

SAPLings

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume 33, Number 5



www.friendsofsapl.org
<https://www.facebook.com/FOSAPL/>

September–October 2021

From the President

Dear Friends,

Summer with SAPL was a great success with our patrons, and it certainly made those warm days much more enjoyable. Everyone is thrilled that our libraries are now open six days a week.



This summer also allowed the Friends to meet in person for the first time in more than a year! Seeing all our smiling faces in one room was fantastic. Congratulations to our branches that have started book sales.

Speaking of book sales, an enormous thank you to **Tom Bugg** and the magnificent job he's done with our online sales. Tom accepted the challenge of creating an online system from scratch and has moved the BookCellar into the 21st century. While Tom is moving on to law school at SMU, his ingenuity and hard work will continue under the leadership of the new manager of the BookCellar.

In July, the Friends hired **Sue Hall** as the new manager of the BookCellar, and we are ecstatic to have someone with her background joining us. We're still working with the library staff for the reopening date of the BookCellar.

Thanks to all our members and volunteers for your continued support as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Stay safe and keep reading!

John Costello

National Library Card Signup Month!

Libraries provide us with opportunities to discover and access a world of endless possibilities! Your library card is not just a rectangular piece of plastic. It empowers you to experience new stories, access helpful information, and unlock valuable resources. Interested in helping us reach new users during National Library Card Signup month? Visit this link and share with anyone interested mysapl.org/

FRIENDS OF THE SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Arts & Letters Awards

CALL for NOMINATIONS

[DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 7, 2021]

Honor and Celebrate
A San Antonio Artist,
Musician or Performer
By Submitting
Your Nomination Here:
<https://bit.ly/3ef0GP6>

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Schaefer Trail

The Schaefer Branch Library Trail is the latest addition to Schaefer Branch Library located on San Antonio's far east side. This location provides community members with opportunities to improve their quality of life through literacy, programming, and now fitness with the addition of the Schaefer Branch Library Trail.

This brisk, 830-foot-long pet friendly trail is perfect for a nice stroll either before or after visiting the Library. For a virtual tour of this modern branch library and new trail, watch our YouTube video <https://youtu.be/0H5P5uAUgrE>.

"Browse" the titles currently for sale in the Friends' store on Amazon (tinyurl.com/FOSAPLBookCellar/)!

From the Library Director



Greetings Friends,

With our eventful summer months coming to a close, I'm delighted to share San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) plans for the Fall, as well as other exciting Library news.

As students and teachers head back to school, there's no better time for them to discover all the valuable resources offered at the Library than during National Library Card Signup Month in September. Each year, libraries across the country remind the community of the importance of libraries and their unique role in our society. Throughout the month, we're encouraging members of the community who don't yet have a library card to visit our website or their favorite SAPL branch to sign up and unlock the various benefits the Library has to offer! If you're interested in helping us reach new users, visit this link and share with anyone interested mysapl.org/cardsignup/

Another observance we're looking forward to, Hispanic Heritage Month, will take place September 15 through October 15. SAPL will be hosting a variety of special programs in celebration of the rich Hispanic culture and the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans in San Antonio and our country.

I'm also pleased to announce San Antonio Public Library Foundation's (SAPLF) annual Catrina Ball is back this year, and I'm honored to have been selected as Catrin for the event. This year's ball will benefit the SAPL Texana & Genealogy Department. To find out more about SAPLF's annual event and how to donate or purchase tickets, visit <https://www.saplf.org/events/Catrina-ball/>.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued dedication. Though we've been presented with many challenges over the past year and a half, you've remained a constant support to the Library. I wish each of you the best as we look forward to the remainder of this year with excitement as we gradually return toward normalcy.

Respectfully,

Ramiro S. Salazar

Donations & Memorials

Sheila Figueroa

Donation

Don and Julia Hoyt

Welcome, Sue Hall!

Nancy Gandara



What do you do after you've had two careers? Combine your skills and start a third one, of course! **Sue Hall**, whose title is now FOSAPL BookCellar/Online Sales Manager, began her "first career" after college as a department store buyer, store manager, and merchandiser. That was fun for fourteen years, but, after acquiring her Master's in Library Science at Texas Women's University, she embarked on a "second career" as an elementary school librarian and educator. When asked why she decided to take on the challenges of managing the BookCellar, she said "My two careers each gave me the chance to analyze inventory, maximize sales (or circulations), and meet the needs of the customer. I am passionate about literacy and am a devoted bibliophile!"

Those interests started early: "Libraries and books fueled the milestones of my life as I grew up in San Antonio. When I was young, my mother would take us to the Main Library on Market Street. When the Tobin (Oakwell) Library opened, my sisters and I would ride our bikes to check out some new and exciting books. As I began to drive, I would head over to Landa Library. When I had children, we were at the Central Library every week. Each location offered excitement and escape and fueled our imagination."

In addition to managing the bookstore, Sue will be responsible for selecting titles from donated items and the current BookCellar stock to be marketed online, through accounts with Amazon, eBay, and ABE Books. The Friends' recent experience with online book sales showed that the average price of a book sold through our online store was more than \$17, so it is profitable for a carefully chosen collection.

Although neither the Central Library nor the BookCellar are currently open for public use, as Sue said, "This is an exciting time to be working with so many dedicated volunteers. We are organizing and planning for the great day when we can open back up and offer book sales." If you are interested in learning more about volunteering in the BookCellar (e.g., training, shifts, and requirements), contact **Sue Hall** via fosaplbkclrmanager@gmail.com, and ask if she has found many of her favorite books in the BookCellar!



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

John Costello President
Nancy Gandara Vice President
Karin Pedersen Secretary
Barbara Morrow Treasurer
Beth Graham Immediate Past Pres

MEMBERSHIP

SECRETARY Danica Lauren

BOARD MEMBERS

2020–2022 Term:

Marcie Anguiano • Julia Castellano-Hoyt • Barbara Chavez • Linda Janney • Pat Mendiola • Napoleon "Eddie" Patino • Veronica Rouse • Mandy Simpson • Ann Springer • Sandra Wilkinson • Sylvia Zamarripa

2021–2023 Term:

Elena Brickman • Monica Brite • Don Castellano-Hoyt • Kim Cauthon • Linda Cheatum • Tony Moore • Betty Walters • Julia Ybarra • Jill Zimmerman

SAPLINGS

Managing Editor Alana 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 Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 25, 2021 • 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by **Karin Pedersen**

Call to Order: **John Costello**, President, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and noted that it was a pleasure to meet in person.

Roll Call: **Karin Pedersen**, Secretary. A quorum was present.

In attendance: **John Costello, Nancy Gandara, Barbara Morrow, Karin Pedersen, Ann Springer, Barbara Chavez, Betty Walters, Don Castellano-Hoyt, Jill Zimmerman, Julia Castellano-Hoyt, Kim Cauthon, Linda Cheatum, Mandi Simpson, Marcie Anguiano, Eddie Patino, and Sandra Wilkinson.**

Approval of Minutes as printed in *SAPLings* July–August 2021 issue: A motion to approve was presented by **Julia Castellano-Hoyt** and was seconded by **Eddie Patino**. All present were for the motion with none opposed.

President's Report: **John Costello** reported that he had attended an excellent and thought-provoking “board builder” event that was sponsored by the Library Foundation. He announced that the Friends are seeking persons interested in serving on the 2022 Budget committee, so contact him if interested. John called on **Nancy Gandara** to provide the online sales update: **Tom Bugg** is finishing his contract as online book sales manager. He has been utilizing Amazon, and has listed 431, with 70+ more to be listed before the end of July. Since Mid-March, 90 books have been sold. After account fees/shipping supplies cost, net is currently \$1,568. Tom reported that, while this amount is not overwhelming, it clearly indicates certain books are more valuable online than at the BookCellar. The average

profit has been \$17.42 per book.

A question regarding the possible feasibility of the individual branches getting involved in online book sales by having their own items listed for sale, with the proceeds going back into the specific branch, was broached. Currently, it is not a feasible option. And it is asked that the individual branch groups do NOT set up their own online book sales.

Danica Lauren is the new Membership Secretary. We are excited to have her join.

The recently hired BookCellar Manager was introduced. **Sue Hall** is a native to San Antonio, and she noted that the library has been huge to her and family. She was a retail store buyer for 15 years and an elementary grade school librarian for 20 years.

President Costello expressed his appreciation for the work that **Linda Cheatum** and the other BookCellar volunteers are doing to clean up and reorganize BookCellar space.

Treasurer's Report: was reviewed by **Barbara Morrow** with a note that expenses are currently more than income.

Liaison Reports

Board of Trustees was represented by **Juspreet Kaur**, who provided a quick update of tasks that the Board of Trustees is working on. Principally the 2022 fiscal year budget and the next bond cycle – no federal stimulus money was directly given to the library, but they did receive a grant to expand Wi-Fi so that it reaches into the parking lot of every library facility.

San Antonio Public Library Foundation: **John Costello** presented the report.

Library Administration report was presented by **Dale McNeill**. The Administration is looking forward to the branches reopening on Mondays.

The **Central Branch** is not fully open because 80 employees who work for the neighborhood housing resources are using the public spaces. Upcoming construction will include three large capital projects from last bond:

1. Renovate first floor to include changes to circulation desk and third floor children's area by completely transforming the space and putting in a family resource center. There are also much needed changes to public restrooms. Construction on this will start this fall, pending the contract being signed.
2. The project will include renovations to the sixth floor that will convert almost all of that floor to Texas history and special collections.
3. Repainting the exterior of the building is planned, although the shape and size of building makes this complicated.

The **Forest Hills Branch** is still closed. The bond project finished and included over \$1 million in work. SNOVID, a burst pipe, and two inches of water caused >\$1 million in damages. Some money was received from insurance, FEMA, and capital budget, but the repairs and the funds are not quite there yet. Starting July 29, hold items can be picked up at the Gilbert Garza community center.

The **McCreless Branch** project has been slower than expected due to damage to some structural columns. The

building won't collapse but the columns need to be repaired before the completion of project. The fixes are within the budget.

The **Memorial Branch** project has experienced no delays, and all is moving along nicely. It is going to be a beautiful project when finished. The architects on this project have a very distinctive style.

The **Las Palmas** project is pending construction but won't be started until the Memorial Branch is reopened.

Committee Reports

Financial Records Review: **Linda Cheatum** will have more information at the next meeting.

Arts & Letters: **Marcie Anguiano** announced the event will be held Nov. 6 at the Mission Branch with an inside and outside portion from 1–3 p.m. There will also be a new category, Rising Star/Young Writer. The committee has developed a partnership with local businesses. Nominations close Nov. 2.

Old Business

Request approval of Arts & Letters Awards Committee members. The motion to accept was presented by **Don Castellano-Hoyt** and seconded by **Eddie Patino** with all in favor and none opposed.

New Business

There was no New Business. **John Costello** conveyed his thanks to **Sandra Wilkinson** and Mission Friends for providing refreshments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.



Brook Hollow

Brook Hollow is happy to welcome **Jeannette Davies** as the new Branch Manager, as of July 24. When former Branch Manager **Heidi Novotny** accepted a position at Central Library downtown, Teen Librarian **Julia Pouliot** stepped up and served as the Interim Manager until the arrival of Jeannette. Thank you both, Heidi and Julia, for all you have done for the Brook Hollow Branch Library and the Brook Hollow Friends.

Jeannette enjoys cooking and has a butcher block rolling table with storage room for cooking implements. She plans to host a noon cooking show in the future (“Noon Time Helping”) using the virtual programming equipment recently purchased with Friends’ funds. The virtual programming equipment has already been used for two book clubs (hosted by **Marco De Leon**), with members of the book clubs participating in person and virtually.

Brook Hollow is usually full of children and activities in summer months, but 2021 continues the pattern established in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. There are fewer patrons in the Library, but the furniture has returned and foot traffic is picking up.

There are no plans to have special programs such as Spikey Mikey, Dinosaur George, or Happy Tails at Brook Hollow this year. Children’s Librarian **Jasmin Salinas** had planned to organize an outdoor scavenger hunt, but it was determined that the pandemic

made that activity too risky. Instead, the Brook Hollow staff came up with other interesting and exciting options in the form of Take Home Kits using supplies purchased by the Friends. There are five different kits, including Bag #3, “design a robot to help you do your favorite activity” using the items in the bag as well as basic crafting supplies, such as paper, tape, glue, etc. Mystery Bag #2 directs the child to “use the supplies to make a sculpture that reaches 12 inches high and stands on its own.” The kits are designed for children ranging in age from 3 to 12 years old. The Library has received positive feedback from parents that both the children and the parents have enjoyed the kits.

The Brook Hollow Friends recently purchased a table and chair to be used with an AWE computer in the children’s section. This computer has a touch screen and has been preloaded with games to improve a child’s literacy.

The Nintendo Switch game has been purchased and received but is not yet in use. The Friends are in the process of purchasing craft supplies for the teens (including modeling clay, wooden coasters and beads, a sewing kit, and snacks!), equipment to make play dough (a large pot and spatulas), and items for the staff, including a projector bag, cushions for the kitchen chairs, and a white board desktop computer pad (to reduce the need for sticky notes).

Last (but definitely not least as far as the staff is concerned!) the Friends purchased two Summer Reading t-shirts for each employee – they’re very colorful!

The Brook Hollow Friends will hold their next quarterly meeting on Saturday, December 4, at 11 a.m. We anticipate that this meeting will be con-

ducted in the Pat & Neal Bjornson Meeting Room in the Brook Hollow Library. In accordance with our Bylaws we will hold elections for new officers of the Brook Hollow Friends.

The bylaws state: “Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the members present at the December meeting, and shall serve for a term of two (2) complete business years. Elections for new officers will be held in December of odd years and officers’ terms shall begin on January 1 of even years, unless otherwise stipulated at the time the election is held. Officers are eligible to serve additional terms, without limit.”

Pat Finley

Encino

The Friends of Encino Branch Library met via Zoom on July 25 and voted to hold the next book sale on Oct. 9.

Encino Friends continue to support the branch’s programming both in person and with kits available at the drive through. The Friends provided additional gift cards to support the programming. In-person programming for adults started July 1 when **Ann Laird** hosted a well-attended painting program.

In-person programming for teens started the week of Aug. 16, and part time Librarian I **Katy Dillard** will facilitate Teen Time while Encino awaits a teen librarian.

In-person programming for children has not yet been cleared for approval by the administration. Children’s Librarian **Lea Ann McDonald** will do some programs outside on the patio in the month of September but no children’s programs inside of the branch have been approved at this time.

The Encino Library playground promoted by the Friends has been delayed due

to the disruption to supply lines and labor for construction. Completion should be in early calendar year 2022.

Carla Pomager

Igo

The Friends of the John Igo Library had scheduled a book sale in August of this year. However, there was a scheduling conflict and we were not able to have the book sale. The new book sale date is Sept. 17 and 18. We look forward to seeing you at our first book sale since Covid began.

For any future events, please check the Igo Library website and the information board in the library.

Al Rakus

Las Palmas

This summer, as a supplement to the puzzles Friends provided for the children and having to be creative, there was also a treasure chest where they could “discover” some real prizes.

The Friends approved a fundraiser and purchased canvas bags with a Friends of the Las Palmas Library logo designed by a staff member on them. The bags were first presented by our Teen Friend **Emerald Alaniz**, (for a donation of \$5 each) at the back-to-school event sponsored by District 5 Councilwoman **Teri Castillo** at the Library Aug. 7. There were also free books that were donated to Friends for the children.

We have not received information when the planned bond renovation of the Las Palmas Library will start, so it looks like there will be an opportunity for us to work with the librarians to assure a good Halloween/Día de Los Muertos community celebration in late October.

Delia Ramirez Trimble

Branch Leaves cont on p 5.

McCreless

McCreless Friends are excited to see the renovations at our branch. Our next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 13. NOTE: It will start at 4 p.m. We hope to be able to meet in the library's meeting room. If that is not possible, a Zoom link will be distributed. Officer elections will be held at the December meeting, and members are sought to run for offices.

Treasurer **Mary Gallagher** reports the current balance for the McCreless Friends' account is \$2,851.64. The increase is due to a donation & memberships. The Friends funded crafts projects for the adult and teen programs. Branch Manager **Emerson Stanley** reports item holds, pick-ups, and computer use are available, and patrons have been bringing their own devices and using the library as a cooling center. Public service is only occurring in the meeting room during limited hours, but each day sees around 5–10 people utilizing computer access and printing.

Please join us Sept. 13 at 4 p.m.!

Jill Zimmerman

Memorial

The Memorial Amigos held their quarterly meeting via Zoom on Sunday, July 11. Since the Memorial Library building is closed for renovation, staff are providing services from the Literacy Bus parked in the library parking lot. Because there is no water service available on the property at the moment, the Amigos donated an HEB gift card for the staff to purchase ice and bottled water. The fourth-quarter meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 11, at 3:30 pm, via Zoom.

Diane Duesterhoeft

Schaefer

The Friends of the Schaefer Branch Library have been busy as can be during this wonderfully hot summer! We have continued to meet on Zoom and will do so for the remainder of 2021. A few Friends gathered donations for our book cart sales. We have some great inventory! Celebrating social distance style – outside – we enjoyed the grand opening day for the beautiful Schaefer Trail on July 21. The large Connect 4, Jenga, and Cornhole purchased by the Friends were thoroughly enjoyed.

Schaefer Manager **Jorge Chávez** moved to Semmes in August. The Friends will miss him greatly, he is truly the *creme de la creme*. Mr. Chávez was presented with a commemorative plaque and card from the Friends before his departure.

Veronica Rouse

Texana/Genealogy

Calling all Texana/ Genealogy Supporters

*The Texana/Genealogy
Department needs your assistance.*

Since the Public Library's opening in 1903, it has been collecting and making available to its citizens materials on Texas' history and culture, as well as genealogy.

While emphasis is on San Antonio and Texas, materials in all formats (book, map, microform, serial, etc.) the genealogy collection covers the entire United States, Mexico, and Canada. Archival files of local individuals, events, organizations, businesses, theaters, newspapers, and more are available. There are also special book collections primarily documenting the 17th,

18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, with some items predating those.

Texana/Genealogy receives its funding from the City and Bexar County through the annual Library budget. The Friends of Texana/Genealogy provide additional financial support and volunteers that assist staff with various projects.

During the next couple of years the Department will be renovated thanks to a bond issue and gifts to the SAPL Foundation. It will take up the Central Library's entire sixth floor providing a new look and more efficient service.

Now for your assistance in this process. In late September or early October the Friends of Texana/Genealogy will call a meeting to elect new officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We need individuals to step forward to fill these positions. To volunteer for these positions please contact Texana/Genealogy at 210-207-2500 or genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Faulkner

Thousand Oaks

Ginger Hobbs, THO Friends member and library volunteer, has been maintaining our Book Nook whenever possible during the pandemic. We were able to schedule the meeting room for a long-awaited Friends meeting Aug. 19. Everyone brought their own lunch, and we worked on plans for future meetings and a book sale.

The Arts and Letters committee is looking for nominations for this year's awards, scheduled for Nov 6. Check the FOSAPL website (friendsofsapl.org) for details for submitting nominations for

this year's awards. Art, music, photography, literature, poetry, dance, and film are all genres to be considered. A rising star/young writer category has been added this year for a nominee under 21.

Pat Peak

Tobin Oakwell

The Tobin Oakwell Friends Board met in August to discuss how to support our Library during these challenging times. We are actively seeking new Board members who are enthusiastic about getting involved with our Tobin Oakwell Branch Friends. If you are interested, please email TobinFriends@gmail.com.

We are thankful that Tobin Oakwell Library is at 100% capacity for browsing and computer usage. The library was very active this summer with the Summer Reading Program, and with "take and make" crafts for all ages. The Tobin Oakwell Friends supplied funds for the die-cut craft supplies. Tobin Oakwell Friends has also funded updated interior wall signage for all genres, in brightly colored, large lettering.

At this time, we are not planning a fall book sale and are not taking book donations. We continue to sell used books through the Book Nook, our wall-mounted shelving in the foyer. One hundred percent of the funds raised by our Tobin Oakwell Friends through The Book Nook go to support Tobin Oakwell Library.

Alethea Bugg



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Monday Added to Library Schedule

Effective August 16, San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) added Monday to its service schedule. The schedule for Mondays will be from 12 to 8 p.m. This service schedule change will take effect at most library branches, except for select locations with adjusted services due to building improvement or other projects.

With the addition of Mondays, SAPL locations will be open 6 days a week. For details on services at each library location, please visit: mysapl.org/CurrentServices.

Updated Library Hours:

- Monday and Tuesday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information regarding current services, visit mysapl.org/currentservices.

Library staff is available by phone at 210-207-2500 or by chat at ask.mysapl.org.

Dear Friends of the San Antonio Public Library,

June was a successful month for online sales with 28 books sold. July was a great end to the summer; it was our highest grossing individual month with 34 books sold. For the period of my contract, late March through July, we sold a total of 121 books, which grossed \$2,479.01.

When the costs of operation [i.e. my contract of \$2,000, the costs of Amazon account fees of \$200 for five months, and packing materials, about \$92] are subtracted, a total profit of \$187 was realized.

The online books sold for an average of \$20.48 per book.

As I have probably said before, I believe that the online BookCellar can continue to be a good source of supplemental income for the physical BookCellar by offering rare and sought-after books to a wider buying audience who would therefore be willing to pay significantly more per book, albeit at an inconsistent rate.

I want to thank you all again for giving me the opportunity to work on the online BookCellar this summer. I had a lot of fun and found some very cool books. I wish you all the best of luck with continuing the online BookCellar and hope that it proves very successful.

Sincerely,
Tom Bugg