

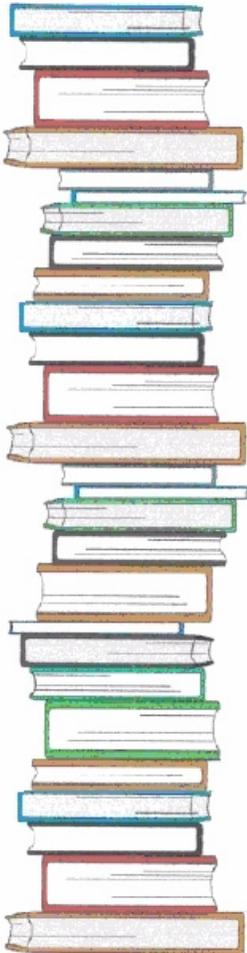


# FOREWORD

Issue No. 78

Winter 2009

## From the President...



As the New Year dawned, the terms of two of our Board members expired. During our December meeting, it was with genuine gratitude that we recognized the long-time, valuable service of Jeff Levinsky and John Burt.

Jeff served as our President for three years and then took over as our Treasurer, during which time he sorted out the intricacies of our finances. He conceived of and organized the Nine Libraries Project resulting in a \$422,000 grant from Cable Co-Op. These funds were shared among the nine libraries in the Cable Co-Op area, and since five of the nine libraries are in Palo Alto, our five libraries received the bulk of the money. Jeff initiated and produced FOPAL's monthly e-mail newsletter that is currently sent to over 2,200 recipients with last minute updates on our sales. During his time on the Board he served on the Steering, Finance, Membership, Publicity, and Advocacy committees. The certificate of appreciation that he received from the Board summed up his services stating that he, "...was awesomely tireless in developing and distributing information on library-related issues and in representing FOPAL's interests." He certainly proved himself to be a veritable fountain of information regarding libraries.

John Burt has been an active volunteer with FOPAL book sales since the 1990s when they were held at Terman School. During his years on the Board he served as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer. With his keen interest in and knowledge of books, he has managed several book sections including classics, non-fiction, travel essays, and African-American—and he has stepped in to manage temporarily many other sections. John created and currently manages the high-value pre-Internet book sale section. As our knowledgeable advisor, he has prepared numerous instruction sheets and information booklets for the guidance of book room volunteers. John continues to be actively involved in book sale activities and is FOPAL's indispensable handy-man and jack-of-all-trades.

The departure of Jeff and John with their breadth of experience leaves a significant void on our Board. They have both contributed greatly to FOPAL's growth over the years and to our ability to support Palo Alto libraries. We will miss them.

*~ Betsy Allyn, President, FOPAL*

### Learn About the Children's Book Room

See the article on pages 4 & 5 for another example of FOPAL's stellar volunteers working wonders for our community!



### Did You Know?

Sunday sale hours have been expanded

All rooms: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday hours remain the same:

Book Sale: 2nd Weekend Every Month

# Thanks to FOPAL *LINK+* Is Here

FOPAL members will surely be delighted to know that *LINK+* is almost a reality for our libraries. We began our effort to bring *LINK+* to Palo Alto in 2003, and by 2004 we were discussing the possibility with library director Paula Simpson. In December 2004 the Palo Alto City Council directed the Library Advisory Commission to implement, "... *LINK+* or an equivalent resource sharing system." There were numerous challenges that had to be overcome including integrating our computer system with the *LINK+* system and funding the initial setup costs—not easy tasks.

Our keen interest in moving this project ahead is reflected by the fact that FOPAL has committed some \$120,000 to get the system up and running. Member donations and income from our monthly book sales, along with a concerted effort by Palo Alto's library staff have made *LINK+* a reality for us. It's been a long five years, but here we are, anticipating the imminent startup of the system.

We all have a right to be pleased to have been an important part of the team that brought *LINK+* to Palo Alto's libraries. It's a big step forward, congratulations to all!

## I Am a *LINK+* Fan

The Palo Alto Library web site will soon include *LINK+*. This is the place for readers who are looking for out-of-print books or for books simply not available in our local collection. I first learned about the site from the Mountain View Library website.

I have a special reason for my interest in this site. My father, Sgt. Alfred C. Beardslee, enlisted in the U.S. Air Service (a very, very new branch of the U.S. Army Signal Corps) from July 1917 to May 1919. He wrote letters to his mother and father but especially to my mother, his sweetheart in Swissvale, Pennsylvania, from Columbus Barracks in Ohio, Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas, a Royal Air Corps air service training camp in England, and finally at airfields in France. He went into the war with his knowledge of automobile engine mechanics and became an airplane mechanic during the war.

As I typed his letters into my computer I decided right away that I had to learn more about all the places he was stationed as well as U.S. WW I history. I sought out books in Palo Alto's libraries, at FOPAL's book sales, through online book sales, and then I found out about *LINK+*. I must have borrowed two or three dozen books from that source thanks to my Mountain View Library card. I was amazed to find how many books I borrowed were very rare, and I had each of them for a generous three week period. It seemed miraculous to me. The books were free; no extra charges were required. If a book was overdue, I would have to pay \$1.00 for each day it was late, but I didn't let that happen.

*LINK+* is so easy to use, simple and fast, it's just what we've been waiting for. It will open all kinds of doors for all of us. I encourage readers, history buffs, genealogy researchers and just curious folks to try out this great resource; the books come from several hundred California libraries, and each one is a treasure.

~ Barbara Silberling  
FOPAL Board member, Book Sale & Publicity



# **LINK +**

Enjoy the convenience of picking up books from other libraries at Palo Alto City Library—SOON!



**LINK+** is an exciting new service that vastly increases access to collections held by over 50 public and academic libraries in California and Nevada. These libraries are all participating in the regional resource-sharing consortium called **LINK+** (“Link Plus”), and the Palo Alto City Library becomes its newest member in March!

Free to Palo Alto City Library cardholders, **LINK+** lets you borrow books from participating libraries. Books you request are delivered in about 4 days and may come from as far away as the University of California Riverside or the University of Nevada Reno—or from nearby Silicon Valley institutions such as Santa Clara University or the Berkeley Public Library.

**LINK+** provides faster turnaround than a traditional interlibrary loan service because you place the request online, from the **LINK+** catalog, and there are no paper forms to fill out. You can also track the status of your requests and check-outs on a special **LINK+** website.

The **LINK+** consortium has set certain borrowing rules that all members abide by. Some important ones for you to know about are:

- Borrowers may take out books for a period of 21 days.
- You may renew **LINK+** books for an additional 14 days if no one is waiting, but you must wait until 3 days before the due date to request a renewal.
- The fine for overdue items returned after the due date is \$1.00 per day, per item.
- Replacement costs for lost or damaged **LINK+** items is \$115.00.

To access the **LINK+** collection from our library’s catalog, you need to click the **LINK+** button. This lets you search separately for **LINK+** items as well as to access your **LINK+** account information through a special website.

The **LINK+** website, at <http://csul.iii.com> is easy to search. Users can gain access to the **LINK+** website to request materials and view account information from home or from within the library.

Palo Alto City Library cardholders can expect to place requests for items in this catalog starting in mid-March, 2009 (at the same time the **LINK+** button is added to the library catalog).

The City Council approved funding to cover half the cost of providing this service as a two-year pilot project. The **Friends of the Palo Alto Library** has generously contributed the remaining fifty-percent of the cost. Look for more information about **LINK+** on the Library website in the next month!

~ Martha Walters, Library Technology Coordinator

# K-6: The Children's Book Room



It is 1:00 on the day before the monthly sale, and Pat Worthington, manager of the children's room, heads back from the volunteer lunch for a final inspection of the room. Although most members of the children's-room crew have been preparing for sales every month for years, each month, the nine volunteers are pleased, and mildly surprised, to see the month's donations enticingly displayed and ready for sale.

The large red rolling display bookcase, donated by Books Inc., holds the first collection customers notice when they enter. "The new display cart makes it fun and easy to display wonderful 'finds' face-out for our customers to see. They must approve, because they grab all the wonderful bargains," notes Nancy Olson, a lover of non-fiction who joined the crew in the children's room when she retired as medical librarian at El Camino Hospital a decade ago. Nancy has a long and varied background with the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, serving on the board for many years, several as board president. As donations grew in the children's room, her husband Fred Olson, retired after 37 years as a programmer with IBM, joined in, doing whatever "the boss" asks. There is a lot to be done, as Fred and Nancy examine the non-fiction books not only for condition and age, but for current relevancy, then organize them by topic, choose a theme for the month, and decide how to best use their display space.

Competing for customer attention with the nonfiction cart and shelves are the display bookcases of gift quality books organized by Winnie McGannon, a 20 year veteran of the children's room. A retired pre-school teacher and grandmother to twelve avid readers, Winnie's favorite books are the picture books for young children, although she enjoys keeping up to date with the books her older grandchildren are reading—and she delights in finding new books to recommend to them!



Adjacent to the display bookcases are display tables covered with overlapping hardback and newer paperback picture books. These tables, and the nearby cardboard bins of "ordinary" quality picture books, are sorted, priced and arranged by Winnie and another retired pre-school teacher, Ginny Quakenbush. "When I was first approached by my fellow Paly High alums, Althea Anderson and Nancy Welch, about volunteering at FOPAL, I was a bit less than enthusiastic until I was taken to the children's room and found myself surrounded by the children's literature that had been so dear to my heart for a very long time," admits Ginny, who joined the team a year ago. Ginny is also a customer of the children's room, buying books to give to children she sees when volunteering at Community Services Agency in Mountain View, one of several recipients of books donated by the Herbert Allen Ross Memorial Fund for Early Literacy, created by Ginny's family to honor the legacy of her brother.



The games, puzzles, activity books, and several specialized categories of books, including religion, languages other than English, early readers and comics, are the province of former publishing company editor Carolyn Davidson. Carolyn organizes the back wall of bins containing books from Klutz Press, cookbooks, joke books, workbooks, craft books - just about anything printed that doesn't fit our other categories ends up in Carolyn's hands. A lover of games, Carolyn also inspects and prices the donated toys and games, patiently assembling puzzles and checking for game parts. A former aide in Palo Alto High School's English department, Carolyn came to the children's room on the recommendation of her mother, Barbara Smith, a former FOPAL board member. On occasion, her own daughter, a 1st grade teacher, helps out in the children's room as well!



The final wall of the children's room holds videos, CDs, DVDs, and books for school aged children, including one bookshelf for teen fiction. These sections have outgrown their space, so all items priced at 50 cents are kept on two large rolling carts donated by Books Inc. and placed outside the room on sale days. Pat Worthington and Deanna Walston sort and price all the books in this section; Deanna, recently retired after 30 years in educational administration, is the expert on Captain Underpants and other books favored by her five young grandsons, while Pat recognizes the more eclectic choices of her three children, one of whom, "...surreptitiously read books during class—I had to take them away before he left to play with friends after school." Nancy Karp, who along with Pat and Fred Olson was a programmer for IBM, comes in with her aide several times per month to price our

computer games, audio-books, movies, and music. While she often joins the team for pricing on Tuesday afternoons, she appreciates the flexibility she enjoys volunteering in the children's room; in addition, volunteers sometimes bring boxes of videos to her home so she can work there. Nancy admits to no particular expertise in book or video sales, "...unless you count that semester of library science I took when I was 24!"

An alcove adjacent to the children's room features a couch which is popular with young children and their parents, as well as books for teachers and parents, displayed on bookshelves and in several bins on a counter. These books are selected, priced, and arranged by Rene Jurgens, formerly an assistant to the director of Stanford libraries, who separates useful from obsolete or redundant books, reducing the dozens of boxes of books she receives each month into a saleable collection of high quality books, and lugging the heavy boxes of discards to the back yard of the children's room for sale at bargain prices.



## Why people volunteer in the children's room:

"Fun. Fun of working with delightful, interesting people... fun of seeing what arrives in the donation boxes. There's never been a day when I felt I 'had' to work in the Children's Room—I'm always happy there."

**Carolyn Davidson, 10 year volunteer**

"I enjoy helping young families foster reading in an era where there are so many other competing attractions for children." **Deanna Walston, new volunteer**

"I began helping on sale days, and then I sorted books. I decided I wasn't smart enough to sort and volunteered to help call volunteers to work on sale days. When Lucy LaPier needed some help in the children's room, I surrendered the lists to Alice Gross and came to children's. I like books. I like to promote reading. FOPAL is a good cause." **Rene Jurgens, 10 year volunteer**

"We have such a friendly and efficient crew—I think we are all 'addicted' to the Children's room." **Nancy Olson, long time FOPAL volunteer**

"The wonderful people in the children's room have so much fun—I look forward to sorting, pricing, sharing and laughing with them every Tuesday." **Ginny Quackenbush, new volunteer**

*~ Pat Worthington, Children's Room Manager*

### Editor's Note:

Pat and her crew do an absolutely masterful job. If you haven't been in the Children's Book Room lately—DO GO! I wager you won't leave empty handed!

Children's Book Room Factoids:

- About 4,000 items are processed each month
- Approximately 2,500 items are sold each month
- Total earnings each month run about \$2,500
- We have 9 volunteers who work some 150 hours each month
- It takes anywhere between 2 and 120 days to sell an item

# A Visit with Friends of the British Library

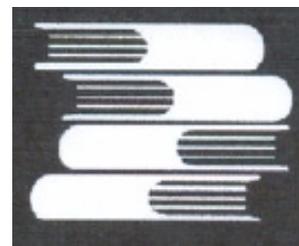


On a recent trip to England, I stopped in London for a few days. This gave me a chance to revisit the British Library and renew my reader’s card as well as to do a little research. On my way in through the main lobby I spotted the desk of the **Friends of the British Library**, and of course, nothing would do but I stop and talk with their representative. I learned that membership is not cheap with single “Ordinary Members” paying £40 (~\$74) and a couple paying £55 (~\$102)! Those under 25 and retirees pay £30 (~\$55). This led to my visiting the very comfortable lounge maintained by the Friends on the top floor of the library—one of the perks members enjoy. Other perks include discounts at the library bookshop, attendance at talks and presentations by library experts, a regular newsletter, and exclusive visits to other libraries and museums.

Leslie Groombridge, membership secretary of Friends of the British Library, graciously received me without prior notice. We had a good talk, and I learned that his organization shares some of the same challenges that FOPAL faces. For example, how to select projects or donations that are worthy of funding? How to assure that contributed funds truly enrich the library’s collection? The Brits have a comparatively formal procedure for making grants that begins with a Grant Application. Each library department submits its own applications, which is entirely understandable given the size of the operation. The Trustees of the Friends of the British Library then consider and vote on the applications received.

Leslie was surprised to learn that donations by Friends of the Palo Alto Library to its libraries exceed the amount that his organization gives to the British Library. During fiscal year 2007-08 FOPAL contributed \$187,000 while the Friends of the British Library contributed some £67,000 (about \$125,000). But of course, we don’t maintain an elegant lounge for members at a prime location or retain a staff.

I learned that Friends of the British Library do not get involved in “grubby book sales” but apparently rely on the spin-off from their endowment fund that has accumulated over the years. In fact, when I mentioned our book sales, Leslie’s immediate and understandable reaction was, “Oh, but we never sell our books!” However, he was immediately impressed when I told him something of the scope of our book sale operations and that we certainly did not rely heavily on library discards for our book sales.



Following is a list of the donations that of Friends of the British Library made to their library during fiscal year 2007-08. It’s pretty esoteric by most anyone’s standards but may be of interest some of our readers:

• Purchase facsimile edition of von Siebold’s Florilegium of Japanese Plants	£ 4,150
• Purchase 4th edition Tolstoy’s Voskresenie	1,750
• Contribute to publicizing “London: A life in maps exhibition”	10,000
• Contribute to Library’s “Faith” event with UK Parliament	5,000
• Contribute to Library’s purchase of the John Collins Collection of Binding	10,000
• Purchase Sunday Walks in London & Westminster	2,755
• Contribute to Library’s digitization of the Tibetan Tantric Manuscripts	5,000
• Contribute to Library’s purchase of French version of Sense and Sensibility	4,500
• Purchase autographed manuscript of Campioni’s oboe concerto (1760)	2,500
• Purchase David Bomberg’s Russian Ballet (1919)	2,325
• Contribution to Library’s purchase of Wardington Hours lavishly illustrated medieval manuscript	10,000
• Contribution to Library’s purchase of 17th century Polish papers	6,000
• Contribution to Library’s “Breaking the Rules: The printed face of the European Avant Garde,” 1900-1937 exhibition	5,000
• Prizes for each of the two winners of the book-binding competition	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 67,470</b>

It was indeed an informative visit, and I do urge each of you to take in the British Library if/when you get to London even if you’ve done so before. There’s always something new!

~ Tom Wyman

# The Horse Is Dead

One drizzly day, a sharp-eyed FOPAL volunteer spotted the 1969 first printing of *The Horse Is Dead* by Robert Klane. It was one of a flat of paperbacks at our monthly bag sale in the patio outside the bargain room. Seeing its slyly suggestive cover of a couple in bed, the scantily clad girl clutching a guitar, the volunteer's reaction was, "Whoops, this is worth something!" Indeed, but it didn't turn to gold overnight. Our favorite auction house turned it down—not once but twice. However our treasure-hunting volunteer refused to give up. After some negotiation, Edwin, who normally confines his listings to no-nonsense technical stuff, listed the book for sale on Amazon where it remained for six months before a customer scooped it up for \$175! By dint of our volunteer's sheer doggedness and Edwin's salesmanship, FOPAL got its money's worth out of that "dead horse."



And this is just another example of the bargains that can be found at our book sales!

## Spring Author Visits Upcoming

Library Adult Services is planning an exciting series of FOPAL-sponsored author visits for Spring 2009.

- **March 6:** Firoozeh Duma, presents her latest book *Laughing Without an Accent: Adventures of an Iranian America, at Home and Abroad*
- **March 24:** Pearl Sofer discusses her book *Baghdad to Bombay—In the Kitchens of My Cousins*.
- **April 7:** Palo Alto resident Meg Clayton presents her newest novel *The Wednesday Sisters*

Look for more details soon.



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Web Page: [www.friendspaloaltolib.org](http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org)

Email: [info@friendspaloaltolib.org](mailto:info@friendspaloaltolib.org)

**Book Sales: Second Weekend Every Month**

Cubberley Community Center  
4000 Middlefield Road

**Saturday**

Main Room: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
(Free tickets to reserve place in line available at 8 am)  
Children's Room (K6) & Bargain Room (K7): 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Sunday—New Hours**

All rooms: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
For details, see [www.friendspaloaltolib.org](http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org)

**Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday**

Lucie Stern Community Center Community Room  
1305 Middlefield Road 7:30 to 9 p.m.

For information, see  
[www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com](http://www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com)

**Great Books: Second Wednesday**

Oak Creek Apartments Club House  
1600 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto. 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
For information, call Elsie Taboroff at 493-8629

**Library Commission: Fourth Thursday**

Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.  
To confirm date/time, see  
[www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html](http://www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html)

**Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form**

We are a public-benefit 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your membership is tax deductible.

Join/renew	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Years</u>
<u>  </u> Individual	\$15	\$27
<u>  </u> Family	\$25	\$45
<u>  </u> Student	\$10	\$18
<u>  </u> Senior	\$10	\$18
<u>  </u> Supporter	\$50	\$90
<u>  </u> Sponsor	\$100	
<u>  </u> Patron	\$250	
<u>  </u> Lifetime	\$500	
<u>  </u> Corporate	\$1000	

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Address

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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**

Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) Board of Directors: Betsy Allyn—President; Martha Schmidt—Vice President; Margarita Quihuis—Secretary; Enid Pearson—Treasurer; Tom Clark, Arline Dehlinger, Gretchen Emmons, Dick Grote, Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, Barbara Silberling, Carolyn Spitz, Steven Staiger, Ellen and Tom Wyman. Library Director and Representative to the Board—Diane Jennings. Foreword Editor—Scottie Zimmerman. Webmaster—Frank McConnell. Membership—Margarita Quihuis