



Foreword

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Spring 2019

Rainy Day January Book Sale

Rainy January sale day forced art and ephemera indoors in the old theater dressing room. Transporting all the items back and forth in such weather was better than foregoing these items but not much fun.



FASCINATION OF THE BARGAIN ROOM

By Karen Bobonich

Several months ago, as a few of us Bargain Room volunteers stood chatting, we were joined by a regular FOPAL book sale customer. He was eager to tell us of a discovery that he had recently made. He had been coming to FOPAL book sales for several years, and had enjoyed them greatly. But he had never been to the Bargain Room. He explained that he was well off, and didn't feel that he needed to get a bargain. But this month, for no particular reason, he had stopped by H2. And was astounded. "Many of the books here, are just as interesting as the books in your Main Room!" he told us. "Some of them are even better! There are many that are

(Continued on page 3)

MEMBERS' CORNER

MEMBERS' EARLY BOOK SALE

Main Book Sale Room

Saturday, July 13, 2019

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.

> For membership information see back page.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members, Volunteers and Supporters,

Following in the footsteps of Nigel Jones is a formidable task. Nigel's three years as president brought unprecedented innovation and devotion to the office of the President. Faced with a drastic change in how we interface with Amazon for internet sales, he spent endless hours on the phone with Amazon trying to improve that interface, brought in new volunteers to that part of the operation, reinstated sales through Pacific Book Auction and in a year improved the sales figures dramatically. He has always been ready to listen to the ideas, complaints or ramblings of volunteers and customers, worked closely with PACLibrary personnel, found more storage space, moved books to our library stores and countless other jobs. Thank you Nigel.

The Cubberley Co-Design Project has reached a critical stage of having a concept for the layout of the site that was presented by the consultants, Concordia, to a community meeting on January 24 and was well received. The extensive report can be found on the PAUSD website. The next community meeting will be on May 9. FOPAL volunteers have been following this process closely and are mapping out specific needs for its occupancy in the new facility.

The Annual Appeal, that went to all of you in the Fall, has seen a total response of over \$11,500 of which over \$3,000 was allocated to membership renewals. Our thanks go to all the donors. Half-way through the fiscal year as of December 31, 2018, we can report that at \$210,000, total income was \$44,000 ahead of budget. Total expenses were slightly under budget, resulting in a net income of \$109,500. This net income figure was \$45,000 positive to budget for the first six months.

We welcomed new Board members Young-Jeh Oh, Melinda Parry, K.C. Sarr and Jim Sutherland. Melinda was also elected Secretary and has joined the Book Sale Committee as well as managing the Architecture section. Young-Jeh sells DVD's on eBay and has built a rewarding business there for FOPAL. K.C. has covered many jobs at FOPAL and is now concentrating on ironing out problems in the high value online business. Jim Sutherland manages the travel narratives section. For continuing members, Nigel Jones continues to oversee high value operations and recently managed our booth at the Antiquarian Book Faire as well as being section manager for the Philosophy and Humor sections. I manage the Main Room's Religion section and

have been researching vintage children's books. Gerry Masteller helped choose and price books for the Book Faire. Steve Staiger transports boxes of books from donors to the sorting room and can answer almost any question about Palo Alto history. Tina Kass has begun listing high value books for sale online. Suzanne Little continues on the Book Sale Committee and manages the History section. Charlotte Epstein continues as Vice-President, as sorter on Friday and as manager for Judaica and Music Books. Unfortunately we are losing Neelima Meka from the Board and as a section manager as she moves to a new employment position.

*Nancy Mahoney Cohen, President
ncohen@fopal.org*

Joan Baez Mementos Returned

Sorters don't just sort interesting books, of course. There are CDs, DVDs, LPs, postcards, cards, sheet music... if you're a sorter, you know the categories. One catch-all is ephemera. Recently one of the sorters found one - a little booklet of family photos. He said (rightly, mostly) that no one would buy someone else's family photos, and that maybe it should be tossed.

"Oh, no," said I, (who never throws anything away), "some people actually will buy someone's photos if they're interesting enough to them", and opened the booklet to the middle.

And my jaw dropped. There was a picture of a teenage girl from the 60s - but I recognized her instantly, even though I certainly didn't personally know her then (or now). Scrolling back to the beginning, the first photo was of a baby in a cradle with the inscription: "The Early Days of a Song Bird, Love to My Love, from her non-warbling mother, Joan Sr." Arranged by year, every photo had some description, and at the end were publicity photos of her as an adult, simply signed "Joan Baez."

Joan is currently touring with her "Farewell Tour" as she prepares to retire, and a friend had tickets to the local concert and managed to hand her a letter from me describing what was found (with that first photograph photocopied into it), asking if she wanted them. She had me contacted, a day later with a resounding "yes", and these should be in her hands now.

Allen Baum, Science Fiction and Sorter

Bargain *(Continued from page 1)*



Preparing books headed to the Bargain Room.

obscure, rare and unusual. What they have in common is not a lack of desirability - all that they have in common is their low cost.”

And, he was right. The Bargain Room is not entirely about bargains, although it is certainly a source of bargains! It is a testament to the reality of limited shelf sale space. The patron assured us that he would never again miss the Bargain Room part of the sale, and we assured him that it would continue to be a fascinating experience.

Bargain Room books, like all FOPAL sale books, are given to us by our generous donors. They are sorted into subject categories by our Main Room sorters, who then send them on to Section Managers. Section Managers then divide their inventory into four categories - books to price and shelve in the Main Room; books to send to our in-library sales; books to sell online; and books for the Bargain Room.

The goal of the Section managers is to sell books for a price that enhances FOPAL's grants to the Palo Alto City Library. But the reality is that we are given many, many wonderful books - approximately 40,000 per month - and can only fit a small fraction of them on the Main Room shelves, and can only profitably list a small fraction online (more online listers would increase that number), and can fit a very limited number on the shelves of the in-library sales. So the Bargain Room of necessity receives enormous numbers of unusual and interesting books, many of which have intrinsic and/or economic value. You can buy a romance novel in the Bargain Room - and you can also buy a 100 year old guide to growing roses. You can purchase Harry Potter books, or vintage Uncle Wiggly books, in the Children's

section of the Bargain Room. You can purchase a Time Life set from the 1970s - or a recent trade paperback novel, or a biography of Fred Astaire, or a large format book of Victorian architecture, or a retro science fiction novel from the 1960s, or a 1920s novel in Danish or Hungarian, or - well you get the idea. We get it all: new books, old books, scholarly books, popular books. And any book that does not sell in the Main Room, will also ultimately end up in the Bargain Room.

Although we are a book sale, we also carry classical, rock, popular and other categories of LP records, VHS tapes, CDs and DVDs. Old media go out of style, and then become of interest again - cassette music tapes are now very popular.

Every month it takes approximately 900 boxes of books to fill our shelves. We haul the boxes from the Main Room by means of an electric truck. This requires a lot of lifting and carrying of heavy boxes, but fortunately some of our volunteers appreciate the exercise. The boxes are set in front of their respective sections, and then shelved by a Bargain Room volunteer. In approximate order of years at FOPAL, this includes: Edwin El-Kareh, Karen Bobonich, Frank McConnell, Jim Dean, Rick Boyles, Evelyn Kmetovic, Stephanie Wagoner, Tyler Vinciguerra, Peter Gioumousis, Kathryn Blanchard and Sarah Prostack. Each of us loves books, and each of us wants to make sure that every book receives as much attention from our customers as possible, so we have devised shelving systems that we hope give each book a good chance to be sold.

As mentioned above, Bargain Room prices are very, very low. On the first day of the monthly sale, all hardback books are one dollar and all paperbacks are fifty cents (with some adjustments and exceptions for ephemera and sets of books); LP records are a dollar apiece, as are VHS tapes. All children's books are 50 cents. On the second day of the sale, all books and other items are either half price or \$5 for a generous bag full. In our experience, cost is rarely a barrier to purchase for our customers. They are more likely to be deterred from a purchase by full shelves at home (and so we encourage them to bring in some of their surplus books for another round of sales).

Although the sale itself is gratifying, some of us enjoy even more what happens afterwards. None of us want books to go to waste, if they can be "placed." So directly after the sale, from 4-6 p.m. on the Sunday of the sale, representatives of nonprofits can stop by and take as many books as they wish, for free. Many schoolteachers come in to get books for their classrooms, and every month several organizations show up to take books to ship to Asia and Africa. Norma Burchard, Peter

(continued on page 4)

Jr. Museum Attended FOPAL Winter Meeting



John Flynn (above), handler of Sequoia, accompanied John Aiken from the Palo Alto Junior Museum at the FOPAL Winter Section Manager and Sorter Meeting. The Junior Museum is a temporary neighbor of FOPAL while their new facility is under construction, with an expected opening in July 2020. In addition to hearing about the Junior Museum, participants discussed the Cubberley Co-Design project, tips for finding book prices and updates for section managers and sorters. *Photo by Nancy Tillman.*

Book Fair



Nigel Jones (above), with the help of Gerry Masteller, collected examples of FOPAL's more outstanding inventory items. With other volunteers, he sold items in the FOPAL booth at the February 2019 San Francisco Antiquarian Book Print & Paper Faire. Nigel met a number of other booksellers and learned of their particular buying interests.

Bargain *(Continued from page 1)*



Gioumouis and Paul Candelaria supervise this giveaway.

Even after nonprofit time, there are thousands of great books still on our shelves. So on the Monday night following the sale, from 6-8 p.m., we hold "free book night." Anyone at all is welcome to come and take as many books as s/he desires. Hundreds of people show up every month, and haul away mountains of boxes of books. At that time we also give away any non-book ephemera that didn't sell in the Main room - household gadgets, framed art, and knick knacks.

And then - there are still books left! There are still interesting, desirable books remaining in our Bargain Room, after we have made every effort to place them in the local community. To our good fortune, St. Vincent de Paul has a chain of book stores in Oregon, and they are happy to pick up our remaining books to sell in their stores, or to ship overseas as part of their mission. Sometimes they have to show up twice with their giant truck, to clear our shelves. But when they are done, our rooms are empty of books, and we are ready to start the process of setting up for the next month's sale.

Karen Bobonich, Bargain Room Section Manager



FOPAL Grants

Collections: The FOPAL grant, a total of \$75,000 at the beginning of August, 21018, has been spent on refreshing library collection. By February, 2019, \$19,993.38 has been used to pay for 340 books, 79 CDs, Blu-Rays and DVDs. The grant fund has helped purchasing of new copies of classics as well additional copies of items with long waiting lists.

Programming: The 2018/2019 FOPAL Adult and Youth Services Programming budget has been used to pay for the following events:

- 2018 Summer Reading Program (performers, prizes, supplies, etc.): The program was another huge success and there were quite a few changes from last year—a new online platform, in-house theme and original artwork. There were three big parties, the fun display contest between branches, a dedicated Summer Reading Programs intern and great volunteers all contributed to make this a great program with record

SRP Year	2016	2017	2018
Kid Sign-Ups	1574	1298	2244
Completions	919	665	1591
Teen Sign-Ups	647	500	607
Completions	367	284	386
Adult Sign-Ups	701	649	1151
Completions	386	340	632
Total Sign-Ups	2922	2447	4002
Total Completions	1672	1289	2609



Diwali Celebration (11/10/18)

sign-ups and completions:

- Diwali Celebration 2018: The all-ages event featured

dance and music performances, crafts, henna, rangoli and food. Despite the terrible fire-related air quality, about 425 people attended the event. It was another successful event that was enjoyed and appreciated by the community.



2019 Kids and Teens Writing Contest Awards. Vandana Ravi receives award from Liz Stewart, Senior Youth Librarian/ Teen Collection Selector. Awards were given in three categories: Grades 3-5, middle school and high school. The contest is made possible by a grant from FOPAL

- Writing Contest 2019: The contest was capped off by a reception at the Rinconada Library on Friday, February 1. The event was to celebrate all those who participated in this year's Writing Contest and to announce the winners. 125 entrants and their families attended the event. Binders containing all the entries are available for the public to view at each library branch. Winners will be recognized in an upcoming City Council meeting.



Lunar New Year Festival (2/16/19)

- Lunar New Year Festival 2019: This year's festival attracted 275—despite the cold, rain and long weekend! Activities included a Lion Dance, martial arts demonstration, snacks, and crafts.
- Movie Licensing for all five branches to show movies.

(Continued on page 6)

Grants *(Continued from page 5)*



STEAM (12/16/18)

*Day of the Dead Celebration
(11/4/18)*

- Craft supplies for: STEAM, craft activities for kids, teens and adults.
- Book Clubs: Copies for attendees for four of the seven book clubs we operate. Copies are being collected to start circulating.
- Various kids, teen and adult events.

More Advantages of a Palo Alto Library Card

Enjoy 24/7 access with your Palo Alto City Library card. Here are some recommended resources that are free for card holders:

Magazines and Newspapers including New York Times and International Newspapers. Online access instructions for NYT below.*

Muzzy - Foreign language lessons for children (via Kanopy for Kids)

Consumer Reports - Access current and back issues

Safari Tech Books - Develop tech skills with this extensive eBook library

RB Digital - A gateway to digital magazines, audiobooks and streaming video <https://paloaltoca.rbdigital.com/>

*Go to the library's website for the authentication link from any location.

- o Either go straight to the eResources entry for NYT Digital Access
- o Or, do a website search in Bibliocommons for New York Times Digital Access.

Wanted - Treasurer / Board Member

Do you want to be part of the governing team of FOPAL and help guide the future of the organization? Are you good with numbers?

A new volunteer Treasurer will be elected in October effective January 2020. This is a one-year term position which can be extended annually for a total of three years. The current Treasurer will complete a three-year term at the end of 2019.

The role includes, with the assistance of the Assistant Treasurer, all aspects of the accounting and financial management of an entity with gross annual revenues of over \$350,000, assets of around \$500,000 and grants to the Palo Alto Library system of over \$125,000 per annum.

Responsibilities include all aspects of budgets, income and expense oversight, accounting and reporting as well as cash management, bank investments and regulatory reporting. Whilst not an absolute pre-requisite, some accounting and financial experience would be a plus and general computer literacy is required. Our accounting system runs on QuickBooks and reporting is via Excel.

For Information contact our current Treasurer, Shaun Maguire at fopalacct@gmail.com

- Click on the authentication link :
<https://pacl.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://myaccount.nytimes.com/grouppass/redis>
- Log in with your 14-digit library barcode and PIN.
- Once logged in, you will be prompted to create an account.
- During the account creation process, an email must be provided to the New York Times (see note on Privacy below).
- Once logged in, you have access to the New York Times Online for 24 hours.
- Users of the mobile app will have to click through to the Library's entry for the NYT on the A-Z list, authenticate with a library card and PIN, and obtain a 24-hour pass by logging into their NYT account in order for that account using the NYT mobile app to give them unlimited 24-hour access.

FOPAL - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

High Value Operations

We have immediate openings for volunteers to support our online high value operations which includes books, DVDs, CDs and vinyl. You will be trained to do high value research and pricing as well as how to list materials online and how to do the fulfillment process. This can be done onsite at FOPAL or, except for fulfillment, from home and on your own schedule. If you are intrigued by exploring the world of vintage and collectible media, particularly antiquarian books, this is the ideal volunteer opportunity for you.

Section managers & assistants needed!

Bring your love of books in areas like Classics & Modern Literature, Computers, Psychology, and Military History 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 & enrichment programming. Join the FOPAL team to sell more books and change people's lives! Flexible schedule is available. Someone is needed to research DVDs online.

E-Commerce Librarian needed!

Learn the Librarian process of FOPAL's successful e-commerce (the buying and selling of products or services conducted over the Internet) enterprise. With our on-line book sale business busier than ever we need volunteers to help shelve listed books for on-line sale.

Book Sale "Day of Event" Coordinator

Assist FOPAL's Director of Volunteer and Community Engagement with coordinating assignments of the sale volunteers during the monthly sale. The time requirement averages 5-10 hours a month, with the majority of work during the sale dates, the 2nd weekend of each month.

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!

Bargain Room/H2 book shelving area opportunity

By volunteering 2 hours a week Bargain Room/H2 volunteers are able to take ownership of a specific section or two. Section currently available: Science, Asian Languages, Psychology, Children Non-fiction. Flexible schedule! No pricing needed, all books sell for .50cents - \$1! This volunteer opportunity is open to students or others able to make a six month commitment.

LOVE to drive?

We are looking for more library lovers and bibliophiles to join our amazing pick-up team. 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 & mileage)

Volunteers @ book sales!

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

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

Welcoming new volunteers!

Amy Rosenbery, David Cortesi, Armita Abadian, Keran Abadian, Paul Barron, Alan Bennett, Jim Boyle, Cassie Chen, Josephine Chen, Alex Chu, David Cortesi, Christen Cross, Mary DeMasters, Kathy Dolence, Randy Dolence, Stephen Ford, Sophie Ladenla, Tiffany Lee, Lili Liu, Melanie Macdonald, Erik Noyman, Kelli O'Merry, Narendra (Naren), Penagulur, Leheng (Sonia) Qi, Amy Rosenbery, Ella Varda.



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
_____ 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 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: Nancy Mahoney Cohen, President; Charlotte Epstein, Vice President; Melinda Parry, Secretary; Shaun Maguire, Treasurer; Karen Neier, Assistant Treasurer; Tina Kass, Nigel Jones, Suzanne Brown Little; Gerry Masteller, Young-Jeh Oh; K.C. Sarr; Steve Staiger; Jim Sutherland