Open For Business: Meeting Pods have arrived, Changes at the Friends Cafe, and Holiday gifts

The new Meeting Pods in the Main Library:
The pods, funded by the Friends, are located between the Friends Corner and the Fiction shelves. There are 4 of these new, private, meeting rooms, all with air conditioning, lighting, soundproofing, ethernet cable, 120V outlets and USB ports. The 2 small pods are for single use, the medium pod is suitable for up to 4 people, and the largest is currently configured as an 8 person meeting room.

Reserve a pod online at [https://sccld.org/book-a-room/](https://sccld.org/book-a-room/) using the medium or small meeting room link. All the rules and details can be found there as well; in particular, use of these rooms is free but you must have a valid SCCLD library card to book them. The Main Library Orchard Room continues to be available for larger groups through booking at the same online site and the rules and fee schedule for this large room are displayed on the site.

The Friends Cafe has an expanded menu:
When the Cafe reopened on December 5th the selection was limited, the volunteers sparse and the resupply uneven. It’s been a slow but steady recovery to pre-pandemic levels since then. That initial menu has grown to include some old favorites (Tootsie Pops! Double chocolate muffins! Ramen Noodle soup!) and some new selections (Brownie Bark! Chocolate Wafers!). Cold drinks, including water and milk, are in the cooler. Hot coffee and hot water for tea are available until they run out.

Many of our volunteers are back but the Café still needs additional help to keep the café open and the offerings updated. Two hours a week would be great! For more information or to volunteer for a time slot, email volunteers@losaltoslibraryfriends.org

Another Year Gone By and Many New Books: Once again, the Friends are ready to provide holiday reading and almost-new gifts. The most valuable books are listed on the Friends Amazon pages (check the link on the Friends website or search within Amazon for losaltosfriendsofthelibrary), the good quality and good value books are on the Friends shelves in the Main and Woodland Libraries and the Special Sales tables in the Main Library, and the lowest prices are at the large Used Book Sale. The November sale is featuring a collection of Alexander McCall Smith's detective novels as well as including some Asian language books.
Revenue increased in FY2023 as we returned to a full schedule of book sales. Increases over 2022 included Quarterly Book sales of $13,200 (of which $4,500 is from the Books4Schools program) and In-Library sales of $17,200. Total Internet sales decreased by $2,900 since we discontinued sales to Discover Books and closed the Shopify online store. Amazon book sales revenue remained the same as 2022. Our investment income increased by $12,500 over the prior year due to dividends paid by our Vanguard investment funds. Total Memberships and Donations netted $700 lower than last year. Membership dues increased by $1,050 while contributions decreased by $1,740 from FY2022.

Expenses: In our return to normal operations in FY2023, we saw large changes in several expense categories. Our contribution to the Los Altos Best Seller Collection was $30,100 versus none in the prior year and the spending on Library Programs increased by $16,600 as the library staff expanded the number of in-house activities this year. Additionally, we made a contribution of 50% of the cost of the new Library POD units of $54,500 this year, with the balance to be paid next year. Due to our move from the Portable to the Corner inside the library, we decreased our occupancy expenses by $17,700 by termination of building rental, telephone utilities and other related costs. The end result of an outstanding sales year with these changes in spending was a large surplus which was added to reserves.

Assets: Total assets at fiscal year end (30 June) increased to $1,147,000, $163,000 over last year. This is mostly attributable to our $104,000 operating surplus and an increase in market value of our stock and bond funds. We will use these reserves to enable continued funding for materials, activities and development of the Library. We expect to continue to incur increased operating costs as we adapt to changing circumstances.

Quote: “From a child I was fond of reading and all the little money that came into my hands was ever laid out in books.” Benjamin Franklin The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin (1791).
Meet the Library Staff (#4 in a Series): Kaon Fong, Senior Clerk

My name is Kaon Fong, and I've worked at Woodland Library as a Senior Clerk since 2018. I help Leni, our Circulation Supervisor at Los Altos Library, to oversee Circulation at our Woodland Branch and make sure that patrons will be getting their holds in a timely fashion and that materials are well organized. I do my best to ensure everyone at the Accounts Desk will be getting the help that they deserve and leave the library a happy patron. I also help out at the Main Library from time to time. Having grown up in Hong Kong, I speak fluent Cantonese and Mandarin. My favorite activities when I'm not working are going jogging with my wife and playing video games with our cats sitting on my lap. Please come say hi when you visit Woodland!

Don't miss the Special Sales: on the tables in the Main Library, Halloween now, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa coming up. Check the website for dates.

The Next Book Sale: November 3, 4, 5 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 November 3rd, 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/year. Empty boxes and bags allowed.

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

Sunday November 5th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Book Sale open to all. Books sold by the bag ($5 per bag). 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.

Contributors to the newsletter: Rose Baiza, Elayne Dauber, Parvati Dev (cafe photo), Suzanne Epstein, Kaon Fong, Karl Kneip, Khang Nguyen (SCCLD pod photo), Lee Patmore, Diane Schmidt

Website losaltoslibraryfriends.org Volunteer info at volunteers@losaltoslibraryfriends.org

General Membership Meeting and Social: 11/16, 4 - 5:30 For address: janetlynnpalmtree@gmail.com