



BERKELEY BOOKMARK

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MAY 2025

President's Message: Standing by our Library

Dear Friends,

April 6-12 was National Library Week. Three weeks prior, President Trump issued an executive order to cut funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that grants monies for librarian training and innovative programming. In FY 2024, California received \$16 million for libraries through the IMLS Grant to States program, and \$1.8 million in other library grants.

The executive order is a direct attack on libraries everywhere, whether they receive IMLS funding or not. While we paused to appreciate National Library Week and applauded Berkeley Mayor Adena Ishii and the City Council for issuing a Proclamation recognizing the outstanding services and programs provided by the Berkeley Public Library, let us remain vigilant and involved. Even though BPL is primarily locally funded and BPL's budget will remain stable even in the face of cuts to the IMLS, Library Director Tess Mayer says "this development

is still very concerning and we will continue to follow this situation as it unfolds."

In the meantime, support and use your Library!

Visit a branch, attend a program, check out a book that challenges your understanding of the world, thank a librarian, and join or renew your membership in the Friends. Write or call your elected representatives – they are probably on the same wavelength, but every letter and call counts as a message from a constituent. Tell friends and relatives in other areas about this serious blow to libraries and urge them to contact their representatives. Consult these websites:

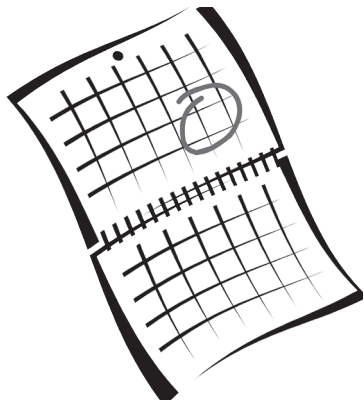
<https://www.everylibrary.org/statementimls2025> as well as: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries>



to find helpful language to use if you opt to email or call.

The Friends remain steadfast in our mission to support and expand the educational, cultural, and outreach programs of the Library.

– Cathy Brown



Mark Your Calendars!

May 31 — Sunday, June 1: Bay Area Book Festival
Wednesday, June 18: Friend's Annual Meeting
(see p. 4 for details)

A Final Editorial Meandering ... a Personal Note from Sayre Van Young

This is my last issue as editor of this Friendly newsletter, though definitely not my farewell to book-slinging in the bookstores!



I retired from the Library 20 years ago (yikes!) and practically the next day I wandered into the Friends' Workroom at the Central Library and started volunteering with the book-sorting crew. Old-timers may remember Mary Ann Broder, Gabrielle Morris, or Joan Haefele. Within a few months Kate Berenson and Amy Roth had hornswoggled me into also

editing the Friends' quarterly newsletter.

Now, almost 80 issues later, it's time for a break. And some thank yous.

Major thanks to our expert (and very patient) graphic designer, Ann Higgins, who puts the words

in place, and to Diane Davenport and Cathy Brown, both ace proofreaders and gentle critics, and to Mara Melandry, the only person I know who actually likes dealing with the Post Office.

Thanks also to wordsmith Sandy Bails who knocked out long and very readable articles every time I asked,

and multiple thanks to the cadre of folks who willingly produced book blurbs practically overnight: Cathy, Diane, Joe, Kathy, Lucia, and Mara. I sense your writing skills will continue to be put to good use in the future.

I've loved giving the newsletter a bit of personality. I hope you've enjoyed it too. Now it's time to pass the bibliographical torch.

An enthusiastic (and relieved) welcome to Marion Abbott. It's your turn to have some fun!



Letter from the (New) Editor

Greetings Friends,

After editing The Bookmark for many years, Sayre Van Young is passing the baton (or keyboard) to me. I am truly honored by this new appointment (and only a little intimidated). I think I speak for all the Friends in wanting to thank Sayre for her extraordinary editorial efforts. From the sampling I've seen, it's a lively, interesting publication that shows not only her passion but that of the legions of volunteers that make the Friends such a vital support to the Library. So I hope to continue the tradition— and have some fun along the way, as Sayre suggests.

To give you a little background: I co-founded Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts Bookstore in

2004 (given the Cody Award by the Berkeley Public Library Foundation in 2011) and ran it with my business partner, Ann Leyhe, until we sold it in 2021. Right out of college (majoring in English of course) I worked in trade book publishing in San Francisco, Boston, and New York, and some years later earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College. In "retirement" I do some free-lance editing and writing, and have happily found time to volunteer with the Friends of the Library. All

of this is to say I love words in all forms and look forward to producing an engaging newsletter of our Friends' doings.

—Marion Abbott



Supporting the Friends = Supporting the Library

Maintaining a great public library requires support from many sources, particularly at this time of drastic federal cuts. The Berkeley Public Library is fortunate to have many community supporters who firmly believe in the power of libraries. Your individual donations help keep our library system vibrant and responsive. We are so grateful!

Welcome to New Members

Marion Abbott	Eric Naiman
Lee and Steve Davis	MaAn Renshaw
Laurie Doyle	Abby Rocha Illustration
Eric Hatleberg	Frances Starn
Kitty Kameon	Tracy Thompson
Michael and Leslie Koved	Jenny Vaughn
Tom Lynch	Autumn Woish
Arvil Nagpal	

Membership Renewals at \$25

Barbara Bibel	Linda Perkins
Eloise Bodine	Joan Peters
Judith Calder	Ina Potter
Connie Clausen	Deborah Potter and
Lawrence Cotter	Francisco Villaseca
Veronika Fukson	Bettina Roth
Rose Ginsburg	Kaye Sankey
Rosemary Hardy	Margarete Schmidt
Michael Katz	Marsha Skinner
Judith Kunitz	Sophie Skoda
JoAnn and Marty Lorber	Elizabeth Sojourner
Jeanne Marecek	Mariyah Tabuno
Catherine Mcauliffe	Patricia D. Walker
Anne-Marie Miller	Elizabeth Watson and
Andrea Moss	Nigel Blair-Johns

Renewals and/or donations from \$26 up to \$200

Sharon Anderson	Phoebe Janes
Judith Barmack	Christine Johnson
John and Debra Bennett	Judith Lubman
Jacqueline Beth	Joe McBride
Dan Bellm	Laura Miller
Joanne Carder	Joseph and Mary Morganti
Landy and	Andy Morse
Elizabeth Chapman	Roger Moss
Roger Chretien	Andrea Mullarkey
Suzanne Chun	Christine Orr
Linda Clymer	Jan Pardoe and
Richard Colton	Cathy McIntosh
Edwin Davisson	Andrea Pearlstein
Linda Deaktor	Donna Rabin
Marsha Feinland	Karen Rosenbaum
Ellen Felker and	Sharon Rudnick
Peri Danton	Bernard and Sally Sklar
Freya and Jake Fuchs	Margaret J. Sparks
Ellie Goldstein-Erickson	Carole Starr
Jane Graly	Lewis Sternberg
Richard and	Margaret Stromberg
Gretchen Grant	Elsa and Revan Tranter
Ruth Grimes	Thomas Trippe and
Margaret Gutowski	Kristin Berg
Janet Hack	Carolyn Weinberger

Renewals and/or donations from \$201 up to \$500

Scott Barshay	Lee Hackett
Benevity American Online	Linda Perkins
Giving Foundation	Therese Powell
Dwight and Mina Bissell	Martha Rabkin
Claudia Berger	Carole Schloz
Jesse and	Rob and Lisa Walker
Sarah Ferguson-Garrett	Katinka Wylie

Renewals and/or donations over \$500

Ellen Barth	Toby Schwartzburg
Claudia Berger	Deborah Sperber and
Cathy Brown	Calvin Eng
Sam Hunt	

Donations in Memory of...

John Boe
from Judy Boe

Susan Huish
from Barbara Alesandrini

Ethel Manheimer
from Miriam Gross

Marti Morec
from Lynn Murdock

Henry and Eugenie Bugatto
from Luana Morimoto

Regina Minudri
from Therese Pipe

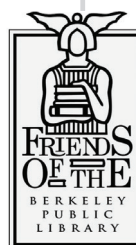
Donations in Honor of...

Marion Abbott
from Art Berliner and Marian Lever

Cathy Brown and her Measure X Crew
from Barbara Alesandrini

Betty Crews
from Carla Lieske

The Story Time Band
*from Tim DeWolf and Cristina Campbell
and from Arvil Nagpal*



Editor: Sayre Van Young/Marion Abbott
Layout/Design: Ann Higgins

The *Bookmark* appears quarterly; we welcome your letters & your ideas for articles. Contact us at *Friends Bookmark*, 2090 Kittredge, Berkeley, CA 94704, or via e-mail: berkeleylibraryfriends@gmail.com

CANDIDATES for the Board of Directors

The following is the slate of candidates that the ad hoc Nominating Committee is presenting to the membership at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. The term of office for directors is three years, with an option to extend for three more years. Officers may serve a maximum of nine years. Dates below indicate when Board service began.

OFFICERS

President – Cathy Brown (2020)
Vice President – Jim Novosel (2025)
Treasurer – William Hausle (2024)
Recording Secretary – Lucia Blakeslee (2024)

NEW MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Marion Abbott (2025)

CONTINUING MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Carol Schloz (2020)
Sayre Van Young (2021)
Ed Cullen (2021)
Kristi Kenney (2021)
Sandy Bails (2022)
Diane Davenport (2023)
Ruth Grimes (2023)
Judith Justice (2023)
Barbara McPhail (2017)
Vivian Pisano (2023)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRS/COORDINATORS

Volunteers – Lucia Blakeslee
Bookmark Editor – Marion Abbott
Scholarship – Judith Justice

EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP

Membership – Mara Melandry

Coming off the Board this year are Terry Gillen, Marilyn Pew, Rob Walker, and Scott Barshay. We are grateful for their years of involvement, commitment, opinion, and devotion to the mission of supporting the Library. And we look forward to seeing them around the bookstores and the Library.

Upcoming Friendly Book Events

As noted on the front page, the Friends notes two events of interest in June.

11th Annual Bay Area Book Fest's Outdoor Fair Downtown Berkeley

Friday, May 31-Sunday, June 1, 11am-5pm.

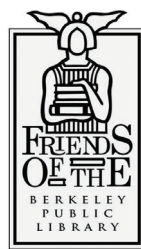
As the BABF puts it, "We're in the middle of planning one of our most exciting Fests yet! We can't wait to see you in person in our beloved Berkeley venues and parks." There are dozens of exhibitors and the Friends will have a booth packed with bestsellers, old favorites, literary swag, and some surprises. Come by and visit us, we love to see you! Note that this year the Festival is centered on (and in) the streets surrounding Allston Way in Downtown Berkeley. Join us at the Bookworm Block Party Sunday, June 1. For more information: www.baybookfest.org.



Friends Annual Meeting Northbrae Community Church

Wednesday, June 18, 11am-1:30pm

There is always so much fun at our official membership meeting! We'll elect our 2025-2026 Board of Directors, endure a short report by our President, marvel at the Friends financial update, and recognize the Friends scholarship recipients. Browse the curated sales table and take a ticket for a door prize. Our guest speaker is Jennifer Lyons, who spent her professional career in finance and accounting before shifting to teaching and education. She is passionate about supporting the visual and performing arts, financial literacy, prison education, and the many needs of our remarkable UC Berkeley students. She serves on the Board of Trustees for Cal Performances, taught math and business in the college program at San Quentin prison for 11 years, as well as in UC Berkeley's Academic Talent Development



Program for 7 summers. In her spare time she enjoys creating art, woodworking, swimming, and riding her motorcycle in Marin. She has two grown children and lives in Berkeley with her husband Rich and dog Winston. Leave the brown bag lunch at home. The Friends provides sandwiches, beverages, fruit and tasty homemade desserts! Not a member? Join on the spot, and bring a friend! An invitation will be emailed closer to the date, but do get June 18 on your calendar.

The Story Time Band

By Michael Kwende, Children's Librarian, Claremont Branch and
Cathy Brown, Friends of the Library

The Story Time Band is the rock star of the stroller set! If you see a critical mass of strollers heading toward Freight & Salvage or one of Berkeley's parks, you know that a performance by The Story Time Band is the destination. In 2013, children's librarian Michael Kwende, known to Berkeley youth as Mr. Michael, and retired librarian and guitarist Tim DeWolf, began offering Musical Story Time at the Berkeley Public Library's Claremont Branch. Their events soon became so popular with children and their caregivers that they outgrew the library's programming space, requiring them to secure a larger venue to accommodate their audiences.

That place became Berkeley's Bateman Mall Park, and soon after, musicians and library specialists Juan Castille and Donovan Russell joined the effort, and The Story Time Band was born. In 2024, the band welcomed a new member, keyboardist Tienne Lee!

They have since brought their Musical Story Time to numerous elementary school classrooms, public libraries, and literacy events and have performed at



Berkeley elementary schools, Freight & Salvage and public parks throughout the city where hundreds of children and caregivers regularly attend their weekly Musical Story Time sessions. In 2021 the Band held five

events for a total audience of 167; by 2023 they had performed at 41 events for over 7,000 people! And their popularity is only growing.

The Friends of the Library are delighted that the funds for venue rental come out of the programming gift that we donate to the Library. We have also funded professional sound engineering services so that the Band can create a CD or post to a streaming service. If you have designated a donation to the Friends in honor of the Band, be assured that its financial future is secure. And, if you need a new BPL library card, you can select from many designs, including one for The Story Time Band. Now that's fame!



Did You Know?

The Berkeley Public Library provides many services and resources beyond loaning books to patrons. Members can also borrow: audio books, digital books, CDs, sheet music, vinyl, tools—including culinary tools, and DVDs.

Online offerings include checking out books, magazines, music, and movies from the comfort of your home. Sign up for Kanopy and Libby!

At the library, you can: Use a laptop, read reliable news, attend cooking and sewing classes, hear live music, view the work of visiting artists, learn about the latest scientific advances at sponsored programs; ob-

tain free and discounted passes to Bay Area museums, zoos, and cultural institutions, bring the kids to hear a story, get legal advice, work on your resume, learn a new language or brush up on a second language, register to vote, make an appointment with the Berkeley Free Clinic when they visit.

It's all here, it's all FREE at the Berkeley Public Library. Five branches: Central, Claremont, North, West, Tarea Hall Pittman/South. While you're at Central, stop into the Friends bookstore.

Join the Library. Join the Friends.

Friends of the Berkeley Public Library
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Friends of the Berkeley Public Library

Board of Directors, 2024-25

President: Cathy Brown
Vice President: Terry Gillen
Treasurer: Barbara McPhail
Recording Secretary: Lucia Blakeslee
Immediate Past President: Rosemary Hardy

Directors-at-large: • Sandy Bails • Scott Barshay • Ed Cullen
• Diane Davenport • Ruth Grimes • William Hausle • Judith Justice
• Kristi Kenney • Marilyn Pew • Vivian Pisano • Carole Schloz
• Sayre Van Young • Rob Walker

Advisory Committee Chairs and Coordinators:

Publicity/Outreach, Sandy Bails

Membership, Mara Melandry (*ex officio*)

Scholarship, Judith Justice

Bookmark Editor: Sayre Van Young / Marion Abbott

Stay in touch with the Friends:

email: berkeleylibraryfriends@gmail.com

Channing Way Bookstore (510) 841-5604 2433 Channing Way

Central Library Bookstore (510) 981-6211 2090 Kittredge St.

Central Library Workroom/Office (510) 981-6152

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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 _____

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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