An Outdoor Patio Area at the Main Library is Approved, Some Good News from the in-Library Sales Team, and the Very Popular UFO/New Age Books are Back in the Book Sale

Above: (left) Conceptual circulation plan for the proposed Patio Project and (right) the concept plan, both taken from the Los Altos City Council packet for the meeting of November 28, 2023. Plans were prepared by SSA Landscape Architects. Background satellite map used in concept plan from Imagery ©2023 Airbus, CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, Map data ©2023 Google

The Los Altos Library Endowment (LALE), partnering with the Chou Family, has received approval from the Los Altos City Council to create an outdoor patio which will extend the Children’s Room and the Orchard Community Room on the City Hall side of the Main Library. The project will provide badly needed outdoor space for library programs and additional reading areas. The 5,000 square foot project is still only a concept and likely will go through several months of review and revision before it becomes a reality. At issue is the need to preserve the Civic Center Orchard, a Los Altos Historic Landmark. Currently, the plan is to relocate any apricot trees which may be impacted by the final project.

Good News: Donations have increased in quality and quantity and that has helped increase Friends support for the library, now and for the future. More and more library patrons, visitors, and online dealers are discovering the great books and great bargains to be found for sale in the Main and Woodland libraries. The increasing popularity of the Ongoing Sales shelves in both libraries and the Special Sale tables in the Main library has kept our volunteers busy, filling the shelves with new books daily and removing books from the shelves that have been there for more than 3 weeks. (These pulled books are set aside to be sold at our Quarterly Book Sales.)

And the UFOs are back, in the February Book Sale, along with descriptions of some unusual ideas.
We’re Bringing Back the Silent Auction! For many years a silent auction was always a part of our sales. Run by Mary Anderson, it was discontinued when Mary could no longer do the job. The silent auction features books and items that are so unusual, it is difficult to put a price on them. For example, in one of our books we found a Rations Form for gasoline from WWII. We get many donations of books that are on unusual topics, are out of print, or are just very esoteric. All may be candidates for our auction.

The auction will be set up in the Art, Music, Vintage Book room near the front entrance. Each book on the auction table will have a slip of paper in it specifying a beginning bid, and an area where bidders can put their bid and contact information. The auction will run Friday night and Saturday. While final procedures are still being set up, currently the plan is to notify Auction winners on Saturday evening. Pickup can occur on Sunday, or books will be left at the library checkout desk to be picked up the following week. Participants and other shoppers can follow the auction during the sale to see if their bid is still the highest. Be sure to check this out.

Books and other items shown on this page will be included in the auction, along with many others. Minimum prices may be as low as $1, or considerably higher.

Above:: 2nd from left: Office of Price Administration Application for Gas Ration. 4th from left: 6 prints from a set of drawings of SF in 1885 given as a memento to employees of Citizens Federal Savings in 1960.

Quote: "Books should go where they will be most appreciated, and not sit unread, gathering dust on a forgotten shelf, don't you agree?" – Christopher Paolini
Book recommendation from a Librarian: I'm looking forward to reading *Diva* by Daisy Goodwin later this month. The story features opera singer Maria Callas (1923-1977), spanning her life from childhood in New York to her studies in Greece where she meets and falls for Aristotle Onassis. Princess Grace, Marlene Dietrich, Elizabeth Taylor, Charlie Chaplin, Marilyn Monroe, Winston Churchill, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor all make appearances. Booklist calls this book "an enthralling portrait of a revered artist and sadly misunderstood woman" and Library Journal says, "Brava! Historical-fiction enthusiasts, fans of La Callas, and others will relish this view into the tumultuous love affair of a power couple." Release Date: January 23, 2024.

Next Book Sale: February 2, 3, 4 in the Los Altos Community Center in cooperation with the City of Los Altos. Cash or credit cards are accepted. For details: losaltoslibraryfriends.org. Volunteers are needed in all areas to help with the sale.

Friday February 2nd, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Members Only pre-sale event  Membership entitles admittance for 2 adults and their minor children. (Use the tickets printed in this newsletter to gain admittance.) Membership may also be purchased at the door for $10/calendar year. Empty boxes and bags allowed.

Saturday February 3rd, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Book Sale open to all.  Empty boxes and bags allowed.

Sunday February 4th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Book Sale open to all.  Books sold by the bag (our bags only, $5 each). Our thanks to Draegers for always donating the bags for the Sunday Sale.

The Books4Schools Fund enables teachers from publicly funded schools, grades K - 12, to acquire books at our quarterly book sales: the Fund picks up the expense. See the Friends website to register or donate to this program.

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