

Friends of the Almaden Library (FAL)
6445 Camden Avenue; San Jose, CA 95120

December 2007 Newsletter

Dear Friends of the Almaden Library,

We have had a very successful year-and-a-half since our new Almaden Library and Community Center opened. The most recent book sale, on November 3rd, made the largest profit yet since we started selling books over twenty years ago. The final tally was \$3,124.75 for our librarians to use for library needs. It helped that we made a big effort to get many flyers posted to let our neighbors know about the sale. It was also an enormous help that many of you and other Almaden Valley residents donated excellent books and audio/video items for the sale. If we didn't have such wonderful selections, we would not get the repeat customers who attend the sales time after time. We do recognize many repeat customers, and they comment on the good quality of the books.

As books and audio/video materials are being donated, some of our Friends members go into action in the steps toward offering items for sale. We owe big thanks to members who come in to the workroom each week or occasionally to sort the donations into categories, placing them on workroom shelves, filling empty sections in our Lobby Sale Area, and boxing materials when the shelves get full. These boxes are then held in storage until the next book sale. We have a problem as each book sale nears that we do not have enough storage space for the dozens of boxes full of donations. Does anyone have any space available that we might use for boxes near the time of each book sale?

Thanks to Our Helpers

The Friends of the Library couldn't do it without you, could not hold the book sales, could not sort incoming donations, and could not keep the Lobby Sale Area shelves filled with items for sale whenever the building is open. We have had wonderful helpers to whom we owe a big "Thank You" for all that they have done over the past months and at book sale time.

First, we have a special report on "going beyond the call of duty." We were told this past spring that some person or persons were removing money from our Lobby Sale Area money drawer. Because the building design included only a 2-inch diameter hole in the counter top for people to drop in money when they purchased books, it was very tempting for young people to try to get money back up out of the drawer through the hole. We asked if the city could design something to fix the problem, but we got no help from them. After hearing of us waiting for months, hoping for city help and complaining about the loss of money, Chuck Spencer took it upon himself to design and build an extra piece for the hole, a brass insert with a slot for money. It is elegant and it works!

Suddenly we were taking in over \$150 more per month than in the days with just a hole in the countertop. We have a gigantic thank you for Chuck!

Thanks for sorting incoming donations: Ann Marcolini (workroom head), Gerri Osborn (also making bookmarks found in the Lobby Sale Area), Cliff Sciba (also pricing "Special" books), and Glenda Strong. We know that other Friends have helped, but since their names are not on the sign-in sheet, they remain anonymous. If you are one of these "silent sorters," many thanks for your invaluable help! We need more sorting help, so if anyone has time to spend, even an hour a week, it would really be appreciated if you could give a hand! We will start training new volunteers in January, so please give a call or drop an email to Linda Spencer (997-7319, LSpencer@best.com) if you can help.

Thanks for calling for book sale shift workers and reminder calls: Sharon Dunn, Margaret Inglese, Nancy Koppel, and Lois Rivers. Thanks for asking local stores and businesses to put up posters advertising the sale: Edna Sewill, Liesel Wilson, Barb Beswetherick, and Monica Bellizzi. Thanks for putting out the street signs and median flags and then bringing them back in at the end of the sale: Bob Durbeck.

Thanks for working during the sale, setting up, selling, and packing up: Monica Bellizzi, Sharon Dunn, Amy Griffith, Nancy Koppel, Gloria Leung, Mei Mei Ho (friend of Gloria Leung), Glenda Strong, Nancy Koppel, Cliff Sciba, Paty Sayre, Yvonne Yocum, Suzanne Rostamizadeh, Le Vu Nguyen, Valorie Kong, Linda Farr, Mary Chea, Gerri Osborn, Rex Osborn, Margery Epperson, LeRoy Epperson, Jeanette Chin, Marie-Louise Yengoyan, Vince Tarpey, Mike Nguyen (new Library Commissioner), Margaret Inglese, Jeanne Schreiber, Joan Wagner, Marion Dadisman, Lisa Maxson, Phyllis House, Don House, Billie Wallbaum, Edna Sewill, Liesel Wilson, Barb Beswetherick, and Linda Spencer.

We also want to thank Ron Jensen, the manager of the PW Supermarket at Via Valiente Shopping Center, who generously donated a bale of several hundred shopping bags for use in our "Bag of Books for \$5" sale and for our customers to use carrying their purchases. PW has been a big help, continuing to donate bags for each of our sales.

Many thanks to the Almaden librarians and staff members who brought snacks and drinks for our workers during the setup and sale. This gave us welcome breaks and extra energy to get through the day's work.

We couldn't have done all of the table and book setup before the sale and the packing up again at the end of the sale without the help of students from area schools. They have been coming to help at all of our sales, and we especially appreciate their strong backs and arms as well as their willingness to pitch in and help with whatever we need. Another group to whom we owe thanks is Jazzercise which is kind enough to move their Saturday morning group to another room during each of our book sales.

Thanks for Dues and Donations

Many thanks to members who sent their annual dues and also members who sent generous donations this fall. These help the library provide additional materials to the collection, special programs, and author visits this coming year. Our library Branch Manager, Pam Crider, has some news along this line in her report below.

A few yearly members may have misplaced their dues notice this fall. If you find a Dues Reminder page in this mailing along with the newsletter, we would appreciate your sending your dues in order to remain a Friends member.

Almaden Friends Web Site

If you type this Web address once and then bookmark it, you can visit it repeatedly without ever needing to type it again. There is a lot of information there: dates of upcoming book sales and membership meetings, book sale successes, meeting minutes, and photographs from several events.

The URL is: <http://amselcon.com/friendsofthealmadenlibrary/>

The URL for the San Jose Library Web Site is: <http://www.sjlibrary.org/>

Friends of the Almaden Library – 2008 Dates to Remember

	(Note some afternoon meetings)
Pre-sale Meeting:	Tuesday, March 4 – 2 PM to 4 PM
Spring Book Sale:	Saturday, April 19 – 9 AM to 3 PM
Post-sale & Annual Meeting:	Tuesday, May 6 – 6:30 PM to 8 PM
Pre-sale Meeting:	Tuesday, September 16 – 2 PM to 4 PM
Fall Book Sale:	Saturday November 1 – 9 AM to 3 PM
Post-sale Meeting:	Tuesday, November 18 – 2 PM to 4 PM

Mark these on your calendar now so you don't forget the dates!

Almaden Library News

by Pam Crider, Almaden Branch Manager

Generous Friends' Support Funds Library Programs and Collections

As the manager of the Almaden Branch Library, I feel so fortunate to have such a supportive and generous Friends of the Library group. Over the past few months, the Friends have supported a number of successful library programs including:

- July's Harry Potter Release Party drew over 400 children and parents from throughout San Jose. It was the first time the library hosted an event of this nature. Beginning at 10pm, participants entered the hallowed halls of Hogwarts and engaged in various Potterish activities including trivia contests, wizard crafts, and a potions class. City Librarian Jane Light, who attended the event, remarked to me that it could not have been held at any other San Jose Library. "Other branches would have been too small, and King Library would have been too big." Thank you to the Friends whose support paid for decorations and prizes.
- In September the Library cooperated with PRNS in hosting a "Day of Play" event, encouraging children and youth to make healthy choices and enjoy positive play experiences outdoors. Librarian Ed Koetitz was a big hit with his healthy choices storytime and recommendations of library materials to help families maintain a healthy lifestyle. Friends support makes it possible for us to provide such fun new titles as *Run, jump, hide, slide, splash: the 200 best outdoor games ever*.
- October was another big month. The Library and Community Center hosted our first-ever Harvest Festival on October 27. Librarian Barbara Gilbert's "Pumpkin Stories in the Pumpkin Patch" drew standing room only crowds throughout the day. Thank you to the Friends for purchasing decorative trick-or-treat bags for the event. They were one of the day's most popular items. Conroy the Cougar passed them out as children entered the facility, and I don't think anyone left without one.
- November was another busy month with one event after another. The Friends started off the month with one of our most successful book sales ever! For Veteran's Day the following week, the Library and Senior Association hosted a program in conjunction with the recent PBS series, *The War*. A guest author shared his experiences, and participants were given opportunities to share and record their own memories over a buffet lunch. Thank you to the Friends for providing the author's honorarium as well as contributing toward the cost of the lunch. On November 17 the library celebrated Children's Book Week by dedicating the Doris Dillon Children's Library and hosting noted children's author Robert San Souci. Thank you to the Friends who volunteered to serve refreshments at this event. Later in the month, librarians Jo-Ann Wang and Barbara Gilbert visited Graystone School as part of a visit by the *Spiderwick Chronicles* bus, helping to tie in reading to the promotion of a new film based on a popular children's book series. Friends support will enable the library to provide pencils or other appropriate give-aways at outreach events such as these.

- In December librarian Ed Koetitz presented a storytime at Councilmember Pyle's Family Holiday Festival. The next week the library presented a holiday puppet show by P & T Puppets. Both events were popular with Almaden families.

The Friends also gave generously to support branch library collections. This money enables the library to purchase additional materials to meet community needs. Some of the areas supported by the Friends this year included:

- Local history materials
- Audiobooks
- Learn a language materials
- Materials in Korean and Persian
- Easy Readers
- Juvenile biographies

Local History Photographs Installed

Have you seen the three new photographs representing local Almaden history that have been installed at the library? Working through a local committee spearheaded by Friend Bob Durbeck, photographs depicting Almaden's rich history have been installed in both the Library and the fitness wing of the Community Center. Thank you to the Friends who generously paid for the printing and framing of the library photographs. Take time out to enjoy them on your next library visit. Plans are also underway to schedule a dedication for the photographs and related local history collection.

Donor Recognition in Place

You may also have noticed that at long last the donor recognition plaques are now in place, including one near the Friends Alcove recognizing a major donation by the Friends to this lovely facility. If you gave an individual donation, your name is also included on the pillars just inside the library.

Author to Speak at Almaden

Save the date! Saturday, February 16, Bo Caldwell, author of this year's Silicon Valley Reads title, *The Distant Land of My Father*, will be speaking at the Almaden Library. This debut novel of a Cupertino author tells the story of betrayal and reconciliation spanning several years across two continents. Readers throughout Silicon Valley are invited to read the book and discuss it at a number of public events, one of which will be held at Almaden this year. This is the sixth year for Silicon Valley Reads, a countywide program that strives to build a sense of community through dialogue among widely diverse readers. We hope you'll join us!

Staff Changes

Have you noticed some new faces at Almaden in recent months? In October librarian Mana Tominaga accepted a new position as Literacy Coordinator at our Alum Rock Branch. Mana began her career with San Jose Public Library when Almaden opened in May 2006. Kaye Moore, a new fulltime employee, has joined our staff as our new Adult Services librarian. Kaye previously worked as a fill-in or pool librarian for San Jose Public Library.

Library Assistant Kristen van der Molen also left in October. Kristen is helping to open the new Edenvale branch at Branham and Monterey. I know Kristen's experience opening Almaden will prove invaluable in her new assignment. Harpreet Bola, recently from the Evergreen Branch has been promoted to fill the vacancy created by Kristen's departure.

We are also glad to welcome back librarian Jo-Ann Wang. Jo-Ann was on medical and maternity leave for much of this past year. Her son Caleb was born in July.

So, if you see a new face on your next library visit, be sure and introduce yourself and be sure to mention that you're a Friend!

We wish everyone a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you next year around the library and at the book sales.

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