where three winners from each audience won an amazing prize (<https://library.cityofpaloalto.org/book-a-trip/>)!
- We had 3252 participants this year who read for nearly 2.4 million minutes!

We're especially grateful to the Friends of the Palo Alto Library (<https://www.fopal.org/>) for providing the funding for our program and donation to Pupcycled. We couldn't provide all the fun and prizes without their generous support.



Beetlelady at MP



Jungle James at RI

My Day as the Sales Day Lead

By Adithya Prem

Hi, my name is Adithya Prem, and I am currently a senior at Stratford Preparatory High School in San Jose, although my experience managing the sale came when I was still a junior. I enjoy reading books (obviously!), playing basketball, and gaming on my playstation in my free time.

MY DAY AS THE SALES DAY LEAD

I stepped out of my car into the crisp April morning air, half an hour before the book sale opened. I had been volunteering with Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) for a year, but this time was different. I wasn't just a helper. I was the Sales Day Lead, the person responsible for keeping everything running. The prep started long before Saturday. I spent the week juggling volunteer schedules, sending instructions to newcomers, and filling gaps when people dropped out. By the time the sale rolled around, I had things mapped out as best I could, but I knew there would be surprises.

Sure enough, they came quickly. Customers showed up at the register with books missing price tags. I had to make fast calls, quickly taking books to the back room and checking what the price would be. At one point, a Square payment terminal stopped working while a line of people waited. I stepped in, reset it, and got the line moving again before anyone lost patience. Later in the day, one of the busiest rooms ended up short-staffed. The volunteers there were swamped, so I shifted someone over from another area to balance things out. Small problems kept popping up, such as questions from customers or confusion about pricing. I found myself constantly moving from room to room, putting out fires and making sure no one felt stuck on their own.

By the end of the day, we had sold nearly \$20,000 worth of books. As we packed up, I was worn out but relieved. It hadn't been perfect, but we had pulled it off. The day was full of little challenges, and I was proud that I'd been able to keep things steady and help make the sale a success!

Our Vice President Nikole Miller adds, "Adithya has been such a wonderful student lead at FOPAL. He's one of our consistent volunteers, often staying entire sales days to help out

wherever needed. When he stepped up to manage part of a sale—he did it with confidence, thoughtfulness, and a great sense of teamwork. Adithya's dedication, positive attitude, and willingness to support others make him an invaluable part of our volunteer community; we are grateful for everything he brings to FOPAL."

Social Media at FOPAL

by Paula Wirth

I've been volunteering with FOPAL for twenty years, and have a background in marketing and web design. I currently chair FOPAL's Public Relations committee.

You can keep up to date with what's going on with Friends of the Palo Alto Library, at FOPAL.org, and now on social media!

FOPAL now has an expanded social media presence – you can find us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky, and more! We're serving up animated video reels, feature posts, and event listings, as well as library and literacy-related news.

Our goals are to expand awareness of FOPAL and Palo Alto City Library, promote our sales, stores, and special events, increase attendance, encourage donations, attract volunteers, and grow membership.

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Bluesky to see what's new: www.fopal.org/whats-new



FOPAL sales around the Bay Area

FOPAL participated in three sales events this summer, the Vintage Computer Fest, the KUSF Record Swap at the San Francisco Art Book Fair, and the KFJC Record Swap at Foothill College.



outdated (say “vintage” to be nice) computer books. We took in over \$1500!

[Editor’s note: at least a couple of the books sold were from author (and indeed FOPAL’s very own) Dave Cortesi, which he personally autographed by request for the new owner!]

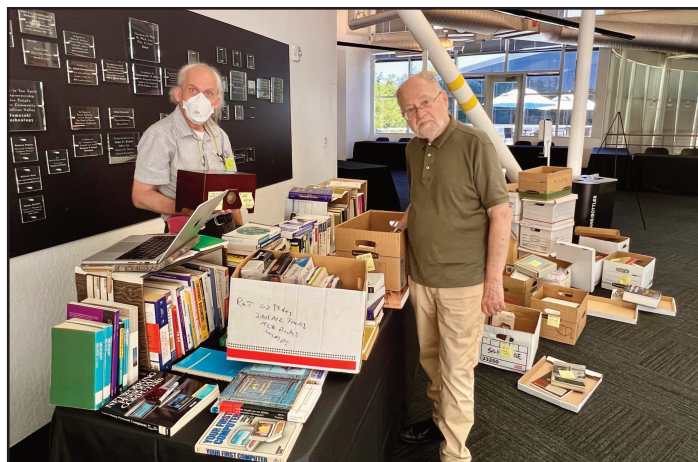
The KUSF Record Swap was a first time special event as part of the Art Book Fair which has been going strong for years. Ironically, we did not participate in the Book portion of the event, but we did sell records! We sold over \$500 worth of



The Vintage Computer Fest West, held at the Computer History Museum, broke its record this year for attendance, with 3400 tickets sold. Both days there was never a minute when there wasn’t someone browsing the FOPAL display of

records. One highlight of the day was the son of a record cover designer coming by our table, and buying a few of the records his father had designed that we happened to have for sale!

The KFJC Record Swap had been a longstanding record swap throughout the ‘80s, gone during the death of vinyl, but came back recently for a long overdue revival. It was also well attended. Thanks to John Schiebe and Marta for representing FOPAL at the event.



Meet Sven-Erik Geddes



Photo credit:

www.fopl.org/post/meet-the-bookmark-s-new-managers

Sven-Erik Geddes is our recently hired Manager of Volunteer Engagement. He has now been at his new role at FOPAL for about 6 months.

Sven worked in our Bargain Room previously for a number of years, while also working as a manager of the Friends of Oakland Public Libraries (FOPL) storefront in downtown Oakland (yes, they actually have a store that operates just like a

real book store). He has also worked at the Friends of the San Francisco Library.

Sven has spent the summer onboarding new volunteers, trying to improve our processes, and increasing the flow of book and media donations, with a focus on accepting them on Saturdays. He's on site Tuesday to Saturdays, as well as the monthly sale weekends.

Please reach out to him if you are interested in volunteering, or donating items! His email is volunteerdir@fopal.org.

Welcome to your new role, Sven!



New Volunteers Spring & Summer 2025

Remi Abilock	Taylor Lord
Kyndall Abraham	Evelyn Luong
Istaara Amjad	Amos Mak
Leonardo Armel	Amal Mathew
Sophia Arvizu	Cleo McBurney
Noriko Baba	Sonya Mukherjee
Blake Bowen	Yumeka Niwa
Chitra Chadhokar	Nina Pankov
Julianna Chang	Joy Peng
Nathan Chang	John Perdue
Sergio Charles	Nicolas Pora
Amy Cheng	Elisa Rerolle
Jamie Cheung	Laal Rezayani
Ansel Chou	Jaydin Richards
Gene Chumakov	Payal Shah
Emily Collis	Medha Shewale
Tomasz Czajkowski	Maximus Skinner
Owen Danner	Ellen Smith
Gabi Dedek	Dylan Sperandio
Maya Del Buono	Kristen St John
Aditi Desai	Nate Stoll
Shalin Dwivedi	Katherine Suverkropp
Norah Fkrudeen	Sebastian Suverkropp
Joanna Falla	Riaz Syed
Maria Madalena Feo	Sanjana Thangavelu
Shreya Fote dar	Michelle Tran
Neeraj Gummalam	Brandon Tu
Aya Gurevich	William Vadas
Patrick Hickey	Marisa W
Kinnera Jagarlamudi	Junqi Wang
Sarah Janda	Katherine Wang
Marta Jimenez	Michael Wang
Shahryar Hussain Khan	Emanuel Wang
Nainika Khatri	Luke Wang
Cecelia Kirchner	Florence Wilson
Jan Michael Krause	Marilyn Wong
Namal Kuruppu	Sophie Xu
Iyla Lada	William Yang
Jessica Langston	Sydney Yazzolino
Jessie Leong	Jim Young Zehra
Reina Lim	Jasper Zhang

FOPAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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

CHOOSE A JOB TO SUIT YOUR TIME, TALENTS, AND INTERESTS

High Value online e-business team - volunteers needed

Learn how to research, describe, price, and prepare our most significant high value books on eBay and for Amazon through our partner The Book Forest. Books can range from antiquarian to modern, art to technology, and media from CDs and DVDs, to games and software. You can work on all these materials at FOPAL or at your home; your hours are up to you. We will provide detailed training and mentoring. We need volunteers right now to join our successful and supportive high value team. For additional information contact Nancy Cohen at Nancy.cohen94306@gmail.com.

Help FOPAL with its technology needs

FOPAL needs volunteers to take on regular or one-time tasks such as updating the web site, maintaining email lists, evaluating new software, inventorying equipment, creating Google forms, and occasional troubleshooting. Many of these tasks can be done remotely.

Donation Monitor

Enjoy a first look at some wonderful books as you greet donors, help them with their bags and boxes, and thank them for their donation. Monday through Saturday from 3-5pm;

you will meet other friendly volunteers as you help with this essential task.

Section Managers needed

Take charge of an available section that interests you, pricing and shelving books on your own schedule.

Book Sale volunteers

FOPAL book sales are held on the second weekend of every month. We always need cashiers, door monitors, floor supervisors, and set-up / breakdown volunteers before and after each sale. Meet fellow bookaholics and experience the thrill of the marketplace!

Bargain Room book shelving

By volunteering two hours a week, H-2 volunteers are able to take ownership of a specific section or two. Flexible schedule and no pricing needed as all books are \$1 or \$2.

Children's Room Tuesday Team

Help sort and price children's books each Tuesday afternoon. You will meet other volunteers who love books for kids and teens.

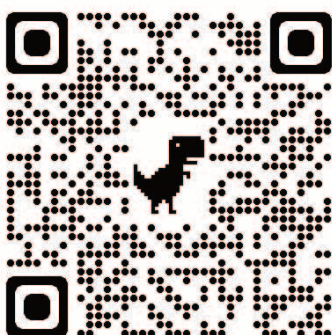
To volunteer for any of the above opportunities, send an email to volunteerdir@fopal.org



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To join or renew your membership, go to
fopal.org/join or scan the QR code above.

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

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
_____ Senior	\$12	\$22
_____ Student	\$10	\$18
_____ Individual	\$20	\$35
_____ Family	\$30	\$50
_____ Sponsor	\$100	\$175
_____ Lifetime	\$500	
_____ Corporate	\$1000	

_____ Name

_____ Address

_____ City / State / Zip

_____ Email

_____ Phone

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) officers: President: Henry Yu; Vice President: Nikole Miller; Secretary: Marcie Brown; Treasurer: John Wang; Assistant Treasurer: Steve Bellamy. Other Directors: George Chaltas; Nancy Cohen: Karen Dal Coletto; Nigel Jones; Tina Kass; Suzanne Little; Gerry Masteller; Jenny Munro; Young-Jeh Oh; Steve Staiger; Nancy Tillman.