

# All about Friends

The Annual General Meeting held on the 24th June had a short formal session at which Diane Schmidt, outgoing President, described the year. Friends brought and shared a potluck supper afterwards. Superfriends - volunteers who have donated at least 100 hours for the first time - were awarded personalized aprons.

Having celebrated its 60th year, Friends donated more than \$160,000 for buying books and media and supporting activities in the Los Altos Libraries during the financial year ending 30 June 2018. Funds (more than \$150,000) were generated from sales of donated books and media in the Libraries, at the quarterly sales, online, and from the cafe. There are about 600 members. More than 100 members typically help out at each sale, and up to 50 members work during every week on moving, sorting and pricing books. This is an active community of people who enjoy working together and making the substantial contribution they do to the quality and variety of resources available at the Libraries. A detailed Annual Report for 2017 - 18 will be made available.



## Friends of the Library in 2018 - 2019

### Officers

President : Mary Jo Kelley - Vice President: Margaret Brooks  
Secretary: Catharine Kristian - Treasurer: Diane Schmidt

### Directors

Suzanne Epstein - Anne Johnson - Robert Robson - Hardin Smith - Eliza Snow

### Calendar

Board meetings are normally on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:15 am in the library conference room, with the August meeting on 1 August.

The next general meeting will be on Thursday 23rd August, with room and time to be announced by email.

Friends will participate in the LACF Volunteer Fair, to be held at Third Street Green in downtown Los Altos on Saturday 25th August, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.



### Hats Off

In May, the Library staff arranged a "Hats Off" lunch at which they thanked the Friends volunteers for their continued support. Carol Arteberry designed the centerpieces with hats and roses.

### Planning for change

Since the Community Center, where Friends has had its base of operations, is due to be demolished next year, Friends have to plan for significant changes in their operations starting this year, 2018 - 19. Unless the Community Center project experiences significant delays, there will be only 3 more quarterly sales held there. Friends also have to find new locations for sorting, pricing and storing books and media. The Los Altos Library would be the ideal location.

### Friends in the press

Eliza Ridgeway, staff writer at the Los Altos Town Crier, wrote an article about the Friends, published on 27 June 2018

<https://www.losaltosonline.com/news/sections/business/183-business-features/58067-los-altos-library-sales-a-longtime-literary-gold-mine-need-a-new-home>

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### Mary Anderson - the End of an Era

By Elayne Dauber - The Friends are sad to report that on July 1, Mary Anderson died. Mary had just celebrated her 97th birthday and was still as sharp as ever. Although she could not work in our sorting room for the last few years, she continued to help out, pricing special books that we brought to her home.

Mary was a founding member of the Friends and was our historian. For 40 years she collected every article ever written about us, took pictures of sales, and documented our activities. She was our "specials" specialist. Before the internet made this job much easier, Mary would scour huge volumes listing rare books to determine what price to put on our most valuable donations. For years, she had a separate "specials" room at our sales and that room consistently earned 1/4 of our Friday evening take (when all the dealers were buying). She ran an auction for the most unusual specials for which it was difficult to find a price. For many years, our annual meetings were held on the back deck at her house.

Mary was one of the most interesting people I ever met. She was passionate about all her hobbies, which were numerous. She was a weaver. A year ago, she even got herself a new computer controlled loom which she used for as long as she could. She took trips visiting weavers in other countries and invited traveling weavers to stay with her in this country.

Mary collected unusual bookmarks. She also, during her travels, collected photos of unusual ways to designate men's and women's bathrooms. I hope her family preserves these books and, perhaps, we can keep them in the library. We do have, in the library, her many scrapbooks of the history of the Friends of the Library. We were so lucky to have Mary. It is truly the end of an era.



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### Quote

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

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## Next Book Sale - Hillview Community Center August 17th, 18th, 19th



**Puzzles** This time we have an extraordinarily large number of donated puzzles, for kids and adults. Since we can't guarantee that all the pieces are there, they are very inexpensive.

**The Great American Read** is a PBS series celebrating the power of reading. As many of the books on the 100 best loved fiction books list as we can find will be available on one sale table.

### Foreign Language books

The August sale will have hundreds of foreign language books in a dozen languages, from simple phrase books for vacation travelers to translations of popular fiction to art books to sign language tutorials. We have especially large selections of French, Chinese, and Finnish fiction, Japanese mysteries, and like-new children's books. Also, the foreign media cart is overflowing, mostly with Chinese and Japanese language DVDs.

**The sale** takes place in the Hillview Hall, the Multipurpose Room, and Room 2 at the Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos 94022.

Cash only, no checks or credit cards. Most of the books are for sale on Friday and Saturday at the prices marked in them; if there is no price marked, hardbacks and trade press paperbacks now cost \$2, and mass market paperbacks are \$1. Children's book pricing will be unchanged from previous sales. On Sundays \$5 buys a large grocery bag full of books, regardless of any price marks.

### Friday 17 August, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Members Only pre-sale event

Membership entitles admittance for 2 adults and their minor children. Membership may be purchased at the door - \$10/year. No bags, boxes, backpacks or baby strollers are allowed on Friday evening. 15 book limit at a time. Purchase books, take them outside, return to purchase more books.

### Saturday 18 August, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Book sale open to the public

Empty boxes and bags may be brought to the sale on Saturday. Items paid for on exit.

### Sunday 19 August, Noon - 3:00 PM Book sale open to the public

Books sold by the bag. Bags cost \$5.00. Purchase bags from a sale worker at the entry door.

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