

From the President

President's Report on the Strategic Planning Session



Dear Friends,

November offers us a time to reflect upon the past year and give thanks for many things. One thing I'm particularly thankful for is the strength of our organization and its members, especially as we address our future.

At the beginning of the year, the San Antonio Public Library commissioned **MJGómez Associates** to examine the relationship between the Library and the Friends. The recommendations for both the Library and the Friends presented several issues that need attention, one of which was the need for a strategic planning session. The Friends' Board hired **Rose Mary Fry** of Degrees of Work to lead this session.

On September 16, more than 30 Friends' Board members and branch officers met for the planning session at the Central Library. Ms. Fry enumerated several goals for the session including the organization's structure, our goals, and the path for the future, to list a few. After reviewing the report from MJGómez, Ms. Fry then focused on drafting a Mission Statement for the Friends. (While the Friends' By-laws state our purpose, there is no Mission Statement.) After explaining the purpose of a mission statement, Ms. Fry provided samples from other library support groups and then had the attendees divide into 6 groups. Each group crafted a sample mission statement to share, and Ms. Fry then noted the similarities and differences. Among the common themes were fundraising, advocacy, and support. Differences included diversity, creativity, and imagination.

The remainder of the day addressed ways to strengthen fundraising, both overall and at the branches, along with our advocacy efforts. The interaction and ideas from the group were truly inspiring and demonstrated the dedication and commitment to our Library system.

Using these sample mission statements, two mission statements will be drafted for the Board and the branch presidents to consider and adopt one at a future meeting.

Adopting a mission statement is just one step as we plan for the future. There will be multiple future gatherings to address many other issues, and your input is crucial.

Have a wonderful holiday season and here's to a bigger and better 2024.

John Costello



Emerson Stuckart

The 2023 Arts & Letters committee is thrilled to recognize the recipients of the awards for this year! The winners are: **Diana Kersey** (Artistic Merit), **Joe Luna** (Artistic Merit), and **Frank Villani** (Legacy).

The ceremony will be held **November 12, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m., at the Mission Library**. A reception will take place before the presentation of the awards.

Calendar of Board Meetings

Add these to your calendar! Put the dates in your phone! Bring a friend!

- **Sunday, Nov. 19 at 2 p.m.–Landa Branch** (233 Bushnell, 78212)
All elected Board members and a representative of each branch group are welcome.
- **Saturday,* Jan. 27, 2024, at 2 p.m.–Central Library Auditorium** (600 Soledad, 78205)
ANNUAL MEETING, elected Board and all other Friends are welcome.

*Note the change to **Saturday**; Central Library is not open on Sundays.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Send your renewal in an envelope with a check made out to *Friends of the San Antonio Public Library* or go online to friendsofsapl.org (<https://form.jotform.com/73634777584169>) to renew using PayPal or your credit card. Everyone who joins or renews their membership for 2024 will receive a coupon that may be redeemed at the BookCellar for a free regular price book. Join today and bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

From the Library Director



Greetings Friends,
As we began a new fiscal year on October 1, 2023, I am pleased to share with you some good news. The City Council, in its adopted budget, included

additional and much needed resources for the Library system. The Fiscal Year 2024 Adopted Budget includes \$416,000 for books and materials and \$5.7 million for improvements to eight (8) library facilities. These additional dollars will allow the Library system to replace and update HVAC systems as well as other building improvements.

This year, the Library system's operating budget grew almost nine percent (9%) to \$53.5 million. Included in the operating budget increase is \$416,000 for books and materials.

The following eight library facilities will receive improvements as part of additional resources allocated to the library: Semmes, Johnston, Bazan, Maverick, Cody, Collins Garden, Landa, and Igo Branch Libraries. These improvements were funded as part of the City's Fiscal Year 2024 budget and strengthen our entire system. While SAPL consists of 30 unique locations, each with a special presence in their communities; ultimately, we are one library system.

As our plans for these building improvements are finalized, details and timelines for these projects will be communicated to you, the public, and other key stakeholders. Should closures to these locations be necessary to complete the funded improvements, comprehensive communications plans will be implemented.

The increase in the Library's budget affirms the strong support from our City leadership. It also speaks to the value our community places in maintaining a vibrant and relevant public library system.

We are grateful to City Manager **Erik Walsh** and our Mayor and City Council for their continued support of your library. Thank you for your continual dedication to the Library.

Respectfully,
Ramiro S. Salazar

In Memoriam

Cathy Dean, 1943-2023

Jill Zimmerman and Cammie Brantley

Cathy Dean had a long involvement with public libraries. When news of her passing reached our group, **Cammie Brantley** and I reminisced how Cathy had influenced our own involvement in FOSAPL. Cathy was not only a Charter Member of The Friends of McCreless Library in 1993, but involved in several leadership roles in McCreless Friends, including President from 2000–2001.



Over the years, she volunteered many hours as a Library Trustee representing District 3 and as a member of the Friends Board. She was instrumental in the early days of the FOSAPL newsletter and also volunteered at the BookCellar. When I became President of the Friends of McCreless in 2017, Cathy was still involved with our group. She spent a lot of her retirement traveling, but still found time to provide support for book sales and attend meetings when she was in town.

I learned how to advocate for the value of libraries to city and state officials from Cathy by traveling with her to TLA Legislative Days. Cathy never missed an opportunity to discuss the importance of libraries to our community with anyone in elected office. Her words always came from her heart, and one knew that she sincerely understood the importance of well-funded libraries to the people of District 3 and to the prosperity of San Antonio. She will be sincerely missed by all that knew her.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Monica Brite

The 5th Annual San Antonio African American Book Festival (SAAABF) will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, from Noon to 5:00 p.m. This year's author lineup will include more than 40 talented African American authors from all over the nation who have chosen to share their narratives with us right here in San Antonio, Texas.

There will be books available in every genre, including children, adult fiction, religious/ inspirational and more! We will also feature a discussion by our local Keynote author and delicious food from our local food trucks.

There will be educational sessions and entertaining activities next door at G.W. Carver Branch Library for youth of all ages. Make sure you bring the kiddos to check us out and sign up for their own library cards. To receive updates about our youth sessions and activities, follow us on Facebook @saaabookfest or by visiting our website. The San Antonio African American Book Festival is a one-of-its-kind event that was created for us, by us and absolutely needs us to show support to grow and remain successful. Please make sure you save the date and spread the word.



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

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2023-2025

Cammie Brantley • Monica Brite •
Kim Cauthon • Barbara Chavez •
Linda Cheatum • Beth Crabb
(elected July 16) • Laura Glueck
(elected July 16)

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!

Long-time SAPL advocate and board member completes 20 years

John Costello

Jean Brady, member of the San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees for 20 years, has stepped down after newly elected District 1 City Councilwoman **Sukh Kaur** appointed a replacement to the board position.

Jean was first appointed to the Library Board by District 1 City Councilman **Roger Flores** in 2003. She was elected to Chair of the Board in 2006 and served in that position until 2015. Since then, she continued her duties on the Board and occupied the position of Immediate Past Chair.

In a PBS “StoryCorps” segment, Jean reminisced with Library Director **Ramiro Salazar** about her term of office. She counted among her proudest achievements, first, serving on the search committee responsible for recruiting Ramiro to the San Antonio Public Library; then, working with him over the years to increase the library budget from approximately \$19 million to more than \$53 million in Fiscal Year 2024; and campaigning for the passage of four city bond issues to fund library capital improvements. Other high points included traveling to the White

House to receive an Institute of Museum and Library Services award given by then-First Lady **Laura Bush** to SAPL and the Library Foundation jointly and attending the grand openings of ten new library branches, including an innovative school/public library partnership at Roosevelt High School. Jean also mentioned that she was proud to have promoted the creation of a full-service library marketing and public relations department, noting, “When I joined the Board, the department consisted of two people. Now they have a staff of ten.”

Jean received a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin, an All-Level School Library Certification from North Texas State University, and a Master’s Degree in Human Resource Development from Webster University. She worked as a school librarian for many years. To hear her StoryCorps conversation with **Ramiro Salazar**, go to <https://archive.storycorps.org/interviews/ramiro-salazar-and-jean-brady/>.

FOSAPL Membership Secretary Needed

Start *your* New Year with a new job: Friends’ Membership Secretary! If you are attentive to details, experienced in use of an Excel spreadsheet/database, and would like to work cooperatively with the FOSAPL Treasurer, this could be the ideal volunteer job for you. Contact **Barbara Morrow** at fosaplmembership-chair@gmail.com for more information right away!

'Tis the Season for Sales — at the BookCellar!

Pearl Banks

The BookCellar has everything you need to fast-track your holiday shopping. Do you visit nieces, nephews, or grandkids at Thanksgiving? They would probably love to receive new-to-them books or games from the BookCellar. Have a gourmet cook hosting your family get-together this year? Give that person a scrumptious new-to-them cookbook (or two)! Were you asked to provide the decorations this year? Our craft books are brimming with creative, inexpensive ideas that are lots better than tracing your fingers to make a turkey's tail! At the BookCellar, you'll find some of these beautiful books are *half-price!*

The Children's section is led by **Marjie Day** and **Alice Oldmixon**. They have moved all the kids' holiday books

(Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah) to shelves that are available for easy access. All children's and juvenile books, and young adult audio books/CDs are 50% off.

Adult Books, all DVDs, Blu Ray, Anime, and multiple disc movies are also half price, and all magazines are 25 for \$1! **Mike Clark**, the section leader of media and magazines says, “Teachers needing crafts ideas and resources will find an abundance of both at the BookCellar.”

Is your best friend hungry for romance? Surprise her with a bag of paperbacks, 6-for-\$1!

The Spanish section team leader **Linda Jackson** says to get a head start on *Dia De los Reyes* by shopping for chil-



dren and adult fiction and nonfiction, DVDs, and CDs—all are now 50% off.

For more news about the BookCellar's sales, take a look at our Facebook postings by **Felicia Glenn** at <https://www.facebook.com/BookCellarSA>. And if armchair shopping is more your taste, visit <http://www.amazon.com/shops/SABookCellar> so that great bargains can be delivered to your home.



Branch Leaves can be found on the FOSAPL web page [[SAPLings Newsletter - Friends of the San Antonio Public Library \(friendsofsapl.org\)](#)]



Brook Hollow

Eleven of our members attended our Sept. 16 meeting. **Barbara Morrow**, FOSAPL treasurer, also attended, and we enjoyed getting to know her.

We discussed the Children’s Book Sale we held in September for an hour or so one day after story time in the children’s area. We didn’t make much money, but people enjoyed it and it was good publicity for the Friends. Our next sale, which will be mainly adult fiction, will be Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10–4. It will be in the main area of the library as we are still not able to use the meeting room.

We approved buying several items, including pumpkins for a family program, snacks for teen activities, HEB and Walmart gift cards, and a Blue-Ray DVD writer for staff use. We also approved buying Target gift cards for staff members as a Christmas gift and a “thank you” for all the wonderful work they do.

In December, we will be electing officers through an online election; the following members have graciously agreed to serve as officers during 2024–2025: President – **Pat Bjornson**, Vice president – **Sherry Brewer**, Secretary – **Becky Benesh**, and Treasurer – **Beth Crabb**. Our thanks to outgoing officers President **Becky Benesh** and Secretary **Susan Feeley**. Pat was vice-president and Beth was treasurer 2021–2023.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at 11. in the meeting room at Brook Hollow Library.

Pat Bjornson

Landa

Our beloved family-friendly event of spooky season—Landa Boo was held Oct. 21, and the Friends provided funds for supplies and the petting zoo. Magic, activities, treats and a costume parade delighted everyone! Come back to Landa for our fall book sale on Nov. 4, from 10–3:30 or, as a Friends member, attend the preview sale on Nov. 3 from 3:30–5:30.

Mary Kay Bailey

Las Palmas

Friends **Linda Arronge** and **Delia Ramirez Trimble** joined Las Palmas Library staff members **Nicole San Martin** and **Elvia Ramos** for the Oct. 3 San Antonio Neighbors Together celebration at the Las Palmas H-E-B. We enjoyed talking to folks about the reopening of the Library next year. Friends provided snacks for this event.

We said goodbye to Teen Librarian **Connie Hejl**, who is now at the Tobin Library, and welcomed new Teen Librarian **Ami Sarabia**. The planned Teen area at the renovated Las Palmas Library should be a great venue for the community’s youth activities.

Delia Ramirez Trimble

McCreless

The Friends of McCreless Library received the sad news that **Cathy Dean** passed on Aug. 21, 2023. She was a founding member of the Friends of McCreless Library and a past President, served as a SAPL Board Trustee, and participated as an advocate of public libraries through the Texas Library Association’s Legislative Day. Cathy and the other founding members laid a strong foundation of Friends support for our branch library, and it continues today.

President **Cammie Brantley**, Vice President **Mary Alberti**, Secretary **Jill Zimmerman** and member **Marisa DeBow** participated in the Strategic Planning

Session with **Rose Mary Fry**, which focused on the future of FOSAPL to meet the current and future needs of SAPL.

McCreless Friends members provided funding for several upcoming library programs. Since the last *SAPLings*, the Friends purchased puzzles for the kids, a coffee maker for the Senior “Coffee and Crosswords” program, and Nintendo games and snacks for the Teens. A corkboard and a white board were also purchased at the request of the Children’s Librarian. Treasurer **Helen McDaniel** reported a balance of \$3,262.50, as of Aug. 31.

Friends also support our branch library by attending events. **Helen McDaniel** and **Cammie Brantley** went to the Coffee and Crosswords program and **Marilyn Nowlin** reported having a fun time at the KPOP Dance Party.

A book sale, with a plant swap and a FOSAPL recruitment table, was held Oct. 14. **Mary Alberti**, **Lucy E. Duncan**, and **Jill Zimmerman** staffed a table at the Eclipse Event on Oct. 9 to market the book sale and introduce library users to the Friends Group.

The next business meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 4, at 6. Officer elections will be held.

Jill Zimmerman

Schaefer

Friends of the Schaefer Branch Library had a wonderful 2023 year. We have had great projects and visited with patrons of the library.

We have been able to help the library staff during the Summer Reading Program to purchase the T-shirts again this year. Our group also helped with the Cookie Eclipse Project by purchasing the sugar cookies, icing and other items for this project. The turnout was great, and 29 happy children attended.

Our Halloween Community Event was held with help from the Friends with donations for

“give away a” for attendees. Parents and children enjoyed the event.

It is time for us to elect officers for the next two years. Next we say goodbye to 2023 and begin 2024 with new ideas and events.

Wishing our Friends a safe and wonderful 2024,

Liz Alves

Semmes

GRATITUDE—With book donations having accumulated to a point that an in-person sale could be conducted, Semmes Friends held a September book sale that broke all records of recent memory. We are most grateful to Library Manager, **Jorge Chavez** for scheduling the meeting room where the sale was held for the entire week of the sale (and also moving some of the inventory!). This made it much easier to move, display, and price the inventory and clear out leftovers after the sale. Library volunteers, including teen volunteers, were invaluable in helping to move the inventory from the storage room to the sale room. We had a robust preview sale the Friday evening before the public sale and steady traffic on Saturday. Some out-of-town visitors and new Friends shopped both days and were as enthusiastic and appreciative of this opportunity as we were to have their business! Our traditional means of disposing of leftover donations was no longer available, and we are grateful to Half Price Books for agreeing to relieve us of our leftovers.

HUGE THANKS are in order for without the following over the past 10 months Semmes Friends support could not be so great (nor as much fun!): **Book Donations of great quality** reflected in regular compliments and robust cart sales through the year; **dedicated Semmes Friends** who sort the donations regularly and stock and rotate the stock cart inventory, keeping it fresh

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and inviting, and contribute as they can throughout the year for various activities helping us respond to the changing times successfully;

Library staff and volunteers who facilitate communications, scheduling, and are on-point with muscle to help move the inventory for the in-person sale.

We are looking forward to closing out 2023 with celebratory events for staff and contributing to library programs.

Christie Smith

Thousand Oaks

At our October, we approved financial requests through the end of the year for library programs as well as Christmas gift cards for the staff.

Faye Williamson and her husband **Sam** went hunting for treasures for our Nov. 18 book sale and filled about 12 bags of books at St. Mark's Annual Sale. Our Treasurer **Betty Walters** has put together a list of purchases and activities the THO Friends donated to the Library. We hope to use this as a recruitment tool for new Friends for Thousand Oaks and will have it available at our book sale.

Pat Peak

Tobin

Tobin Library Friends were excited to meet our new Branch Manager **Amanda Neace** at our Board Meeting in October. We look forward to working with her and hearing her ideas for Tobin Library.

Tobin Friends continues to fund refreshments and give other support for programs like Game Days for Teens and Sound Therapy for Adults, among others.

The Book Nook in the foyer continues to be a successful, ongoing fundraiser, overseen by our faithful Tobin Friends volunteers. All of the proceeds support Tobin Library. Please come check it out next time you visit Tobin Library!

Alethea Bugg

Donations & Memorials

Sheila Figueroa

In Memory of _____ by _____

Carol George Galloway Mr. and Mrs. Dan Peavy and Sara Ames

Community Input Meeting for the Carver Branch Library Bond Project

Wednesday, November 8 from 6-8 p.m.
Second Baptist Church Community Center
3310 E. Commerce Street, 78220

Join Council District 2, San Antonio Public Library and the city's Public Works Department on Wednesday, November 8, from 6–8 p.m. at Second Baptist Church Community Center (3310 E. Commerce Street, 78220) to share your vision for the new Carver Branch Library!

This \$12.5 million renovation and expansion will create attractive, user-friendly spaces designed to respond to the needs of the Carver Branch Library community. The project will enhance existing areas of the library and introduce new resources to serve the community.

Don't miss out on the chance to share your input!

Learn more: <http://saspeakup.com/CarverLibrary>



Donation bags for the December 14 McCreless Book Sale and Plant Swap

Happy Holidays



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San Antonio, Texas 78246

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CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES & SPECIAL EVENTS

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

- Nov. 4 Landa Friends Book Sale, 10–3:30. Member preview sale, Nov. 3, 3:30–5:30.
- Nov. 12 Arts & Letters Awards ceremony, Mission Library, 2.**
- Nov. 18 Thousand Oaks Friends Book Sale.
- Nov. 19 FOSAPL Board meeting, Landa, 2.**
- Dec. 2 Brook Hollow Friends book sale (mainly adult fiction), 10–4.
- Dec. 4 McCreless Friends business meeting at 6. Officer elections will be held.
- Jan. 20 Brook Hollow Friends meeting in the library meeting room, 11.
- Jan. 27 FOSAPL Annual Meeting, Central Library Auditorium, 2.**
- Feb. 24 5th Annual San Antonio African American Book Festival, Carver, see Facebook, @saaabookfest for more information

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.

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

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

Central Library
600 Soledad Street, 78205
210-207-2500

Landa Library
233 Bushnell, 78212
210-207-9090

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

Mission Library
3134 Roosevelt Ave, 78214
210-207-2704

Thousand Oaks Library
4618 Thousand Oaks, 78233
210-207-9190