



Foreword

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Spring 2022

Sci-fi & Fantasy Flourishes

I'm Rich McAllister, and I run the Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Graphic Novels/Comics sections in FOPAL's Main Room. That's six bookcases which will usually be full for the sale, so there's a lot to get through. Let's take a tour.

At the end by the Art section are the graphic novels and comics. On top are big, attractive books, faced out. Next are shelves for shorter books, mainly Japanese-style manga. Down from there are the folio-size books: actual graphic novels, including classics like Art Spiegelman's *Maus* and Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, plus collections of superhero comics and even nonfiction. Finally, at the bottom there are file boxes of actual comics, collections of newspaper comics, and books on how to draw and read comics.

In the next case to the left are the fantasy hardcovers and trade paperbacks. While the modern fantasy genre started with Tolkien's works and books for people who wanted more like his, there's more to it now.

Continuing down the aisle, we find the fantasy paperbacks. The top shelf has boxed sets of fantasy series, with individual books below. Three books you won't find here are the volumes of *The Lord of the Rings*; these are so common that I send them to the Bargain Room, so look for them there.

Next are science fiction paperbacks. Mostly older books will be found here, but these shelves include most of the classics of the field because so much sci-fi was originally published in paperback. Here you will see perennial sellers like Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* series and the first four of Orson Scott Card's *Ender* books.

Close to the Computer section are the science fiction



hardcovers and trade paperbacks. More recent books will be found here, since e-books have now largely replaced mass-market paperbacks. Books here tend to sell fast!

Turn around to see the final section: a collection of books that don't quite fit in the main science fiction shelves. On top are books about science fiction and fantasy, like biographies of sci-fi authors. On the next shelf are books about vampires and werewolves, along with "Urban Fantasy." More traditional horror comes on the next shelf, along with alternate histories. Next down is the shelf I call "Megasellers"- prolific and popular writers like Stephen King and Michael Crichton. Finally, on the bottom are anthologies. Here you'll often find the various "Best of the Year" anthologies, fat volumes with lots of good reading for not much money. So, there is a huge variety of great books to be found in this section.

Come and enjoy!

Rich McAllister, Section Head

High Value

All the money that FOPAL generates to support our Libraries comes from the generosity of our supporters, and a major component of that comes from the donations of books, media and ephemera that we receive. When our Section Managers review the donations we receive they divide them into three categories: one is for our Bargain Room, one is for our regular book sales, and the third is High Value, which we define as any item worth more than \$20.

All items worth over \$20 are then sent to our specialist team who carefully research the book or media, looking for things such as the price of comparable items online, the edition [especially first editions], the publishing date, the condition of the book, does it have a dust jacket, and sometimes, and the best of all, is it signed or inscribed?

There are four main ways that we sell high value materials:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



After the excitement of our first monthly sale in August, followed by four more monthly events, we had to cancel the sales for January and February, due to the Omicron virus and consequent concerns for the health of both our volunteers and our customers. During the months from August through December, the income from sales was between \$14,000 and \$19,000. Happily, we resumed the mid-month sale in March, and we hope that the data regarding COVID and its effects will allow us to continue monthly sales throughout the coming year.

The re-institution of “Friends and Family” sales proved to be a vital and profitable stop-gap for FOPAL while our regular sales were on hold. The Main Room, Bargain Room and Children’s Room all allowed up to seven shoppers to come for a two-hour appointment, to browse and buy. The scheduled sales in January, along with high value sales, and income from library stores, brought in almost \$24,000. The sales of high value items have provided a steady income for FOPAL throughout the pandemic.

We have been very pleased with the number of volunteers who have remained ‘essential workers’ for FOPAL (some have been with us for decades,) and with our many new volunteers. All of them (including numerous high school students) have ensured the ongoing success of FOPAL, even in these difficult times. And thank you to our customers, members and supporters, without whom FOPAL could not survive.

The Palo Alto City Council has decided to explore possible plans to renovate the Cubberley site. The city will explore ways to acquire available land from PAUSD, and scope the design process for a city-owned community center once the acreage is determined. This is good news both for FOPAL and for the community as a whole.

Jenny Munro

Finding Joy Working at FOPAL



A retired art historian, I taught at several colleges and universities on the east coast before moving to Palo Alto. I started volunteering at FOPAL six years ago. I began as a sorter (still probably my favorite job at FOPAL) and became a day manager accepting donations. I manage the classic and modern fiction and the architecture sections and I help with the monthly sales. I hosted the Friday and Saturday Friends and Family special sales in the Main Room for the year of our pandemic lock-down and am doing the Saturday sale during our current closure. I just turned over my pen as secretary of the board to our new secretary, Helen Beevers, before becoming the new vice president.

When donors and customers thank us profusely for doing the work we do, I tell them that it’s so much fun. It’s a pleasure to sort the donations and see the enormous variety of things we are given by our generous community – books that I don’t want to read or own but that give me momentary joy to examine and to think about the enjoyment they will bring to a FOPAL customer. Books and libraries have been an important part of my life since I was very young. I’m happy to participate in projects that preserve their vitality.

Melinda Parry, Vice President



John Wang has been a Palo Alto resident for over 30 years. After receiving his BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering at Stanford, he started his career at Apple, where he wrote software for Macs. While at Apple, he attended evening classes at Santa Clara University and received his MBA after two very busy years. Since those days, he has held various software engineering, technical project management, and people management roles in well-known companies including RSA Security, Intuit, and Microsoft.

John is currently VP of the board at Palo Alto’s Stevenson House, a non-profit, low-income senior housing facility. He also

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From Across the Pond



A couple of years ago, my husband was offered a position out here in the Bay Area, so we arrived in the US from Hampshire, England in August 2019 looking forward to discovering if the USA really was as portrayed in the UK. We've been here a while now but are still learning!

Of course, the first thing we notice about living in Palo Alto is the weather. I know we Brits enjoy talking about the weather, but then we have a lot of it to talk about. Here it is pretty much the same all year round - sunny, warm and blue skies. The upside to this is you don't need to take a warm jumper, umbrella and raincoat with you everywhere 'just in case' and it makes you feel sunnier! Of course, the downside is worrying about drought and wild fires. Wild fires happen in the UK too but not so often and not on such a large scale. And we can always be certain that at some point there will be a huge downpour to help quench them. We had certainly never heard the term 'fire season' before we came here.

I've learned a lot of new vocabulary whilst here. I was prepared for the obvious: cilantro, trash, sidewalk, chips and fries.... but not for others. My husband was invited to a Zoom meeting which would be held in 'Fancy Dress'. He looked at all his colleagues on screen and said - 'I guess Fancy Dress

Wang *(Continued from page 2)*

serves on its Finance Committee and chairs its Facilities Committee. His two children attended Palo Alto schools from K through 12, and John served as a founding board member and treasurer of the Gunn High School Robotics Team Booster Club for three years. His hobbies include biking, teaching himself to play piano (being the only member of his family who did NOT have childhood lessons), and transitioning from being a lifelong tennis player to a pickleball enthusiast. After many years of being an avid FOPAL customer, John now has to be very selective in book acquisitions because he has run out of space to display them.

John Wang, Treasurer



Helen working in the Children's Room.

means something different here then. (Thank goodness he'd only dressed as a muggle.....)

I can also remember looking up 'arugula' on the internet before ordering a sandwich to see what was in it ('rocket') and wondering why we couldn't find 'swede' anywhere in the supermarket only to eventually discover I should be looking for 'rutabaga'. I've also confused the locals by asking if they were 'in the queue' and telling FOPAL customers that they could use a 'trolley' to help move boxes of books.

Sport appears to have a much broader spectator and participation base in the US than the UK which we were expecting. Not really huge sports fans ourselves, we nevertheless put going to a football and baseball game on our American Bucket list. I'm still trying to work out what's going on in these games to be honest and I'm still slightly disappointed that a touchdown isn't scored by literally touching the ball down.

There are many other things which are different too - the dollar bills (notes) are all the same colour, there are no continuity announcers on the TV, the health system still baffles me, outdoor events can be planned without contingency plans (what if it rains...back to the weather), all the restaurants do take out, white men instead of green ones on the road crossing, driving on the right, proper Farmers Markets, the sound the emergency vehicles make, policemen (officers) carrying guns...but I really can't convert to Fahrenheit!

Helen Beevers, Secretary

Spotlight on Leo and Diane Dillon



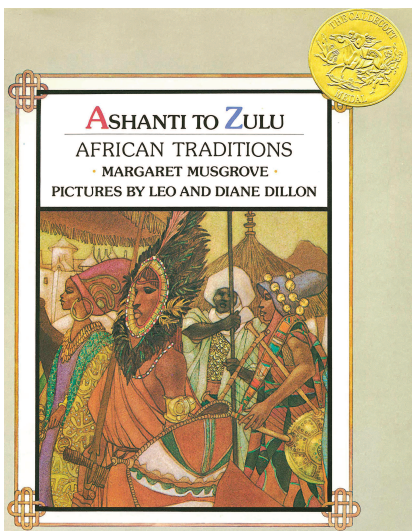
I am a graduate student in English at Stanford, and discovered the FOPAL sales a few months after I began my program here in 2016. I quickly became a regular, shopping for books for class and for fun - the sales have since gained many fans among

the graduate students in the English department! Like many of FOPAL's regular customers, I am also a book collector.

One of my collections focuses on the work of Leo and Diane Dillon, married illustrators whose work spans almost six decades. They are especially well-known for their work illustrating children's books (they won the Caldecott Award in two consecutive years, 1976 and 1977) and for their many covers of science fiction and fantasy novels. But they've also provided illustrations for hundreds of other books, and there is no complete bibliography of their career, as far as I am aware.

I collect their work because I think it is important, in addition to being very beautiful; the Dillons are an interracial couple who have long been recognized for their commitment to representation in their illustrations. Whenever I find a new cover by them, it adds to my knowledge of the amazing scope of their career.

Every other year, Stanford holds a student book collecting contest, the Wreden Prize, which I was thrilled to win in 2021.



“Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions” is a 1976 children's book written by Margaret Musgrove and illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. This book won the Dillons the second of their two consecutive Caldecott Medals.

This made me eligible to enter the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest, where my Dillon collection was also awarded first place. It has been very exciting to talk with people about my collection and celebrate the Dillons' amazing body of work through these experiences. (You can read more about the collection by visiting the webpage for the 2021 Stanford Wreden Prize.)

Most books with Dillon illustrations are not “rare” in the sense of being very expensive, but they can be quite uncommon because they weren't always thought of as worth preserving. I hunt for Dillon books all over the Bay Area, but one of my favorite places to look is in the Bargain Room, since the Dillons did lots of paperback covers in the 1960s and 1970s that sometimes show up there! Some of these books show up often, others I have only ever seen once or very rarely. I always treasure them when I find them, and I'm very grateful for all the hard work volunteers put in to make the sales happen!

Jessica C. Jordan, FOPAL supporter

CDs Available in Four Locations

FOPAL has four locations where customers can purchase CDs: the Main Room, the Bargain Room, the Mitchell Park Library and the Rinconada library.

The Main Room offers approximately 1,200 CDs a month, with a varying selection of genres. There are around a dozen to choose from, including classical/opera, jazz, and international. Also, 60s/70s rock (the most popular) and soundtracks. The selections vary from month to month.

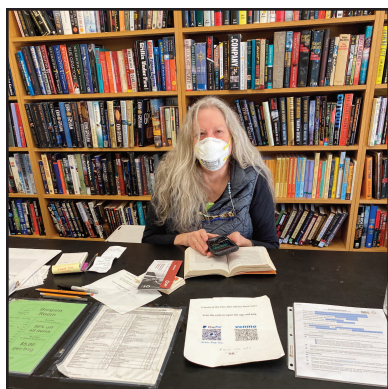
The Bargain Room offers 700 to 900 CDs, mostly post-70s rock, and items that didn't sell in the Main Room. Items are sold at a discounted price, with a free Monday giveaway on the night after each monthly weekend sale.

The libraries offer a smaller quantity of items, but the best of the selections go to the Mitchell Park and Rinconada libraries, because they are open more days.

FOPAL also sells CDs online (through Amazon and eBay) where customers can find higher priced items.

John Scheibe, Volunteer, CD Section Manager

Bargain Room



Marcie Brown hosts a Friends and Family sale.



Dad and daughter look for bargains.

After six weeks of small Friends and Family sales run by Peter Gioumouis, Marcie Brown, Sven Geddes and Mandy Maccalla, the Bargain Room volunteer staff were eagerly preparing for a transition to a full reopening in March. Because we had been receiving donations throughout this period, we had a very large backlog of fresh inventory to add to the shelves. At the same time, we had been passing books that were less likely to quickly sell on to St. Vincent de Paul in Oregon, and anticipating nonprofit giveaways after the sale with help from Norma Burchard and Amy Rosenberg. Here are some pre-sale comments from our

section managers, anticipating the sale:

“We have enough science books to sink a barge, and then sink the boat that sank the barge” - Edwin El-Kareh (Bargain Room volunteer since 1998): science, Russian language, and sheet music.

“We have a great deal of literature and American history, but religion is so far somewhat light” - Karen Bobonich (since 2001: literature, history, vintage books, religion, poetry).

“There are more than enough computer books; with luck we’ll have enough sci-fi and fantasy to fill the shelves; popular music LPs will be light, but there should be plenty of CDs to fill in” - Frank McConnell (since 2004: computers, science fiction, popular music LPs, CDs, empties, lids).

“There will be plenty of music books, but few classical records; we’re waiting to see how many DVDs will be

donated” - Jim Dean (since 2004: classical music, photography and DVDs).

“More business books than could readily be imagined” - Rick Boyles (since 2012: business, and the transport of books with his wife Laurie).

“We always have a great number and variety of cookbooks” - Stephanie Wagoner (since 2011: cookbooks, nature, gardening, and assistance with mysteries and literature).

“We’ll have plenty of romance novels and health books, but a dearth of large format” - Peter Gioumouis (since 2013: mysteries, health, humor, military history, large format and romance, sports, transport, entertainment and law)

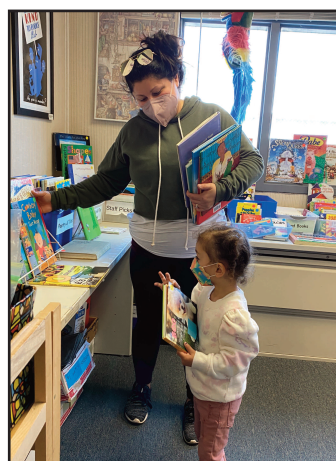
“There will be many lovely art books and craft books” Kathryn Blanchard (since 2017: art, crafts and drama)

“We could fill the shelves of the entire bargain room with nonliterary fiction; come and enjoy!” - Neila Mezynski (since 2020: fiction, education and language)

“We expect a great quantity of travel books, Asian language books, and European language books, but psychology may be light.” Sven Geddes (since 2021: travel, Asian languages, European languages, religion, and book transport).

Clearly the Bargain Room was filled with a huge variety of offerings for the sale!

Children’s Room



Devra Romm and daughter, Emerson, enjoy shopping.



Emerson Schwartz and Parker Hughes sharing a favorite book

FOPAL Volunteers



Janette (second from left) with volunteers Geoff Rocca, Gail Reeder and Kaye Storm.

I am happy to report that in the past several months FOPAL volunteers have been working hard bringing in thousands of donated items, sorting these (and more from storage) and researching books for sale or for posting as online offerings. Our book movers relocated dozens of boxes to safer storage, and kept the boxes of books moving from room to room as needed. The High Value team hummed along, increasing eBay sales and adding an arrangement with Book Forest for Amazon sales. FOPAL library stores opened as well. In 2022, we canceled our January & February Sales, and resurrected our Friends & Family personal sales. Sales appointments were created for eager customers, as were assignments for our volunteer sale hosts, while time slots for our sorters were adjusted. As usual, FOPAL's volunteers calmly met the challenges. All this was accomplished while FOPAL processed more than 40,000 books per month and generated almost \$24,000 in January sales from all sources.

In all honesty, I knew that this would be possible. The processes for Friends and Family sales were already in place from 2020-2021, and with a list of goals FOPAL wanted to achieve, alongside necessary concerns and constraints, we moved confidently ahead. Thanks to everyone's patience FOPAL has been able to make the necessary changes to our operation in order to keep running smoothly.

On a sad note, FOPAL recently lost two long-term volunteers:



Ed Rice (pictured left with his wife in their sections), manager of the medical section, died on January 7th. His wife, Verne, who managed the health section, has now retired. Both Ed and Verne could also be

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Welcoming New Volunteers!

John Wang- Treasurer
 Ayush Shetty -Summers, Sales
 Christy Du - Sorting & Sales
 Angela Rao -Sorting & Sales
 Andy Chung - Sorting & Sales
 Ainslie Chen - Sorting, Donation Monitor & Sales
 Tina Chen- Donation Monitor, Sorting & Sale
 Katherine Lu- Sorting & Sales
 Harry Peng - Donations & Sales
 Xiwnie Liang -Sales
 Diana Fong - Sales
 Adam Fong - Sales
 Xiwen Liang - Sales
 Joseph Kim- Sales
 Rachna Rangan- Sales
 Neel Rangan - Sales
 Yonhao Fan - Sales
 Kathleen Joynes- Sorting & Sales
 Amanda Tomasko- Sorting & Sales
 Danielle Batres- Saturdays Sales
 Stefan Kostic - Sales Saturday
 Huiyuan Lui - Sorting, pricing, Sales
 Anoop Thakore - Section Manager
 Xiang Li - Donation monitor, Sales
 Jacob Chan - Donation monitor, Sales
 Susan Pillsbury- Sorting & Sales
 Kaye Storm - Sorting & Sales
 Lukas Dong - Saturdays Sales
 Jessica Galbraith - Sales Saturdays
 Abigail Galbraith - Sales Saturdays
 Leia Chan - Sales Saturdays
 Mehr Sethi - Donation monitors, Sorting, Sales
 Misko Halas - Donation monitor, Sales
 Matthew Mao - Donation monitor, Sales
 Rahul Sundaresan - Sorting & Sales Saturdays
 Nandini Sharma - Sorting & Sales Saturdays
 Neel Sundaresan - Sorter & Sales
 Neil Pendyala - Sorting, donations, Sales
 Yi Feng - Donation monitor, Sales
 Phoebe Barrientos - Donation monitor, Sales
 Alexis Javellana Hill - Sorter, Sales, work from home
 Christine Hao - High Value
 Vivian Leung - Donation Monitor & Sales Saturdays
 Gail Reeder - Sorting, Section Manager/Med., Sales Saturdays
 Kate Chesley - High Value, Sorter & Sales
 Gene Iwamoto - High Value & Sales
 Michele Kasper - Donation monitor, Sales, sorting, SM
 Vintage Cooking
 Amy Kohrman - High Value, Sorting
 Rita Vrhel - Sorting, Donations, Sales
 Sabrina McDowell - Summer Sales Coordinator

FOPAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

You can make a difference. 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 Palo Alto public libraries. These sales happen through the efforts of many individuals just like you. Please join us. Flexible schedule is available.

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 and media for sale online on Amazon and eBay. Books can range from modern to antiquarian and media from DVDs, CDs, and games to software. You can work at FOPAL or from your home; your hours are up to you. We will provide detailed training and mentoring. We need volunteers right now to join our very successful high value team. For additional information contact Nigel Jones, nigelgj@gmail.com.

Enjoy a first look at an amazing assortment of books!

Donation monitors greet donors, monitor the donation process, offer receipts and thanks. Using social distancing, you will be accepting donations (6 bags/boxes or fewer) Mondays- Saturdays 3- 5pm. Donation monitors will offer to assist donors dropping off their books and moving those books into FOPAL's sorting room. Meet friendly donors and get free body-building exercise!

Section Managers needed!

Bring your love of books in areas like: home and crafts, drama, vintage books, sets and large format, to name a few of the sections available. All books are pre-sorted and ready to be priced and shelved.

Volunteers @ book sales!

FOPAL book sales are held on the second weekend of every month. Monthly needs: cashiers, floor supervisors and set-up & break down volunteers. Meet many fellow bookaholics and experience the thrill of the marketplace.

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. Flexible schedule! No pricing needed, as all books sell for 50 cents or \$1.00.

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.

To volunteer for any of above opportunities please contact Janette Herceg - 650-494-1266 or at jherceg@fopal.org. If you have any questions regarding the type of volunteer opportunities FOPAL offers, please check out our website www.fopal.org

Volunteers *(Continued from page 6)*

seen volunteering on sale Saturday mornings in the Main Room; Ed cheerfully managed the line of customers, while Verne assisted as a floor person. Both felt it was a privilege to help people find the books they were looking for.



Rose Giamalis (left), manager of the cookbook section, passed away on February 7th. Her husband Peter had recently retired from managing the law section. Both regularly acted as the Saturday morning Children's Room cashiers. Rose greeted customers with a smile, and managed and scheduled the

sale volunteers. Ed and Rose's steady presence and dedication to FOPAL will be greatly missed!

I do hope that each of you will find some time in these next few weeks to be with family and loved ones, and to remember how fortunate we are. The FOPAL Volunteer office and I send you best wishes, wherever you are, for a very healthy and Happy New Year.

Janette Herceg, Director of Volunteer Engagement

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Value *(Continued from page 1)*

through our presence on Amazon, through our business partner, The Book Forest, on our eBay store, and through our auction house partner, the PBA Galleries, in Berkeley.

Examples of high value sales of books are: Chagall's Lithographs, [\$1,500], Patchen's Illustrated Poems, [\$1,600], and Mrs. Fisher's Cookbook, [\$1,000], and in terms of ephemera, such things as vintage photo albums, and tarot cards.

With COVID we have had to reduce our in-person book sales and so our High Value online revenue has become more and more important and will continue to grow.

If you are interested in working with high value books, all the way from modern fiction to antiquarian, from art to murder mysteries, get in touch; we are always looking for book lovers to volunteer and join our High Value team.

Nigel Jones, Head of High Value team

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
_____ 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

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