



Friends of the Library of Los Altos Newsletter

Winter, 2012 — Earl Pampeyan, Editor

Hear Ye!



Bring your friends; bring your neighbors to our January Used Book Sale. Spread the word—with over 30,000 quality used books, all organized by category for pleasant browsing, everyone from two to a hundred-and-two is sure to discover their own special “finds”. Old treasures, current books, collectors gems are there to be discovered and enjoyed.

Members: Come Friday for the best selection. It’s crowded but the enthusiasm is catching and the finds are many. Return Saturday to browse at a more leisurely pace—and you will be amazed at how many additional books you will find that you somehow missed seeing on Friday—guaranteed!

Saturday is a great family day—lots and lots of children’s picture books, easy readers, and young adult books with the majority priced \$0.50 - \$1.00. Encourage reading and give your children the thrill of find and selecting their own books to purchase. AND support your local library at the same time!

Sunday is that “extra-bargain” day. You purchase a bag for \$5 at the door, and then you fill it with as many books as it will hold. ***NOTE: Some items available on Friday and Saturday are not available on Sunday during the bag sale, such as such as: DVD’s, current best sellers, gift books, specials, and collector’s items.**

Hear Ye!

The Book Sale Cometh!

January 27, 28, 29th!

Remember: all funds raised at our Book Sales go directly toward supporting the Los Altos Library. So it is double satisfaction—you get to enjoy some good books and help out a great cause at the same time!

Want to help? There are many ways you can:

Donate your used books that are in good condition. Drop your boxes of used books off in the Donation Room in the lobby of the Los Altos Library.

Spread the word to friends, family, and neighbors to come to our book sales and to become a member.

Volunteer! Many opportunities are available from sorting books on Thursday mornings to posting internet updates to helping at our book sales. Big jobs, little jobs, every day of the week—there is most likely a volunteer activity that will match your interests.

Thanks to everyone who donated used books for this sale. Your donations are what make the Friends’ support of our libraries possible.

Suzanne, Epstein, Book Sale Chair

CALENDAR

Used Book Sale **January 27, 28, 29, 2012**
Hillview Community Center

General Meeting **April 12, 2012, 9:00 a.m.**
Teen Room, Main Library

Used Book Sale **May 4, 5, 6, 2012**
Hillview Community Center

General Meeting **July 26, 2012, 9:00 a.m.**
Teen Room, Main Library

Used Book Sale **August 17, 18, 19, 2012**
Hillview Community Center



Need Information?

www.losaltoslibraryfriends.org/

Membership **948-8821**
folibrary2@gmail.com

DARWIN POULOS WINS AWARD



Friends of the Library of Los Altos and Community nominee Darwin Poulos received a volunteer service award at the 29th annual Los

Altos/Los Altos Hills Joint Community Service Award luncheon held at the Fremont Country Club on December 2, 2011. Past FOL president Sharleen Thorson gave the introduction.

Darwin, currently a FOL director, made things happen while he was FOL president, and book sale chairman, and is still very actively involved in community affairs. He is completing his second term on the Library Commission, and finds time to: tutor math and science at Mountain View/Los Altos Union District High School; teach astronomy at Deer Hollow Farm; volunteer at the Peninsula Open Space Trust; and help the Palo Alto based Trail Center maintain hiking trails in the Bay Area. Darwin's photographic talents are used in all these volunteer endeavors. This past year his photography was exhibited in the Los Altos Main Library.

A big thank you goes to our FOL Volunteer Awards committee members: John Gerich, Pat Johnson, Elayne Dauber, Joan Pampeyan, and Dave Struthers for selecting this deserving candidate.

FRIENDS CAFÉ, PART 3

Continuing our series on the wonderful volunteers at Friends' Cafe, it's time to tell you about Judy, John, and Armen. You'll find Judy and John at the cafe on Monday. John sets up in the morning and Judy is there from 3 to 5pm. Both have been helping us for a couple of years and have already made themselves invaluable.

John, in addition to knowing a lot about coffee, can fix anything. What a blessing to have his help. Things are always breaking at the cafe. If it isn't the coffee machine (which he has fixed), it's the locks on the drawers, or the hinges on the cabinets. John is a long time library lover. I first met him in the 80's when he was a member of the Library Commission. After retiring a few years ago, he offered to serve the library community once more in our cafe. He's always available when we need extra help, and is most appreciated Monday morning.

Judy joined the Friends a couple of years ago and asked how she could help. We jumped at the
(Continued on page 3)

chance to add her to our cafe staff. After Judy started helping us, I noticed that somehow, we never had dirty laundry any more. It used to be that the dirty rags accumulated until someone took pity and took them home to wash. Judy decided that would be her additional contribution. All of us at the cafe appreciate this unsolicited super help. Judy is one of the very precious Friends who does not live in Los Altos, but has chosen our community anyway as the one she wishes to help. We are all richer because of people like Judy.

And our 3rd highlighted volunteer is Armen. Armen has been helping us less than a year, but I don't know how we ever did without her. When Armen came on board I was looking for so many substitutes, that I asked her if she would just fill in for a while. So Armen learned how to do morning and afternoon and has been helping once or twice a week since she started. We asked Armen if she would like her own time slot, but she enjoys the variety of people she meets at different times and days of the week. Somehow, a week doesn't go by when we don't need her help. You can't imagine how much easier she has made all the lives of the Cafe volunteers.

Our staff at the Friends' Cafe is always changing and we are always looking for more help. These 9 people are the core of the operation. However, we would be delighted if any of you wished to join us. We form a very much appreciated part of the library services.

Elayne Dauber Cafe Coordinator
Café Coordinator



ONLINE SALES

There are seasonal fluctuations related to the beginning and ending of school classes, holiday gift book buying and release of new fiction. Paula and Elayne have done a masterful job with monitoring our pricing and continue to devise even more sophisticated methods for keeping our small inventory (about 600 books) attractive to buyers.

During the past six months we have seen the following numbers from our Amazon sales:

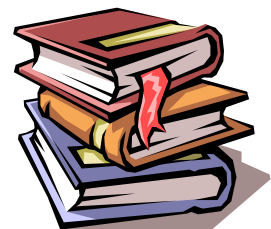
MONTH	BOOKS SOLD	AVE. PRICE PER BOOK
July	112	\$19.39
August	134	\$20.87
September	80	\$18.20
October	133	\$18.53
November	148	\$15.76
December	<u>150</u>	<u>\$20.56</u>
TOTAL	779	\$19.86

Regularly we remove some of our internet inventory and place it back into the lobby or regular sales. Our limited space does not allow us to keep a large inventory so if a book has not sold after 6 months we either reduce the price dramatically or remove it completely from our internet listings and offer it to our in-person shoppers. These books are great bargains for our friends the book dealers who continue to rely on us to provide a wide variety of good quality and sellable items.

We have started to use a second bar code scanner in Room 7 when we are sorting books in hopes of finding the hidden treasures that would sell best on the internet. It makes a delightful 'RINGRING' when it identifies a book worth considering for the internet and more of our volunteers are getting into the habit of doing their own checking. Since we are offering about 800 books in the lobbies of our two libraries and over 30,000 books at our quarterly 3 day sales we know there are still lots of very good buys out there for the finding.

Our volunteers who wrap and mail our internet orders continue to get compliments on their packaging, and their timely processing of these books keeps our Amazon rating high. We are looking forward to another good year.

Danielle –Internet Monitor



ONGOING SALES

Well, the Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa flurry is over (with the abundance of books, puzzles, games, and Stocking Stuffers that Ongoing had to offer) as is 2011. And we welcome 2012 (was the millennium really that long ago?) with open arms.

January finds us with books for the Chinese New Year and Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday as well as our usual current fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks and gardening, SAT and similar learning materials, plus young adult and children's books suitable for all ages. We also have fine books suitable for special interests ("folio 'Tarzan', the Keno brothers and their history in antiquing, etc.), all suitable for your pleasure or for gifts.

February will feature Valentine's Day, Black History Month, President's Day and the Academy Awards. And—well, you get the picture—each month will showcase books for that month.

There are seasonal fluctuations related to the beginning and ending of school classes, holiday gift book buying and release of new fiction. Paula and Elayne have done a masterful job with monitoring

our pricing and continue to devise even more sophisticated methods for keeping our small inventory (about 600 books) attractive to buyers.

Anne, Genice, Vicki and I have been working hard to bring you the best books at low prices, discounts are usually 75-80% all the time! Better than Black Friday, no? And new books are put out every day (books that are over 2 months old are removed on a daily basis) so there is always something new to see.

For the past 7 month period, Woodland and the Main Library have sold almost 6,000 books for over \$15,600, so you can see what bargains we have to offer.

Be sure to check out the Ongoing shelves (at both libraries) when you are in the area. And don't forget the 25 cent book cart in the lobby of the main library. You can fill in books you are missing from many authors and sometimes find out-of-print books as well. These are mostly pocket books and trade paperbacks.

Hope to see you soon. May 2012 be Happy, Healthy and Peaceful for all of us.

The Ongoing Group

Gerry Dunckel

Long-time Friends member Gerry Dunckel passed away on October 3, 2011. She loved sorting and pricing science and technology books, particularly computer books. She served as Book Sale Chair, President, and also treasurer until ill health forced her to resign. Her smile and cheerfulness will be missed.

Gerry enjoyed photography, jazz, and travelling. She is survived by her daughter Bobby McClusky and son Bill Dunckel, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.