



From the President

Dear Friends,

Spring has been a busy time for the Friends and one of celebration for all library lovers with the reopening of the Central Library. It was thrilling to see so many happy people enjoying all that the newly renovated Central Library offers. Especially gratifying was the excitement of the children and the twinkle in their eyes as they turned every corner.



In March, the Friends' leadership met with **Martin Gómez** and his team regarding the future partnership between the Friends and the Library. Joining the directors of the Friends, many branch officers attended the workshop to discuss the relationship between our organizations while identifying areas of growth and challenges. The discussions were illuminating and thought provoking. Thank you to everyone who attended and for your candor and honesty during the exercises. The goal is to have this project wrapped up in early May.

Happy reading!

John Costello

FOSAPL & SAPL Partnership Project Update

MJ Gómez Associates

We were pleased to be invited to the recent FOSAPL Board meeting on March 26. It was wonderful to meet many of you in person last month at the Westfall Library!

At the meeting, we shared the results from the activities we have completed.

Here's what we've learned so far. Library managers and Friends agree that the FOSAPL is an important part of SAPL. Local library staff and volunteers reported that the working partnership between the two organizations is strongest at the local branch level. Library staff rely on and appreciate the flexibility that funds raised by the Friends can be used to support programming and the purchase of supplies (such as those used for arts & crafts programs) and small equipment. Both groups stated that they wish that the process for spending the money could be streamlined.

Library managers appreciate that the Friends provide insight into local community issues and greater local visibility for the SAPL. Both also agree that the Friends serve as an important conduit to the local community for Library administration.

During the Board meeting, attendees broke into small groups and were asked to prioritize issues that impact the relationship (positively or negatively) between the Friends and SAPL. Groups identified the following issues that deserve to be worked on further: communication, promotion/publicity, staff engagement, and volunteer recruitment (including succession planning).

My team and I are now in the process of interviewing a handful of outside Friends groups and a San Antonio-based nonprofit to help us learn more about their structure, operations, and relationship with the organizations they support. We are scheduled to return to San Antonio in early May to present our preliminary recommendations to the project steering committee that consists of the FOSAPL board, library trustees, and library managers.

Martín J Gómez, President/CEO

mjgómez associates

mjgomezassociates@gmail.com
(415) 999-9601

Elizabeth Crabb Honored by TLA

Pat Bjornson

On April 19, during its conference in Austin, The Texas Library Association, celebrating its first 100 years, paid homage to 100 "giants" who have made significant contributions to libraries during this time.

Among those honored was **Elizabeth Crabb**, who has been called the "Johnny Appleseed of Texas Libraries." She was coordinator of the Northeast Texas Library System for 18 years. She was a recipient of major TLA awards and was TLA president from 1982-1983. In 1995 the Elizabeth Crabb Fund was established for legislative advocacy.

Ms. Crabb's daughter, **Beth Crabb**, is a longtime member of FOSAPL and treasurer of the Brook Hollow Branch. Her niece, **Helen McDaniel**, is also a FOSAPL member and treasurer of the McCreless Branch.

From the Library Director



Greetings Friends,
I hope this spring brought you rest and renewal. As summer approaches, I'm excited to share information about recent and upcoming initiatives in the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) system.

SAPL recently celebrated three highly anticipated reopenings of Library facilities: the Memorial Branch on February 25, Forest Hills Branch on March 18, and Central Library on April 1. All three celebrations were extremely successful with high attendance and extensive media coverage.

Central Library's reopening was a near-perfect celebration of community, literacy, and imagination. It was inspiring to see Central Library filled with patrons once again, including the many children and families who came to visit the new 3rd floor Children's Library. We also had many from San Antonio's arts community attend to experience our new Art Walk, a collection of sculptures by local, national, and international artists displayed prominently in the renovated lobby. I wish to extend my gratitude to the Central Library staff and members of SAPL's Management Team who shepherded the renovation and reopening processes. Libraries provide bountiful information within their walls. The members of our community who bring their imaginations and ideas fill these spaces with activity and energy. It is this engagement with the community that gives our libraries purpose.

To that end, our team is busy preparing for an eventful Summer with SAPL, our annual summer program. All SAPL locations will provide opportunities for residents of all ages to take part in this program and accomplish their summer goals. You can visit any of our locations or mysapl.org/summer to learn more about how to get involved with your Library this June and July.

Finally, I wish to provide an update on the ongoing Future of the SAPL and FOSAPL Partnership project. A productive focus group meeting was held for all Friends presidents at the Westfall Branch Library. This very important meeting was critical to our efforts to obtain as much feedback as possible to assist project consultant **Martín Gómez**. We have worked closely on this project with Friends leadership, including direct input and engagement by **John Costello** and **Nancy Gandara**. I thank you all for your participation in this important initiative and look forward to analyzing the results with you later this year.

Respectfully,
Ramiro S. Salazar

Semmes Friends Updates



Semmes Friends purchased the Kinderbox Board Book Browser that makes storing board books more hospitable for our youngest patrons and easier for them to browse the collection.



The LP record stands, turntable, stand, and headphones for the listening station mentioned in the last issue of SAPLings have just arrived!



We are looking forward to meeting Semmes' resident reading gnome **Geno Becket's** new friends **Mr. Armadillo**, **Mr. Raccoon**, and the **rabbit, squirrel, and tortoise families**.



Semmes Friends and our staff enjoyed an "appreciation lunch" on Apr. 25, National Library Workers Day.

Donations & Memorials

Sheila Figueroa

Donations:

Susan Moczygamba-McKinsey

In Honor of:

Rachel Mayfield
Debi Pollock
Jessica Zurita
Barbara Morrow

Nancy Gandara
Nancy Gandara
Nancy Gandara
Nancy Gandara



The Friends, inaugurated March 23, 1964, promote 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 CostelloPresident
Nancy Gandara Vice President
Karin Pedersen Secretary
Barbara Morrow Treasurer
Beth Graham Immediate Past Pres

MEMBERSHIP

SECRETARY Corie Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS

2022-2024

Paula Allen • Marcie Anguiano • Kathy Bee • Julia Catellano-Hoyt • Katie Ferrier • Teresa Kilmwe • Pat Mendiola • Napoleon (Eddie) Patino • Ann Springer • Betty Walters

2023-2025

Camie Brantley • Monica Brite • Kim Cauthon • Barbara Chavez • Linda Cheatum • Tony Moore • Armando Santiago • Deborah Siller-Cruz

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 Minutes

Sunday, March 26, 2023 | Westfall Branch Library
Submitted by *Karin Pedersen*

Call to Order: **John Costello**, President, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Roll Call: **Karin Pedersen**, Secretary, advised a quorum was present. **John Costello** asked each person present to introduce themselves, as many representatives of branch groups were present.

Approval of Minutes as printed in SAPLings March/April 2023 issue. Motion to accept presented by **Betty Walters**. Motion was seconded by **Leslie Cavill-Burns**, and all approved.

President's Report: **John Costello** stated that **Iliana Poor** has resigned from the post of Online Sales Vendor to return to school, and that a trained volunteer will take over the paid position.

Treasurer's Report: **Barbara Morrow** stated that the Treasurer's Report has been

streamlined, and the Branch Balances Report has been expanded to include year-to-date tracking of expenditures. The total cash accounts as of Feb. 28 totaled \$273,489.00, with \$150,916.77 designated for the branch accounts and \$122,579.23 available for FOSAPL. A savings CD of \$30K was recently opened, due to mature after 15 months at 4.9% APR.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Trustees: Presented by **Josie Martinez:** Trustees are actively preparing for 2024 fiscal budget planning.

Library Administration: **Jessica Zurita** noted that the Central Library would reopen on April 1.

BookCellar and Online Sales: **John Costello** reported that YTD Online sales net profit was approximately two

thousand dollars, and that the BookCellar would be open 10–5 p.m. for Central's reopening day.

Membership: Presented by **Barbara Morrow**. Of the 819 current members, 233 have not renewed and will be purged from the database at end of month.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of Board action taken by electronic vote Feb. 15–22, 2023, whereby 19 members voted in favor of approval of the bylaws of the recently reactivated Friends of the Collins Garden Branch Library, and no votes were cast in opposition. Motion so moved by **Diane Backhus** and seconded by **Pat Mendiola**. All approved.

Approval of the donation of \$1,400 to SAPL to benefit the Pan American Branch Library (currently lacking an active Friends group), with those funds to be taken from the account of the Friends of the Pan American Branch to support public programming. Motion so moved by **Linda Cheatum** and seconded by **Katie Ferrier**. All approved.

Approval of the Task force to conduct the review of 2022 financial records including **Ann Springer, Cammie Brantley, Katie Ferrier**. Motion so moved by **Betty Walters** and seconded by **Tony Moore**. All approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17, followed by a focus group facilitated by M. Gómez & Associates.

Memorial Branch Library Reopening



Top Left: Memorial Amigos at the Grand Reopening on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.



Right: Memorial Library staff provided information and paletas purchased by the Amigos during SA Neighbors Together at Neighborhood Place (3014 Rivas Street) on Oct. 4, 2022.

Memorial Library's booth at the Edgewood ISD Trunk or Treat, Oct. 27, 2022. Candy supplied by the Memorial Amigos.





Brook Hollow

Thanks to 24 of our members, who did everything from publicity to clean-up to make our mini sale in March a great one! We made more than \$2,500 for Brook Hollow programs, supplies, and whatever else is needed. Leftover books were donated to the NEISD PTA for their sale, BAMC hospital for their library, and Mission Branch for their on-going sale.

District 9 Councilperson **John Courage** and **Zeda** and District 9 Library Board Representative **Marci Ince** and **Ray** were our special guests at our Friends and Staff Dinner in February. Twenty-five Friends and staff members enjoyed socializing and eating at Casa Sol Restaurant. We have not had a dinner since before the Covid lockdown, which made this one especially nice.

At our March meeting, we approved purchasing several items: summer reading program t-shirts for the staff, gift cards for HEB and Walmart, and things for the children's area for use during story times. Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 3, in the meeting room. If the library is closed for air conditioning repairs, you'll be notified of the new meeting place.

The new shelving for our on-going used book sale arrived – damaged – so it is being sent back and we are waiting for a replacement unit to arrive. In the meantime, we've moved the sale cart to an area near the checkout desk, where it is more visible, and sales, which are always good, have been booming!

Pat Bjornson

Forest Hills

After the Forest Hills Library had been closed for more than two years for renovations, the Grand Reopening was held on Mar. 18. The Friends table was one of the stops on the Forest Hills Passport route, where visitors could get a prize if they visited all 6 locations listed in the Passport. The Friends sponsored the balloon artist and face painter that entertained children during the event.



Friends of the Forest Hills Library sponsored the balloon artist and face painter in the children's area during the Library Grand Reopening on Mar. 18, 2023.

The Friends look forward to their first in-person meeting since early 2020 in the newly renovated building on Sunday, May 7, at 2 p.m. We invite you to join us!

Diane Duesterhoeft

Landa

Happy Spring! The staff at Landa Library are gearing up for a busy summer of activities, checkouts, and visitors. The Landa Friends are happy to support the team by purchasing summer reading T-shirts for staff and providing funding for two summer events for kids, BK Bones (dinosaurs) and Once in a Wild (animals). Friends' resources are also providing snacks and supplies for teen programming.

Our inventory of donated books, puzzles, and games has grown enough to warrant holding another large book sale at the Landa Library. The sale

date will be Saturday, May 20, 10–3:30, with a members-only preview sale on Friday, May 19, from 3:30–5:30. Please add these dates to your calendars.

Mary Kay Bailey

Las Palmas

Spring Break was the final 2023 event at Las Palmas Library, now officially closed for renovation. Our Friends provided snacks and supplies for treat bags for the children and for programming and

activities. During the closure, patrons are able to access interim services at Our Lady of the Lake University's Library, located close by.

Also, while the library is closed, our members will still be looking for opportunities at which the Friends book bags/totes can be sold.

That's because, once the renovation is done, our Friends hope to help support a super, grand reopening of the Las Palmas Library.

Delia Ramirez Trimble

McCreless

A Pokefest event at McCreless Library was attended by 500 people, including McCreless Friends **Cammie Brantley** and **Bernadette Navarro**. The Friends helped support it with requests from Librarian **Vicky Villalobos**.

On Mar. 18, a second plant swap was fairly well attended for such a gloomy day. There were 25 people in attendance, and all the plants were given away. Though participants were enthusiastic about the event, it did not garner any new members.

The Book Nook has a crew of three volunteers, **Marilyn Nowlin**, **Helen McDaniel**, and **Cammie Brantley**, who are

keeping it stocked with fresh and attractive items bringing in about \$10, or more, a week.

McCreless Friends business meeting was held on Apr. 3. Attendees included President **Cammie Brantley**, Vice-President **Mary Alberti**, Secretary **Jill Zimmerman**, members **Lucy E. Duncan**, **Julia Briggs**, **Helen McDaniel**, **Marilyn Nowlin**, and **Paula Massengale**. Guest **Jeanette Curby** attended her first meeting to learn more about the Friends and we certainly hope she joins us!

McCreless Friends lost a very active member with the sudden passing of **Bernadette Navarro**. McCreless President **Cammie Brantley** had to quickly assume the Treasurer responsibilities to provide support for branch events. With the assistance of FOSAPL Treasurer **Barbara Morrow**, Cammie was able to empty the money box on the Book Nook and make a deposit. New McCreless Friend **Helen McDaniel** stepped up to fill the Treasurer position, agreeing to go through training and work with Cammie to make sure that the library receives the requests already in process and also funding from the McCreless Friends to support ongoing programs and staff needs.

Librarian **Vicky Villalobos** reported on upcoming library events that she hopes the Friends can support. One of the events is a K-Pop Pop-up, and she is requesting funding for gift bags. Another activity the library wants to offer is family-friendly board games that can be checked out and played in the library. After discussion, it was decided that the McCreless Friends will provide funding for four board games to get this service going. And, as usual, the Friends will support the Summer Reading Programs by funding prizes for successful participants.

McCreless Friends celebrated Library Worker's Day by surprising the wonderful

Branch Leaves cont on p 5.

staff of our branch library with a cookie platter and a card of appreciation for all they do. All of us signed the card, and Cammie presented the platter and card to the staff.

An ongoing project is the recruitment of new McCreless Friends. Green lanyards and stylish name cards were distributed to members at the meeting. The name tags will be available in the storage closet and members are encouraged to wear them when attending library events highlighting our active group. **Mary Alberti** volunteered to create a bookmark to recruit new members that can be distributed to patrons by the library staff.

The next book sale will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 10–4.

The next business meeting will be Tuesday, June 6, at 6.
Jill Zimmerman

Memorial

During the nearly two years that Memorial Library was closed for renovations, the Memorial staff continued to provide services and participated in outreach activities to the surrounding neighborhood. The Memorial Amigos supplied paletas for the Memorial Library booth during the San Antonio Neighbors Together (formerly National Night Out) event held in Oct. 2022, at the Neighborhood Place (3014 Rivas Street). The Amigos provided candy for two Trunk or Treat events where Children's Librarian **Chrissy Defendall** represented Memorial Library.

The Grand Reopening was held on Feb. 25 (see photos on page 3). The Amigos table was one of the stops on the Memorial Passport route, where visitors could get a prize if they visited all 6 locations listed in the Passport.

The Amigos held their first in-person meeting since early

2020 on Mar. 5, in the newly renovated Flex Room.

Diane Duesterhoeft

Potranco

Potranco is looking for a new President!

Janis has moved to be with family so we need someone to fill her spot! Please let **Karin Pedersen** know if you are interested or have any questions (potranco.fosapl@gmail.com).

Please join us for a book sale Saturday, May 20, from 10 to 3.

Karin Pedersen

Schaefer

Friends of the Schaefer Branch Library have been busy the first quarter of 2023. On Jan. 25, the Board of Trustees held their meeting, and the Friends group provided snacks and refreshments for this meeting.

In February, the Friends put together 20 Valentine gift bags filled with various Valentine items and each child that attended the children's reading time was able to purchase a gift bag and pick out a donated children's book for each child to take home with them.

The month of March proved to be a great month as well. The San Antonio Library Foundation Board meeting was held at the library on Mar. 15, and so many wonderful comments were made about this library. Also, we had the one-day sale of our 2023 Fiesta medals, and we sold out! More exciting projects will be coming in the next quarter for 2023.

We are also working on reaching out to the community to join the Schaefer Friends. We are in hopes of getting some members with new ideas for upcoming projects. We have put in a collage picture frame of our members along with an information sheet telling what the Friends do to keep the Schaefer Branch Library going by donations.

Liz Alves

Semmes

Semmes Branch is acquiring a reputation for music! The LP record stands, turntable, stand, and headphones for the listening station mentioned in the last issue of *SAPLings* have just arrived! We are eagerly awaiting community feedback once everything is set up and operational.

Can you believe that it's almost time for summer school break?? Library staff and friends have been planning for the Summer Reading Program. In addition to funding staff T-shirts, we've purchased the Kinderbox Board Book Browser that makes storing board books more hospitable for our youngest patrons and easier for them to browse the collection. But wait! Just over a year ago, we welcomed Geno Becket, Semmes' resident reading gnome, to the indoor garden neighborhood. His reputation has attracted quite a community of woodland creatures that enjoy the stories Geno reads to them. We are looking forward to formal introductions to Mr. Armadillo, Mr. Raccoon, and the rabbit, squirrel, and tortoise families.

As always, Semmes Friends appreciate our staff and we enjoyed an "appreciation lunch" on Apr. 25, National Library Workers Day.

DO come for a visit to Semmes branch library and if it's not too hot, plan on a walk/exercise in the adjacent Comanche Lookout Park.

Christie Smith

Tobin

Tobin Friends had a Pop-Up Sale during early voting and election day. The Friends also funded snacks and supplies for crafts at the End-of-the-Year After-School party for Garner Middle School students and teens. Periodically, special craft and art supplies are purchased with money from Tobin

Friends, to offer creative come-and-go crafts each weekend.

The popular weekly adult easy Tai Chi class has added a tea time at the end of each program. Tobin Friends has provided a variety of relaxing teas for attendees to enjoy.

Our Tobin Friends is paying for summer reading t-shirts for Tobin Library staff, which is a huge boost for team morale! Staff report that the shirts are a great way to engage library visitors of all ages to sign up for summer reading. We are excited about summer at Tobin Library!

Tobin Friends has ordered new blue Tobin Library book bags that will feature Tobin's unique outside book sign as the logo. These bags will serve as an additional fundraiser for the branch.

Alethea Bugg

Spring Break at Las Palmas Library





P.O. Box 461523
San Antonio, Texas 78246

Address Service Requested

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San Antonio, Texas
Permit No. 865

CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Because dates and times change occasionally, please call to verify information.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 6 | 8th Annual Pan-African Cultural Festival hosted by Baba Aundar Ma'at, Carver Branch, 10:30–5:00. |
| May 7 | Forest Hills Friends in-person meeting at 2 p.m. |
| May 9 | Johnston Friends meeting, 6:15 |
| May 16 | Cortez Friends meeting, 6. |
| May 19–20 | Big Landa Book Sale, 10–3:30; members-only preview sale Friday, May 19, 3:30–5:30. |
| May 20 | McCreless Book Sale, 10–4. |
| May 20 | Potranco Book Sale, 10–3. |
| May 21 | FOSAPL Board Meeting, Location TBD, 2. |
| June 3 | Brook Hollow Friends meeting in the meeting room. |
| June 6 | McCreless Friends meeting, 6. |
| June 20 | Cortez Friends meeting, 6. |

Brook Hollow Library
530 Heimer Road, 78232
210-207-9030

Carver Library
3350 E. Commerce St, 78220
210-207-9180

Cortez Library
2803 Hunter Boulevard, 78224
210-207-9130

Forest Hills Library
5245 Ingram Rd., 78228
210-207-9230

Johnston Library
6307 Sun Valley, 78227
210-207-9240

Landa Library
233 Bushnell, 78212
210-207-9090

McCreless Library
1023 Ada Street, 78223
210-207-9170

Potranco Library
8765 State Hwy 151 Access Rd., 78245
210-207-9280

Note: Each branch Friends group has a designated representative to the Board. However, these Board meetings are open to the general membership. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.