



# Library Insider

Summer 2015 Vol. 21 Number 108

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## Notice of Annual Membership Meeting of The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library

Wednesday, June 24, 2015  
Promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Preview Room in the basement of Central Library. (Please arrive at least 5 minutes early in the Centennial Room to be escorted to the meeting.)

Directors nominated to be re-elected for new 3-year terms, 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2018:

Martha Denzel  
Bob Donaldson  
Sue Donaldson  
Bob Henderson  
Hannaiyah Kindred

Persons nominated to be elected as directors for new 3-year terms, 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2018:

Judy Denenholz  
Judy Melton  
Jon Thurber

The membership meeting will be immediately followed by the annual directors meeting, at which the following persons have been nominated as officers and will be voted upon to be elected for a 1-year term:

President: Mary Downey  
Vice-President: Bob Donaldson  
Vice-President, Membership: Janet Lundblad  
Corresponding Secretary: Sylvia Chinn  
Recording Secretary: Sue Donaldson  
Treasurer: Joan F. Cathcart

## Beer, Brats & Books... Library Director Thanks the Friends for a Fun and Successful Event

The evening of May 2 proved to be a fine one on many counts: the weather was perfect, over 175 tickets had been sold, there was lively music in the Central Library patios, and the crowd was excited and happy to be there. Welcome to The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library's second Beer, Brats & Books!

Everyone I spoke with loved it! There was a brief minute of concern about the length of lines for beer . . .but only until folks quickly learned to walk away with two filled cups, instead of one. Food was excellent, as usual, from Robin's Wood Fire BBQ, and had just the right amount of saltiness for the brews, which were equally tasty. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the FoL members who made it happen. Like most major events: it looked deceptively simple and yet took hours of planning.

The money earned will go a long, long way in funding library programs and materials. We really appreciate the generosity of The Friends and their interest in the cause. When I speak with my director colleagues, I am constantly reminded of how lucky I am to have the privilege of working with a driven, dedicated group of supporters whose only aim is to make the library a better place for all the citizens of Pasadena.

It's worth noting that in the past six years (2009-2015), The Friends have consistently given the library in excess of \$65,000 annually. The donation reached a high in January of 2012 when \$78,000 was given. The variations in amounts are less because of the organization and more due to the "ask" that the library puts together. There is a consistent allocation for Summer Reading Club, Teen Programming, the One City, One Story effort, and the maintenance and presentation of the Peek-a-Book devices in each of the children's areas. Without your work, none of these would be as fully funded and seamless as they currently are.

Thank you for letting me work with you and thank you, especially, for the grand Beer, Brats & Books event.

—Jan Sanders, Director



# What's On Your Nightstand?

The City of Pasadena is ribbed, on occasion, for its abundance of volunteers who keep the Tournament of Roses humming, community gardens growing, and homeless humans fed. Few volunteers are looking to be thanked; they're too busy with the next project—or, as we've discovered—reading some interesting books.

*The Insider* takes this space to salute the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation for its recent transformation of the aged patio and landscaping of the Hill Avenue Branch Library. It's also our opportunity to quiz project participants about the books on their nightstands.

Located opposite Pasadena City College, the Hill branch is the oldest of the 10 public library buildings in the city. Its doors opened in 1925. The library's architects—Marston, Van Pelt and Maybury—were preeminent: their firm designed the Grace Nicholson Building in 1924 (now home to the USC Pacific Asia Museum), and a number of local residences and landmarks with historic and cultural status.

For its part, the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation dates to 1960, when “the town looked awful,” as Richard Nevins, a former foundation president, said bluntly in a history video recorded for the organization in 1996, five years before his death. Early organizers began by persuading business owners to donate money for trees to plant on South Lake Avenue and Green Street. The group then tackled specific locations with ladders and paint; they also started a plant bank. They bestow annual awards for innovative landscaping, and coordinate with the city on certain projects.



photo by Janet Lundblad



photo by Anne Mello

One such city-suggested undertaking: the beautification of the 2,500 square-foot patio at the Hill Avenue Branch. In mid-2014, Pasadena Beautiful won a \$20,000 grant from the Pasadena Community Foundation to proceed. Laurie Jutzi, the landscape designer tapped for the job, combed records at the Pasadena Museum of History. After discovering that a fountain had initially been planned, she proposed that one be built to serve as a focal point for library patrons who might glance from the windows or stroll on the patio path.

Some unsightly and broken concrete had to be demolished and removed, along with old lawn and perimeter plants. The courtyard surface had to be graded; the existing irrigation system needed evaluation and work. The City installed electrical lines and outlets; provided stones and helped in a variety of ways. Jutzi selected drought tolerant plants, which were carefully put in place by the time she completed her job in November. Six months later, the patio looked peaceful and lovely when *The Insider* spoke to some of the individuals who made it possible.

At the Pasadena Community Foundation, executive director Jennifer Fleming DeVoll said that grants have been awarded to Pasadena Beautiful over the years, but the \$20,000 award for the Hill Avenue project is the largest to date. What has DeVoll been reading? “I just read *Brain on Fire*,” she said, citing the true account of Susannah Cahalan, who was a 24-year-old writer at the *New York Post* when she fell ill with a savage brain disorder that mystified doctors for a month. As DeVoll observed, “you know

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## Read to the Rhythm!

**It's Summertime! Children, Teens and Adults Can Read and Reap Rewards**

Each summer, the Pasadena Public Library pegs its reading programs to a theme that inspires a range of related activities. It's hard to envision one more infectious than this year's “Read to the Rhythm.” Some tunes will appeal to all ages, but children, teens and adults will also find specific programs tailored to their ages in the library's “Reading Challenges” from June 13 to August 8.

The adult program is now in its second year. To enroll and track reading activities, visit <http://pasadenasr.evanced.info/>, then click Adult Summer Reading Challenge 2015. For each five items read or associated activities, a person gains one entry for a drawing on August 15.

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it has a happy ending” since the author recovered to write the book.

Laurie Jutzi, the landscape designer, had a ready description of her work with Grown Native Design: “I specialize in ripping out lawns and putting in drought tolerant or Mediterranean climate plants.” What’s on her nightstand? *Sunset Western Garden Book of Easy Care Planting: The Ultimate Guide to Low-Water Beds, Borders, and Containers* by the editors of Sunset Magazine. “It’s a top quality book,” Jutzi said, noting that the book, published in April, is doubly appreciated as a Mother’s Day gift from her daughter.

Of course, as plans for Hill Avenue were developed and implemented, there were consultations with the library staff—particularly Jean Penn, the librarian who supervises both the Hill and Allendale branches. Hill—long known for its collection of Asian books—more recently has developed a community seed-lending library. If seeds are taken home and planted successfully to produce mature plants, new seeds can be harvested and “returned” to the Hill Avenue lending library. Fittingly, the Hill Avenue branch also hosts a monthly garden club, with field trips as well as presentations from a variety of experts.

With all that activity, what is Penn reading? Usually the book that is scheduled next for her book discussion group at Allendale! In June, the selection is *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier. Hill hosts a newer book club, led by staffer Veronica Fuentes. Hill’s selection for June: *When I Found You* by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

To *The Insider*, it’s no surprise that Brooke Garlock, the current president of Pasadena Beautiful, can rattle off multiple titles of recently read or just-started books. She often shares with her husband Edward, who was a founding member of The Friends

of the Pasadena Public Library and served as its president before he retired from The Friends’ board in 2009.

In late May, Garlock mentioned three books she recently finished: *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism* by Doris Kearns Goodwin; Susan Vreeland’s *Clara and Mr. Tiffany: A Novel*, and *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson. (“Edward is reading that now,” she said of Larson’s newly published book). Garlock then emailed from Boston, where she and her husband planned to visit the Boston Museum of Fine Arts: “I am now reading *Sargent’s Daughters: A Biography of a Painting* by Erica E. Hirshler,” in anticipation of seeing John Singer Sargent’s celebrated portrait of four children of Edward Darley Boit.

Next on Garlock’s list: *The Snow Queen* by Michael Cunningham, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author who grew up in Pasadena and now teaches at Yale University.

Pasadenans appreciate good books, public libraries, great art and gardens, and they share that enthusiasm with newcomers as well as old friends. As Nevins, the late civic leader, said in 1996: “Pasadena has always been recognized as a city with a high degree of volunteerism. People from all sections volunteer in all kinds of organizations to do everything. Pasadena Beautiful is one organization like that.”

Aren’t we fortunate!

—Katie Harris



**Please use the Vroman’s “Gives Back” Program**

Are you participating in the independent bookseller’s “Gives Back” program? If so, please designate The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library as the charity that you wish to benefit. Vroman’s Bookstore will then donate to our organization a portion of the proceeds from your in-store purchases over the course of a year. That sum boosts The Friends’ financial support of programs at the Pasadena Public Library.

Not yet a member of the Vroman’s “Gives Back” program? Enroll at a store register, or sign up online at [vromansbookstore.com](http://vromansbookstore.com). Make every purchase count.

The Library Insider is published quarterly by The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library Pasadena, California  
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For questions regarding membership or our activities and projects, please contact The Friends through our voice mail at 626.744.4680 or email at [friendsppl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsppl@yahoo.com)



# Read to the Rhythm!

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Throughout the summer, adults will have the opportunity to hear jazz performed in four locations: Central Library or the Hastings, La Pintoresca and Allendale branches. On other dates, a person might enjoy a Mozart quartet, blues guitar or “bubble gum” music. For details, check the library website at <http://cityofpasadena.net/library/>.

Teens, or those entering grades 7 – 12, may register online by visiting <http://pasadenasr.evanced.info/> and clicking Teen Summer Reading Challenge 2015. The website explains how to participate and maintain a log of books and activities to qualify for raffled prizes. Drawings will be held weekly. For every five activities completed, a teen will also receive a book (up to five per participant). At summer’s end, a final drawing will reward a grand prize of an electric guitar donated by Capitol Guitars, plus an amplifier and guitar strap.

Teens are invited to enter a song parody contest (winning extra points if the parody is about a book), with entries due by August 8. The first prize is a \$100 gift card. There will also be weekly contests for teens who create book soundtracks to post on Instagram.

Children (ages 12 and younger) may enroll online at <http://pasadenasr.evanced.info/> beneath the Children’s Summer Reading Challenge 2015 tab. A free game board and reading record may be obtained at any of the branches.

Many musical activities are scheduled for this age group. Among them: Craig Newton’s Really Big Music Show, with the performer playing a variety of instruments in appearances at each of the city’s 10 library locations. For details, check the library website at <http://cityofpasadena.net/library/> or pick up a copy of the library’s *Off the Shelf* newsletter.

## Central Library

626.744.4066

285 East Walnut Street  
Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Fri & Sat 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

## Allendale Branch

626.744.7260

1130 South Marengo  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 - 6 pm

## Hastings Branch

626.744.7262

3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.  
Mon - Thurs 10 am - 9 pm  
Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Sun 1 - 5 pm

## Hill Avenue Branch

626.744.7264

55 South Hill Ave.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 9 am - 1 pm

## La Pintoresca Branch

626.744.7268

1355 North Raymond Ave.  
Mon - Sat 9 am - 6 pm

## Lamanda Park Branch

626.744.7266

140 South Altadena Dr.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 pm - 6 pm

## Linda Vista Branch

626.744.7278

1281 Bryant Street  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 9 am - 1 pm

## San Rafael Branch

626.744.7270

1260 Nithsdale Road  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 9 am - 1 pm

## Santa Catalina Branch

626.744.7272

999 E. Washington Blvd.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 - 6 pm

## Villa Parke Branch

626.744.6510

363 E. Villa Street  
Mon - Fri 10 am - 6 pm  
Sat 9 am - 1 pm

## What the Book Clubs Are Reading

. . . at the Hill Avenue Branch

Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (April)

Karen Joy Fowler, *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* (May)

Catherine Ryan Hyde, *When I Found You* (June)

. . . at the Allendale Branch

Anna Quindlen, *Still Life with Bread Crumbs* (April)

John Green, *The Fault in our Stars* (May)

Tracy Chevalier, *Remarkable Creatures* (June)

Christina Baker Kline, *Orphan Train* (July)

# Beer, Brats & Books

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## A Fine Success!



photos by  
Molly  
Kennington



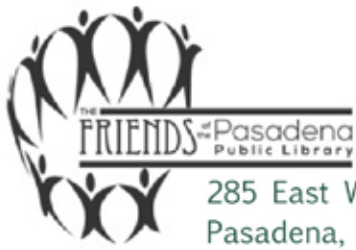
The Friends' fundraiser in Central Library's patios on May 2 drew nearly three times the crowd that attended the inaugural first Beer, Brats & Books in 2013. We thank you! Most of the funds raised will help finance programs for children and teens, but The Friends also support One City, One Story, and we are underwriting more programs for adults, among other requests. Our organization thanks everyone who participated, but none more than Pasadena's Craftsman Brewing Company, Robin's Wood Fire BBQ and the joyous Misplaced Priorities band that played classic rock, along with blues and country music.



from right top clockwise: Mark Nelson and Linh Lu; Misplaced Priorities Band vocalists; Kim Braun and Ryan Scholatiellers; Marge Kountzman and Judy Denenholz; Sarah Jane, Greg Harman and Jim Annes; Jim and Betty Morrison; Marvin Rudnick, Katie Harris, Traute and Gene Gleeson; Henry Ho; Craftsman Brewing founder Mark Jilg.







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Pasadena, CA 91101

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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  
June 13, July 11  
& August 8



Central Library's East Patio  
9a.m. to Noon

To donate books to The Friends' monthly sales to help raise funds for library programs, please 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' book store 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' book store or at the Circulation Desk.

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- Bibliophile ..... \$250
- Collector ..... \$500
- Literary Lion ..... \$1,000+
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