



# Foreword

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Fall 2024

## President's Message

We have had a busy and successful summer at FOPAL. It has been wonderful having so many student volunteers who helped out with sorting, taking in donations, working at the monthly sales and many other tasks. Our recent sales have been very successful: in May we made \$18,700; in June \$19,400; in July \$22,000 and in August \$19,600.

As this is the last Foreword I will put together, with my term as President ending in December, I want to thank everyone who has helped me in the three years I have been an officer on the Board. I cannot name all those who have assisted and encouraged me, but some of the most significant are Melinda Parry, Nancy Cohen, Nigel Jones and Janette Herceg. Thanks to all the volunteers who have made my job easier by being friendly and helpful.

We are lucky to have Henry Yu stepping up to be our next President, and I am confident that he will do an excellent job.

### FOPAL BOARD ELECTION

#### Proposed for re-election to the Board for a two-year term

George Chaltas, Charlotte Epstein, Tina Kass, Suzanne Little, Gerry Masteller, Young-Jeh Oh, Steve Staiger

#### Continuing Board Members

Nancy Cohen, Karen DalColleto, Nigel Jones, Jenny Munro, Nancy Tillman, John Wang

#### Proposed New Board Members

Steve Bellamy, Glen Sato, Henry Yu

#### Proposed FOPAL Officers

President: Henry Yu

Vice President: Glen Sato

Secretary: Suzanne Cholko

Treasurer: John Wang

Assistant Treasurer: Steve Bellamy

## Presenting the three FOPAL Board nominees

### HENRY YU, NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT

I was born in the Midwest, but raised in the suburbs of Buffalo. My dad was a professor whose sabbaticals and summers led us to stints in other locales, like England. After studying Electrical Engineering at Princeton, I moved to the Bay Area for work experience before starting grad school, but ultimately forewent the further education. I also spent a few years in Portland, Oregon but returned, and have now lived in Palo Alto for the past 20 years, where I raise my daughter, a soon-to-be middle schooler at JLS. My wife passed away from illness several years ago.



At FOPAL, I've been a volunteer since 2019 and have focused on sales of our vinyl record donations. I've worked on a variety of sales avenues, including online sales, major in-person "popup" sales, the launching of record sales in the main room, participating for FOPAL at local record "swaps", and conducting private sales to local buyers during the pandemic. I have really enjoyed working with and meeting fellow volunteers, meeting members of the local community

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### MEMBERS' ANNUAL MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024

**Time:** 10:30 am

**Place:** Embarcadero Room, Rinconada Library

Agenda: Election of Board members and Officers, annual financial summary, other business from the members.

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## Nominees *(Continued from page 1)*

with like interests, and brainstorming new ideas with all! My prior volunteer involvements have been mostly in cancer outreach, primarily focused on colon cancer, of which I am a survivor. I was also on the board and an officer of Portland Cable Access.

My interest in records began as a child of the '70s, but I ventured further as a radio deejay, record label owner, fanzine columnist, and record collector. We've seen a rebirth of the vinyl record industry in recent years and that's been very exciting.

In regards to being a nominee for President of FOPAL, I'm honored and motivated to contribute to our organization. On the strength of our organization and its ongoing leadership, we've surmounted major hurdles, most notably the recent pandemic. I look forward to navigating us through new challenges, harnessing new opportunities and maintaining our mission.

In my spare time, I enjoy rock climbing, travel, listening to and reading about music. Visiting National Parks is another obsession.

### GLEN SATO, NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Before retirement, I was a partner at a major Silicon Valley law firm and worked as the CFO and General Counsel at two public life sciences companies. I've served on the board of the MidPeninsula Media Center and volunteered for several years at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley as well as been a mentor to first-generation undergraduates and law students.



I have been a FOPAL volunteer since 2022 after understanding how the wonderful book and media sales rely almost completely on volunteers and handle such large quantities of books and media. I've subsequently enjoyed meeting other volunteers in various roles, including donation monitor, salesperson at book sales, remote pick-up, sorting and building security. FOPAL allows me to work with committed individuals who are passionate and literate about books and the value of libraries.

### STEVE BELLAMY NOMINEE FOR ASSISTANT TREASURER

I was born in Cambridge, England and grew up in Glasgow, Pisa, London and...Palo Alto! I studied Philosophy and Education at several universities leading to a 20-year career teaching English and Social Studies, then English as a Second Language (ESL) in Europe.



When I finally returned to California in 1995, the development of a new thing called the internet led me into joining the company my wife had set up in search advertising, marketing and website development.

I am now semi-retired but still working with a few legacy clients. This has allowed me to have more time with our grandchildren and to practice my guitar playing, write songs, study languages, garden, and read more. In fact, my lifelong love of reading is what initially motivated me to volunteer at FOPAL. I continue to be inspired by the unique way in which FOPAL extends the benefits of our local library system.

## Books to Prisons

Since September 2023 volunteers from the Prisoners' Literature Project have been buying hundreds of books from FOPAL and collecting more during FOPAL's Sunday afternoon free shopping period for nonprofits.



*Berkeley High students in a book selection session May 2024*

Incarcerated individuals across the country send 1000+ letters to PLP every month requesting books. PLP volunteers are able to send selections from a great range of titles and

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## Books *(Continued from page 2)*

subjects thanks to sourcing from FOPAL and other book sales. The books are shelved at a space in Berkeley before mailing around the country.

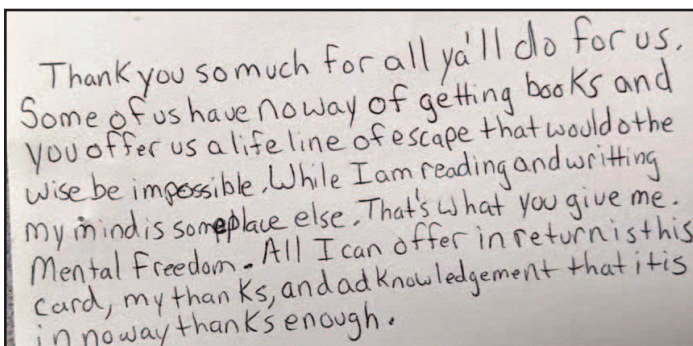
For over 35 years PLP has been sending books to people in 50 states. It is an all-volunteer nonprofit whose mission is “to encourage reading, the pursuit of knowledge, and self-determination among incarcerated people.” The group is funded entirely by donations and the occasional grant, and relies heavily on volunteer-sourced books from organizations like FOPAL. Postage is the organization’s biggest expense.

The need is great. In U.S. prisons, access to books is treated as a privilege, not a right.

There are many obstacles for incarcerated individuals who want books. The majority of prisons do not allow them to receive books directly from individuals. Some prisons only accept packages from commercial vendors such as Amazon. Most people inside don’t have internet access to order books. Many are indigent and don’t have money to pay for them. People in solitary confinement have no access to books outside their cells. Many prison libraries have meager offerings.

PLP has positioned itself to overcome these obstacles and in 2023 sent over 12,000 packages of new and used books to incarcerated readers across the country. Many prisons have strict rules related to subject matter, condition, or specific titles, so PLP maintains a binder of the unique restrictions for each of approximately 1000 prisons nationwide.

PLP’s impact is most eloquently expressed through the thank you letters and drawings it receives in return; an example is shown, below.



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## FOPAL, DR3 and St. Vincent de Paul



*Frank McConnell works with DR3's Bruce McPherson*

Because of the very high value that FOPAL volunteers place on reading and books, we go to great lengths to make sure that every book we are given is properly placed. Of course, our first step is to try to sell the books ourselves, in order to raise money for library programs. A book may first be offered for sale in the Main Room, or, if it is less valuable, in the Bargain Room.

Directly after the monthly sale, those books that remain unsold in the bargain room are offered to local nonprofits for free. These include local schoolteachers, local school reading programs, little free libraries, prison reading programs, and nonprofits that ship to countries overseas such as Kenya. Although these organizations take many, many books, many still remain! So, the Monday evening following the sale, we hold a “free book night.” Anyone may come and take as many books as he or she wishes.

Because we are given so many wonderful books, we still have many desirable books left even after “free book night”! In the early years of the sale, it was a challenge every month to place those books. We would contact interested bulk book dealers, but there were very few who could take books in such

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# Vintage Computer Festival West



Frank McConnell and Dave Cortesi examine some treasures.

“Vintage Computer Fest” is an annual gathering of collectors and fans of old computers, held at the Computer History Museum. For the fourth year FOPAL held a pop-up sale

during both days of the Fest, August 2nd and 3rd. FOPAL had four tables stocked with computer books from the 90s, 80s and before, culled from donations received over the prior year. Several hundred books and an Osborne 1 portable computer (an early portable



computer, notable because it packed a complete CP/M system into a carrying case about the size and shape of one for a sewing machine) found a new home among the assembled aficionados, earning \$1,800 for FOPAL.

Thanks to Dave Cortesi and Frank McConnell and over a dozen other volunteers for collecting the items to be sold, transporting those items to the venue, setting up the wares, and manning tables at the sale. Special thanks also to Arlette Albert, our summer intern.

## Books *(Continued from page 2)*

quantity, and each month there might be someone new. One of the occasional recipients was Saint Vincent de Paul, whose chain of bookstores in the Eugene, Oregon area had the capacity to take a lot of books.

In 2011, at the urging of our volunteer Jim Dean, Saint Vincent de Paul became the ongoing recipient of our remaining books. For many years Jim patiently waited each month for their arrival with their giant truck, and helped their employees clear the books from the shelves, so that we could begin shelving new books for the next month’s sale. This is now done by Frank McConnell.

Because of labor shortages that began during the pandemic, bargain room volunteers currently clear the shelves themselves, and place the books into giant bins that are then picked up with a hydraulic lift. Also, along with selling books, SVDP also ships free books to charities overseas.

Although there are inevitably some books that will not be read again, FOPAL does its best to make that number as small as possible!

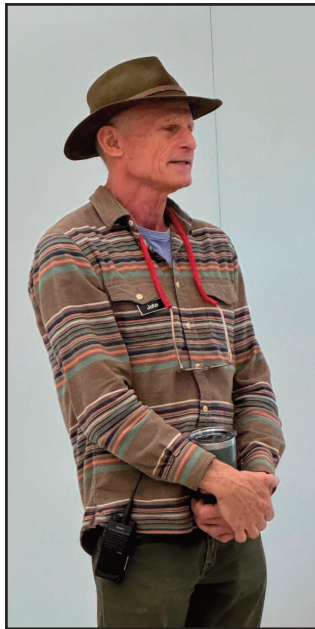


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## An outing to the Junior Museum and Zoo

On May 29th forty-five FOPAL volunteers gathered at Palo Alto's Junior Museum and Zoo to see the facility, and meet the animals and staff. After a pizza lunch and a self-guided tour, the museum director, John Aikin greeted the volunteers and gave them an overview of the JMZ.

Zoo keeper Lee Harper brought out Curly the hedgehog, and zoo volunteer Dennis introduced Sequoia the eagle.



## New Volunteers Spring & Summer 2024

Celia Chan - Cashier & On-line sales  
Myra Dang - Fopal publicity project, On-line sales  
Elise Atkins - Downtown Gondola, Sales, Sorting  
Henry (Hyunwee) Ko – Donation Monitor, Sales.  
Jennifer Lopez – Donation Monitor, Sorting, Cashier  
Dae Chou - On-line sales  
Jack Kolecke - Sorting, Sales  
Carolyn Wang - Sorting, Cashier  
Jennifer Wang - Downtown Gondola, Sales, Sorting  
Chris Wang - Sorting  
Brandon Wu- Sorting, On-line sales  
Kaitlin Nguyen- Donation Monitor, Sales  
Krystal Kelley- Donation Monitor, Cashier  
YiYi Hu - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Julia Cordero- On-line sales  
Anil Siddam - Sorting, Sales  
Aryan Siddam - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Priya Tamura - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Anurupa Rao - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Eesha Sinha- Donation Monitor, Sales  
Ellen Miller- Donation Monitor, On-line sales  
Hannah Hill- Donation Monitor, Sales  
Lina Ruan- Donation Monitor, Sales  
Ziwen Pei- Donation Monitor, Sales  
Ayla Testicioglu- Donation Monitor, Sales  
Javokhirbek/Jonny Kalandarov- Donations, Ass. Section Manager  
Caitlin Cai- Donations, Asst. Section Manager  
Nancy Wu- Tues., Donation Monitor, Sales  
Priya Tamura- Donation Monitor, Sales  
David Clark- Donation Monitor, Sales  
Kaitlin Nguyen- Donation Monitor, Sales.  
Edison Lee - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Paayal Amin - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Jackie Lu - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Sarah Grupenhoff - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Emily Chan - Donation Monitor, Sales  
Sam-Erik Hwang - Donation Monitor, Sales

# FOPAL Student Volunteers



*Emma Chenn at Otaru, Hokkaido*

I started going to Friends Of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) from a young age because I loved books. Ever since my mom heard about the FOPAL book sales, and learned that she could buy books for me at a great price, we kept on going again and again, every month! This made both my mom and me very excited about FOPAL's monthly sales. As an avid reader, I needed to own books. That way, I can reread books that I loved dearly, whenever I want to.

During the pandemic, FOPAL faced difficult times by changing the sales to small, reservation-based time slots, so my mom and I were still able to buy books every month. We saw FOPAL's determination to keep their program running, and we wanted to find a way to contribute to this wonderful place. My mom started chatting with people and discovered that FOPAL was in need of volunteers due to the drop in numbers during the pandemic. I was ecstatic at the news and I started volunteering. To this day, four years later, being a volunteer is an absolute delight! Every time I volunteer, I see happy faces beaming with excitement when they find a book they want to read. That is why I love FOPAL, and why I will continue to volunteer.

*Emma Chen, August 2024*



*Janette and student volunteers clean up the H-2 patio*



*Tylor, Jasper, Glen and Henry get everything sorted*

## Hi FOPAL Supporters

An interesting part of my job is that I get to hear a lot of our volunteer's backstories. Many of these individuals are retirees, some are students, and others are in transition with their careers. All bring their experiences and are passionate about volunteering with FOPAL.

Over the past 6 months FOPAL volunteers have taken on projects both big and small. A junior high school student spearheaded the Palo Alto Unified School District's FOPAL Publicity Project, which posts extensive information about FOPAL in school libraries. (Shout out to The Copy Factory for their printing expertise.) A high schooler took the lead managing and refreshing FOPAL's Downtown Library sale gondola, updating its inventory to include romance books at the suggestion of the library staff. And one of our younger volunteers is now writing "Book Reviews for Kids, by a Kid" published monthly in the FOPAL pre-sale newsletter.

A FOPAL volunteer and retired computer professional coordinated a year-long collection of computer books, manuals and other items for the Vintage Computer Festival (see article on page 4). FOPAL is also grateful to our Summer Event Intern, Arlette,

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# FOPAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Won't you consider contributing a few hours a week to help keep our Palo Alto libraries up-to-date and thriving? FOPAL's monthly sales of donated books and media raise much-needed funds to purchase books and technology, and to support numerous special programs. The sales happen through the efforts of many individuals just like you.

## CHOOSE A JOB TO SUIT YOUR TIME, TALENTS, AND INTERESTS

### High Value online e-business team - volunteers needed

Learn how to research, describe, price, and prepare our most significant high value books on eBay and for Amazon through our partner The Book Forest. Books can range from antiquarian to modern, art to technology, and media from CDs and DVDs, to games and software. You can work on all these materials at FOPAL or at your home; your hours are up to you. We will provide detailed training and mentoring. We need volunteers right now to join our successful and supportive high value team. For additional information contact Nigel Jones at [nigelgj@gmail.com](mailto:nigelgj@gmail.com).

### Help FOPAL with its technology needs

FOPAL needs volunteers to take on regular or one-time tasks such as updating the web site, maintaining email lists, evaluating new software, inventorying equipment, creating Google forms, and occasional troubleshooting. Many of these tasks can be done remotely.

### Donation Monitor

Enjoy a first look at some wonderful books as you greet donors, help them with their bags and boxes, and thank them for their donation. Monday through Saturday from 3-5pm; you will meet other friendly volunteers as you help with this essential task.

### Section Managers needed

Take charge of an available section that interests you, pricing and shelving books on your own schedule.

### Book Sale volunteers

FOPAL book sales are held on the second weekend of

every month. We always need cashiers, door monitors, floor supervisors, and set-up / breakdown volunteers before and after each sale. Meet fellow bookaholics and experience the thrill of the marketplace!

### Bargain Room book shelving

By volunteering two hours a week, H-2 volunteers are able to take ownership of a specific section or two. Flexible schedule and no pricing needed as all books are \$1 or \$2.

### Children's Room Tuesday Team

Help sort and price children's books each Tuesday afternoon. You will meet other volunteers who love books for kids and teens.

To Volunteer for any of the above opportunities, please contact Janette Herceg at (650) 494-1266 or [jherceg@fopal.org](mailto:jherceg@fopal.org).

## Supporters

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for her VCF event management.

Our Pickup Team increased by two, just in time for the launch of FOPAL's on-line "Donation Pickup Request" form. With 90+ donation pick-ups since June of last year, FOPAL continues to support the community with this terrific service. (Shout out to the FOPAL Tech Team for creating the form.) Our book movers have continued to move multiple weekly loads from our Main Room to our Children's and Bargain Rooms. One volunteer comes from across the Bay every week to volunteer! FOPAL continues to process approximately 40K books a month; we couldn't do this without these dedicated volunteers.

What all our volunteers have in common is that they recognize the benefits of giving back to the community, thus making the world a better place. I find these volunteers inspiring.

*Janette Herceg*

*Director of Volunteer Engagement*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## FOPAL'S MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Many thanks to Gale Kiniry, who mails about 200 FOPAL supporter letters each month. She collates our renewal request and welcome letters, along with membership cards and coupons. Also working behind the scenes are Siew Chen Teng (computer expert), Karen Dal Colletto (supplies), Tina Kass (advice and support), Michele Kasper and John Wang (budget and accounting).

"Many hands make light work" – Thank you!

*Martha Elderon*  
*Membership Chair*

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### Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

Friends of the Palo Alto Library is a tax-exempt organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation is tax deductible.

Join / Renew	1 Year	2 Years	
_____ Senior	\$12	\$22	_____ Name
_____ Student	\$10	\$18	_____ Address
_____ Individual	\$20	\$35	_____ City / State / Zip
_____ Family	\$30	\$50	_____ Email
_____ Sponsor	\$100	\$175	_____ Phone
_____ Lifetime	\$500		
_____ Corporate	\$1000		

**Matching Funds:** Many of our members and donors can increase their donation to FOPAL if their employers have a Matching Funds program for registered charities. Please contact [info@fopal.org](mailto:info@fopal.org) for more information.

*Make checks payable to:*

Friends of the Palo Alto Library

*Return form to:*

Friends of the Palo Alto Library

P.O. Box 41 Palo Alto, CA 94302

If you would rather receive the FOREWORD by email, please notify us at [editor@fopal.org](mailto:editor@fopal.org).

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