

the *Library Insider*

Volume 18 - Number 98

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Fall 2012

We're Looking for More Friends!

**You could win a
Nook e-reader
from *The Friends*
if you join or renew
in October**

Help us celebrate the 7th annual National Friends of Libraries Week during October 21 through 27, 2012. Look for our volunteers when you visit Central Library or the branches that week. If we're staffing a table, we'll be eager to answer your questions about The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library.

Our group is just one of thousands in the United States, dedicated to the support of a beloved local library. To join The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library, visit our website www.friendsppl.org or mail the form in our brochure or in *The Library Insider* newsletter.

In early November, *The Friends* will draw a name from those who join or renew a membership during the month of October. The prize will be a Nook e-reader.

Festival of California Poets Set for ArtNight in Pasadena

Friday, October 12, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Donald R. Wright Auditorium
Central Library

**Save the
Date**

Three distinguished poets—Dana Gioia, Douglas Kearney and Amy Gerstler—will read from their own works and pay tribute to California poets they admire at the 6th Annual Festival of California Poets.

Gioia, a USC professor, served two terms as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Kearney, an Altadena native and Whiting Writers' Award winner in 2008, teaches at CalArts. Gerstler, a Los Angeles poet and non-fiction writer, teaches at Bennington College and at Art Center College of Design.

Admission is free. The event is hosted by The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library, in partnership with PEN Center USA and the Poetry Society of America.

To learn more, please visit the website of PEN Center USA (www.penusa.org) as the date nears.

—Gigi Scully

Suspense Continues for Library Funding

For a cliffhanger, look no farther than the headlines about public libraries far and near. Funding hangs in balance as many cities and states struggle to close budget gaps.

"Pomona library, home to Laura Ingalls Wilder books, may close," reported the *Los Angeles Times* on July 1. Pomona—a city slightly more populous than Pasadena—is presently keeping its public library open four days a week, but its fate may hinge on a parcel tax measure that goes before local voters in November.

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Meet Joan Fornaciari Cathcart, *The Friends'* New President

Count your good fortune if Joan Fornaciari Cathcart joins your cause. *The Friends* can attest that she's thoughtful and conscientious, with the skills and experience of a disciplined lawyer. Don't just take our word; ask the citizens of San Marino. In the late 1990s, Joan co-chaired two successful campaigns for tax measures to rebuild and support the operating expenses of that city's schools.

A Pasadena native, Joan grew up in San Marino and is a product of its public schools. In the fall of 1969, she enrolled at Yale University when it first admitted women as undergraduate students. She was one of approximately 250 females in that freshman class. "I thought it would be a real adventure," she says. "I loved Yale; I thought it was wonderful."

During college vacations, she worked for a Los Angeles law firm that specialized in estate planning and tax matters. "That's how I figured out I wanted to go to law school." She attended the UC Berkeley School of Law ("Boalt Hall" to alumni), then practiced law in San Francisco before returning to Southern California in 1989 with her husband and children.

In San Marino, she joined the "really active PTA" and ultimately co-chaired campaigns for tax measures to rebuild the school facilities and renew the district's parcel tax. In 1996, local voters approved a \$34.9-million general obligations bond, followed by approval of an additional \$18-million school bond in 2000. "I'm really proud of what the community did," she says.

Now a resident of Pasadena, Joan continues to practice law (of counsel to Zuckerman & McQuiller, successor to a firm she co-founded) while making time for new civic commitments. Agreeably, she recently answered *The Insider's* questions:

When did you join *The Friends'* board, and why?

In the fall of 2008. I love libraries. I love reading. I think the Pasadena Library is an amazing library . . . Great facility, great collection, beautiful buildings. It's like going back to college.

What distinguishes *The Friends* as a volunteer group?

It's an active group. Everybody gets along. We have really participatory meetings. Everybody has a job and does it. It's a real hands-on board. I also really enjoy having our library director, Jan Sanders, come to every meeting.

What are some of the items on your wish list?

I think we could triple our renewing membership in two years. That's a lofty goal but I think we should be able to do that. I'd like to increase the number of younger members. I'd like to come up with some membership events that are fun and generate revenue. Pasadena is a pretty exciting place so we're going to have to come up with something special for people who like to read.

—Katie Harris

What's on Your Nightstand?

In each issue, *The Library Insider* highlights the reading selections of a few members of the community. When we heard that popular librarian Susan Poster planned to retire at summer's end, we asked for her reading list!

We also called upon Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, who is a valued member of *The Friends*. In light of his public service and legal career (which included private practice, as well as teaching law at USC Law School and the University of Michigan), we weren't surprised to learn that he is reading *Scorpions: The Battles and Triumphs of FDR's Great Supreme Court Justices* by Noah Feldman, a Harvard University law professor.

"The book is interesting because it describes the role of President Roosevelt's appointees to the Supreme Court who could hardly be more different. Yet each was a self-made man who came from humble beginnings and each had driving ambition to succeed," Bogaard said. "It is a story of four great Justices: their relationship with President Roosevelt, with each other, and with the turbulent world of the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. I hope to work my way through this book in the next few months."

Poster once studied to be an archivist (earning master's degrees in American Studies as well as Library Science), but she fell in love with Pasadena's public libraries and stayed 26 years. Most recently, she has been in charge of public service for Central.



(continued page 4)

Friends: Please Take a Bow

The Library Insider has won a national award for The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library from The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF), a division of the American Library Association. The Pasadena group is one of just 10 in the nation to win such recognition for promoting its programs and projects in 2011.

ALTAFF bestows “Best Friends Awards” for outstanding publicity and marketing materials in several categories. *The Friends* won the award for a print newsletter produced by volunteers.

Please join me in congratulating *The Library Insider* team of Janet Morris Mann, Sandy Schulman and Jan-Leanne Price, who produced our quarterly newsletters in 2011 (and a number of years previously). The award is particularly sweet and deserved for Janet Morris Mann, who stepped down as editor in December. It’s been an honor and a challenge to succeed her this year.

Fortunately for all concerned, Sandy Schulman continues as *The Insider*’s design editor, and Jan-Leanne as editorial associate. Janet Lundblad and Molly Kennington have also joined the team.



Janet Morris Mann
(above),
Jan-Leanne Price
(near right) and
Sandy Schulman



The 2011
Library Insider
Staff

We rely on our wonderful, unpaid contributors throughout the community for insights, news tips and articles. The “Best Friends” award is yours, as well!

—Katie Harris

Of note: ALTAFF is changing its name to “United for Libraries: the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations,” effective September 4, 2012.

New At Central Library



The Friends have mounted a handsome display case in the north entrance, to feature the organization’s events, membership brochures and *The Library Insider* newsletter. The custom case is made of oak, in keeping with the interior woodwork of the original building. *The Friends* thank craftsman John Ipekjian (above), who designed and constructed the case at Ipekjian Custom Wood Works in Pasadena.

— Sydney Feeney

The *Library Insider* is published quarterly by
The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library
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Editor: Katie Harris
Design Editor: Sandy Schulman
Editorial Associates: Jan-Leanne Price,
Janet Lundblad and Molly Kennington

For questions regarding membership or their activities and projects, please contact *The Friends* through their voice mail at 626.744.4680 or email at friendsppl@yahoo.com

Nightstand

(continued from page 2)

"I just love working with the public. I gain knowledge from it; I gain energy from it," said Poster, who said she'll seek fresh opportunities in volunteer work when she does retire. Reflecting the imminence of that date, she recently finished the Margaret Roach memoir, *And I Shall Have Some Peace There: Trading in the Fast Lane for My Own Dirt Road*.

"It was a perfect read for someone, like me, who was contemplating retirement. Ms. Roach had been an executive for Martha Stewart's company, and decided to take early retirement to live full-time in her weekend upstate hideaway. She's an interesting person who loves gardening (edits a popular gardening blog) but also shares the fears and joys of leaving a hectic-paced life to enjoy the solitude and beauty of rural upstate New York," Poster said.



"In a related item on my nightstand, I love Louise Riotte's *Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening*," she said. "While it is a quick ready reference source when you need to know if you can plant vegetable A next to vegetable B, it is a delight to read as well."

Two other books on Poster's bedside table: Ciji Ware's *Rightsizing Your Life: Simplifying Your Surroundings While Keeping What Matters Most*. ("It's a good read, very practical. That's going to be one of my first

projects that I tackle") and Sue Grafton's *U is for Undertow*.


Another title that she intends to read soon: Charlotte Bronte's *Villette*. "After reading *Jane Eyre* this year, I checked our library's online database Literature Resource Center, and discovered that *Villette* is considered her best work by some critics," said Poster, with a display of the enthusiasm that has brightened many a library visit.

--Katie Harris

Shopping at Vroman's? Be Our Friend!


Each year, our organization receives a donation from Vroman's because The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library is a beneficiary of the bookstore's "Gives Back" program. If you designate *The Friends*, a portion of the proceeds from your Vroman's purchases will help us fund library programs.

Are you participating in the "Gives Back" program? Enroll in person or online at www.vromansbookstore.com. Support the Pasadena Public Library by selecting *The Friends*.

 **626.744.4066**
Central Library
285 East Walnut Street
Mon - Th 9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Fri and Sat 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

 **626.744.7266**
Allendale Branch
1130 South Marengo
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm

 **626.744.7262**
Hastings Branch
3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.
Mon - Thurs 10am - 9pm
Fri & Sat 10am - 6pm

 **626.744.7264**
Hill Avenue Branch
55 South Hill Ave.
Mon - Thurs 10am - 6pm
Sat 10am - 6pm

 **626.744.7268**
La Pintoresca Branch
1355 North Raymond Ave.
M - Th 10am - 7pm
F-Sat 10am - 6pm

 **626.744.7266**
Lamanda Park Branch
140 South Altadena Dr.
Mon & Tues 10am - 6pm
Wed 1 - 9pm, Thurs & Sat 10am - 6pm

 **626.744.7278**
Linda Vista Branch
1281 Bryant Street
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm

 **626.744.7270**
San Rafael Branch
1260 Nithsdale Road
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm

 **626.744.7272**
Santa Catalina Branch
999 E. Washington Blvd.
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm

626.744.6510
Villa Parke Branch
363 E. Villa Street
Mon - Fri 10 am - 6pm

Editors' Note: In 2009-2010, Rebecca Woods wrote a series of articles for The Library Insider about the "road to publication" of her novel, Living Through Charlie. With candor and wit, the aspiring author described her participation in a writers' conference, the recasting of her book, and her search for an agent. We asked her to narrate the outcome.

My novel, *Living Through Charlie*, was finally published on February 9, 2012.

When last we met on my "road to publication," I had just finished a draft that was written under the guidance of an editor. My editor presented it to the publishers with whom he works and they passed. Their reasons ranged from "we already have a novel like this" to "middle-aged female protagonists aren't selling," but to me, all of their explanations translated to, "I don't like it."

I decided I didn't like it either. I had made so many concessions in the name of what would sell that I hated my own book. The "ratcheting up" (a favorite recommendation made by my editor) I'd had to do made my characters unsympathetic and my story overly dramatic. I rewrote my book once again and this I listened to my gut. Finally *Charlie* was the story I wanted to tell, told the way I wanted to tell it.

This time I bypassed traditional publishing altogether and published my book through CreateSpace, the self-publishing division of Amazon.com. *Charlie* and I had been together for

six years. If we succeeded, we succeeded and if we went down in flames, I wanted us to go down together. We succeeded.

The biggest boost that *Charlie* received was a starred review from Kirkus Reviews. Kirkus is a book review agency that's been around for 80 years. That they positively reviewed my novel and then gave it the star they give to books of "considerable merit" made me feel like Sally Fields at the 1984



Academy Awards, "You like me! You really like me!" Frankly, once my book was published and I got a good review, I felt like I'd gotten what I came for. At that point, if anyone actually bought it and read it, it was gravy.

But people did buy it! People read it! Even agents read it. I guess once they were told that *Charlie* was a good book by someone other than me, they became interested in it. The thing is—*Charlie* and I were doing just fine without them.

It's great to see all of you here at the end of this road with me. I hope you'll stop by the library and pick up a copy of *Living Through Charlie*. I hear it's pretty good.

--Rebecca Woods
www.Rebecca-Woods.com

Public Library Funding

(Continued from page 1)

For a second year, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed a state budget with no funding for public libraries in California. However, in the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the legislature restored about half the sum budgeted in the previous year.

"We are holding firm on the hope that we will be able to reinstate funding into the governor's budget this fall," said Jan Sanders, director of the Pasadena Public Library. "Last year over the summer, we were successful in getting \$4.7 million into the budget, which only allowed California to continue to receive \$15 million in federal funding for library programs and grants; that figure did nothing for individual libraries. All types of libraries, especially public, are now rallying to assist each other and to continue to show our legislators the value of libraries. We are extremely lucky here in Pasadena to be represented by Senator Carol Liu, a strong library advocate and friend."

Pasadena, too, suffered in the Great Recession and reduced its library budget. From a peak of \$12.5 million in 2009, appropriations for public libraries fell to \$11.2 million in 2011. In its recommended budget for fiscal year 2013, the city allocates \$11.9 million for libraries and information services.

"Although our funding is a bit less stable than it has been in the past, the City of Pasadena—and especially her citizens—have always stood firm on the importance of the libraries in our community," Sanders said. "We have not been threatened with excessive closures, adjustments to hours, or heavy staff layoffs. We watch sadly as our sister communities suffer such losses. We will continue to offer their users any assistance we can give."

—Katie Harris

The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library
285 East Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91101

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Pasadena, CA
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The mission of *The Friends* is to support the library's programs, special services and cultural events. Priority is given to projects that instill the excitement of discovery and the love of reading in library patrons of all ages.

The Friends' Upcoming Book Sales

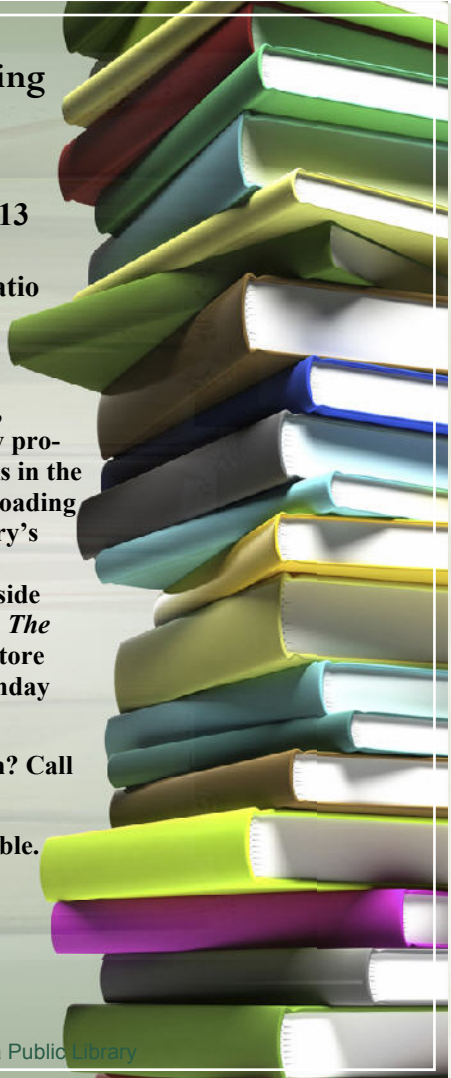
Saturdays
September 8, October 13
and November 10
Central Library's East Patio
9 a.m. to noon

If you wish to donate books to *The Friends'* monthly sales, to help raise funds for library programs, you may deposit books in the Book Drop container on the loading dock next to Central Library's North Entrance.

Donations may also be left inside at the Circulation Desk or in *The Friends'* bookstore during store hours (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Need help with your donation? Call us at 626.744.4680

All donations are tax-deductible. Request a receipt in *The Friends'* bookstore or at the Circulation Desk. *The Friends* thank you!



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Send Check or Money Order (No Cash) to:
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285 East Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91101