

## Friends of the Almaden Library (FAL) March 2008 Newsletter

### Book Sale on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 3 PM

Regular prices, 9 am to 2 pm  
\$5 Bag of Books, 2-3 pm

We have had some terrific donations, and our storage area is almost filled to the brim, so come to the book sale and find some treasures or items to entertain you this summer. We have not only books, but also CDs, DVDs, cassettes, and audiobooks. The prices are extremely reasonable.

Phone calls have been going out recently to recruit workers for the upcoming book sale. If you did not receive a call and you want to help with the book sale, we would love to have your help! Please email or call Linda Spencer who will be happy to find the perfect place for you to assist. Thank you!



### Where does the money go?

Occasionally someone asks where the proceeds from the sales go, and we are happy to say that except for a few dollars for supplies, it all goes to the Almaden Branch Library to help provide programs and materials.

We have earned around \$3,000 for the library in each of the past three book sales, and we also bring in around \$500 per month in the Lobby Sale Area. This money, along with dues and donations, is all part of FAL's ability to support special programs and materials. In these days of the city's budget shortfall, the funding provided by the FAL helps the library maintain the ability to provide new books, audio/visual items, and a variety of programs for children, teens, and adults.

### Help Wanted !!!!

There are 120 members in the Almaden Friends. Around 30-35 help at our semi-annual book sales, and we love seeing these friends twice a year. Only about 8-10, however, are active in sorting donations, setting up our Lobby Sale Area, and boxing donations to store for book sales. This help is critical to our continuing ability to support the library.

It is often said that many hands make light work, and that is especially true with sorting incoming donations. It takes only about 30 minutes to show a new volunteer sorter what to do and where things go. After that, if a sorter can spend even an hour a week helping (with no heavy lifting required), that help is greatly appreciated.

## **New opportunities to help!!!**

Here's a chance to dust off some of those skills you may not have used for a while or to learn some new ones. The FAL board would like to establish several new appointed positions to expand participation in the operation of the organization. Those currently being planned are a **newsletter editor**, who would be responsible for producing a twice-yearly publication like the one you are reading, and a **book sale coordinator**, who would recruit and schedule volunteer workers, publicize the fall and spring sale dates, and communicate with the workroom coordinator about materials to be available for sales. There is a very detailed timeline which has been developed and refined over a number of sales by Linda Spencer, so that the book sale coordinator will already have a very valuable tool to work with. Both positions will be under the supervision of the FAL board and will receive whatever mentoring, support, or hand-holding might be needed. If you even vaguely think you might be interested, please contact Edna Sewill or Linda Spencer to explore the possibilities.

## **Officers**

President	Edna Sewill	Sewill@earthlink.net	997-2589
VP/Membership Chairman	Linda Spencer	Linda@spencer40.com	997-7319
Treasurer	Liesel Wilson	Lieseli@yahoo.com	268-6723
Secretary	Barb Beswetherick	Barbwest@aol.com	268-7470

## **FAL Meetings in 2008** – (please mark your calendars now)

**April 19**, 9 AM – 3 PM – Book Sale

**May 6**, 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Annual Membership & Post-Sale Meeting,  
members encouraged to attend

**Sept. 16**, 2 - 4 PM – Pre-Sale Meeting, members encouraged to attend

**Nov. 1**, 9 AM – 3 PM – Book Sale

**Nov. 18**, 2 - 4 PM – Post-Sale Meeting, members encouraged to attend

## **New Web site -- now at our own domain!**

Our Web site is now: **AlmadenFriends.org**  
or **almadenfriends.org**

Either way works, with or without capital letters

The layout is the same as the previous one, but it looks better to have our own space on the net, with our own "Almaden Friends" name, rather than being in a subdirectory within a member's domain. It may be a few weeks before people can find the new site when they Google the terms "Almaden Library Friends" or similar words, but it will happen soon, and in the meantime, if you type in the name itself, "almadenfriends.org" you will get our site... so bookmark it!

## Donations

Please bring books and audio/visual items and place them in the donation bin in the building's main lobby. If you have boxes or bags full of donations, ask at the main desk if you can get help with a cart to get your donation back to the Friends workroom. If you would like a receipt for your donated materials, please request one at the **library** information desk, which is to the right, just before the children's library area. Give or send us a monetary donation, either cash or a check made out to "Friends of the Almaden Library". Contribute your time helping the Friends in a variety of ways, sorting donations in the Friends workroom, bringing items from the workroom to the Lobby Sale Area, working at the book sales

## Bookbags

Sturdy burgundy bookbags with a Friends of the Library logo will be available soon in the Marketplace area of our library. They are made of recycled material and have a platform-style bottom making them well-suited for carrying books. Once you see our poster in the Marketplace area (near the checkout machines) announcing that the bookbags have arrived, ask a librarian in that area for a bag or two. Our understanding is that the price will be an extremely reasonable \$5 per bag, and that also goes to our library.

## Bylaws Updates needed

There are three sections in our Bylaws which need updates before we submit them for approval. Our current Bylaws and the proposed revisions are on our Web site:

Please see our current Bylaws at: <http://almadenfriends.org/bylaws.pdf>  
Please review the proposed Bylaws at: <http://almadenfriends.org/bylawsprop.pdf>  
(~~strikethrough text~~ to be removed and *blue text in italics* to be added)

A general description of the updates needed is given here:

1. Article 3, Section 4: name of our newsletter changed from "the Friends Newsletter" to "the Friends of the Almaden Library newsletters"
2. Article 6, Section 2: Change the meeting dates to "about 6 weeks prior to each book sale" and "about 2 weeks following each book sale" and do not include the specific hours. We are trying this year to schedule some meetings in the afternoon as well as having some meetings in the evening when they have been in the past few years. We will see how the turnout is based on the meeting times and then schedule future meetings for the times which work best for most members who want to attend the meetings.
3. Article 7, add Section 4: specify the procedure if dues not received after the first request. A letter is sent when annual dues are due. If dues not received after a month later, send a reminder. If no dues received after another month, then membership cancelled. Membership can be reinstated later if dues are received.

## Library News

by Pam Crider, Branch Manager

### OASIS CAFÉ NOW OPEN

Sometimes it's good to just curl up with a good book and a cup of coffee or tea. At long last, the café at the Almaden Library and Community Center is now open. Adjacent to the Friends Lobby Book Sale area, the café offers a variety of beverages and other treats. Owners Star and Emad Yahya are glad to be operating a second café near their Almaden home. Some of you may recognize Star as the owner/operator of the café at the library's Vineland branch as well. So, the next time you visit the library, stop by the café for a cup of hot coffee, a cool smoothie, or maybe a little something for your sweet tooth, and be sure and welcome Star and Emad to our lovely facility.



### AUTHOR VISIT A GREAT SUCCESS

On Saturday, February 16th, the Almaden Library hosted a visit by Cupertino author Bo Caldwell as part of the Silicon Valley Reads program. Caldwell's novel, *The Distant Land of My Father*, was selected as this year's Silicon Valley Reads title. Readers throughout Silicon Valley were encouraged to read the same book and gather at libraries and other community venues to discuss it. This was the sixth year of the Silicon Valley Reads program, which is co-sponsored by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, Santa Clara County Library, and San Jose Public Library Foundation. Almaden hosted an afternoon tea and book signing in conjunction with the author's visit. Her presentation was fascinating, highlighting her writing process as well as sharing stories of her own family members on whom many of the key characters were based. Thanks are extended to librarian Kaye Moore who coordinated the program as well as Friends Liesel Wilson and Linda Spencer for their assistance with the accompanying book sale. If you missed this event, you missed a real treat!

### CELEBRATING THE RICH HISTORY OF NEW ALMADEN

Over the past year and a half, the Library and Community Center people have been working with representatives from the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association and other community members to highlight the rich history of Almaden within the facility. Spearheaded by Friends member Bob Durbeck, the Committee for Almaden Historical Awareness has drawn together a coalition of other community members, including the Friends, to fund these endeavors. Please join us on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm as we dedicate the historic photographs and local history books which can currently be enjoyed on visits to the library. In addition, a new mobile history display will also be unveiled. Museum docents will be available throughout the facility to add information and interpretation.