

From the President

It's November, the month we celebrate gratitude. As always, we are grateful for the San Antonio Public Library and for volunteers like you who help it keep operating.



This November, we need to ask a little more from you. First, if you haven't renewed your membership, please do so right now. You can renew online at our website, www.friendsofsapl.org – click on “Become a member” at the top right of the homepage and follow the steps.

If you prefer nonvirtual transactions, you should have received a letter via U.S. Mail asking you to renew. Fill out the form on the enclosed return envelope, enclose a check, and mail it back.

After you renew your membership, invite everyone you know to become a Friend. With the pressure on nonprofits resulting from the COVID pandemic, we need all the Friends *and* friends we can get!

Finally, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we have received a \$5,000 matching grant. All the funds we raise between now and December 1 will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$5,000! Please make a further donation in addition to your membership dues. Any amount will help, because our donor will match it – your gift will be multiplied $\times 2$!

Again, thank you for all you do, and for sticking with us during this pandemic holding pattern. Here's hoping we'll be back in our libraries in person soon. Celebrate safely during the holidays and stay well!

Beth Graham

“A public library is the most democratic thing in the world. What can be found there has undone dictators and tyrants.” – Doris Lessing

2020 Arts & Letters Recipients Announced!

John Costello, Chairman

The Friends of the San Antonio Public Library proudly announce this year's recipients of the 2020 Arts and Letters Awards. Congratulations to **Andrea Sanderson**, **Dr. Tomás Ybarra-Frausto**, and **Terry Ybáñez**. This year's winners represent both the written and spoken word, music, art, and education.



Andrea Sanderson

The 2020 City of San Antonio Poet Laureate, **Andrea Sanderson** impacts San Antonio on several levels through not only her poetry and music, but her commitment to youth. Known onstage as Vocab, Sanderson has been a spoken word artist since 2001. She infuses her work with complex rhyme schemes and inspirational text originating in her gospel and hip hop roots. Encouraged to get books from the library, the young Sanderson discovered words were her calling. In addition to her impact on San Antonio through her poetry and music, Sanderson is committed to youth having established organizations to mentor and foster poetry and writing.

Beginning in the 1970s, **Dr. Tomás Ybarra-Frausto** has been a leader in the area of Chicano art, influencing generations of scholars. His leadership and scholarship span local, national, and international concerns, ranging from promoting the unique architectural style of San Antonio's Westside to developing the Fidecomiso Para La Cultura Mexico-Estados Unidos (The U.S. Mexico Fund for Culture) while at the Rockefeller Foundation. This Fund supports artists and scholars while encouraging reciprocal knowledge-sharing between the two countries. Dr. Ybarra-Frausto has been actively involved with the SAPL donating thousands of volumes to the Latino Collection. The Texana & Genealogy departments have received his collection of personal clippings highlighting the contributions of San Antonio's Chicano community. Beyond donating these valuable works to the Library, Dr. Ybarra-Frausto shares his time and knowledge advising and collaborating with the staff for these collections. This year, the Smithsonian American Art Museum will premiere *¡Printing the Revolution! The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965-Now*, comprised of prints donated by Dr. Ybarra-Frausto.



Dr. Tomás Ybarra-Frausto



Terry Ybanez

In addition to being a noted artist and illustrator, **Terry Ybáñez** has been an educator for over 35 years, a community leader, and an advocate for the arts. Working primarily as a still life artist, her works have been exhibited locally and around the world. Ybáñez has also collaborated with Sandra Cisneros and Carmen Tafolla illustrating children's books. During her career as an art teacher in the public school system, Ybáñez mentored thousands of young artists, broadening their education through tours to Europe. Despite her busy career, she has been a leader in numerous organizations, including the Friends of Mission Library, Mission San José Neighborhood Association, and the Make-n-Take events sponsored by the World Heritage Office. Promoting the arts and artists is also a passion of Ybáñez, serving on the boards of Blue Star, Say Si!, Jump Start Theater, and the City of San Antonio Cultural Arts Board.

Congratulations again to these outstanding citizens for their remarkable contributions!

From the Library Director



Greetings Friends,
I'm very pleased to announce the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) has moved into Phase 3 of its reopening plans to the community effective November 4, 2020. Computer usage by appointment has expanded to Central Library and all branch locations. Contact-Free Pickup

will continue with standardized hours:

- Tuesday 12PM - 7PM
- Wednesday through Saturday 10AM – 5PM

Forest Hills and McCreless Branches, currently undergoing exciting renovations as a part of the 2017–2022 Bond Program, will be operating under a modified Contact-Free Pickup schedule and will not offer computer services until the completion of their renovations in 2021. Wi-Fi service outside 29 locations continues to be available. For more information regarding services and hours, please visit our website at mysapl.org.

We continue to work with City of San Antonio officials, including our Metro Health Department, to determine next steps in our phased reopening plans as we patiently look forward to a full restoration of Library service. In the meantime, we continue to actively serve our community and are pleased to report that current services are being widely used. Since SAPL locations closed in March, digital checkouts have surpassed 1.4 million. Additionally, hundreds of online programs have been produced that have reached more than 24,000 viewers.

SAPL remains committed to supporting our community during COVID-19 including our local students. I am happy to announce SAPL's partnership with local school districts to provide access to digital materials through the Sora App by OverDrive has expanded. As of October, 12 of 15 local ISDs, 95% of local ISD students, as well as a number of private schools in the San Antonio area had joined the service. Through the Sora App, students in participating districts and schools have gained unlimited access of age-specific materials without the need for a SAPL card. To see if your student is in a participating district, visit soraapp.com.

Finally, I want to recognize the unending support of all our dedicated Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL) members. Although the times have presented us many challenges and uncertainties, your support has been invaluable. I would like to extend many thanks and appreciation to each of you for your commitment.

Respectfully,
Ramiro S. Salazar

Help us help the San Antonio Public Library!

Between now and December 1, any donations we receive will be matched, up to a total of **\$5,000!**

You could double the impact of your gift!

Funds will be used to support the 2021 Summer Reading Program and to set up new ways to support the library financially.

To donate
go to our webpage
www.friendsofsapl.org
or mail a check to
Friends of the San Antonio Public Library
P.O. Box 461523
San Antonio, Texas 78246

Donations & Memorials

Sheila Figueroa

In Memory of by _____
Laura Richmond Friends of the San Antonio Public Library

In Honor of by _____
Emily Flores Joana Singh
Karen Wyatt Joana Singh



2020/21 Board Meetings

All meetings start at 2:00

Date	Location
Nov. 22	Zoom
Jan. 24, 2021	Central Library



The Friends, inaugurated March 23, 1964, pro-

mote public use of the San Antonio Public Library and appreciation of its value as a cultural and educational asset to the community and encourage the extension and improvement of its services.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Beth GrahamPresident
Kim Cauthon..... Vice President
Karin PedersenSecretary
Linda Cheatum..... Treasurer
Nancy Gandara Immediate Past Pres

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Barbara Morrow

BOARD MEMBERS

2019–2021 Term:
Elena Brickman • Monica Brite • Pat Peak • Delia Trimble • Betty Walters • Jill Zimmerman

2020–2022 Term:
Marc Anguiano • Julia Castellano-Hoyt • Barbara Chavez • Linda Janney • Pat Mendiola • Napoleon "Eddie" Patino • Veronica Rouse • Mandy Simpson • Ann Springer • Sandra Wilkinson • Sylvia Zamarrappa

SAPLINGS
Managing EditorAlana Woods
Newsletter is published every two months and can also be seen at www.friendsofsapl.org.

Deadlines for submitting articles and photos are February 5, April 5, June 5, August 5, October 5, and December 5.

Submittals should be a simple text or a Word file with photos as large as possible emailed to saplingseditor@gmail.com.

Article contributions for the newsletter are always welcome!

Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Board Meeting

via Zoom • September 20, 2020 • 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by **Karin Pedersen**

President **Beth Graham** called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Secretary **Karin Pedersen** called the roll and reported that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Beth asked for a motion to approve the minutes, as published in the September-October 2020 issue of *SAPLings*. The motion was made by **Sandra Wilkerson**, seconded by **Betty Walters**, and passed without opposition.

President's Report: Beth reviewed recent executive committee, Library Foundation, and Library Board of Trustees meetings. Reporting for Membership Secretary **Barbara Morrow**, she stated that total membership stood at 689 members as of the meeting date, but that the 2021 membership drive was ready to kick off.

Beth noted that fundraising has been hard for all nonprofits, and with the BookCellar and libraries closed due to COVID, the Friends' main revenue stream was cut off. However, an anonymous donor has offered to match all donations up to a total of \$5,000. The fundraiser will run October 1 through December 1, 2020. All members are asked to invite friends, family members, and co-workers to join the Friends, and to make a donation. The majority of funds raised will be donated to the library to support Summer Reading 2021, with the balance being used to research and start up online book sales to increase fundraising.

Treasurer's Report: **Linda Cheatum** reported that there has been very little activity among the branches due to closures. Minimal spending has occurred, with only 11

branches showing any recent activity. It was determined to table approval of the reports, as they were not sent out prior to the meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

Library Board of Trustees: **Juspreet Kaur** reported that the next Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, at 4:30 p.m., and would be held via video conference only. The agenda for that meeting included election of officers. She also conveyed the thanks of the Library Board for the Friends' ongoing support.

Library Administration: Assistant Library Director for Public Service **Dale McNeill** reported that the FY 2020–2021 budget had been passed by City Council. He noted that, in a year when funds were short, the library had fared relatively well. Dale gave an overview of progress on 2017 SAPL bond projects and reminded the meeting that more information was available at <https://guides.mysapl.org/bond2017>. Dale gave the meeting an overview of the Over-Drive Sora app program, which gives San Antonio students access to the library's online resources without the need for a library card, allowing students to sign in with their school credentials.

Library Foundation: Executive Director **Amy Hone** reported that the Foundation has been focusing on fundraising, with result slightly behind where they were last year. She said that the Foundation was targeting grants and had applied for \$2.5 million in grant funds. She noted that the Foundation had raised

\$135,000 to help the library meet the cost of additional digital resources. Amy advised that the organization's annual report had been completed and would be distributed soon. She reported that, because of the pandemic, the 2020 Catrina Ball had been changed to a virtual event, the Catrina No Ball at All, with door prizes for donations and a week-long online auction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts & Letters: Chair **John Costello** reported that although the 2020 slate of nominees was smaller, it was an outstanding group. The 2020 recipients are San Antonio Poet Laureate **Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson**, artist and teacher **Terry Ybáñez**, and writer/educator **Tomás Ybarra-Frausto**. Because of COVID, no award ceremony will be held in 2020; recipients will receive a plaque, a gift box, and a yard sign recognizing their honor.

Nominating Committee: **Nancy Gandara** reported for Chair **Diane Duesterhoeft**, noting that the committee had met and would present a slate of officers and new board members on schedule.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider request from Johnston Branch Library to approve expenditure of Branch Friends funds through December 31, 2020: expenditures had been approved by the branch Friends group before it was disbanded and included \$587.86 to purchase shelving from Home Depot. **Nancy Gandara** moved

approval of the motion and **Barbara Chavez** seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

Consider revisions to the FOSAPL 2020 budget, as recommended by the executive committee: President **Beth Graham** noted that the executive committee had revised the 2020 budget to reflect lower revenues. **Pat Peak** moved to approve the revised budget as presented, **Linda Janney** seconded, and the motion passed without opposition.

Announcements

- September is Library Card Sign-up Month
- Invite a family member, friend, or co-worker to join the Friends!
- Early voting begins October 13. If your branch is a polling location check with them to be sure their Friends membership information is prominently displayed and that they have enough membership envelopes.

Beth asked for a motion to adjourn. **Jill Zimmerman** made the motion, **Nancy Gandara** seconded, and it passed without opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

The Branch Leaves and other news can be found at <http://www.friendsofsapl.org/uploads/1/4/0/4/14045832/2020nov-dec.pdf>

Dues Are Due

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so now. You can renew online at our website, friendsofsapl.org. Click on "Become a member" at the top right of the homepage and follow the steps.



Brook Hollow

Like many other branches in the San Antonio Public Library system, the Brook Hollow Branch has been fairly quiet. Although the Branch can't open its doors, the staff has managed to find creative ways to interact with the community it serves. The Brook Hollow Friends have helped fund "Brook Hollow Maker Kits." These are open-ended process art kits for ages 3–12. As of mid-September, staff members had given out 175 kits. There were two types of kits: one was a sculpture building challenge and the other was tissue paper art. The Children's Librarian **Jasmin Salinas** plans to distribute a different kit each month until the end of the year. Patrons are advised of the kits by messages placed outside the entrance, and they often pick up kits when they stop at the Library to pick up the books, CDs, and DVDs that they have requested.

The staff is considering a family game night kit for the Thanksgiving break. They are brainstorming about the materials to include in the kits, and have advised the Friends that they will communicate their "wish list" once they have created it. The kits will likely contain small puzzles and decks of cards. The staff is also discussing the creation of some kind of community scavenger hunt. This project is a work in progress, and details will be shared with the Friends once they are known.

The Brook Hollow Friends have not held a meeting since January 2020; the next meeting

was scheduled for April, but libraries were closed by that time. Fortunately, during the January 2020 meeting, the Friends approved \$1,100 worth of funds for the Branch's future purchases, ensuring that Brook Hollow has adequate funding for its current activities. Our Annual Appreciation Dinner was canceled as was our Annual Book Sale. Our Treasurer **Beth Crabb** has stayed on top of our finances and prepared a very detailed report concerning our financial condition. The Annual Donation Plan and the Treasurer's Report were emailed to all BH Friends on October 7. We all look forward to the reopening of the San Antonio Public Library system, including all its branches. The Brook Hollow Friends will schedule a meeting once the Library has reopened, possibly on the second Saturday following the reopening.

Pat Finley

Encino

Thanks to Councilman **John Courage**, a playground and garden will be built behind the Encino Library. On October 9, the Encino Playground Committee met with Councilman **Courage**; **Kathy Donellan**, Assistant Director for Public Service of the San Antonio Public Library; **Rodney Dzuik**, Public Works; **Mark Wittlinger**, Project Manager; **Milee Ray**, District 9 Office; and **Stephen Lucke** from Gardopia to discuss the plans for the playground and garden. Initial plans include two play areas, swings, ADA accessible play equipment, rubberized playground surface, drinking fountain, full shade structure, benches, trash cans, five adult exercise equipment stations, and a small food forest. There will be a virtual meeting of stakeholders in late October.

The Friends of the Encino Library met virtually on Octo-

ber 26. The Encino Library Donation Plan was approved. Since Encino Treasurer **Barbara Morrow** is standing for the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Treasurer, **Glenna Seyfer** agreed to take over as Encino Treasurer.

The Encino Officers are hosting a membership contest. All new and returning members who are on the 2021 roster by November 23 will be entered into a drawing for gift cards and a grand prize of a movie night basket.

Encino Library will open for computer use by appointment only on November 4.

Carla Pomager

Igo

Here we are finally in November. This has been a very unique year. There have been so many trying times for each and every one of us. My hope is that the New Year will rid us of the pandemic.

In order to stay safe and healthy, there have been next to no activities at the library. With the New Year fast approaching, I hope that you and your family stay safe and healthy into the New Year. I wish peace and prosperity to all while love and kindness remains all around us. Stay safe and be well.

Al Rakus

Las Palmas

Monthly proceeds from the Las Palmas Friends primary fundraiser, the Book Cart, stopped when the Library closed in March. Our LP Friends group is remaining positive and still planning to fund supplemental programs for the 2021 Summer Reading Program. So, in addition to new and renewal memberships, we're contacting businesses and organizations in the area to request donations.

As in past years, the holiday season gives Friends the opportunity to plan a Staff Appreciation event. Details will be coordinated with the Library Manager José **Ruiz-Alvarez** to make it special, while complying with all current restrictions. Happy holidays, all!

Delia Ramirez Trimble

Maverick

The Maverick Friends want to wish you all happy holidays! We hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and well.

As we near the end of the year and reflect on all that 2020 brought, we're reminded that through the challenges and uncertainty also rose hope, compassion, and community.

Today, we want to pause to take stock of all that we are grateful for. While our group hasn't had the opportunity to come together these past few months, it has always been a treat to hear from and stay connected to our fellow Friends or staff.

We are so thankful for all of our members who do so much to help us in our mission to support and advocate for the library. This month, we wanted to highlight two of our Friends who have been there for our group since the beginning – **Rosalie Klepac** and **Rick Meuse**.

Roe has been hard at work for longer than many and was at our organization's first meeting. Since then, she has held many roles during that time – including vice president, president, and secretary. Her infectious attitude and outlook help bring us all together no matter the task. From sending cards on behalf of the Friends to taking the minutes, Roe is not only the voice of our group but really the heart.

Branch Leaves cont on p 5.

Branch Leaves, from p 4.

As for Rick, he's always there to keep us laughing. Another long-time member, we want to give him a shout out for the crucial role he plays in helping us with our book sales. Always the first one to arrive, he helps us sort, organize and set up our donations. Never one to miss a meeting, Rick also helps drive us in making decisions while always being there to help support not only the group at large but each and every individual member in any way he can.

Thank you both for all that you do and have done – this and so much more!

While we want to continue to highlight different members in the future for their dedication and efforts, we hope everyone knows we couldn't do it without the support, friendship and backing of the group.

We wish you all the best as we close out this year. Be well, friends!

Amanda Dickinson

Schaefer

The Schaefer Friends continues to hold bi-monthly Zoom meetings. We are excited to see staff returning to the library. During early voting, the branch staff continued to keep the guidelines in place regarding COVID-19. Our branch is still participating in no-contact pickup. Follow and like our new page on Facebook by searching "Friends of Schaefer Branch Library".

The trail project is almost complete. Landscaping will begin shortly, and this will add a wonderful walking path for our community and library attendees.

Stay safe and healthy!

Liz Alves

San Antonio Public Library has Online Programming!

From Chair Yoga to Storytime to Cooking Classes or San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) famed Pooch Parade, the Library has many fun and interactive online programs all ages can enjoy.

With a variety of ongoing programs as well as special events, SAPL is happy to provide patrons with plenty of opportunities to join other members of the community for online versions of their favorite SAPL programming.

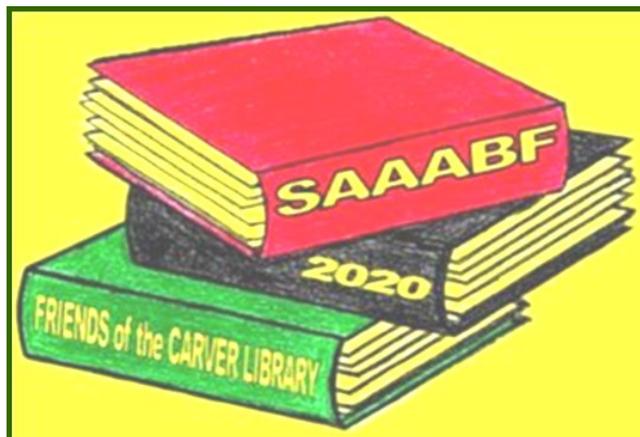
For details on SAPL's online events, call 210-207-2500 or visit mysapl.org/events.



SAPL is bringing unlimited access to San Antonio students!

Have you heard about the Sora app by Overdrive? San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) and OverDrive, SAPL's eBook provider, have joined forces to ensure that area students have more access to resources than ever before. Students at participating schools now have complete access to age-appropriate items in SAPL's Digital Collection, whether or not they have a SAPL card. All students need are their school credentials to unlock the vast selection of digital material providing by SAPL.

To see if your student's school is eligible, visit soraapp.com.



The Friends of Carver Library is requesting sponsors for the 2nd Annual San Antonio African American Book Festival!

Is your business or organization interested in being an official sponsor for the 2nd Annual San Antonio African American Book Festival?

Due to the social distancing requirements of COVID, this year's event will be presented virtually on February 20, 2021. In return for your generous donation, we will run your commercial ad during the event, list you as an official sponsor in the promotion of the event and share your information with our community via social media.

The cost of sponsorship is \$150, which will be collected via Square invoice is due no later than December 31, 2020. The Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) is a non-profit organization and 501c3 Donation Receipts will be provided upon request for tax purposes.

If you would like to be a 2nd Annual San Antonio African American Book Festival sponsor, please click the following link to complete the Sponsorship form (<https://form.jotform.com/201926997044161>) to provide the required information:

- Your business/organization name
- Your official logo (please provide in PDF or JPEG image)
- Your contact information (including links to website or social media page)
- A brief description of your products/services (business) or mission/purpose (organization)

Once your ad has been approved, a Square invoice will be emailed to the contact person listed on your Sponsorship Form.

If you have any questions, please email The Friends of Carver Library at carverfriends@gmail.com.

Thank You for your support!



P.O. Box 461523
San Antonio, Texas 78246

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
San Antonio, Texas
Permit No. 865

Changes at the BookCellar

Beth Graham, FOSAPL President

If you have read the minutes of the September 20 meeting, you will have seen that the Friends Board approved an updated 2020 budget recognizing reduced revenues. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting library closures, the citywide Friends and branch Friends groups have been unable to raise funds through our usual method, book sales (the BookCellar at the Central Library and book carts/large sales at the branches.)

When the libraries were closed in March, most people anticipated that it would be for a short time – a few months at the most. In appre-

ciation of her hard work and dedication, and so that the BookCellar would be ready to return to operation at short notice, the Board approved keeping the store manager on salary. Unfortunately, the closure lasted longer than anticipated (and it still continues), and plans had to change. The revised 2020 budget included a provision to end the BookCellar manager salary as of September 30. I personally informed manager **Andrea Mason** and BookCellar Committee Chair **Cindy Conley** by phone as soon as possible. As you might expect, both were gracious and understanding. Cindy has also indi-

cated that she is resigning as BookCellar Committee Chair.

Cindy, Andrea, and the volunteers were an awesome team, keeping the BookCellar running smoothly through the Central Library Garage parking predicament, a reduction in the number of volunteers, an overloaded shipping dock, and more. We appreciate their hard work more than we can say, and they will be missed. Thank you, Andrea and Cindy!

What's in store for the BookCellar? Well, first, we have ordered a protective screen for the service desk to help keep volunteers safe when we are able to reopen.

Andrea is writing a manager's handbook to share her experience and insights. We will need a new BookCellar Committee Chair.

Next, we hope to find ways to grow the BookCellar's market and open this best-kept San Antonio secret up to the online community. This will allow us to increase revenue and, we hope, create a cushion to protect our bank balance in case of future unseen circumstances.

Most of all, we plan to continue supporting the San Antonio Public Library. All of you are essential to our mission, and we look forward to working with you.