

Friends of the Almaden Library (FAL)
6445 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120-2823
Telephone (408) 808-3040

July 2010 Newsletter

April Book Sale Success

We were very happy when our April book sale earned the second-highest total since we moved into our new building, proceeds of \$3127.80 for the Almaden Library. Thanks to our receiving more donated books and media each year, we had more items available than at any previous sale.

Invaluable to the entire book sale process are 1) Friends members and library volunteers who empty the donation bin in the building lobby; 2) sorters who sort the donated items into categories, stock the Lobby Sale Area, and box other items for the book sales; 3) teens and Friends members who help set up everything in the Community Room for the book sales; 4) everyone who helps with the book sale selling, straightening up, and packing up afterwards. Many thanks to all of our helpers:

Monica Bellizzi, Barbara Beswetherick, Mary Chea, Darrilyn Cooper, Dave Curry, Marion Dadisman, Sharon Dunn, Bob Durbeck, Margery Epperson, Diane Hanson, Margaret Inglese, Nancy Koppel, Anne Leong, Jim Leong, Gloria Leung, Ann Marcolini, Gerri Osborn, Jo O'Neil, Mera Seifert, Pat Speece, Chuck Spencer, Linda Spencer, Glenda Strong, Judith Tarpey, Vince Tarpey, Bernie Turner, Hunt Turner, Joan Wagner, Billie Wallbaum, Liesel Wilson, Marie-Louise Yengoyan. If any names were accidentally omitted, please excuse the oversight; many thanks to you, too!

Almaden librarians will be using the funds raised by the Friends mostly for additions to the library collection and also for monthly special programs, the Summer Reading Celebration, additional Wii equipment and games, refreshments for special programs, and holiday decorations.

New Library Hours

The San Jose city budget has been a difficult process again this year. We appreciate all of the Friends and community members who spoke out in favor of library services and took the time to contact Councilmembers on behalf of the library. While there will be a decrease in hours, the branch libraries will at least be open more than the three days per week which was mentioned for a while.

Starting on July 25th, the branch library hours will be:

Monday	CLOSED	Thursday	10 am – 6 pm
Tuesday	11 am – 8 pm	Friday	1 pm – 6 pm
Wednesday	11 am – 8 pm	Saturday	10 am – 6 pm
		Sunday	CLOSED

Friends volunteers may want to note that due to staff reductions, the library will no longer have staff in the building on Mondays and during other closed times. Check with library staff about alternate times to schedule volunteer service.

Help! We Need Help!

Do you have a spare hour a week to lend us a hand... or two? The donations that people so kindly drop off at the donation bin are swamping our sorters! An hour each week by a few more volunteers can make a big difference in whether sorting gets done and new books appear in the Lobby Sale Area or whether the donations pile up unsorted in the Friends workroom.

You do not have to show up at the same time or even on the same day each week. When you find that you have a little spare time, just come into the workroom and sort new donations into the categories on shelves: fiction or nonfiction, children's, travel, cooking, medical, parenting, etc. We will show you how to sort in about an hour; we can be there to work with you the first couple of times to answer any questions that you have; and you will have our great, big thanks for helping!

Next Book Sale

Our next book sale will be on **November 6, 2010** from 9 AM to 3 PM. The last hour, from 2 to 3 PM, will be the "Bag of Books for \$5" sale. Mark your calendar now so that you don't miss this sale. It's a great place to pick up some new or almost-new books, CDs, or DVDs for holiday gifts. We've been told that some customers get almost all of their holiday shopping done at our Fall Book Sale! The meetings before and after the sale will be announced in our next newsletter

Contributions

We owe a special thanks to Friends members who give contributions to Almaden Friends, and thus to the Almaden Library, even though we no longer have annual dues. Previous dues of \$5 or \$10 per year were discontinued in 2009 because of the paperwork and postage involved; we found that contributions far exceeded dues. Most Friends are Lifetime members from whom dues were not required. We now say: "**Contributions are greatly appreciated.**"

Because the Friends of the Almaden Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your contributions can be deducted on your income tax returns (Tax ID Number 46-0496690). Even a \$5 or \$10 contribution helps. If your company has a Matching Funds program, you can fill out the company form and multiply your gift.

A contribution form and envelope are enclosed for your use if you wish to mail a contribution to the Almaden Friends; or you may give the envelope to a librarian or library staff member in the Almaden Library. They will see that it gets into our Friends mailbox.

Checks should be made out to: Friends of the Almaden Library.
Mail to: 6445 Camden Ave.; San Jose, CA 95120

Many thanks, in advance!

Web Site **almadenfriends.org** or **www.almadenfriends.org**

Check here from time to time to see information about our book sales, meetings, officers, photographs from several of our book sales, previous newsletters, and minutes from our meetings.

Almaden Friends Officers – Board of Directors

Our officer positions run from September 1st through August 31st. We thank our four 2009-2010 officers for their help. Three officers have agreed to continue in their positions for the coming year. A big “Thank You” goes to Barb Beswetherick, our Secretary for the past three years, who will be leaving to pursue other interests as of August 31st.

We appreciate Sharon Dunn volunteering to serve as Secretary for the coming year. A special thanks goes to the other three officers who will be continuing their positions on the Board of Directors for another year.

Board of Directors for Sept. 1, 2010 – Aug. 31, 2011

President/Membership	Linda Spencer	Linda@spencer40.com
Vice-President	Nancy Koppel	NJKoppel@aol.com
Treasurer	Liesel Wilson	Lieseli@yahoo.com
Secretary	Sharon Dunn	sharondunn65@comcast.net

Contact Us

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact us at an email address shown above, or call Linda Spencer at (408) 997-7319. Email and phone calls are welcome, as are helping hands.

LIBRARY NEWS **by Pam Crider, Branch Manager**

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As many of you know, the City and the library faced some difficult fiscal decisions this year. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for library services. Library hours will be reduced to 4.5 days of service effective July 25. In addition, some library staff will be laid off or demoted. Although these decisions are not yet final, I expect that Almaden staff positions lost throughout this past year will not be replaced. Still other Almaden staff may move to new assignments as remaining staff are “rebalanced.” Remaining staff will be trying out new ways to provide library services more efficiently including a new model of more centralized program planning. Through these changes, Friends support for Almaden branch programs and collections will continue to be important to our community.

SUMMER READING CELEBRATION IS A “SPLASH”

The library's annual Summer Reading Celebration splashed down on June 12. For six weeks, children, teens, and adults will enjoy the intangible rewards of reading and sometimes a tangible reward as well! Participants also enjoy a variety of fun family programs including a special musical presentation for adult readers. This year's themes all revolve around water. Children "Make a Splash" while teens "Make Waves" at the library. Adults are invited to "Water Your Mind." Have you signed up yet? It's not too late to join. Visit the library's website www.sjlibrary.org to join or sign up on your next library visit. As part of Summer Reading Celebration, the library is offering a series of family programs each Tuesday afternoon. On Tuesday, July 13 we will celebrate a day of music with two special programs. In the afternoon, children and families will enjoy participating as Jeni Swerdlow, percussionist and art therapist leads a hands-on drum circle. That evening at 6:30, the Kavaugh Brothers will perform a rollicking mix of Celtic and Americana music for all ages. We hope you will join us. Thank you to the Friends whose generous support of Summer Reading Celebration makes these programs possible.

ALMADEN LIBRARY STAFF RETIRE

In recent months two longtime members of the Almaden Library staff have retired after many years of service to the City. Library clerk Linda Webster retired in April. Linda had worked for the library since 1971. At Almaden Linda trained new volunteers and helped coordinate our volunteer appreciation event each year. She also took the lead in decorating the branch each holiday season.

Librarian Barbara Gilbert had been a member of Almaden's staff since the branch reopened in 2006. She had worked for the library system since 1978. I first worked with Barbara in 1999 when we were both assigned to the Santa Teresa branch, and it has been a pleasure to work with her again at Almaden. Barbara launched our Bookeneers discussion group last year and coordinated other programs to promote reading to children including annual events such as "Read Across America" and "Pumpkin Stories in the Pumpkin Patch," a favorite Harvest Festival event.

Both of these ladies contributed much to the branch and the community. We miss them and wish them each a long and happy retirement.