

***Friends of the Almaden Library (FAL)***  
**April 2011 Newsletter**

**Book Sale on April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mark April 16<sup>th</sup> on your calendar, 9 AM to 3 PM, for the next large book sale in the Community Room. The front door will open at 9 AM, and the line starts forming outside the door at least 15 minutes earlier. Donations have continued at the strong pace of last year, and so the room will be filled with tables of treasures, just what you may have been looking for!

This book sale will be your chance to fill your bookcase to carry you through summer vacation reading and into the start of cooler weather this fall. Paperback books are still just 50 cents, and hardcover books are \$1.00. A small number of special books like coffee table books are priced slightly higher, usually between \$2 and \$5, but 99% of the books can be yours for 50 cents or a dollar.

These are the prices from 9 AM to 2 PM. Then the “Bag of Books for \$5” starts, and you can fill a paper grocery bag (bags provided) and pay only \$5 for everything inside. For many years, media items (VHS tapes, cassettes, CDs, and DVDs) were not included in this 2-3 PM sale, but this has changed. Because we want to offer you new media items at each book sale, starting at 2 o’clock, they will be half the price of earlier in the day. We hope that everything finds a new home at your home! Come to the book sale early, and then return at 2 PM and see the deals to be found!

**Lobby Sale Area**

When thinking of the Friends of the Library, it is usually the large, semi-annual book sales in the Community Room that most people remember, plus donating your books after you have finished reading them. It may surprise you that the Lobby Sale Area across from the Oasis snack bar is an equally large part of the Almaden Friends’ operation. Years ago, in our earlier building, the “lobby sales” used to consist mainly of two spin racks of paperback novels in the entrance hallway. Patrons would buy a few books now and then, but the money brought in there was a small percentage of the overall Friends funds earned for the library.

With the Lobby Sale Area now located across from the Oasis, people coming to both the Library and the Community Center come down that hallway to get a snack or drink, to take their little ones to Tiny Town, or just head that way because they have found the sale area on previous visits. During the first year of the new building’s operation, the sales were good. Now we are starting to see that sales in that area have been increasing even though the library’s hours have been decreasing. Could it be that if people come to the library for some books and, finding it closed, then come to the lobby sale area and buy a couple of books instead? Could it be that more people are stopping by for a cup of coffee or a soda and turn to look for a book while waiting? or while drinking?

The books that are placed in that area are in excellent or at least very good condition, making it look as nice as a bookstore. You can find fiction, non-fiction, children’s, and foreign language books, and also VHS tapes there. The area is attractive, drawing attention by passersby, and sales there have now started bringing in even more money than the total raised in the two semi-annual book sales combined. We can guess at possible reasons, but whatever the reason, we appreciate your purchases made in that area, and the library benefits more each year! Thank you very much!

## **Last November's Book Sale Results**

Last year got really busy after the November sale, and we didn't realize until the first of the year that we had not sent out a newsletter to tell you all about the success of that sale. We are thrilled to let you know that the proceeds were the second highest ever since we moved into this building. Only the fall 2008 book sale brought in more than the \$3141 earned at the fall 2010 book sale. That 2008 sale made only \$180 more than this past fall's sale, but we were excited to have proceeds over \$3000. For some unknown reason, the November sales seems to bring in slightly more than the April sales, but for whatever reason, all of our large sales have earned terrific funds to help the Almaden Library put on special programs and to add many more books and audio/visual items to the collection. If you look at our Web site at [www.almadenfriends.org](http://www.almadenfriends.org), you can see the funds which all of our book sales since the new building opened have brought in for our Almaden Branch Library.

At the Friends meeting after each large book sale, the librarians give us their list of special programs and the additions to the collection which they would like to purchase with that book sale's proceeds. We look at their list, and then tell the librarians that the sale earned enough money to purchase all that they have listed; frequently we even say that there is more money available, from the book sale and also books sold in the Lobby Sale Area, to write them a check for even more special programs and additions to the collection. In either case, we are thrilled to be able to offer so much support to the Almaden Library, and that is thanks to you, your material donations, and your purchases.

## **Thanks to November Book Sale Workers & Teens**

Many thanks to everyone who helped with setup for the November book sale, with selling during shifts, and with repacking and cleaning the room so quickly. We learned shortly before the sale that we were faced with several enormous challenges. Because of a change in computer reservation systems, our reservation for the Community Room was "lost," and we didn't have our normal time for the Friday afternoon book sale setup or the several hours after the sale ends on Saturday which it normally takes us to repack the remaining books and clean up the room. Because there was another group in the library's Program Room at the end of our sale, we also could not move the boxes of unsold books into the closet there. We met the challenges with the fantastic assistance by our teen helpers, setting up for the sale in record time an hour faster than normal. We also cleared the room on Saturday afternoon in just an hour, cleaned up, and helped the next group set up chairs for their event. It would not have been possible without our wonderful teen helpers from teensReach and also from nearby schools. Thanks ever so much to our teens!

## **Big Thanks to our Sorters**

In our last newsletter, there was an article asking for more members to volunteer to come in and help sort incoming book and media donations. We give a big thank you to the people who responded and are now invaluable sorters. Our book and media donations are still far and above what we were receiving a year ago. Perhaps it is because people are buying books, reading them, and then donating them for the next sale. Or perhaps people are clearing out more of their bookcases to make room for more books to purchase. Whatever the reason, our long-time plus new sorters have helped us meet the challenge, and we thank you all, our indispensable sorters!

Do you feel like you need something more to do? Do you want to get out of the house a bit? We would love to have you drop by for an hour each week and help with sorting? It's easy, it's fun, and you meet new friends! Call Linda Spencer at 997-7319 or Nancy Koppel at 268-0760. We will show you around the workroom, help you the first few times you come in, and be there on the other end of the phone line whenever you have questions while you are sorting. As one of our new sorters said after helping sort for a couple of months, "This is wonderful! I love coming in to sort... and meeting new friends here!"

### **Donation Checks Appreciated**

Each fall newsletter used to include a reminder that dues were due. Two years ago we voted to eliminate dues and to encourage donations instead. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, formed for charitable and educational support of the Almaden Branch Library, and donations are deductible when preparing federal and state tax returns. Instead of dues, a donation will be gratefully accepted and will go toward helping the library present special programs and add to their collection of books and media. Most Friends members used to pay \$5 (senior) or \$10 (individual or family), and a donation of that amount or more will help both you (in taxes) and your library.

Please make out your check to "Friends of the Almaden Library" and drop it off at the library's Information Desk (just before you get to the Children's Library) or mail it to:

Friends of the Almaden Library; 6445 Camden Avenue; San Jose, CA 95120-2823

### **Donating Books and Audio/Visual Items**

We appreciate the many books and audio/visual items which residents in the Almaden area are donating to the Friends. Every day we find the donation bin full and often bags and boxes of donations on top of the bin and on the floor next to the bin. It is exciting to go through and see the excellent items which you are all giving to us to sell with all of the profits going to the Almaden Library. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We also have big thanks for Judi and Glenn Smith who are scanning donated textbooks and selling ones online which are new enough that they are still in demand. With the high cost of textbooks these days, it is exciting for students to find used copies to buy online; it is equally great for the Friends to be able to sell your donated copies to online bookstores.

When you donate used textbooks, please check to ensure that there is an ISBN bar code on the back cover. Only textbooks new enough to have this bar code there will be new enough for us to sell.

### **Items Not to Donate, Please**

There are just a few books and items for which there is absolutely no demand, nowhere that we can send them that will find any users, not even sending them for free. When we find these in the donation bin, all we can do with them is to throw them away, and so it would be easier all the way around if you would please just discard them at home. Recycling can at least reuse the paper.

**Please do not donate:**

1. Magazines (Maybe if a magazine is new enough, a doctor’s office might like to get it?)  
 Note that National Geographic is a magazine. There is no market for them.  
 They are beautiful, but we can’t sell or even give them away.
2. Reader’s Digest Condensed Books (There is nowhere that wants these books either.)
3. Encyclopedias (Unless they were published in the past 5 years, no people or schools or even foreign countries want them. Everyone is using the Web now)
4. Items which are not books or audio/visual items (Every so often we get things which should have gone to Goodwill or the Salvation Army or other donation places. We just have to take them over there, and it would be easier for us if you would do that rather than bringing these things to us. Thanks.)

**Thank you** for all of your wonderful donations... just not including these items above.

**Book Sales and Meetings in 2011**

Members are invited to all meetings. Please come and share your ideas.

April 16	9 AM – 3 PM	<b>Spring Book Sale</b>
May 3	2 - 4 PM	Annual Membership & Post-Sale Meeting (+ Election of Officers)
Sept. 20	2 - 4 PM	Pre-Sale Meeting
Nov. 5	9 AM – 3 PM	<b>Fall Book Sale</b>
Nov. 22	6:30 - 8 PM	Post-Sale Meeting

**Officers for Sept. 2010 through August 2011**

Linda Spencer	President/Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:Linda@spencer40.com">Linda@spencer40.com</a>
Nancy Koppel	Vice-President	<a href="mailto:NJKoppel@aol.com">NJKoppel@aol.com</a>
Liesel Wilson	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Lieseli@yahoo.com">Lieseli@yahoo.com</a>
Sharon Dunn	Secretary	<a href="mailto:SharonDunn65@comcast.net">SharonDunn65@comcast.net</a>

**Web Site Address:** <http://www.almadenfriends.org>

**Our Email Address:** [info@almadenfriends.org](mailto:info@almadenfriends.org)

**Anniversary of the Almaden Library/Community Center Building**

The 5-year anniversary is coming on May 13, 2011. The celebration will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2011. Watch for future announcements about the day’s events!

**We hope to see you at the Book Sale on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 to 3**  
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## **Branch Manager's Report**

by Pam Crider, Almaden Branch Manager

### **New Volunteer Software**

Beginning in May, the Library will be using a new software program to keep track of the many volunteer hours that Library Friends and other volunteers contribute. This software will allow volunteers to enter their volunteer hours from the convenience of their home, as well as from library computers. I will be working with Almaden Volunteer Mike Sarhad to be sure that every volunteer has the opportunity to be trained on this simple process. In fact, our goal is to provide an opportunity for each Friend who volunteers at the Book Sale to get a brief introduction at the beginning or end of their shift on Friday or Saturday. This software will reduce staff time and increase accuracy in the volunteer data we collect.

### **Proposed Pairings for Reduced Library Hours**

Librarian Jane Light spoke at a recent All Friends meeting about the financial challenges San Jose is facing. Our city leaders are faced with some very difficult choices. They are not choices between something "good" and something "bad," but often between multiple critical services when you can't afford them all. The Library, like other city departments, has submitted proposals to meet the budget targets that have been set. One such proposal would reduce the open hours of each branch to 3 days per week. Branches would be paired so that while one was open M-W-F, a nearby branch would be open on T-Th-S. Almaden is currently scheduled to be open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, while nearby libraries including Vineland, Cambrian, and Edenvale would be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If adopted, such changes would go into effect the last week in June.

### **Recent and Upcoming Programs**

#### **Silicon Valley Reads**

Michelle Richmond, author of *The Year of Fog*, visited our library for a delightful talk on Saturday, March 26. *The Year of Fog* is the ninth annual selection for Silicon Valley Reads. Presented by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the Santa Clara County Library, and the San Jose Public Library Foundation, Silicon Valley Reads is designed to promote reading and literacy, broaden the exposure to and appreciation of good literature, and build community. The generous support of the Almaden Friends and other organizations make this annual event possible. Special thanks are extended to Friends officers Linda Spencer and Liesel Wilson who assisted with the sale of books at the event. Titles selected for Silicon Valley Reads Month meet the following criteria:

- Reflect universal issues relevant to Silicon Valley
- Appeal to diverse audiences
- Are appropriate for both adults and young adults
- Are the work of a living author

## **Brush Up on Your Shakespeare**

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is coming to the Almaden Library on Wednesday, April 6. Join us at 6 pm as we welcome Shakespeare on Tour for a traveling production of the bard's final play. The performance will delight audiences of all ages as the cast brings to life the humor, romance, and adventure of this delightful tale. Meet Prospero, Ariel, the slave Caliban, and the clowns Stephano and Trinculo as well as other inhabitants of this enchanted island as the play explores the timeless themes of forgiveness and revenge, good versus evil, freedom versus captivity, and youthful impetuosity contrasted with aged wisdom. San Jose's Dr. Martin Luther King Library will also feature the performance on Sunday, April 3, but generous support from the Friends allows Almaden to be the only San Jose library branch to host this special event.

## **Month of the Young Child with Musician Andy Z**

Celebrate Month of the Young Child on Wednesday, April 20, when entertainer Andy Z shares fun and music that is sure to delight kids of all ages.

### **Almaden Library Hours**

Sunday: Closed  
Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 11 AM – 8 PM  
Wednesday: 11 AM – 8 PM  
Thursday: 10 AM – 6 PM

Friday: 1 PM – 6 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM – 6 PM