

BERKELEY BOOKMARK

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WWW.BERKELEYLIBRARYFRIENDS.ORG

MARCH 2017



Friendly Volunteers

As we move into a rather fraught political year, perhaps you feel it's time to do Some [Additional] Good in the World. Here's a possibility...actually two possibilities:

You could join (rejoin, or just plain donate to) the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. Membership and donations support the programming at all five Berkeley Public Library branches. And the

Friends will *not* bombard you all year long with additional pleas for money nor will we call you at 10:15 at night.

Another possibility for doing good: Become a Friends Volunteer. You can see some of us above, a photo from the All-Volunteers Meeting last fall. That's just about half of the current FOL volunteers. If you have questions about volunteering, check out the article below by Lucia Blakeslee, our Friendly volunteer coordinator. □

Volunteer? Me?



they're helpful, and I hope you'll join us!

Hello Friends,
I love volunteering at the Friends Bookstores, and I often talk it up to my friends and family. When I do so, I tend to get the same questions over and over. So, if you've considered volunteering with the Friends but have questions, here are my FAQs. Hope

Q. Do I have to be a member of the Friends to be a volunteer?

A. No, you do not. However, we certainly encourage membership. That way you get this excellent newsletter mailed to your home, and you'll likely feel a bit more attached to the organization.

Q. I prefer working by myself rather than with a group. Can I still volunteer?

A. Sure. If you volunteer at the Central Bookstore, you essentially run the place singlehandedly for your two-hour shift!

(cont'd p. 7)

Supporting the Friends = Supporting the Library

Creating a great public library requires support from many sources. The Berkeley Public Library is fortunate to have many community supporters who firmly believe in the power of libraries. Your individual donations help keep Berkeley's library system vibrant and responsive.

New Members

Heidi Dolamore	Vicki Oswald
Joseph Gebis	Wendy Simon
Sarah Levin	Wolan Family Charitable Foundation

Membership Renewals

Eugenia Austin	Carolyn Kolka
Susan & Schuyler Bailey	Gerda Korner
Beverly Bense	Mary Luersen
Marjorie Bissett	Irene Martens
Art & Sheila Braufman	Anne-Marie Miller
Phyllis Calechman	Joe & Mary Morganti
Judy Calder	Judy Nakadegawa
Landy Chapman	Alyce Proctor
Lone Coleman	Tom Reilly
Barbara Conheim	David Ritchie & Nancy Fenstermacher
Lawrence Cotter	Nancy & Ted Rodriquez-Bell
Anessa Davenport	Leah Emdy
Lydia Gans	Marina Shawver
Kathy Goldin	Louise Sandler
Naomi Groeschel	Anna Marie Taylor
Bob Gronke	Sandy Young
Michael Katz	Patricia Wood

Donations in Honor and in Memory...

In Honor of All the Great Hardworking Volunteers
from Toni Klassen

In honor of Mike Comstock
from Diane & Tom Fick

In honor of Evelyn Gahtan
from Linda Anne Gilchrist

In honor of Gabriella Schlesinger
from Eva Schlesinger

In memory of Estelle Bern
from Alan Bern

In memory of Ruth Gordon
from Martha Shogren

In memory of Lynn Higgins
from Laurretta Higgins

In memory of Marti Morec
from Lynn Murdock

Donations

\$25 to \$75

Vernon Ambrose	Betty Olds
Marcia Anderson	Martha Rabkin
Jacqueline Beth	Marjorie Randell-Silver
Barbara Blake	Ronald Rioux
Greg Brown	David Ritchie & Nancy Fenstermacher
Adrienne Bryant	Renata Schmitt
John Caner	Anne Schulster & Fred Kellogg
Grace Fawcett	Stan Severson
Sabrina & Michael Frank	Thomas Schwartzburg
Joseph Gebis	Wendy Simon
Deene Goodlaw	Martha Ann Singer
Elaine & Arnold Grossberg	Neil Smith
Janet Hack	James Stark
Ellen Hahn	Elsa & Revan Tranter
Scott & Katie Hambly	Sayre Van Young
Patricia Helms	David & Marvalee Wake
Naomi Janowitz	Wolan Family Charitable Foundation
Adeline & Stanley Kahn	Katinka Wyle
Billy Karp	
Louise Lidicker	
Jane Moore	
Luana Morimoto	

\$76 to \$200

Gertrude Allen	Linda Perkins
Barbara Alesandrini	Audrey & Mike Powers
Ruth & Korkut Bardakci	Karen Rosenbaum & Ben McClinton
Dan Bellm	Linda Schacht
Nancy Bickel	Reed Schmidt
Michael & Traude Buckland	Patricia Shanks
Ronald & Susan Choy	Lily Shih
Richard Colton	Margaret Sparks
Evelyn Gahtan	Steve Sternberg
Barbara & Kevin Galvin	Richard Stevens
Tom & Jane Graly	Margaret Sullivan & Philip Monrad
Michele Lawrence	Thomas Trippe & Kirsten Berg
Steve & Linda Lazzereschi	Laurie Van Gelder
Carole Leita	Mark Wegner
Judith Lubman	Marion Wolfe & Scott Scheffler
Robert & Ann Lynn	Charles Wollenberg
Robert Marsh	
Regina Minudri & Carol Starr	
Sharon Morrison	
Nancy Park & Robin Kaer	

\$201 and above

Anonymous	Pamela & Elmer Grossman
Yuk Averill	Mark Lilge
Ryann & Gehan Cheung	Ray Riegert & Leslie Henriques
Morris Friedell	

Friends Don't Let Friends Miss Good Books

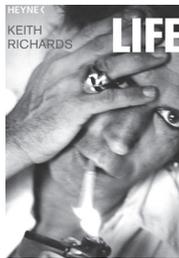
This column ran for several years in this newsletter, but it became increasingly difficult to get Friends to submit book comments. (I sorta ran out of Friends.) Yet when we surveyed readers, everyone said they liked this column best. So we shall try it again. But be ready when I ask you for a brief review of a book! Here's the new crop of bibliographic submissions:

Sandy Bails (longtime Friend, bookstore volunteer, and current FOL board president)



If you're looking for a book to transport you, to disappear into, you couldn't do better than *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth. At 1474 pages (yep, you read that right, 1474), it's an investment of time and an entirely engrossing and sweeping story of India in the early '50s, soon after independence. Mrs. Rupa Mehra is determined to find a suitable boy for her youngest child, Lata, and over the course of a year the reader is exposed to vibrant Hindu and Muslim communities along the length and breadth of the subcontinent. This book teems with memorable characters and often-extraordinary episodes in the lives of Mrs. Mehra's family and associates. I'm currently halfway through my second reading of this book, and it is every bit as compelling as when I read it twenty years ago.

Bob Baty (longtime Friend, current board member, and book pick-up and repair volunteer)



I am currently reading Keith Richards' autobiography *Life*. Keith is a surprisingly good writer. His tales of forming the group, writing songs, and the drama during recording are all eloquently told. The book also deals with Keith's heroin addiction and his subsequent rehab. Plus now he lives with his wife in Connecticut

with their two children whom Keith delivers and picks up every day from school. This is a very entertaining read. Highly recommended!

Diane Davenport (longtime Friend, current board member, former FOL president, and bookstore volunteer)



[I'd recommend] *The Second Mrs. Hockaday* by Susan Rivers. This epistolary novel takes place during the Civil War and is the story of a new marriage, slavery, and buried secrets. Major Hockaday is called to the front lines of the war two days after marrying his new wife. With the Major gone, Placidia, the teenage bride, is left to care for a three-hundred-acre farm and Hockaday's infant son. By the time Hockaday returns two years later, Placidia is bound for jail, accused of having borne a

child in his absence and murdering it. What really happened is revealed through letters, diary entries, and court documents. A riveting read.

Peggy McGarrahan (current board member and bookstore volunteer)



This may not be what you or your readers are looking for, but I can recommend Joan Aiken's *The People in the Castle*, a volume of short stories. As an antidote to our dreary times, these stories combine magic, myth, and adventure. There's a concert from hell, a baronet who turns into a wolf, a leg

full of rubies. Here's the opening sentence to [one of the stories], "Listening": "He had been walking up Fifth Avenue for about ten minutes when the cat fell." If you want to know what happened next, Joan Aiken is for you.

Amy Roth (longtime Friend, current board member, and former FOL president)



Commonwealth by Ann Patchett is a brilliant examination of family life and the "ties that bind," written by the author of *Bel Canto*, *State of Wonder*, and *The Patron Saint of Liars*, all of which I also recommend.

[I'd also recommend] *Old Filth Trilogy* by Jane Gardam. comprised of *Old Filth*, *The Man in the Wooden Hat*, and *Last Friends*. [It's] a must for any Anglophile (I know you're out there). This is the story of three intertwined lives at the end of the British Empire: Sir Edward Feathers—Old Filth himself—his wife Betty, and his arch rival and Betty's lover, Veneering.

Kristin Stromberg (longtime Friend and current board member)



Here's what I have at home from the library right now: *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. I don't like to know too much about a book before I start reading it. I've heard from a few trusted sources that this one is fabulous, and so far, it is living up to its reputation. A Nigerian woman living in the U.S. decides to move back to Nigeria, despite appearing to have achieved success in America. □

Number 15 for the Authors Dinner—Congrats!

The 15th Annual Authors Dinner, held in the Central Library on February 11th, was extra-special this year: not only did it celebrate 30+ local authors, it also honored Linda Schacht Gage (co-host and events chair) and Bill Schechner (retiring as co-host). What a night!

As usual, the Friends sponsored two tables and filled them with lucky bookstore volunteers who won a ticket to attend. Several of the FOL attendees sent kudos to the Library Foundation for hosting such a gala affair, an annual gathering that's been called—for many reasons—"the smartest night in Berkeley."

Channing Bookstore volunteer and Friends board member **Ruth Grimes** commented: "The Authors Dinner is one of the important events of the year for the library. While the Central Library looks magical, with the lights and decorations, what impressed me most was the obvious affection that all the attendees had for the library, and how



Unsung Hero

Bob Baty, Friends board member, book schleper, and very handy guy, is this issue's Unsung Hero. Bob may look familiar—he worked for many years as the Library's Main Maintenance Man. You may have seen him cleaning, repairing, fixing, or, in general, making it all better at the Central Library or one of the branches.

Now retired from the library, Bob often gets called upon to help out on mini-repair problems at the Channing Way Bookstore or the Friends Workroom. His most recent effort was earthquake-proofing new shelves for the Friends Workroom.

And when called upon, Bob can also load (and deliver and unload) about 15+ boxes of book donations in his small car. Finally, Bob wields a mean can of WD-40, too. Good man, good for us, and a Friend indeed. □



delighted they were to be there. Talking to the authors and the other literary people there was a real treat, and I am so very happy that the Friends of the Library gave me the opportunity to be there."

Central Library Bookstore volunteer **Ed Cullen** reported: "I had a wonderful time (and two salads). I saw a number of wonderful people in the pre-dinner period. My friend, arts supporter Linda Wolan, remarked that it was long overdue for Linda Schacht Gage to be recognized for her long and effective service. I nodded in agreement, not knowing who Linda Schacht Gage might be. I got a chance to discuss Joy Carlin's next project, *Beneath the Tall Tree* at Theater First with Joy Carlin herself!... [She's] a national treasure. There was wonderful food, exhilarating conversation, and tributes to over 30 authors, many of whom are truly international figures. By the end of the evening I finally understood why plaudits were overdue for, and was thankful to, Linda Schacht Gage."

Friends board member **Judith Justice** added: "The 15th Annual Authors Dinner was, as always, a special Berkeley event, bringing together the many enthusiastic supporters of the Berkeley Public Library. A special highlight of the evening was the warm tribute to Linda Schacht Gage, recognizing all of her many, many contributions and hard work during the last 15 years, in addition to receiving the Cody Award."

Channing Way Bookstore volunteer **Kate Frankel** put in a final word: "It was great! My only regret is that I didn't attend all 14 of the previous dinners." □

Here's the full list of lucky Friends volunteers who won a ticket to the this year's Authors Dinner:

Claudia Berger	Kathleen Maestas
Ed Cullen	Adeeb Nazir
Andrea Foley	Yvonne Shawver
Kate Frankel	Ray Shifflett
Ruth Grimes	Rhoda Slanger
Roz Hardy	Kristin Stromberg
Judith Justice	Marilyn Willats
Carolyn Kolka	

Editorial Maunderings, Meanderings, and Wanderings

Lots of editorial miscellany this issue...been savin' it up!

Great Titles: Here are two interesting book titles we happened upon recently when sorting piles of donated tomes: *Apocalypse Chow: How to Eat Well When the Power Grid Goes Out* and *Adventures in Man's First Plastic: The Romance of Natural Waxes*.

Great Music: You'll find all sorts of sheet music—voice, piano, flute, violin, etc.—at the Channing Bookstore. And it's inexpensive—starting at 50¢. The Central Library Bookstore also sells vintage sheet music—the kind your grandmother had stacked on the piano (or in the piano bench). Come on by and check it out. Tra la....

Great Book Pocket: A donated book from a union library (United Auto Workers in Detroit, Michigan) came our way recently. Author and title are relatively unimportant, but the library book pocket pasted inside caught my eye. At the bottom was printed "READ...LEARN...or PERISH."

Great Review: Nice (and accurate!) review of the Channing Bookstore on YELP, from a guy named David from (of all places) Newport Beach: "Awesome! They have a substantial collection with lots of turnover every day. The prices are truly phenomenal with most books costing \$2-\$3 with some cheaper and a few slightly higher. Will you find exactly what you're looking for, eh, maybe not, but at these prices you can take chances on books that you might be hesitant to acquire at higher prices."

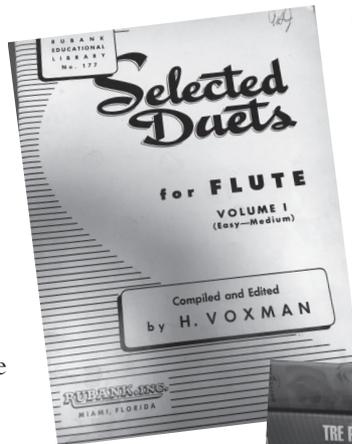
Great Find: Mara Melandry, FOL membership maven, writes: "I've been doing research for a possible book on the history of the Berkeley family camps (Cazadero, Echo Lake, and Tuolumne) and came across a nifty item in the June 19, 1925, issue of the *Berkeley Gazette* about our beloved library. In 1925, the third year of operation for Echo Lake and Tuolumne camps, the public library provided campers with a collection of books suited perfectly to the camps' settings and locations. So for example, *Roughing It*, Mark Twain's account of the Gold Rush camps, was included. There were also other history

books about the Gold Rush era and about that famous foothills bandit, Joaquin Murietta. Campers could check these books out during their sojourns. Yet another wonderful thing our library has done for our citizens."

Great Article: Friend Linda Schacht Gage recommends an article in the *Washington Post* that suggests that book lovers live longer. Makes sense to me! <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/08/09/the-best-reason-for-reading-book-lovers-live-longer-say-scientists/>.

Great Sales: The sales at both Friends Bookstores are regularly announced in our monthly e-mail blast. To give you an idea of the sales (and how much you don't want to miss then), here are some recent offerings: "Coloring Books for Adults," "Civil War History," "CDs/DVDs \$2 each," "Cookbooks Just Received," and (my favorite) "Jumble Sale—A Little Bit of Everything." Let us know if you want to be added to the mailing list: berkeleylibraryfriends@gmail.com.

And finally, **Great Memories:** Check out the ongoing mini-sale of vintage paperbacks at the Central Library Bookstore: "What Were You Reading in the Sixties?" These books were gathered Brown in conjunction with the "Hippie Modernism" exhibit at the Berkeley Art Museum. Cool. □
— Sayre Van Young
Girl Reporter & Editor



by volunteer Gary with the "Hippie Modernism" exhibit at the Berkeley Art Museum. Cool. □

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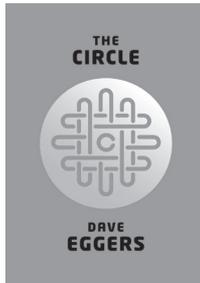


Editor: Sayre Van Young
Layout/Design: Ann Higgins

The *Bookmark* appears quarterly; we welcome your letters and your ideas for articles. Contact us at *Friends Bookmark*, 2090 Kittredge, Berkeley 94704, or by e-mail at svayoung@earthlink.net.

More Good Books

Friends volunteers got together late last year for the annual All-Volunteer Meeting (that's us on the front page), and the tradition of recommending books was continued. Here are the titles suggested.



Fiction

The Circle: A Novel, by Dave Eggers

The Excellent Lombards, by Jane Hamilton

Leviathan Rising, by James S. A. Corey [part of the science fiction series *The Expanse*]

A Man Called Ove: A Novel, by Fredrik Backman, translated by Henning Koch

Nonfiction

Born to Run, by Bruce Springsteen

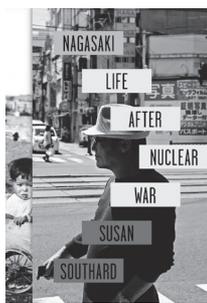
Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires behind the Rise of the Radical Right, by Jane Mayer

God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine, by Victoria Sweet

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, by J. D. Vance

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives, by Alifrenka Caitlin and Martin Ganda

Life at the Dakota, by Stephen Birmingham



Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War, by Susan Southard

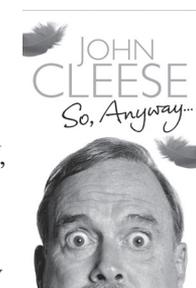
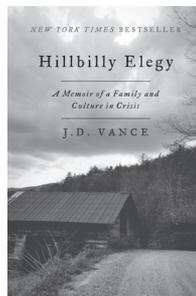
The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789, by Joseph J. Ellis

So, Anyway, by John Cleese

The Train to Crystal City

FDR's Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America's Only Family Internment Camp During World War II, by Jan Jarboe Russell

White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America, by Nancy Isenberg



Looking Ahead

JUNE 3-4 Bay Area Book Festival in downtown Berkeley

JUNE 10-11 Friends Annual Big Book Sale at the Central Library

JUNE 14 Friends Annual Membership Meeting at the Northbrae Community Church

Hours & other details to come in the next newsletter.

Annual Clean-Up

They rubbed, they scrubbed. They shelved, they filed. They polished, they buffed. They tossed, they recycled. They were the Mighty Bookstore Clean-Up Volunteers, celebrating the end of the holiday hiatus at the Channing Bookstore with a marathon clean-up effort. Kudos to:

Sharon Anderson	Carolyn Kolka
Sandy Bails	Gerda Korner
Bob Baty	Barbara McPhail
Claudia Berger	Donna Rabin
Gary Brown	Terry Rillera
Diane Davenport	Yvonne Shawver
Jeri Ewart	Margaret Sparks
Ellen Feldman	Sayre Van Young
Barbara Galvin	Andy Washburn
Roz Hardy	
Susan Huish	
Judith Justice	
Kristi Kenney	
Peggy Kirihara	
Toni Klassen	



Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library

Berkeley's South Branch Library was officially renamed the Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library in 2015. A temporary sign was installed, and finally, a larger sign will soon grace the façade of the branch library.

Ms. Pittman (1903–1991) was an American civil rights leader, working locally to organize protests to force the Kaiser Shipyards to hire African Americans during World War II and to desegregate the Oakland Fire Department.

She was also very involved in the NAACP, serving



as the director of the West Coast Region of that organization. But in South Berkeley, she was probably best known as a frequent host on the “Negroes in the News” radio program, broadcast every Saturday morning.

If you're interested in finding out more about this accomplished woman, and the times she lived in, take a look at *Tarea Hall Pittman: NAACP Official and Civil Rights Worker*, published by the Black Alumni Club of the University of California, Berkeley. It's available in the Berkeley History Room at the Central Library. □

Volunteer? Me? cont'd

(from page 1) Q. I'm a people person—is there a place where I can work with other volunteers?

A. Sure, the Channing Bookstore is the place for you. Shifts are covered by 4 to 6 people. And there's a lot of chit-chat and exchanged book recommendations!

Q. What will I be doing at the bookstore?

A. There are many different jobs, from sorting to shelving to pricing to selling. If you work at the Central Library Bookstore, your main job will be greeting people and selling the books, since there's only one volunteer there at a time. If you're at the Channing store, there are more people per shift, and you have more flexibility in what responsibilities you take on.

Q. How much time will I need to commit?

A. Most volunteers do one shift a week, a 2-hour shift at Central or a 3-hour shift at Channing. Of course, you can do more than one shift if you want. Several volunteers do that and don't find it burdensome.

Q. I can't stand for long periods of time. Can I still work in the bookstores?

A. Of course. There are all-sitting-all-the-time jobs at both bookstores.

Q. As a volunteer, will I have to do heavy lifting?

A. No, there are many jobs that don't require lifting heavy boxes of books. We can find a volunteer situation for you that doesn't require lifting.

Q. What if I can't come to my shift due to illness or a trip?

A. We have an easy procedure for you to find a sub-

stitute if you can't come to your shift, so it's not a problem. Many of us are retired and take trips. We can always arrange to have your shift covered if we know in advance.

Q. Dust...I hate dust. How can I volunteer for a bookstore and not be around dust?

A. Dust isn't a major problem, although we do occasionally get some boxes of dusty books at Channing. The Central Library Bookstore is relatively dust free. And we have several non-bookstore committees you might be interested in—like Membership or Publicity. (*Editor's note: Or writing for the newsletter!!*)

Q. What if I start and I don't like it?

A. We, of course, hope that you'll love it, and we'll work with you to be sure you get into a position that works for you. We have two bookstores, a huge sorting room, a variety of jobs. But if not, you're certainly not obligated to stay.

Q. How do I sign up?

A. It's easy! Stop by either bookstore and fill out an information form. (*Editor's note: The form is also available on our website: berkeleylibraryfriends.org*). Or e-mail me personally at the following address: lucia.blakeslee@gmail.org. I'm happy to meet with you and discuss the possibilities. It's a terrific volunteering opportunity—what could be better than working with wonderful people surrounded by books?!? □

—Lucia Blakeslee
Volunteer Coordinator

Friends of the Berkeley Public Library Board of Directors, 2016-2017

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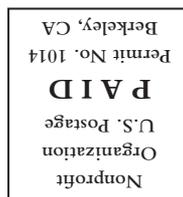
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Central Library Workroom/Office (510) 981-6152

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YES! I want to support Berkeley's public libraries and the Friends of the Library. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 other \$ _____

Dues—New Friends Member Donation I would like to volunteer at the Friends' bookstores. Please contact me.
 Dues—Renewal Donation in honor/memory (circle one) of _____

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