

BERKELEY BOOKMARK

VOL. XVII, No. 1

WWW.BERKELEYLIBRARYFRIENDS.ORG

EARLY WINTER 2017

This Is the Friends Channing Way Bookstore



ACTUALLY, this is about a third of the store; what you can't see includes an extensive children's book area, 15 shelves of cookbooks, a cart of inexpensive paperbacks, two large bookcases of vintage items, and hundreds of books on art, architecture, photography, media, gardening, poetry, humor, literary criticism, and more.

This bookstore is open 30 hours a week, 10am to 4pm. No evenings, no Sundays or Mondays, no holidays, and it's closed for two weeks at Christmas.

Every month approximately 60 volunteers unpack dozens of boxes of books, CDs, and DVDs donated by the community, and presorts them onto the Workroom shelves. (FYI, you don't see the Workroom in this photo either.) Every week those items are priced, shelved on the bookstore shelves, and ultimately sold.

Most books are priced \$2 or \$2.50; a few go as high as...oh, maybe \$4. Most kids books are priced 50¢ to \$1. Let's say, for the entire bookstore, that's an average of \$2 a book. Last year, volunteers at this store raised \$91,467 in support of Berkeley's beloved library. That means roughly 45,700 books were sold. Volunteers are always welcome to join the teams that work a 3-hour shift, one day a week.

What we hear most often from new customers is "I never knew there was a bookstore here! And it's a *real* bookstore!"

Now that you've had a brief look inside the Friends bookstore, two questions: Why aren't you volunteering to work here? And more important: Why aren't you buying books here?

**CHANNING WAY BOOKSTORE 2433 CHANNING
IN TELEGRAPH-CHANNING SHOPS WALKWAY**

Supporting the Friends = Supporting the Library

Editor's note: *I hope you don't skip the introductory paragraph below. Yes, it appears in every issue, but it's also an important reminder of why we are Friends and why we support Berkeley's beloved 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

John & Debra Bennett Judy Fujimoto
Jeri Ewart Heather Kostrzewa

Membership Renewals

Nigel Blair-Johns	Jean Holmes
Mary Ann Broder	Kevin James
Phyllis Calchewan	Sheila Kaplan
Mary Cardwell	Candace & Paul Khanna
Lone Coleman	Peggy Love
Diane Danielle	Andrea Moss
Charlotte Ferrey	Therese Powell
Kate Frankel	Terry Rillera
Lydia Gans	Dorothy & Harry Rubin
Rose Marie & Sam Ginsburg	Betty Schinnerer
Charlotte Gray	Roslyn Seltzer
Bob Gronke	Rhoda Slanger
Anne Harper	Frances Tauber
Blossom H. Hofmann	Anna Marie Taylor

Donations in Honor and in Memory...

In honor of Morgan Baum
from Anonymous

In honor of Diane Davenport & Sayre Van Young
from Kate Berenson

In honor of Donna Mickleson
from Karen Branson

In memory of Betty Olds
from Barbara Alesandrini
and from Susan Wengraf

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.

Donations \$26 to \$50

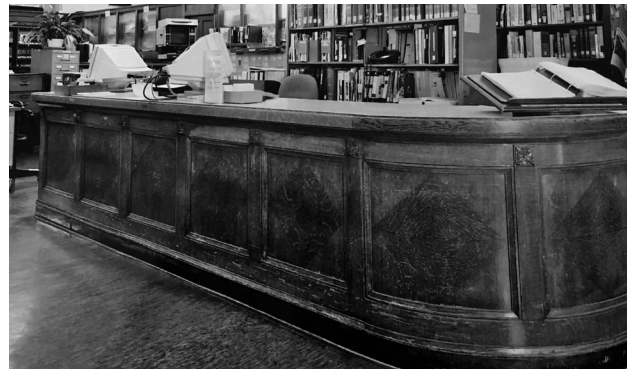
Dwight & Zipporah Collins	Helen Marcus
Lucy Connealy & Stephen Wood	Sharon Rudnick
Scott & Katie Hambly	Thomas Schwartzburg Ann Singer

Donations \$51 to \$200

John & Debra Bennett	Kristin Stromberg
Michael & Traude Buckland	Rebecca Thompson
Robert & Linda Carloni	Thomas Trippe & Kirsten Berg
John Hamm	Phoebe Watts
Carole Leita	Kuniko Weltin-Wu
Doug & Elizabeth Overmyer	Ruth & Friedner Wittman
Audrey & Mike Powers	

Donations \$201 and above

John Gannon	Elizabeth Myer
Peggy Kirihara	Amy Roth
Mara Melandry	



Remember This?

This lovely long oak counter is shown in the Reference Room in "Old Central." It was part of the original library furniture, and graced the Reference Room for more than 65 years. When the Library was closed for renovation (and much construction) circa 2000, the counter was removed and trucked to the Channing Way Bookstore. It has since been refinished and generally gussied up. Drop by and say hello.

You've Probably Already Heard...

Library Director Heidi Dolamore resigned in September, and shortly thereafter BPL's Deputy Director Elliot Warren was named by the Board of Library Trustees as Acting Library Director. While the search begins for a new Library Director, we thought you'd like a little info about Elliot...first the career details, then some more personal info in question-and-answer format.

Elliot comes to Berkeley from Alameda County Library, where he oversaw services for incarcerated populations, a bookmobile, literacy programs, and collections. Before that he served as Deputy City Librarian at San Mateo Public Library, worked at Contra Costa Library, and during the 1990s worked as a bookseller and buyer at Berkeley's Pegasus Books, where he says he "got the book bug" and was introduced to the rich intellectual tradition and wide range of cultural interests of Berkeley residents.

And now, some background info:

Where are you from and where did you go to college?

I am a native Californian, born in Los Angeles. I attended UC Santa Cruz, majoring in Literature, dabbling in Art History. For my Masters in Information and Library Science, I attended the University of Texas at Austin.

Your impressions of the Berkeley Public Library?

Popular, engaging, supported, and a treasure for the community.

What qualities should a library have to allow it to become a truly great library?

A great library focuses upon a quality experience for as wide a range of patrons as possible. Great libraries are able to anticipate trends and adjust practices accordingly while expanding upon what has been successful. An example of this is the issue of lending eBooks. When they first arrived on the scene, there were fears that public libraries would ignore traditional physical book readers, and provide less access to such materials. Instead, we have discovered that most eBook readers also read physical books and that serving users of both formats enhances the role of the public library in our community. We have, as a result, figured out ways to expand the overall collections' budgets to serve all kinds of readers.

How would you describe your management style?

Personable, available, and principled.

You're a Berkeley resident, yes? What is your neighborhood branch library and what do you like best about it?

Yes, I live in the Lorin district in South Berkeley. Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch is my neighborhood branch library, although sometimes, on Saturdays, my family and I walk up to the Claremont Branch or downtown to the Central Library. I like the overall design and aesthetic of Tarea Hall Pittman South. I was very happy to see the well-loved, but aging, South Branch rebuilt so well, with a dedicated Tool Lending Library that enhances the value of that service.

Your favorite library story?

As part of a teen reading program, a Library Assistant and I held a program she called a "Junk Food Festival" in which teens who participated in the library's Teen Reading Program were able to get some less-than-perfectly-healthy snacks (along with some healthy options!) and receive a free book as well. It attracted numerous new patrons (in fact, a few hundred in a small branch library). Police were called to restore order. They came. They restored order. Hundreds of teens were introduced to the Library and many returned regularly.

What three authors, living or dead, would you take out to dinner? And why? And where would you have dinner?

Hannah Arendt, Primo Levi, and Abraham Joshua Heschel, three great twentieth-century Jewish thinkers and three of my favorite authors. It would be great to include Isaac Bashevis Singer if I could! I would say little. I would listen. Dinner would be at my home and I would cook traditional Ashkenazi food for them based upon my grandmothers' recipes.

What books are you currently reading?

The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen and *Doc* by Mary Doria Russell. I recommend both!

Favorite children's book?

The Great Brain (the whole series) by John Dennis Fitzgerald.

Favorite ice cream flavor?

Coffee.



Elliot Warren speaking at the recent All-Volunteers Meeting.

Editorial Meanderings and Maunderings

Unlike publications that appear more frequently, our little quarterly is usually either behind the news or ahead of the news. Thus, in this issue we look forward to the Foundation's Annual Authors Dinner (next February) and look back at Library leadership changes (last September). But we soldier on.

Readers may be unaware that the North Branch Children's area was named in honor of former city councilmember **Betty Olds** several years ago. Betty, who died earlier this year, was a frequent user of North Branch, loved bringing her grandchildren there, and never ever hesitated to speak her mind on topics bibliographical, architectural, political, or personal. She was a very good Friend and is sorely missed.

Recently several **Library staff** marched into the Central Library Friends workroom bringing lunch fixings, including an excellent macaroni salad and a tasty bundt cake, all for the Amazon crew and the book sorters. They also brought a handmade card with sentiments meant for *all* the Friends:

"Thanks for adding some sparkle in so many ways and times—and the Feast of Books!"

"The Library would not be what it is without you."

"Thank you. You do a wonderful job."

"We get by with a little help from our Friends—Thanks for all you do. It means so much."

Speaking of thanks, we send a grateful thank you to Library employee and IT specialist **Vlad Kaplan**, who has spent several of his breaks helping the Central Library Amazoners with computer issues.

Have you tried out the virtual reality headset at the Central Library? Go ahead, jump into the 21st century! It's pretty nifty and it's free. You can experiment with this new technology on Fridays at the Central Library's third floor Electronic Classroom, starting at 3:30pm. First come, first served.

Teen Librarian **Will Marston** alerted us recently to the publication of a zine by the West Branch teens. It's filled with some spectacular art and poetry,

and on the last page, this notice: "This West Branch Teen Zine was made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. They paid for the paper and ink, as well as popcorn and treats that were the pay for the writers and artists whose work graces these pages."

This year the Library asked the Friends to change our annual donation pattern—as explained by the articulate **Sandy Bails** in the last newsletter—and make funds available for Library staff to do some fill-in book purchasing.

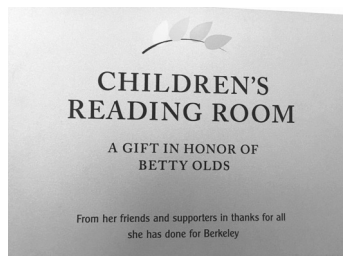
Here's what Acting Library Director **Elliot Warren** wrote recently: "Just wanted to forward a few photographs of the kinds of materials we are able to order due to the Friends' donation. The first orders have started to arrive. These are materials selected by our staff after undergoing training in some key tools for strategically refreshing collections. These photos show materials as they are arriving, including core/classic fiction, core cookbooks, and easy readers that are perfect for beginning readers." And every book gets a label noting this is a Friends donation.



Your editor (moiself) and your president (not *that* one!—I mean Sandy Bails) are planning a lengthy article in the next *Bookmark* about book donations and how the Friends handle them. I'm visualizing a comprehensive flowchart though I think Sandy plans more on a cogent readable article. Whatever, we'd appreciate hearing what your questions and comments are about books donated to the Friends. Like "What do you do with books you don't want?" Or "Do you ever get new books?" Or "What does 'recent books' mean?"

Incidentally, here's my favorite query, heard recently from a potential book donor: "I can't bear to throw this out. Could you throw it out for me?"

Send your comments and questions regarding how the Friends deal with book donations to berkeleylibraryfriends@gmail.com.



Friends Don't Let Friends Miss Good Books

Editor's note: Here are recommendations of good books from current and past Friends Board members. If you'd like to alert Friends to interesting, intriguing, captivating books, let me know. Your brief, pithy reviews are always welcomed!

Sandy Bails (Friends Board president) writes: I do not remember why I picked up *Truck* at the Channing bookstore. There must have been something



about the subtitle that caught my eye—*A Love Story*—because I did not know the author and I would not describe myself as someone interested in the meticulous restoration of a 1951 International Harvester pick-up truck. I might have opened it and read a paragraph or two. I bought it and

brought it home and it sat on a shelf for a couple of months before I read it. I since have ordered more copies (from Amazon, I'm sorry to say) and gifted it to friends, more than one of whom have done the same.

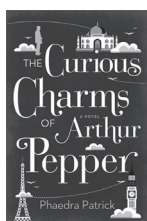
Truck is a memoir of sorts, recounting a year in the life of Michael Perry, a writer who returns, after college and travel, to the small rural town in Wisconsin where he grew up. He joins the volunteer fire department, decides the time has come to do something about the rusting International Harvester truck parked outside his house, tries with minimal success to grow vegetables, and is surprised when a woman who comes to a reading of his at a local library contacts him, the beginning of a romance.

Michael Perry is a wonderful writer. He is both very funny and cerebral. He writes with deep affection for the people in his community, while acknowledging that they are likely to cancel out each other's votes in the next election. I cannot think of a better testament to the ties that bind in small towns across the United States—a better book for doing that job than *Hillbilly Elegy*, I think.

Plus, there's the romance.

- Sandy recommends *Truck: A Love Story* by Michael Perry.

Lucia Blakeslee (Friends volunteer coordinator) writes: *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper*, the story of a 69-year-old man living in rural England who

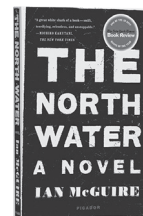


leads a very routine life, wearing the same clothes, eating the same foods, following the same schedule as he did before his wife died. On the first anniversary of his wife's death he makes a decision to finally clean out her closet, and in doing so discovers a lovely gold charm bracelet that he has never

seen before. This charm bracelet leads him on a long and convoluted journey to uncover the secret life of his wife before he met her. It takes him far from his comfortable home, to Paris, London, and even India, and introduces him to complex, sometimes flawed, but always delightful characters all of whom help him understand both his wife and, more importantly, himself. This is a wonderful read, a parable about an unexpected journey of self-discovery, filled with the hope that is found in meaningful human relationships.

- Lucia recommends *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by Phaedra Patrick.

Cathy Brown (longtime Friend and former Board member) writes: Cormac McCarthy meets Herman Melville! Whaling in the 19th century is a brutal adventure—mix in a human monster, a conspiracy to defraud, and really cold weather and you've got a ripping good read. Ian McGuire's *The North Water* does not have heroes; you will be rooting for the bear.



- Cathy recommends *The North Water* by Ian McGuire.

Letters, We Get Letters...

Dear Friends,

Thanks for sending the Fall 2017 *Bookmark* which was forwarded to me. I have moved to a senior residence near my son and daughter-in-law in St. Paul.

Being a member and then president of the Friends and working in our bookstores meant a very great deal to me. It added richness and purpose to my life and gave me a lot of pleasure and fun. Working with people who read and value books and who cared about our Public Library was a privilege. I hope the organization continues its good works for a long time to come.

I wish all of you Friends a wonderfully successful and happy year ahead.

With warm regards,
—Ann Singer

And a Yelp review (a kind of a letter):

Re the Bookstore: I absolutely adore this place. It is run by volunteers and so they don't pester you to buy anything. And the books are so cheap they don't need to. I picked up some wonderful books that have seen better days but are still in good shape and readable. Plus, I am sure they are good since their curation here seems to be top notch.

And Now, for a Gala Bibliographic Evening...

Here's the scoop on the upcoming Authors Dinner, hosted by the Berkeley Public Library Foundation and scheduled for February 10, 2018.

Berkeley's own Emmy Award winner **Linda Schacht Gage** teams up with two-time Pulitzer Prize author **T.J. Stiles** to host the 16th Annual Au-

Here We Are Again: Our Friendly Holiday Donation Column

Editor's note: Just like many better-known columnists, I'm once again reprinting the "holiday column." If you haven't read it before, now is the time. If you have read it before, now is the time again.

I was talking to a friend recently about how the Friends depend on memberships and donations to provide the bedrock foundation for our organization. I bemoaned the unease of always having our organizational hands out, asking for funds, so we could help the Library. Said friend e-mailed me the following suggestion:

"Perhaps you could present it this way: I know that times are tough and that donating to a good cause might be the furthest thing from your mind right now. I also know that most people dislike mailings, notices, pleas, where someone is asking for money.

"But if for a moment you could put all that aside and instead think of this: Think about how you've probably been meaning to do something charitable for a while now. Next think about how you never seem to have the time to do the volunteering that your Berkeley progressive-lefty-liberal conscience tells you that you should be doing. And then, imagine how it might feel to read just this one paragraph, and donate to just this one local, tangible, and meaningful good cause and then instantly have all that liberal guilt washed away like the dust on your windshield after a heavy rain. Sounds pretty good huh?"

Gee, and she didn't even mention that the end of the tax year is approaching.

If the "clean and clear windshield" theory of gift-giving works for you, please use the enclosed envelope and mail the Friends your kind donation. You can also donate online, with credit card or Paypal, at www.berkeleylibraryfriends.org. Then click on the "Join/Volunteer/Donate" link.

And many thanks.

Sayre Van Young, Girl Reporter

thors Dinner, honoring the literary tradition of the Bay Area and the authors who enrich and enliven our community.

The popular on-line silent auction will offer everyone an opportunity to bid on unique events and items. Auction previews will be available in January.

This year's Honorary Chair, novelist **Jane Smiley**, is the author of 26 books and the winner of numerous literary awards including the Pulitzer Prize for *A Thousand Acres*.

Tickets go on sale to the public on November 10th at bplf.org (where you can also get more info on each author, or come January, check the auction previews). Friends volunteers, see the note at the end of this article.

Featured Authors This Year: Alexandra Ballard, Anthony Bruce, Jonathan DeYoe, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Vanessa Hua, Laleh Khadivi, Ann Killion, Richard Kluger, Anna Lappé, Sarah Ladipo Manyika, Anthony Marra, Joyce Maynard, Rita Moreno, Markos Moulitsas, Eddie Muller, Elizabeth Partridge, Amy Peele, Thomas Peele, Mary Roach, Shanthi Sekaran, Jane Smiley, Tabitha Soren, Nigel Sussman, Jerry Thompson, Marcus Thompson, Maiya Williams, Tina Jones Williams, Matthew Zapruder, and more.

Attention Friends Volunteers: Annually the FOL Board purchases two tables (16 seats) for this gala event, and offers the invites free to Friends volunteers. There's a drawing for those seats coming up, so be sure to enter.

For holiday gift ideas,
see the Friends Amazon
storefront:
[www.amazon.com/shops/
berkeleylibraryfriends.](http://www.amazon.com/shops/berkeleylibraryfriends)



Editor: Sayre Van Young
Layout/Design: Ann Higgins
Staff Photographer: Yvonne Shawver

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 berkeleylibraryfriends@gmail.com.

Born to Read!

As usual, the Annual All-Volunteer Meeting produced a quality list of recommended books. Here's the list, with comments from the Friend suggesting the title.

All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel, by Anthony Doerr

Between You and Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen, by Mary Norris

A great book for punctuation and spelling sticklers and non-sticklers alike.

Beware of Pity, by Stefan Zweig
Well written, gripping story.

Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West, by Hampton Sides
History of Kit Carson and the American West—fascinating.

Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There, by David Brooks
Bourgeois bohemians in “latte towns,” like Berkeley. Who knew David Brooks could be funny?!

The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage, by Philip Pullman
I highly recommend the audio book narrated by Michael Sheen if one is so inclined.

The Daughter of Time, by Josephine Tey
Tey's rehabilitation of the reputation of King Richard III, told in mystery/novel format. Very enjoyable!

Death in Florence: A Novel, by Marco Vicchi
A detective story set in Florence in 1966 amid the great flood. Well written; translated from the Italian.

The Evolution of Beauty: How Darwin's Forgotten Theory of Mate Choice Shapes the Natural World—and Us, by Richard Prum
A newish nonfiction book (and the subtitle tells it all).

Glass Houses, by Louise Penny [latest in a series]
Great writing. A wonderful look at compassion and grace. I am a fan! And another Friend added: I love Louise Penny's mysteries. I love the characters.

Golden Hill: A Novel of Old New York, by Francis Spufford
Set in Old New York in 1746—New York when it was a colony. Man shows up with long line of credit. Is he a con man? Great immersion in the city's history.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (series), by Douglas Adams
Very funny; the only books I've ever had to stop reading for a moment because I was laughing so hard.

A Month in the Country, by J. L. Carr

Penelope Fitzgerald: A Life, by Hermione Lee
Fascinating biography if you are a fan of Fitzgerald.

Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century, by Jessica Bruder
Nonfiction—People (mainly seniors) who lost jobs and homes during the recession, live in campers and do temp work at Amazon and national parks.

Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library



Dramatic new signage has finally been added to the South Branch Library, rechristened Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch in 2015. The sign wraps around the west and southern sides of the building.

As noted in an earlier *Bookmark*, the library branch was renamed to honor Miss Pittman (1902–1991), an American civil rights leader who worked locally to organize protests to force Kaiser Shipyards to hire African Americans during World War II; she later worked to desegregate the Oakland Fire Department. You can find out more about Tarea Hall Pittman inside the branch, where a permanent exhibit about her life is available right inside the door.

Pachinko, by Min Jin Lee
National Book Award's finalist. So good!

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking, by Susan Cain

The Renaissance: A Short History, by Paul Johnson.
A brief lovely introduction to the Renaissance that is a must-read for any Florentine visitor.

Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking, by Samin Nosrat; illustrated by Wendy MacNaughton
First cookbook I've ever read cover-to-cover, pausing only to enjoy the marvelous illustrations by San Francisco's Wendy MacNaughton.

Stoner, by John Williams
Beautifully written.

When the Killing's Done, by T. C. Boyle
A novel about the elimination of introduced species to the island that is now the Channel Islands National Park.

Friends of the Berkeley Public Library Board of Directors, 2017-2018

President, Sandy Bails (2013)
First Vice President, Rosemary Hardy (2016)
Treasurer, Kristin Stromberg (2017)
Recording Secretary, TBA

Directors-at-large:
Bob Baty (2013), Claudia Berger (2015),
Lucia Blakeslee (2014), Jeri Ewart (2017), Andrea Foley (2015),
Judith Justice (2013), Peggy Kiriara (2014),
Toni Klassen (2014), Harry Robertson (2017),
Amy Roth (2012), Yvonne Shawver (2015),
Margi Stromberg (2017), Marilyn Willats (2016)

Stay in touch with the Friends:

www.berkeleylibraryfriends.org

Channing Way Bookstore (510) 841-5604
2433 Channing Way
Central Library Bookstore (510) 981-6211
2090 Kittredge Street
Central Library Workroom/Office (510) 981-6152

Advisory Committee Chairs: Membership, Mara Melandry
(*ex officio*); Publicity, Andrea Foley; Scholarship, Judith Justice
Bookmark Editor (*ex officio*): Sayre Van Young
Liaisons: Acting Library Director Elliot Warren; Library
Foundation Director Kathy Huff

Visit our online Amazon store:

www.amazon.com/shops/berkeleylibraryfriends

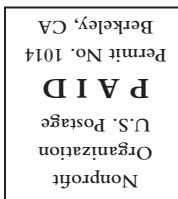
If your membership has expired (see label), please renew!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Berkeley, California 94704

2090 Kittredge Street

Friends of the Berkeley Public Library



Be a Friend! Join the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library.

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