

FOREWORD



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From The President



Friends Receives \$402,000 Cable Co-op Grant: Huge New Internet Resources for Libraries

It's a delight to start off the New Year with some great news, namely that we are one of the major recipients of the recent Cable Co-op Legacy Grants to the community. The non-profit Cable Co-op sold its local cable franchise a few years ago to what is now Comcast, and found itself with \$4 million left over to distribute to non-profit organizations within the community. Out of more than 220 original applicants, we received a grant of \$402,000, which is about 10 percent of the entire amount Cable Co-op distributed and the third largest of the 26 awards made. It is also the largest grant that the Friends have ever received.

Because the Cable Co-op indicated it would favor projects covering its entire service area, we brought in four other public libraries: Menlo Park, Belle Haven, East Palo Alto, and Atherton. Combined with all five of Palo Alto's libraries, we called this our "9 Libraries Proposal." It was a great delight for us to work with the staff of all the libraries and be able to serve not only our own local system but also those of our neighbors. Indeed, a significant percentage of people in Palo Alto use the libraries of neighboring cities as well.

(Continued on page 2)



A Year of Surprises-- and Successes

This past year as President of Friends has totally convinced me that when good people band together they can accomplish incredible things. If I had known when accepting this role what all would transpire during the year, there is no way I would have accepted the presidency. Thank you for trusting me to head up our organization.

(Continued on page 2)



Children's Library Campaign Reaches Goal Lucie Stern Would Be Proud

More than 800 FOPAL members and townspeople stepped forward with donations so that our much-loved Children's Library will be renovated and enlarged. With the \$1.1 million that FOPAL and the Palo Alto Library Foundation raised and the city's agreed-upon match, the Children's Library project is ready to move forward.

This is truly thrilling news for several reasons. First, it will make a wonderful difference at Children's Library. Second, it is irrefutable proof that the community's can-do, will-do attitude is alive and well in Palo Alto. Third, it introduces what we believe will be a whole new era—one in which the Friends and the newly established Palo Alto Library Foundation will work together to continue to enhance our libraries. That is major.

This fund raising is a whole new experience for Friends. As we began, experienced fundraisers assured us that we probably wouldn't be successful; we were inexperienced, the goal was too high, the down economy would make it impossible, the December deadline was too soon. All of this, of course, made success even sweeter.

Little did we know when we developed and submitted a grant proposal—in about 10 days in December 2002—where it would lead. A wonderfully generous and wise anonymous donor presented us with \$150,000, and a \$200,000 challenge grant, last January.

This grant and challenge absolutely was a community-changing event. It led us in a new direction and helped us learn more about ourselves. She knew that her accompanying challenge grant would energize the community and let us prove to ourselves that we could do it. Aunt Lucie Stern, who built and gave the Children's Library for the children of Palo Alto so long ago, would be proud of our anonymous donor. So are we. Proud and very grateful.

--Ellen Wyman

(Cable Co-op continued from page 1)

A major goal of the project is to make it easier for library users to access the Internet, and for this we will provide approximately \$190,000 to the five Palo Alto libraries. At the Main and Mitchell Park libraries, there will be a total of 18 Internet-connected laptop computers that you can borrow to use within the building, which is a novel way to fit in more computers into facilities with limited space. New equipment will also allow people with wireless laptops to access the Internet at the Downtown, Children's and College Terrace libraries. There will be new color and black-and-white laser printers and computer furniture at all branches. The antiquated electrical wiring in the 68-year old College Terrace library will be replaced, allowing that building to support additional computers and other equipment.

Another \$69,000 of the grant will go to purchasing and publicizing Internet-based information resources, most of which you will be able to access from any home, school, work, or library Internet-connected computer. We'll describe many of these amazing new materials in future issues. Virtually everyone will appreciate one that we aim to provide, namely the entire New York Times from its inaugural issue in 1851 up through 2001 (a separate free service covers the most current years). As a test, Sylvia Baker, Acting Manager of the Main Library, used the online resource to find quickly what may be the first mention in the New York Times of Stanford University. Here's that article, from page 4 of the November 15, 1885 edition, as it will appear on your computer screen:

SENATOR STANFORD'S GIFT.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 14.—Senator Leland Stanford formally presented to the Trustees at his residence to-day the deed of the property with which it is intended to found and endow the Leland Stanford, Jr., University on the Palo Alto Farm. The gift consists of the Gridley, Vina, and Palo Alto Farms, which comprise 57,000 acres, the present value of which is about \$4,000,000. The Trustees named in the deed are Judge Lorenzo Sawyer, James McShafter, Charles Goodall, Alfred L. Tubbs, Francis A. Spencer, Henry Vrooman, Charles F. Crocker, Timothy Hopkins, Henry L. Dodge, Irving M. Scott, William Ashburner, H. W. Harkness, Josiah Stanford, Horace Davis, John N. Miller, John Boggs, T. B. McFarland, Isaac S. Belcher, John Q. Brown, George E. Gray, and N. W. Spaulding, of California; Matthew P. Deady, of Oregon; William M. Stewart, of Nevada, and Judge Stephen J. Field, of the United States Supreme Court. They are to serve without compensation. All were present except Messrs. Miller, Field, Deady, and McShafter. The deed bears date Nov. 11, and is signed by Leland and Jane Lathrop Stanford. It is witnessed by Stephen T. Gage, E. H. Miller, Jr., Nicholas T. Smith, Herbert C. Nash, and Creed Haymond. It provides that a general plan for the construction of the university building shall be adopted by the Trustees within two years. The deed is beautifully engrossed on white vellum.

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With this resource, you'll now be able to read every article

and advertisement and see every picture in any issue of the New York Times. For students, this means you might watch the Civil War unfold page-by-page, reading exactly what a person living then in New York City would have read. For researchers, you can track issues, companies, and authors, find reviews, and check facts. For fun, you can look up the day you were born or find famous relatives. The New York Times itself charges \$2.95 to view a single article. You will be able to access this and all the other online resources absolutely free by simply using your "magic ticket": your Palo Alto library card.

Beyond the sheer value of these online resources, they represent an important new way in which our libraries can expand. Our libraries, like all others, are so pressed for space that they must discard one item each time another is acquired. Just the New York Times newspapers alone, in their original newsprint format, form a stack 42 stories high, and *could never fit physically into any of our libraries*. In microfilm format, the issues still take up many drawers and require cumbersome microfilm readers. In online format, however, they occupy no space whatsoever in any library building, and are available freely via the Internet from anywhere at any hour. We hope to see far more reference materials in this easy-to-use and space-efficient format, creating in effect a new branch of the Palo Alto libraries in every home, classroom, and office that has access to the Internet.

An incredible set of 45 volunteers and government employees worked on the proposal that we submitted to the Cable Co-op. We couldn't possibly thank them all enough, but their names and roles are listed on page 7. We also wish to thank the members of the Cable Co-op's board of directors for their generosity to all the libraries in our community. Lastly, a big thank you goes to you, our members and library supporters, for giving the Friends of the Palo Alto Library a 66-year reputation of strong success that empowered us to seek and obtain these funds.

Looking forward to an exciting 2004 for our libraries,

-- Jeff Levinsky
President

(Year of Surprises continued from page 1)

At the beginning of the year, I had "important" goals in mind – like quadrupling our membership again, as we did about 10 years ago, organizing and presenting a series of book-related lectures and programs and assuring that every school age youngster in Palo Alto has a library card.

But life is full of surprises and, while not one of my goals was achieved, we did score some stunning successes that we should celebrate. What were some of these successes?

- Our dedicated book sale volunteers, with the help of the Kiwanis moved our entire book sale operation from

Terman, where we'd been for some 20 years, to Cubberley Community Center without missing a sale despite rain, mud, a leaking roof and no power.

- We invited our membership to join the Associates of the Stanford University Libraries for a day trip to the 36th International Antiquarian Book Fair in San Francisco.
- With the help of many of FOPAL members, we “thawed” the vacant position of Library Director, which had been “frozen” and expect to see a new director in place shortly.
- FOPAL offered the City up to \$10,000 to cover the costs of travel and lodging for library director applicants providing the City solicited nation-wide rather than on a local basis.
- Closure of the Downtown Library was averted when our members and local residents turned out to protest the proposed action.
- We sponsored a very special evening program, which nearly 200 people attended, and heard the ever-popular Dr. Fernando Vescia speak on “In Search of Leonardo.”
- We applied for and received a grant of more than \$400,000 from Cable Co-op to improve access to Internet and online resources at area libraries.
- Working with the new Palo Alto Library Foundation, FOPAL successfully met the \$1.1 million goal to renovate and expand the Children’s Library.

It has been quite a year. My sincere thanks to all members of our board who got a real workout, and to our 100-plus book sale volunteers and to our membership. We could NOT have done it without you.

Among those who deserve special recognition are two board members who went off-board this month: Shelby Valentine, our president for three years, indefatigable promoter of the Library Bond Measure and party-giver *par excellence* and John Burt who agreed to serve as our treasurer this past year never dreaming that he'd be involved in a major fund drive and, at the same time, be a key player in revising our by-laws. Both were stalwarts and contributed immensely.

A warm welcome to Jeff Levinsky, our incoming president who will, I am confident, maintain our current momentum and involvement in library-related issues. The City Manager’s decision to create a separate library department reporting directly to him, the now-proven effectiveness of the Library Foundation combined with the ongoing role of the Library Advisory Commission means that there will be ample opportunity in 2004 for cooperation and collaboration with the objective of improving our libraries and library services.

Be prepared for real progress in library-related issues. The stars and planets are properly aligned.

-- Ellen Wyman
Outgoing President



A ‘Promotion’ for Libraries

As a new Palo Alto library director takes over sometime soon, she or he will be the leader of a City department instead of a division within the Community Services Department—where “the library” has resided for several decades. Is this change simply a bureaucratic detail? In a word, no.

Although invisible to library users, what appears to be a minor change will have real impact on a day-to-day and long-term basis. Here are a couple of examples:

- The reporting structure (direct report to City Manager) will be more efficient and clear, without intermediate levels. Decisions can be made more quickly as access to management information will be enhanced.
- The library director will participate in the senior level city management with other department heads—as a peer. This stature means access: more exposure to the highest decision-makers with the opportunity to “tell the library’s story” directly, an expectation of teamwork and respect for authority.

The bottom line: the library’s visibility will be raised internally and in the big picture, over time, externally. And the hope is that this change will best serve residents.

-- Mary Jo Levy

Borel Bank Boosts Libraries

Borel Bank & Trust Co. has contributed more than \$800 to the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, thanks to the generosity of its employees as well as the proceeds of a holiday “giving tree” in its lobby at 245 Lytton Avenue.

The giving tree offered two varieties of snowman ornaments in exchange for a \$20 contribution to the Friends of the Library. By the end of the 2003 holiday season, the snowmen had sold out. “Each year we choose a non-profit organization to receive funds from our tree, and this year we selected the Friends of the Library,” said Yohko Fick of Borel Bank. The giving tree is a five-year tradition for the bank.

“Friends was surprised and delighted that the Borel adopted us for the holidays,” said outgoing Friends President Ellen Wyman. “What a wonderful community spirit.”



Share Your Love of Libraries

Honor someone! Give to the **Library Lovers' Fund** for birthdays, anniversaries, thank yous, promotions, engagements, special occasions, births, recoveries, graduations, marriages, memorials. Honor a friend—or honor yourself!

The Library Lovers' Fund began in 1992 as a way for people to recognize a friend or an occasion through a gift to improve collections of books, videos, books-on-tape and other materials in our libraries. All contributions of \$25 or more insure the purchase of one new item with a gift plate inside with the names of the donor and the person or persons being honored. Since 1993, more than \$200,000 has been given to the Library Lovers' Fund.

February is designated as Library Lovers' Month. This is a great time to send Valentines to your favorite library or librarian. Look for the Library Lovers' Fund booklets available at all libraries.

--Gretchen Emmons

FOPAL Board News

Friends of the Palo Alto Library welcomes three new board members: **Martha Schmidt**, a retired librarian and longtime docent at Filoli; **Joe Shakes**, a retired business executive with an interest in the local political scene; and **Patricia Sohl, M.D.**, a Jungian psychoanalyst and curator of the Archive for Research in Archetypal Symbolism at the Jung Institute in San Francisco. All three were involved in the successful campaign to save the Downtown Library.

Incoming Board President is **Jeff Levinsky**, a computer scientist who has worked on many projects in education and information retrieval, including the computerization of millions of historical documents and records. Jeff recently organized the campaign to save Downtown Library and spearheaded FOPAL's application for a Cable Coop grant, resulting in an award of more than \$400,000 that will dramatically improve Internet access in nine area libraries. Vice-President of the FOPAL board is **Wendy Akers-Ghose**; Secretary is **Martha Schmidt** and Treasurer is **Joe Shakes**.

Stepping down from the board are former Board President **Shelby Valentine** and former Treasurer **John Burt**. We thank them for their many years of incredible service to the Friends and to our libraries.

Thank you, Children's Library Fund Donors!

Distinguished Founders (\$100,000 plus):
Anonymous donor, Peery Family Foundation

Lucie Stern Sponsors (\$50,000 to \$99,999):
Rathmann Family Foundation, Friends of the Palo Alto Library

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History Book Group Welcomes New Members

The History Book Group gathers together monthly in members' homes to discuss readings in historical topics previously agreed upon. Past topics have included

Byzantium, Russian revolution, John Adams, George Washington, Fall of the Roman Empire, India, Chinese revolutions, Louis XIV, Cromwell, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Greece and many others. If you would like to join us, call Floyd Gardner (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) at (650) 328-8855.

--Floyd Gardner



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to new members:

Russ Allbery, Terry Andre, William Brew, Doug Cox, Joseph S. & Harriette A. Shakes, Charles & Barbara, and Richard Sweet

A big "thank you" to returning members:

Zelda & Clifford Barnett, Virginia & John Beahrs, Edward Beardsworth, Leon & Margaret Beeler, Anne & Norton Bell, Jane Boulton, Frank & Shirley Cliff,, Robert & Marian Dannenberg, Jean S & Dexter B Dawes, Barbara Dornbusch, Ellen & Tom Ehrlich, Judy & Charles Faltz, Nan & Michael Fogel, Carolyn Gale, Rose & Peter Giamalis, Susan & Harry Hartzell , Micheline & Robert Horstmeyer, Alex Inkeles, Julie & Jon Jerome, Myrtle S Johnson, Martha Kojima, Joanne Koltnow, Sam Leong, Harry & Marion Lewenstein, Ellie & Dick Mansfield, Frank Mcconnell, Carolyn Williams & Mike Keeler, Lee & Merrill Newman, Gail Price, Emily Renzel, Verne & Edward Rice, John Schaefer, John S. Scheibe, A. Selcuk, Dr. Eugene & Nancy Sharp, Howard & Barbara Shaw, Wayne Swan, Eileen Varner, Marie Viezee, Mimi Webb, Edgar L. & Carolina K. Weber, and Wendy & Richard Yang Myers.

Please look for your renewal date on the address label. Please stay with Friends. We need you more than ever, not only your monetary contributions but also your volunteer efforts and your voice as a library supporter.

-- Shantha Mohan

In Memoriam

Peter Milward, a volunteer at the Friends of the Palo Alto Library Book Sale for several years, died unexpectedly December 21 at the age of 82. Marion MacGillivray, Peter's wife and fellow volunteer, recalls that Peter thoroughly enjoyed his work at the book sales. In recent months, he was a cashier at the bargain room, usually in the morning, but sometimes in the afternoon. We will all miss him enormously, and extend our sympathies to his family and friends.

A big “thank you!” to the following friends for helping with the Cable Co-op grant proposal:

Wendy Akers-Ghose	Vice President, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Proposal review and research; budget review
Jeanine Asche	Youth, Family and Literacy Services Manager, San Mateo	Support letter facilitation
Sylvia Baker	Acting Manager, Main Library, City of Palo Alto	Proposal research; budget preparation; oral presenter
Thom Ball	Library Manager, Atherton Library	Proposal research; budget preparation; oral presenter
Mark Barnett	Acquaintance, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Photography
Ken Becker	Technology Coordinator, Menlo Park Library	Proposal research; budget preparation; oral presenter
Teri Boucher	Admin. Services Mgr., San Mateo County Library	Proposal research and review; budget preparation
Marda Bucholz	Volunteer, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Photography
Karen Burnett	Library Services Director, MV Public Library	Photography facilitation
John Burt	Former Treasurer, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Proposal review
Evelyn Cheng	Secretary, Palo Alto Library	Support letter facilitation
Gretchen Emmons	Board Member and President Emeritus, FOPAL	Support letter facilitation
Jannette Engel	Interim Director, San Mateo County Library	Short proposal facilitation; support letter
Judy Fagerholm	Manager, Belle Haven Library	Budget review; oral presenter
Barbara Geibel	Coordinator Library Programs, Palo Alto Library	Photography facilitation
Floyd Gonella	Supt. of Schools, Ravenswood City School District	Support letter
Leah Grass	Dir., Quest Learning Center, East Palo Alto Library	Oral presenter
Emily Harrison	Assistant City Manager, City of Palo Alto	City legal review
Laurie Hastings	Board Member, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Short proposal team and proposal research
Susan Holmer	Director of Library Services, Menlo Park Library	Proposal review and oversight
Alvin D. James	City Manager, City of East Palo Alto	Support letter
Nicholas Jellins	Mayor, City of Menlo Park	Support letter
Diane Jennings	Acting Director of Libraries, City of Palo Alto	Budget preparation; proposal review; support letter
Chris Kenrick	Board Member, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Proposal review
Pat Lanyi	Children’s Librarian, Menlo Park Library	Support letter facilitation
Jeff Levinsky	President, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Proposal lead
Gerry Masteller	Board Member, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Proposal research
Jean McCown	Former Mayor, Palo Alto	Support letter
John Mehl	Supt. of Schools, San Mateo County Office of Education	Support letter
Loretta Micheals	Supervising Librarian, Mountain View Public Library	Photography facilitation
Shantha Mohan	Board Member and former Vice President, FOPAL	Short proposal team
Bob Moss	Board Member, FOPAL and Cable Co-op	Sponsor
Kent Pettey	Library Services Manager, Mountain View Public Library	Photography facilitation
Glenn Roberts	Director of Public Works, City of Palo Alto	Proposal research
James H. Robinson	City Manager, Town of Atherton	Support letter
Brooke Scharnke	Program Director, Urban Ministry	Support letter
Martha Schmidt	Secretary, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Proposal review
Barbara Silberling	Board Member, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Photography
Harriette Shakes	Volunteer EXTRAORDINAIRE , FOPAL	Proposal review, editing, layout, and logo design; handout layout
Joe Shakes	Treasurer, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Proposal review
Patricia Sohl	Board Member, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Proposal review
Sereptha Strong	Acting Library Manager, East Palo Alto Library	Proposal research; budget prep.; oral presenter
Silvia Urena	IT Analyst, San Mateo County Libraries	Proposal research
Karen White	Board Member, Friends of the Palo Alto Library	Budget review; city contacts
Ellen Wyman	Board Member and President Emeritus, FOPAL	Proposal review; budget review

Join Friends Of The Palo Alto Library!

Name _____ Address _____
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Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, P.O. Box 41, Palo Alto CA 94302-0041
 To use your credit card, join on-line. Visit our website www.friendspaloaltolib.org and follow instructions

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Web Page: www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Email: info@friendspaloaltolib.org

Monthly Book Sales: Second Saturday

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd.
Main Sale Room: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bargain Room: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
See www.friendspaloaltolib.org for details

Library Commission: Fourth Thursday

Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.
See www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html
to confirm meeting date and time.

Board of Directors Meeting: First Wednesday

Cubberley Book Sale Room
4000 Middlefield Road 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday

Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room
1305 Middlefield Road 7:30 to 9 p.m.
For information, call Crystal 961-1528 or see
www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com

Great Books: Second Wednesday

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

History Book Discussion Group

For information, call Floyd Gardner (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) at 328-8855

Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) Board of Directors: Jeff Levinsky, President; Wendy Akers-Ghose, Vice-President; Martha Schmidt, Secretary; Joe Shakes, Treasurer and Bob Otnes, Assistant Treasurer; Marty Paddock, Book Sale Manager. Members: Althea Andersen, Gretchen Emmons, Laurie Hastings, Chris Kenrick, Gerry Masteller, Shantha Mohan, Bob Moss, Barbara Silberling, Patricia Sohl, Steve Staiger, Karen White, Ellen Wyman. Library Representatives to the Board: Diane Jennings, Acting Director of Libraries; Barbara Geibel, Coordinator, Downtown Library. Foreword Staff: Chris Kenrick, Shantha Mohan; Webmaster: Jeff Levinsky; Circulation: Post Haste Direct Mail Service.