



# Foreword

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Fall 2023

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since the Spring *Foreword* everything has been going well at FOPAL. We always have plenty of donations, and the mid-monthly sales have been very successful. Our income was \$16,794 for May; \$17,371 for June; \$20,850 for July and \$21,936 for August. The especially high numbers for July and August were partly due to the July High Value sale, and to special sales of CDs and records (vinyl).

While schools were out for the summer, we had many high school student volunteers, and even a few from middle school. They were a wonderful asset to our operation, especially on donation days when heavy boxes had to be brought into the sorting room, often re-packed, and then stacked five-high. Students also helped with sorting books and delivering them to the sections, and even helping section managers look up prices on-line. At the monthly sales we had dozens of young people helping out in all capacities, from cashiers to floor-monitors. We say a big THANK YOU to all those who volunteered this summer.

At our board meeting in June, we were able to give the library the total amount of their grant request: \$149,500. The library will use \$100,000 of this to increase its collections, and FOPAL's grant will also fund many valuable programs for teens, adults and seniors, including the 2024 summer reading program.

We thank you all for supporting FOPAL through volunteering, donating (both books and money) and buying books at the sales.

*Jenny Munro*

### FOPAL GENERAL MEETING

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ON  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11th, AT 10:30 AM IN THE  
EMBARCADERO ROOM AT THE RINCONADA  
LIBRARY. ALL ARE WELCOME!

## Hello Fellow FOPAL

### Enthusiasts

I trust this newsletter finds you in good spirits! As the summer comes to a close and fall approaches, I'm thrilled to share my reflections on the recent August Sale. It was an honor to co-manage this event, and I'm pleased to announce that it was a great success!



*Nikole Miller*

In case you missed it, we introduced a new point-of-sale system to further streamline transactions, and received lots of positive feedback from our customers and cashiers. This success story reflects the hard work of John Wang, Michele Kasper, and our dedicated August cashiers. Their efforts made it all possible, and I couldn't be more grateful for their guidance throughout the sale.

What truly warmed my heart were the connections I  
*(Continued on page 8)*

### FOPAL BOARD ELECTION

#### Officers nominated for re-election to a one-year term:

Jenny Munro, President; Melinda Parry, Vice President; Suzanne Cholko, Secretary; John Wang, Treasurer; Michele Kasper, Assistant Treasurer

#### Board members nominated for re-election to a two-year term:

Nancy Cohen; Karen Dal Colletto; Nigel Jones; Jenny Munro; Nancy Tillman; John Wang

## Veteran Volunteers



Ed and Tisa Walker have been active volunteers at FOPAL for over twenty years. When Ed retired in 2000 from a semiconductor company where he worked on the business and financial side, he was asked to join FOPAL by their long time and close friend Marty Paddock (for whom our main room was originally named) who was running the book sales at that time. Ed's wife, Tisa came too, even though she was still working as Chair of the Anthropology Department at De Anza College. At that time the book sales, according to Ed, were a minor part of the operation. FOPAL was more about fundraising for the libraries in a variety of ways, only one of which was the monthly book sale which netted about \$1,000 - a far cry from the \$15 - \$20K that the sales bring in today.

Ed started as a volunteer sorter and served as a cashier at the sales. He also helped Marty to hand count the proceeds, all in cash. When he owned a station wagon, he was involved in book pickups. Ed served on the Board of Directors as FOPAL's Treasurer in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Ed was also involved in selling books on Amazon (when FOPAL sold there directly), dealing with shipping and inventory control. More recently he was the Membership Chairman, until his eyesight became problematic and necessitated a hand-over of those duties to Tina Kass. Ed has served as section manager for Business, Science, Computers, and The West over the years, and he continues to be our go-to person for all things to do with locks and codes for the Main Room, the Children's Room and Annexes A and B.

Tisa started out as a Floor Monitor at the monthly book sales, and also as a regular sorter, which she enjoyed as a form

of triage as she puts it. She has also served on FOPAL's Board of Directors. In recent years she insisted that books on Native Americans (her professional specialty in anthropology) be moved out of The West section (a categorization that the eastern Indians would not agree with) and be moved into a section called Native Americans (she would prefer it be called Indigenous Peoples of North America), of which she is now the section manager.

Both Ed and Tisa agree that the one thing they would like to see re-instated at FOPAL is the volunteer luncheon that used to be held on the Friday before each monthly book sale. I think most of us agree that it would be lovely to have a regular in-person volunteer get-together each month, whenever and however we can do it.

## Vintage Computer Fest

For the third year, FOPAL was an exhibitor at the Vintage Computer Fest West. The Vintage Computer Fests (link: [vcfed.org](http://vcfed.org)) are a nationwide series of meetings of enthusiasts who restore and use old computers. VCF West is held in August at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View.

Dave Cortesi and Frank McConnell had been moving "vintage" computer books from regular Computer donations into a special VCF hoard since the prior August - "vintage" meaning books and manuals from before 1999, which typically don't sell in the regular sales as they aren't relevant to current users.

The Fest organizers gave us a long table in a well-traveled corridor where we displayed our 18 boxes of material. Several FOPAL volunteers helped staff the table over the two-day event. In the end we brought back only 6 boxes to H2, so a lot of old books were taken by the attendees, yielding \$1400 in sales.

Frame your  
Vintage  
Computer  
in Period books



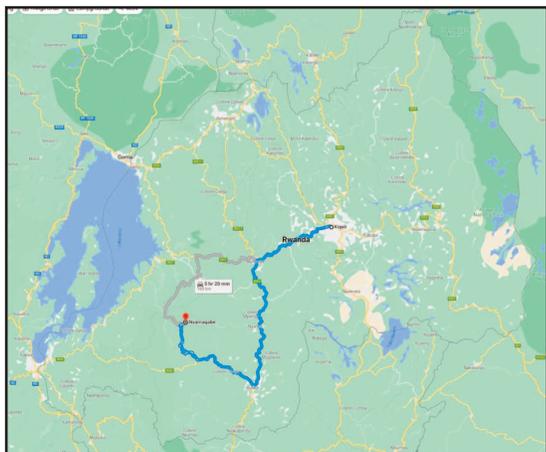
from  PALO ALTO LIBRARY

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# Books for Rwanda

In July, I had the unique opportunity to gift a selection of books and games from FOPAL to a school in Rwanda. The engineering firm where I work had a community service trip where a team of engineers from offices across the nation worked with the local community in Nyamagabe, Rwanda to build a pedestrian bridge across the Rurongora River.



*Location of the site, a 5-hour drive from the capital of Rwanda.*

My co-worker Sam was one of the members on this trip. Aside from building the bridge, each team member was to also bring books and supplies to donate to the local Primary School, which serves about 6 teachers and 400 students.



*The students and teachers of the Nyagisumo Primary School and members of my company's team.*

Thanks to the coordination by Janette, the FOPAL Volunteer Director and Carolyn, the Children's Room Manager, I was able to visit the Children's Room and

purchase some books and games to contribute to Sam's donation. A few notable picks are Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales and one of my childhood favorites, *The Giving Tree*. I also found a book on bridges, perfect to compliment Sam's bridge project.



*A selection of books and games from FOPAL's Children's Room.*

Sam said that the current library at the school was fairly empty, so the teachers and students were grateful for our donations. I was also very happy to share some of the wonderful books and games donated to FOPAL by our community with the community in Rwanda.



*The school's teachers showcasing some of the books and supplies that were donated.*

*K.L. Professional Psychology Section Manager*

# The Year 1938



May Fete Parade in 1938

Palo Alto of 1938 was very different from the community we know today.

The population of Palo Alto was less than the 16,744 residents



Palo Alto Airport in 1938

When a group of Palo Altans met in 1938 at the Mayfield Branch Library (now the College Terrace Library) to form the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, the Palo

Alto since it was annexed in 1925. There were significant social and economic differences between residents of the now united city.



Mayfield Elementary School

historian, managed the collection of documents in the basement. There had been a branch of the Santa Clara



Stanford Theater in 1938

County library in Mayfield, located at the corner of Main Street and Lincoln Avenue (now El Camino Real and California Avenue). Palo Alto, with federal WPA assistance, built a branch library in the College Terrace neighborhood in 1936. Palo Alto would remain a two-library town until the Children's Library opened in 1940.

Palo Alto was the only public high school in town. It served the students of the town plus those on the Stanford campus and surrounding unincorporated county lands such as Barron Park after the unified high school district was established in the 1920s. Elementary schools included Lytton School, Channing School (located in the former high school building where Channing House is today); Mayfield School on El Camino Real, and Addison and Walter Hays schools, both opened in the 1920s. Jordan Junior High School had just opened in 1937.

There were several private schools serving local students as well as out-of-town students living in dorms. Castilleja School is still around, but in 1938 Miss Harker's School; the Palo Alto Military School and the Peninsula School (while located in Menlo Park) all educated local students plus dorm students.

Palo Alto and the nation were still impacted by the economic depression that began nearly a decade earlier, and would end only with the beginning of WWII. In town, jobs were lost and businesses shut down, but there was an economic cushion that helped the community get by. Palo Alto's main "industry" in those days was education, which provided a baseline of economic viability. There was Stanford University, the local public schools plus the handful of private schools. The teachers and staff had jobs (with few raises) and were able to spend their salaries in town supporting local merchants and workers.

There was another "angel" that helped lessen the affects

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# 1938

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of the Depression on local residents. This was Lucie Stern, who after moving to Palo Alto from Atherton, began spending a significant portion of her Levi Strauss inheritance doing good things for her new community. She funded the new Community Center on Middlefield Road beginning in 1933 including the Boy Scouts House and the Children's Theater which opened in 1937. She financed the swimming pool in Rinconada Park (the children's wading pool utilized the City's power plant's cooling pond) and another swimming pool out in the Baylands which proved to be more popular with the ducks. Even after her death, her estate provided 1/3 of the funds for the Palo Alto Golf Course which was built in the 1950's.

Looking beyond Palo Alto, 1938 had notable events associated with the year. Stanford's football team had a disappointing 3-6 season, losing the Big Game 6-0. The Yankees won the World Series defeating the Chicago Cubs 4-0. Culbert Olson was elected Governor of California. He would come to Palo Alto in 1941 to cut the ribbon opening the University Avenue overpass/underpass at the railroad tracks and El Camino Real.

Roosevelt had been elected President twice already (1932 and '36) and would be elected 2 more times in 1940 and 1944. Britain, France and Italy agreed to let Hitler's Germany partition Czechoslovakia. Teflon was accidentally discovered by a DuPont scientist.

Spencer Tracy won the Oscar for his role in *Captains Courageous*. Popular movies in 1938 included *Boys Town* and *Adventures of Robin Hood* with Errol Flynn's Robin Hood running around Chico which stood in for Sherwood Forest. Popular songs of the year included *Begin the Beguine* and *A-Tisket-A-Tasket*

William Hewlett and David Packard started their company in 1938 in the world-famous garage on Addison Street. They would move to a plant on Page Mill Road in 1942.

People born in 1938 included actresses Natalie Wood and Diana Rigg; author Judy Blume, Willie McCovey, former governor Jerry Brown, and DJ "Wolfman Jack" (aka Robert Weston Smith).

Steve Staiger, PAHA Historian

# Music Sales

August marked our third monthly music pop-up sale held outside in the tents next to the Main Room entry ramp. Over a thousand CD and LP titles included selections from many genres, among them: Pop/Rock, Easy Listening, Jazz, Classical, Country/Folk, Broadway/Soundtracks, International, and Spoken Word/Educational. These selections come from a large cache of releases that were donated during the Covid epidemic, so there are many more that will be featured in the coming months. Future sales will include vintage 78's, 45's, 10" LPs, cassettes, and even boxed reel-to-reel releases! Sales further in the future will include Laser Discs, and some audio equipment.

All pop-up LPs are bargain-priced at \$1; CDs are also \$1 unless otherwise priced at \$2. Higher value CDs and LPs are featured in the Main Room, and the total number of titles has been increased. They have been vetted for condition and are priced below on-line collector offerings. In August, Main Room music sales exceeded \$1,000!

Due to the size of our current inventory, FOPAL is not accepting CDS at this time. However, this policy will change as the backlog is reduced. In the meantime, there are thousands of titles available, so please visit us soon to fill in the gaps in your collection.



George Chaltas

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# FOPAL Volunteers

Dear FOPAL Supporters

2023 is an exciting year; the donation monitors and sorters have been working extra hard, the Main Room saw a few sections manager changes, such as adding an additional section for LP records. The Children's Room has several new volunteers, including one person designated to help with Russian Language books, and an assistant for the High-Value Children's books listed online for sale. The Bargain Room received some love recently with new signage for the sale goers, as well as courtyard clean up (see photo on page 7)!

With an emphasis on growing our E-commerce operation we enlisted more volunteers interested in supporting FOPAL's eBay books and Amazon listings with an eye to better prioritizing our on-line inventory.

With the continuation of the All-Volunteer Zoom meeting we recognize the value of this communication tool as a way of getting their input and keeping them informed. With the help of the Tech Committee we now have recordings of the meetings for those interested.

Also sharing some FOPAL fun: all volunteers were offered complimentary tickets from the Palo Alto Players to see the west coast debut performance of *An Uncommon Place* at the Mountain View Theater of the Performing Arts. (FOPAL provided the books on stage). Also, our annual appreciation event was held at the Mitchell Park Community Center with delicious food provided by Ada's Café. Volunteers left with a PACL coffee mug and a warm feeling of acknowledgment.

Something to look forward to: FOPAL's upcoming social and presentation at the Lucie Stern Ball Room on September 28th at 1pm. Palo Alto Historian and FOPAL Board Member Steve Stagier will share the little known history of Palo Alto's Fairy Godmother Lucie Stern. Refreshments to follow!

As we hit the mid-point of 2023 we are encouraged by the continued commitment of FOPAL volunteers, partners, members and customers. Thank you for your continued support; we look forward to a fabulous finish to 2023. It's been a wonderful year!

*Warm regards,*

*Janette Herceg | Director of Volunteer Engagement*

## VOLUNTEER LIST FALL 2023

Sunayana (Sunny) Pydah - Sales, Sorting  
Anup Pydah - Sales, Sorting  
Deeksha Venkat - Sales, Sorting  
Kaumudi Phanasalkar - Sales, Donation Monitor  
Stubbs - CR, Sorting, Sales, Outreach.  
Samanta Menezes Driscoll - Sales Sorting, Donation Monitor.  
Benjamin Yang - Sales  
Harvard Law - Sales  
Michelle Arden - Sorting, Sales  
Tony Putulin - Sales / On-line sales  
Anne Thurston - Sales / Sorting, Donation Monitor  
David Findley - Sales  
Bhavna Parekh - Donation Monitor, pre-sale set up  
Ann Lai - Donation Monitor, pre-sale set up  
Minal Jalil - Sales  
Angeline Wei - Sales/cashier, Section Manager Assistant  
Leo Zhang - Sales  
Arjun Bharat - Sales, Donation Monitor  
Chris Jeon - Sales Donation Monitor  
Khai Gordon - Sales  
Gregory Potashnik - Sale & sale setup, Donation Monitor  
Doyeon Kim - Sales/ cashiering, Sorting  
Diane Claerbout - HV- sales  
Aidan Aniciete - FOPAL Event Intern  
Nikhil Prabhakar - Sales / cashier, Donation Monitor,  
Diane Moore - Sale set-up, Sorting, Donation Monitor, MP-  
Library Store  
Eva Monastersky - Sales, Sorting, Tues CR  
Nabeeha Ahsan - Sales / Cashier, donations, sorting, admin  
Gin Williams - Sales / Cashier, donations, sorting  
Serena Bramble - Sales/cashier, sorting, section manager  
Nikole Miller - FOPAL Event Intern, Sales, sorting,  
donations  
Abigail Collins -Sales, set-up, Donation Monitor, Sorting  
Elena Kutseleva -CR languages, Sorting  
Tatiana Tsyplikhina - Sales,  
Rohan Khatu -Sale set-up, cashier, On-line sales, Donations,  
Tech team  
Kathryn Brisbin -HV Children's Book listing  
Kristin Miyake- Sales, sorting  
Lauren Miyake - Mon- Fri., donations, sorting, online sales,  
tech team  
Sue Vaughan - Sale set-up, sorting On-line sales  
Graham Vaughan- Sale set-up, Sales  
Shi (Shawn) Shu - Sales, cashier  
Maricela Valencia -Sorting, Mon. & Wed. mornings  
Enicia-Ann Fegurgur - Sorting, Mon. & Wed. mornings  
Carter Jackson - Sales, cashier

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# 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 scheduling 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 on eBay and for Amazon through our partner Forest Books. Books can range from antiquarian to modern, art to technology, and media from CDs, 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 Nigel Jones, [nigelgj@gmail.com](mailto:nigelgj@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.

### 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: the west, art, vintage books 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 two 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](mailto:jherceg@fopal.org). If you have any questions regarding the type of volunteer opportunities FOPAL offers, please check out our website [www.fopal.org](http://www.fopal.org)



*Courtyard clean-up! (See article on page 6)*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Hello *(Continued from page 1)*

witnessed within our book-loving community and the stories I shared in. Among the memorable moments, I couldn't help but smile at a husband's enthusiastic declaration, "Babe, you can't find this anywhere else," as he justified his purchase. Another touching moment involved a young couple who initially bonded over our book sale and now make it a point to attend together. I witnessed firsthand that our book sale doesn't just ignite a passion for literature; it also nurtures connections that make our community stronger.

This Summer has been an extra special one for me, and it's all due to opportunities I've had as the Summer Special Events Intern with the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you to the FOPAL community, who have welcomed me and made me a part of something so special. I look forward to continuing to help bring the wonders of FOPAL to the community.

*Nikole Miller*

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### 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	\$10	\$18	Name _____
_____ Student	\$10	\$18	Address _____
_____ Individual	\$20	\$35	City / State / Zip _____
_____ Family	\$30	\$50	Email _____
_____ Sponsor	\$100	\$175	Phone _____
_____ Lifetime	\$500		
_____ Corporate	\$1000		

**Matching Funds:** Many of our members and donors can increase their donation to FOPAL if their employers have a Matching Funds program for registered charities. Please contact [info@fopal.org](mailto:info@fopal.org) for more information.

*Make checks payable to:*

Friends of the Palo Alto Library

*Return form to:*

Friends of the Palo Alto Library

P.O. Box 41 Palo Alto, CA 94302

If you would rather receive the FOREWORD by email, please notify us at [editor@fopal.org](mailto:editor@fopal.org).

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