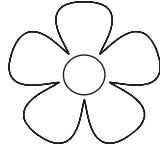


BERKELEY BOOKMARK

VOL. XVI, No. III

WWW.BERKELEYLIBRARYFRIENDS.ORG

MAY 2017



Please Join Us at the Friends' Annual Membership Luncheon

Wednesday, June 21, 2017
11:30 am socializing starts
12:15 pm program starts
Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

Speaker:

Library Director Heidi Dolamore

Highlights:

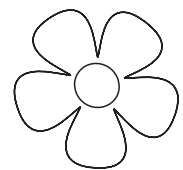
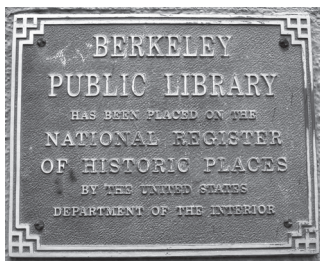
Elections to the Board of Directors
President's Report

\$\$ Financial Update \$\$

Unusual Book Sales & Exciting Door Prizes

Friends Board will provide sandwiches, beverages, fruit, and tasty homemade desserts. Leave that brown bag lunch at home!

RSVP by Friday, June 16, 2017
to (510)981-6152 (leave a message)
and bring a friend!



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.

Donations In Honor and in Memory...

In honor of David Howd,
North Branch Children's Librarian,
from Margery Eriksson and James Nelson

In memory of Estelle Bern
from Debbie Carton

In memory of Ruth Gordon
from Debbie Carton

Gift Memberships

To Dianne Leonard from Cathleen Brown

Membership Renewals

Elizabeth Benjamine	Kathy Helliesen
Diane Bernbaum	Heather Hernandez
Barbara Bibel	June Hunt
Karen Branson	J. R. K. Kantor
Barbara Braun	Martha & Marcelo Lippmann
Elizabeth Crews	Ann Litwack
Merle & Michael Fajans	Judith Malamut
Ellen Feldman	Gwen Ralph
Mary Frankel	Lydia Gans
Lydia Gans	Barbara Sargent
Helen Green	Janice Schultz
Sidney Guthrie	Sophia Skoda
Natalie Hahn	Jane White
Pauline Hale	Ranko Yamada

Membership Renewals and/or

Donations \$26 to \$49

Francesca Archer	Phoebe James
Mrs. Donald Campbell	Gerda Korner
Sabina & Michael Frank	Celeste McLeod
Hope Friedman	Martin Schiffenbauer
Anne-Marie Hogan	Thomas Schwartzburg
Karen & Robert	Elizabeth & Sheridan
Holtermann	Warrick
Kathy Huff	

Membership Renewals and/or

Donations \$50-\$ 200

Judith & Neal Barmack	Steven Jacobsohn
Bob Baty	John Kenny
Suzanne Chun	Michael & Judith Lara
Mr. & Mrs. Norman	Bill Mayer
Edelstein	Barbara McPhail
Elsa Glines	Donna Rabin
Ann & George Goldman	Thomas Sager
Ruth Grimes	Reed Schmidt
Lee & Patrick Hackett	Zan Turner

Donations \$201 and above

Elizabeth Mayer



2017 Bylaws Update

The Friends' Board has spent the last couple of meetings discussing and updating our bylaws in an effort to reflect current practice, to remove out-dated sections, and to correct some minor wording details.

Members (that's you) will be asked to approve/not approve the revisions at the upcoming annual meeting (June 21). The bylaws are the official and legal document setting out the form, manner, and procedure in which our organization should be run, so they need to be accurate, current, and workable.

Many of the changes are really updates; for example, we have not had a Corresponding Secretary

for years and years, as the Secretary has taken care of all "secretarial" matters. The Second Vice President has morphed into the Channing Bookstore Manager. A Manager for the store in the Central Library has been added. Both are now listed in the proposed by-laws.

I know it is hard to visualize all of this in the abstract, so please take the opportunity to check out complete copies of the bylaws (with suggested changes highlighted in bright yellow marker) at either of the bookstores and in the Friends' Office at Central. Copies will also be available at the annual meeting for your perusal.

—Diane Davenport

Former Board Member
Chair, Bylaws Committee

President's Report

“Death and taxes” may not be the company the Friends want to keep, but in an uncertain world, the dependability of the Friends ranks right up there. At a recent meeting of the Board of Library Trustees, the Library’s financial officer, Dennis Dang, displayed a pie chart illustrating funding sources for the Library. The Friends’ contribution is a smallish slice, but as Mr. Dang pointed out, it is completely reliable, year after year. That’s us, the goose that laid the golden egg.

This year the Friends will contribute \$100,000+ to fund Library programming, a new/old scheme to fund collection development at all five libraries, and money for at least the planning of a citywide reading program. This is in addition to the two Authors Dinner tables the Friends purchased in support of the Library Foundation. We’re also on the hook for \$25,000 to complete our \$60,000 commitment to the renovations planned for Central, but our bank account is healthy and we can pay all our bills.

Our cadre of volunteers is as dependable as our bottom line. (Here a shout-out to Lois Karp who will be returning to the fold after a prolonged absence due to a nasty fall, and to Marilyn Willats who is recovering from a recent fall. What’s with the falling? Please, be careful with yourselves—we need you!) Like clockwork, volunteers show up to open the two bookstores, sort, price, shelve, offer helpful advice, take money, empty the trash, and lock up at the end of the day. If someone cannot come in (see Lois and Marilyn above), there is always someone else who steps forward and fills the empty slot. It remains something of a mystery to me that this organization, running entirely on volunteer labor, gets everything done that needs to be done, day after day.

Of course, not all volunteers are created equal, and the Friends are (is?) losing a key piece of our intricate puzzle. Diane Davenport is leaving the Friends Board to join the Board of Library Trustees. I suspect we’ll come to terms with our loss and BOLT’s gain slowly, but the one consolation is that we know where Diane lives, and we can always track her down and get her to explain to us how to solve whatever problem we might be facing. And we’re looking forward to the energy and fresh sets of eyes that will come with new members of the Board who will begin their terms in July.

One little niggling concern we have—and here, you, dear reader, may be able to help—is our membership rolls. If you are receiving *Berkeley*

Bookmark, it is almost certain that you are a member of the Friends. Your membership costs you a mere \$25 a year,

and for that you receive four issues of the *Bookmark*, an invitation to our Annual Meeting (lunch provided), and the certain knowledge that you are

supporting Berkeley’s best-loved institution. We don’t know why there aren’t more of you. Why don’t we have thousands of names on our membership rolls instead of hundreds? It’s another mystery. Ask around, see if you have a friend or neighbor, colleague at work, fellow book club member, stranger in line at the grocery store who would want to become a member of our too-exclusive club. It’s good company to keep.

—Sandy Bails
Friends President

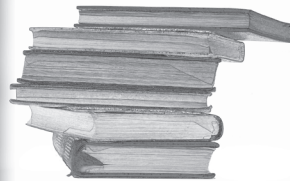


BOOK SALE

Saturday, June 10 10am-4pm
Sunday, June 11 1pm-4pm

THOUSANDS OF BOOKS!

50¢



HISTORY • THE ARTS • CDs & DVDs
PSYCHOLOGY • CLASSICS • SHEET MUSIC
KID’S BOOKS • RELIGION • SCI-FI
VINTAGE • COOKING • FICTION
& MORE

Higher quality special selection sale both days!
(books priced as marked)

Berkeley Public Library
2090 Kittredge • 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Proceeds support programs of the Berkeley Public Library.
No library discards. Please bring your own tote bags.
Cash or check only.



Editorial Maunderings, Meanderings, and Wanderings

Mea Culpa. Or, Why Yes, I Do Make Mistakes. The previous newsletter featured a graphic suggesting you take note of the dates for three upcoming events: the Bay Area Book Fest, Annual Book Sale, and Friends Annual Meeting. Unfortunately, the date noted for the Annual Meeting was incorrect. If you dutifully marked your calendar for June 14, get out the eraser—as per the invitation on Page 1 of this issue, the Annual meeting will be on the third Wednesday, **June 21**.

BTW, only one Board member caught my error—Roz Hardy, who’s in charge of arranging and setting up the meeting. Whew, and thanks Roz.

Big Book Sale. Speaking of upcoming events, the Big Book Sale is the second weekend of June... and additional volunteers are always needed. If you’re interested in working on the sale (unpacking books, being a “room rover,” taking money, handling items on hold, etc., etc.), please let Volunteer Coordinator Lucia Blakeslee know: lucia.blakeslee@gmail.com, or give her a call at 701-9386. The sale is a bit hectic but loads of fun.

Check Out the Photo. We put it up on the Friends Facebook page recently, noting “[This is]



how librarians--and book-sellers--think BREAD boxes should look...” If you’re on Facebook (and isn’t it a wonderful way to keep up with the grandchildren!), consider liking the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library page.

Do I Hear a Nomination? FYI, the slate of new Board candidates is selected by a Nominating Committee made up of three Board members. This year the Committee included Sandy Bails, Diane Davenport, and Amy Roth. Nice work, ladies.

Adios Amigas. The new Board candidates noted on the slate on page 7 will be replacing three retiring members: Ruth Grimes, Peggy McGarahan, and Barbara McPhail. Ruth has worked on the Amazon team, listing online book sales, and also regularly helps set-up the Annual Book Sale. Peggy has served as Board Secretary, and is co-manager for the children’s section of the Annual Sale. Barbara has kept our Friendly finances straight, regularly tracking expenses and expenditures and providing readable monthly reports. Plus she’s the co-manager of the Amazon team. The secretarial and financial duties of Peggy and Barbara will move on to others, but

though off the Friends Board, all three will continue working on various bookstore duties. Thank goodness.



Another Goodbye. Here’s a recent letter from Board member Diane Davenport: “Dear Sandy and Friends, As you know, I have been appointed to be on the Board of Library Trustees. In order to avoid any appearance of conflict-of-interest, I feel I should resign from the Friends of the Library Board as of 3pm on April 19, 2017.

You all know how much I love working on the Friends Board and how much I respect you all. As a Board, you work hard, you come prepared to discuss issues at hand, you pitch in when work needs to be done, and you represent the library in so many wonderful ways. And, frankly, I know of no other Board that has as much fun as we do. I will miss Board Meetings with you and I will be back begging for another FOL Board term when my time on BOLT ends!”

Got Books? We Do! Sometimes the skies open and books rain in on us. A recent generous donor is Patrick Hatcher, a retired history and political science professor at UC, who donated over 220 (!) boxes of books. Neither bookstore can deal with that many boxes at once,

so Friends Joann and Marty Lorber stepped in and kindly offered their living room as a storage spot. (Note that only about 75 boxes are



shown in the photo.) Grateful thanks to Patrick for the excellent books and to the Lorbers for the space (and providing all the boxes too). You’ll be seeing a lot more history and political science books in the stores soon!

Berkeley's Tool Lending Library: Finding a Sense of Place

Editor's note: Author Adam Broner has worked at the Tool Lending Library for the last 26 years; he's also a carpenter and music critic. This article was excerpted and revised from a chapter Adam wrote for a book on unusual libraries—Audio Recorders to Zucchini Seeds—that will be published later this summer,

Berkeley's Tool Lending Library has garnered much praise over the years, along with solid lending statistics, and has often been cited as a model for a new paradigm in library lending. It's been successfully lending tools, providing basic technical instruction for tool usage, advising library patrons on home repair and maintenance issues, and acting as a nexus of informational flow and community connections, for over thirty-eight years. Opening its doors in January of 1979, it's one of the oldest continuously operating tool libraries in the United States.

Originally organized and staffed by Pete McElligott, Berkeley's tool library was funded by HUD as part of that department's projects to rehabilitate low-income housing. Housed in a portable trailer on loan from the City of Berkeley, the library began with approximately 500 tools. Now the collection stands at over 4,000 tools, and it has its own 1,000-square-foot facility attached to the Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library.

Our inventory is chosen with some of the same careful factors that book librarians use, such as popularity, availability, and cost—but not literary merit! For a lasting tool collection, sturdiness is always first when considering a tool that will be lent to a thousand strangers with differing levels of expertise. And secondly, finding the right balance between the cost of a tool and its usefulness to our patrons is the “community payback” that we strive for.

Good examples of that are the drain snakes, where the return to the community on the Library's investment is mind-boggling. I retired a hand snake recently and saw that it had gone out over 400 times. Polling our patrons, whose success in using these snakes is around 70 percent, one could calculate that that investment in a decent \$70 hand snake saved our patrons 280 visits from plumbers, or approximately \$42,000! (That's assuming a plumber's charge of \$150 per visit.)

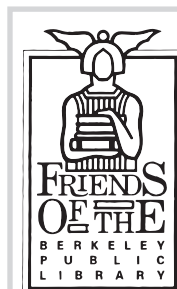
We also carry larger motorized snakes for outside drains, and in the winter, they're often on hold. As Roto-Rooter typically charges \$300 to snake out a residential sewer, our patrons are well motivated to the learning of new skills and significant savings. (I understand the reluctance to carry snakes, and some people seem to be allergic to the things, but it's no worse than changing diapers.)

Despite the seeming differences between tools and books, there's one thing that's the same:

creating a sense of place. Just as book patrons will return again and again to their library branch to enjoy the feeling of scholarship or fellowship or to simply experience a peaceful moment, the Tool Library seems to be creating that sense of place, with some patrons driven by exigency and others who want to seize their environment and shape it.

After 38 years, BPL's tool lending experiment has proven to be so popular that it can hardly be called experimental. While no longer edgy or provocative among today's many new tool lending libraries, the Tool Library's endurance has woven the library deeply into the fabric of the community. After 26 years here, I have even offered tools to “second-generation” borrowers, having watched them come with a parent and then grow up and borrow tools on their own.

That success rests partly in its collection, but also partly in the education of its borrowers, and creates overlapping goals and pools of patrons between the tool and book collections, making for a healthy cross-fertilization between the two libraries. Some book patrons find their way to the Tool Lending



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 svanyoung@earthlink.net.

Library's door when, on a whim, they decide to do some gardening or put up a shelf, and then become more deeply invested in borrowing from our wide range of tools. And we also urge patrons to visit next door and check out gardening books and plumbing primers, or DIY manuals that will guide them through their intended jobs with a word or two about materials and codes.

Our hands-on approach to patronage has established the tool library as a community resource, not unlike the saloons and salons of a mostly bygone era, a place where members can come together and share concerns outside of a particular task. And like the bartender of old, I've often been surprised at the roles I'm asked to assume, from weatherman to psychologist. (And we do offer weather apps and sympathy!) Before the practice of online cataloging of information, libraries gave more prestige to "place," honoring the idea that the library was a physical place of inquiry and study. The physicality of a tool



collection requires that sense of place, and that in turn has engendered the same kind of patina that libraries have, a sense that here one will find tools and learn how to use them, and

that this is a place where questions can be asked.

A few months ago, one of my coworkers asked a new patron how he had heard of us. He answered that he just *knew* about us. "Everybody knows about you," he explained, puzzled. UC scholar Max Wei reported that 10,000 patrons, or 10% of the city population, had registered with the Tool Library in his

2008 study on community access and distribution. And now, nine years later, it might be rarer to find someone who *hasn't* heard of us.

Five years ago two graduate students at UC Berkeley interviewed a number of our patrons, along with non-patron members of the community and then told us that the Tool Library was sometimes mentioned as "the spiritual center of the city." This unexpected ascension is most probably a translation of the life-affirming value of being part of a community that shares.

In the summers of 2011 and 2012, we received a visitor from Sweden, Jonas Söderholm, who was working on his doctorate in library science and specializing in unusual collections. He focused on Berkeley because of our successful duration and conducted lengthy interviews with 22 of our patrons, culminating in the publication of a paper on the motivation of borrowing. He spoke often of that "sense of place."

Creating a sense of place follows a simple recipe: We connect with our patrons on a visceral and pragmatic level, and then we empower them. That connection often begins with their homes and touches central aspects of their lives. They may be entering construction for the first time and installing shelves or repurposing pallets to make a bed frame, and they will ask us about finding studs or designing beds. Or perhaps they want a deck or need to expand, or want garden boxes, or need handholds in the shower. We encourage them, help them, and believe in them. Presto!

One long-time patron rushed into the TLL one day and said, "I need everything!" I replied, "Yes, I heard your wife is expecting again. Congratulations." He answered, "Baby, shmaby. My mother-in-law is coming!"

—Adam Broner

FRIENDS' MISSION

The Friends of the Berkeley Public Library is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to support and expand the educational, cultural, and outreach programs of the Library. The Friends work with Library staff to build collections and stimulate interest in the Library.

Friends Don't Let Friends Miss Good Books

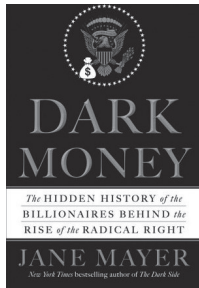
Kristin Stromberg (longtime Friend and current Board member)



Here's what I have at home from the library right now: First, *All Our Wrong Todays* by Elan Mastai. I love reading the *New York Times Book Review* and then going online to see what is available at the library. This is one that sounded good to me and that I was able to check out right away. It is next

on my list. Time travel gone awry.

Blues City by Ishmael Reed. I can't believe I never read this before. Published in 2003, it explores current(ish) events in Oakland



while looking back at the city's rich and complex history.

Dark Money by Jane Mayer isn't one I'm looking forward to reading, but I am feeling like I need to be better informed.

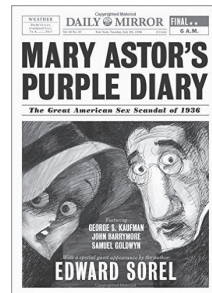


Finally, *The Secret Life of Fat* by Sylvia Tara... Another unpleasant topic! But fascinating.

Cathy Brown (longtime Friend and former Board member)

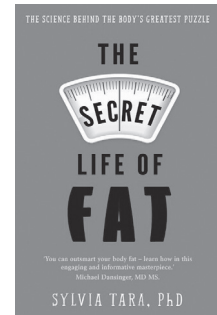
Oh, the scandal! Edward Sorel's *Mary Astor's Purple Diary* is a delicious and titillating read.

Sorel is a master illustrator, and he tells a pretty good story, too. Mary's custody battle for her child in 1936,



complicated with the threat of her diary (explicitly detailing her sexual escapades) being used against her, knocked world news off the front page. The Woody Allen review of this book in the *New York Times* had me laughing out loud, and the book is a juicy pleasure. And we need juicy

pleasures. I had to wait 3 months for the library copy to become available; read it in a day and returned it posthaste for those who are still waiting!



Candidates for the Friends' Board of Directors

The following is the slate of candidates that the Nominating Committee is presenting to the membership at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. The term of office is June 2017–June 2020. Dates below indicate when Board service began.

Officers

President—Sandy Bails (2012)
First Vice President—Roz Hardy (2014)
Treasurer—Kristin Stromberg (2017)
Recording Secretary—TBA

New Members-at-Large

Jeri Ewart (2017)
Henry Robertson (2017)
Margi Stromberg (2017)

Continuing Members-at-Large

Bob Baty (2013)
Claudia Berger (2015)
Lucia Blakeslee (2014)

Andrea Foley (2015)

Judith Justice (2013)

Peggy Kirihara (2014)

Toni Klassen (2014)

Amy Roth (2012)

Yvonne Shawver (2015)

Marilyn Willats (2016)

Advisory Committee Chairs/Coordinators

Publicity—Andrea Foley

Volunteers—Lucia Blakeslee

Ex officio

Membership—Mara Melandry

Bookmark Editor—Sayre Van Young

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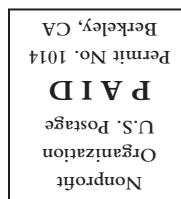
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Central Library Workroom/Office (510) 981-6152

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

— attributed, falsely it turns out, to
Winston Churchill ... but still a nice quote

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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 _____

Name (Please print) _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

e-mail _____ Phone _____

Checks, made payable to Friends of the Berkeley Public Library, may be mailed to the Friends at 2090 Kittredge Street, Berkeley, CA 94704. Contributions are tax deductible under IRS 501(c)3. Tax ID # 51-0193030