



From the President

Dear Friends,

Another busy summer is officially over (even if the thermometer doesn't agree); thank you to our membership for making Summer with SAPL a success. Each summer, more young people participate, fostering their love of reading and knowledge. The Friends play a vital role in the continued expansion and growth of the program. Thank you!

Thank you also to everyone who attended the July board meeting and for sharing your thoughts and comments about the report from MJ Gómez & Associates regarding the future of the partnership between FOSAPL and SAPL. The discussion and exchange of ideas were robust, spirited, and necessary as we evaluate the report and its recommendations. As was stated at the meeting, we are still in the fact-finding stage and gathering input from all the members. The only decision made at this point is for a strategic planning session.

The Board has approved the hiring of **Rose Mary Fry** from Degrees of Work to conduct a three-hour session with the Board and representatives from each branch. The purpose of the session is to consider the mission and role of the Friends, look at the future needs of the Friends and SAPL, and decide how to implement any of the recommendations, as a whole, in part, or not at all. The session will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, September 16, at the Central Library.

Happy reading!
John Costello



The 2023 Arts & Letters Awards: Celebrating San Antonio's Rich Culture with Rising Stars in the Arts

Emerson Stuckart

The historic Arts & Letters Awards are marking their 51st year honoring movers and shakers in the San Antonio arts and culture scene. When it comes to invigorating our local cultural prestige, artistic San Antonians are dedicated to community building on an ambitious scale. This engagement harnesses the power of art to strengthen ties within the community, both culturally and commercially. The Arts & Letters Awards have been awarded to local poets, visual artists, authors, musicians, and educators and, more recently, young artists and emerging contributors who represent the future of San Antonio's art and culture.

Award categories this year include:

- Artistic Merit
- Arts Education
- Public Leadership in the Arts
- Young Artist (Rising Star)
- Legacy

Have a dynamic individual in mind to nominate? Visit <https://form.jotform.com/friendsofsapl/fosapl-arts--letters-awards-form> for more information or to submit now!

**Nominations will be accepted until September 15.
Awards will be presented in a ceremony at Mission
Library on Sunday, November 12, at 2 p.m.**

From the Library Director



Greetings,

As I've attended meetings and held discussions regarding the report of the study evaluating the relationship between our two organizations, questions have come up regarding the section of the report discussing equity. As a public

service institution, equity is at the core of San Antonio Public Library's mission, and it's expected for our Library partners to be aligned with our commitment to equity.

Inequity has deep roots in public policies and processes. The Library has looked inward to evaluate various policies and processes through an 'equity lens.' For example, we determined a few years ago that our overdue fines were a barrier to service for many. With support from the Library Board of Trustees, City Management and City Council, the Library became Fine Free in 2021.

Equity is different from equality because it begins with the understanding that we do not all start from the same place and adjustments to account for this imbalance are necessary. Equality means providing the same to all, which does not account for imbalances. The diagram below illustrates the difference between equity and equality.

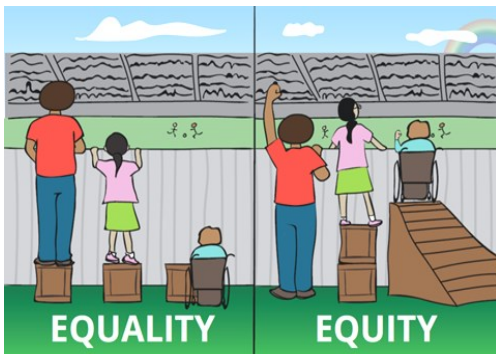


Image courtesy of equitytool.org

At San Antonio Public Library, equity informs much of our decision making and service offerings, from the number of computers available at a location to how we prioritize construction and capital improvement projects.

As a partner, who also carries the San Antonio Public Library's name, embracing and incorporating equity is a vital component to advancing the work of the library system. We are one City and one Library. We should strive to provide equitable opportunities for all.

Thank you for all you do for the Library and for the people of San Antonio.

Respectfully,
Ramiro S. Salazar

ADVOCACY

(you may already be doing it!)

Attend community meetings hosted by your City Council member, and speak up for libraries.

Don't be shy! Write a letter to the editor about why you love your library!

Volunteer to help staff a Library information table at community events where SAPL has been invited to participate such as back-to-school fairs, etc.

Online, use SASpeakUp (www.saspeakup.com) to register your support for SAPL.

Create ways to promote SAPL in social media posts on Next Door, FB, Instagram, etc.

Attend meetings sponsored by SAPL to obtain feedback about capital projects in your district.

Can you recruit new SAPL users during September, national Library Card Sign-up Month?

Your voice is powerful! Use it to **advocate** for San Antonio Public Library.

Let's Make a (Strategic) Plan!

Nancy Gandara

You've read the SAPL/FOSAPL Partnership Study* consultant's recommendations, and you've heard the comments and questions from other Friends; now it's time to define our Mission and develop short- and long-term strategies to achieve those goals. **Bring your ideas to the Central Library Auditorium on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, from 1:30–4:30.**

The discussion will be facilitated by **Rose Mary Fry**, who has been active in San Antonio nonprofits as a "hands on" volunteer, leader, and consultant for several decades. Parking in the garage adjacent to the Central Library will be validated and refreshments will be available. Participation is open to all Friends, and all board members and branch group officers are urged to contribute and represent their members.

*<http://www.friendsofsapl.org/uploads/1/4/0/4/14045832/finalreptfutureofpartnership.pdf>



The Friends, inaugurated March 23, 1964, pro-

motivate 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.

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2023-2025

Camie 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!

Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 16, 2023 | Carver Branch Library

Submitted by *Karin Pedersen*

Call to Order: **John Costello**, President, called the meeting to order at 2:03.

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

Approval of Minutes as printed in *SAPLings* July/August 2023 issue. **Cammie Brantley** reported she did not move to close the meeting. Motioned to approve as amended was moved by **Julia Castellano-Hoyt** and seconded by **Eddie Patino**.

President's Report: **John Costello** and **Nancy Gamdara** attended the Trustees meeting, the Landa Friends meeting, and have met with **Ramiro Salazar** and **Jessica Zurita** multiple times. John also attended a celebration for the Tobin manager who retired after 16 years.

Treasurer's Report: **Barbara Morrow** presented the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions.

Liaison Reports

Board of Trustees: **Josie Uriegas Martinez** deferred time to **Jessica Zurita**.

San Antonio Public Library Foundation: Report presented by **Liz Alves**. Catrina packets have gone out and we are looking for table sponsors and new members. Literacy Caravan is taking the summer off due to heat; June, visited 6 districts;

looking to expand to total of 12 schools (one per district).

Library Administration: Report presented by **Jessica Zurita**. Maverick Branch will be undergoing renovations with plans to close August 1 for 8–10 weeks. Great Northwest, to be closed on August 7 for 8–10 weeks. Brook Hollow branch is set to reopen very late July. Currently working to update the strategic plan (paused with COVID and restarted in late Jan 2023), which will be presented to the Board of Trustees for action in late October.

Book Cellar: Presented by **Linda Cheatum** on behalf of **Pearl Banks**. Book sales for the first 6 months of the year have exceeded \$32,000, so we should meet the anticipated revenue for the year of \$60,000. Year-to-date net profit of the Amazon store—excluding the payroll expenses of our part-time Amazon vendor—totaled approximately \$8,500 at the end of June. By the end of June, approximately 1,400 items had been posted to our Amazon store, and 348 items had been sold, with 93 items sold during June—the highest number of items sold in one month since we began tracking that number.

Committee Reports

Arts & Letters Awards: **John Costello** reported

that the committee is meeting this week and will be publishing an update in next *SAPLings*.

New Business

Approval of Funding and Selection of Facilitator for Strategic Planning Meeting: **Rose Mary Fry**, Degrees of Work. Approval so moved by **John Costello** and seconded by **Eddie Patino** and **Monica Brite**. All approved.

Election of FOSAPL Board of Directors to serve the remainder of the 2023-2025 term, as described in the FOSAPL Bylaws, Article V, Section 3, “Any vacancy occurring on the board of directors shall be filled by an affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor in office:” **Laura Glueck** and **Beth Crabb**. Approval so moved by **John Costello** and seconded by **Becky Benesh**. All approved.

Old Business

Future of SAPL/FOSAPL Partnership: **John Costello** stated that he had been collecting comments that Friends had expressed and sent to him, and the meeting today was an opportunity for Friends to voice comments and questions. He emphasized that this was still the stage of collecting information,

and no decisions about the recommendations made in the consultant's report have been made. John urged meeting attendees to use a form that was available to write their comments and questions, which should be turned in to him at the conclusion of the meeting. Following John's remarks, **Jessica Zurita** was asked to report on behalf of Library Director **Ramiro Salazar**, who was in Washington, D.C., to participate in the IMLS. Jessica said, “Thanks for all the Friends do for the Library and community. We are here to talk about a relationship: to see how we can work together and see a future together. Advocacy is showing up to community meetings/council member meet & greets, etc. even if another district or library branch.” After Jessica's remarks, the floor was opened for comments and questions from the attendees, and approximately forty persons shared comments and/or posed questions about the report.

Adjournment

All persons having had an opportunity to speak, a motion was made by **Eddie Patino** and seconded by **Julia Castellano-Hoyt** and **Pat Mendiola** that the meeting be adjourned, and that motion passed without opposition at 3:48 p.m.



Brook Hollow

The “coolest” news is BHL reopened to the public Saturday, July 29, with 450 visitors! Bubbles, welcoming book-marks, SAPL’s Smarty mascot, and air dancers flanked patrons as they entered the newly air-conditioned library. A brief ceremony marked the occasion with the unveiling of a painting of Brook Hollow Library by the San Pedro Hills Women’s Club who commissioned San Antonio Artist **Virginia Lukefahr** to create a painting of the library in honor of the club’s 50th anniversary. Lukefahr, who invited the models in the painting to attend the library’s reopening, introduced the models to the audience, including a mother and her



Artist **Virginia Lukefahr** with her painting of Brook Hollow Library



Virginia Lukefahr with the Models in Brook Hollow Library painting

three children. Patrons shared with staff members and patrons alike how happy they are the library is open once again.

Now that Brook Hollow Library is open, we have scheduled a Friends’ meeting for Saturday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m. We’re looking forward to meeting our new Assistant Manager/Teen Librarian **Grace Holt** at that meeting. Members will receive an email a week or so before then.

Check out the children’s area next time you’re at the library. We bought a new rug for the entryway to the children’s area. We’ve also purchased 30 colorful plastic bins, most of which Children’s Librarian **Amanda Neace** has used for children’s board books to make them easier to find. Other bins will hold a new collection of read-along picture books for kids.

Several of our members attended the FOSAPL Board meeting Aug. 16. Most of the meeting was taken up with discussion and questions about the recommendations and suggestions from the consultants’ report. It was an extremely good session, and we’ll be talking about it at our meeting on the 16th.

Also at the board meeting Brook Hollow Friends **Beth Crabbe** and **Laura Glueck** were elected to the board to fill unexpired terms.

Besides some discussion about the consultant’s report at our upcoming meeting, we will have to make plans for a book sale. **Pat Bjornson**, who has been book sale chairperson for longer than she cares to remember, wants to “retire.” Some of our officers would like to turn their jobs over to others, so think about volunteering for any position you’d like. The only qualification you really need is to be able to delegate!

See you at the library Sept. 16.

Pat Bjornson

Encino

Encino friends gave the branch lots of support for summer programming! One of the highlights of the summer was a visit from Wild Things Zoofari on July 19 that was funded by the Encino Friends. Children



Teen volunteer **Fatima Madero** is holding a three banded armadillo and Children’s Librarian **Caitlin Leonard** is holding a python.



and adults learned about various

animals including a three-banded armadillo, a python, a tenrec, a fennec fox, a wallaby, and more! At the end of the program, attendees got to pet the python, armadillo, and wallaby! Friends also supported lots of fun programs for children including crafts for kids and tweens, and programming like “Let’s Build” that included STEM play with LEGOs, play dough, straws and connectors!

Encino Friends also provided snacks for the Encino Teens, which are always greatly appreciated! We have had an active group for Teen Club on Tuesdays, and a great team of teen volunteers over the summer.

Encino adults also got to enjoy some great programming through the help of the Friends. Friends provided snacks and drinks for our Summer Movie series. Friends also assisted with craft supplies for teens and adults to create “coastal coasters,” mini citron-

ella candles, and polymer clay creations.

Natalie Benavides and Ann Laird

Landa

The summer children’s, teen, and family programming supported by Landa Friends has been a big hit. The “Once in a Wild” animal education program attracted 300 people (and a few animals!). Investments in play dough making supplies, felting materials, and a Nintendo Switch are creating good times for all. The Friends are gearing up for our year-end book sale on Saturday Nov. 4, 10-3:30 at Landa Library, with a preview sale limited to Friends members on Friday, Nov. 3, 3:30-5.

Mary Kay Bailey

McCreless

More than \$1,000 in funding to support summer programs was approved at the June 6 McCreless Friends business meeting! President **Cammie Brantley** and Treasurer **Helen McDaniel** were very busy June and July working closely with



Top: McCreless Friends showed up for the End-of-Summer party.



Bottom: **Daniela Moreno** served the paletas bought by the Friends.

Librarian **Vicky Villalobos** and the new Teen Librarian **Daniela Moreno** to ensure all supplies needed for successful programs were ordered and received.

In addition to the regularly scheduled programs, summer programs included a Teens

Branch Leaves cont on p 5.

Branch Leaves, from p 4.

Chamoya Day held July 13 with snacks provided by McCreless Friends and the Summer Social Event, held July 22, with palettas, bolis, dry ice, and cart rental provided by McCreless Friends.

Cammie Brantley procured McCreless Friends branded green lanyards for members to wear while attending events to increase awareness of the Friends. **Mary Alberti** attended the Adult Craft Club, and **Marilyn Nowlin, Helen McDaniel, Mary Alberti, Julia** and **Rob Briggs,** and **Cammie Brantley** attended the Summer Social Event. Member **Briana Rangel** created Friends of McCreless Library bookmarks and made them available at checkout stations.

Three members of McCreless Friends, **Marilyn Nowlin, Helen McDaniel** and **Cammie Brantley,** attended the FOSAPL meeting on July 16. All are interested to see what comes of the consultant's study on the future of the partnership with SAPL.

Our next business meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m., in the library's meeting room. Our next book sale, expanded into a Book Fair, is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10-4. In addition to the book sale, a plant swap and Membership Incentive Table will be added. Volunteers will be needed for set-up on Friday, Oct. 13, 10-2, as well as staffing and breakdown on Saturday.

Jill Zimmerman

Parman

The Friends of Parman Library had a very fun and busy summer! We sponsored several big children's events and participated in the annual Wizard's Festival. Looking forward, we are having our semi-annual big book sale on

Sept. 23 and will participate in Parman Library's Halloween event in October. The Friends of Parman will also be sponsoring a Gardening Series, which will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. Bring your plants for a swap and learn from Master Gardeners! Please contact the branch or check the events for more details.

Corie Taylor

Semmes

BOOKS GALORE! Sounds like a good name for a bookstore doesn't it? Semmes Friends have been very busy since our last book sale keeping our two carts well stocked and with fresh inventory. Cart sales have been consistently robust for the past 10 months. Book donations have been robust, also.

We are running out of storage space so the time has come to offer the community another unique opportunity to peruse (and purchase books) at our Fall Book Sale, Saturday, Sept. 16, 10-4. Preview sale for FOSAPL members (or newbies who purchase a membership at the door) will be Friday afternoon, Sept. 15, 4-5:30. Find THE perfect gift for everyone on your special occasions list.

Christie Smith

Thousand Oaks

We were able to hold our May meeting in the meeting room at Thousand Oaks, which has been named for a volunteer at the Library for many years, **Grace E. Lorton.** Grace's sons submitted her name to the Naming Committee and the application was approved. A plaque and picture of Grace have been placed on the wall to honor Grace and her dedication to Thousand Oaks.

We approved a donation to Thousand Oaks for materials and programs for the use of the Children's Librarian and other programs that will be restarting now that COVID restrictions have been lifted. Supplies will include replacement supplies for the Cricut machine we purchased earlier.

Copies of meeting Minutes and Treasury Reports have been added to our "Document Box," which we hope to update with information to serve as a THO archive.

Our August meeting will be a Luncheon and Social at Pompeii Grill to plan the coming year events including our November Book Sale.

Pat Peak

Tobin

Tobin Library Friends hosted a retirement luncheon for **Tracey Knouse,** our wonderful branch manager. We will miss Tracey and the amazing job she did at Tobin Library for so many years.



Tobin Friends Susan Durrett, Ruth Sagebiel, Alethea Bugg, John Costello, Pat DePasquale, Karen Sebesta and Russell Oldmixon hosted a retirement luncheon for Tracey Knouse.

We are happy to welcome Interim Branch Manager **Jorge Chavez** and look forward to working with him.

On Oct. 21, Tobin Library will be hosting our "Supernatural Celebration," postponed from 2020, funded by Tobin Friends. It will celebrate 15 years of the TV show "Supernatural" with a pie bar, games, crafts, and live alpacas!

Tobin Library will also continue to have our "Tai Chi and Tea" for adults every Wednesday morning. Tobin Friends provides the tea, and it has proven to be very popular.

We have activities for all ages at Tobin Library!

Alethea Bugg

(BookCellar) Dollars Make Sense

Nancy Gandara



July's gross revenue set a monthly 2023 record, exceeding \$8,400 after taxes, as did gross revenue from sales made through the Amazon store, \$3,522. After deduction of sales taxes and payroll expenses, July's net profit for the BookCellar was \$8,021 and for the Amazon store was \$763.

As BookCellar Manager **Pearl Banks** said, "The BookCellar has begun to show progress as well as profit, and enhanced social media posts have brought in many new customers." Free parking and shifts are available any day except Sunday for volunteers, and customers are welcome Thu-Sat. 11-4.

Total YTD net profit of the BookCellar through July exceeded \$29,000; however, the Amazon store shows a net loss of \$883 for the year-to-date on 444 items sold during 2023. To view the amazing scope of these bargains, go to www.amazon.com/shops/SABookCellar — with your credit card handy!



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CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES & SPECIAL EVENTS

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

- Sept. 9 Igo Friends meeting, 10:30
Sept. 11 McCreless Friends meeting, 6.
Sept. 15 Deadline to submit nominations for Arts & Letters Awards,
<https://form.jotform.com/friendsofsapl/fosapl-arts--letters-awards-form>.
Sept. 16 Brook Hollow Friends meeting, 11
Sept. 16 Strategy Session with Rose Mary Fry, Central Library Auditorium, 1:30–4:30.
Sept. 16 Semmes Book Sale, 10–4. Member preview sale, Sept. 15, 4–5:30.
Sept. 17 FOSAPL Board meeting, Cortez, 2.
Sept. 17 Parman Gardening Series with Master gardeners and Plant Swap, 1.
Sept. 23 Parman Friends Book Sale.
Oct. 5 Deadline to submit articles for the *SAPLings*.
Oct. 14 Encino Friends Book Sale, 10–3
Oct. 14 Igo Friends Book Sale, Oct. 14 (10–5) & Oct. 15 (12–3, \$5 Bag Day!)
Oct. 14 McCreless Friends Book Fair with Plant Swap, 10–4.
Oct. 21 San Antonio Public Library Foundation Catrina Ball, Central, 7–Midnight.
Oct. 21 Tobin Library will host a “Supernatural Celebration” with a pie bar, games, crafts, and live alpacas.
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.

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
Central Library
600 Soledad Street, 78205
210-207-2500
Cortez Library
2803 Hunter Boulevard, 78224
210-207-9130
Encino Library
2515 East Evans Road
210-207-9250
Igo Library
13330 Kyle Seale Pkwy, 78249
210-207-9080 (also TTY)
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
Parman Library at Stone Oak
20735 Wilderness Oak
210-207-2703
Semmes Library
15060 Judson Rd., 78247
210-207-9110
Thousand Oaks Library
4618 Thousand Oaks, 78233
210-207-9190
Tobin Library at Oakwell
4134 Harry Wurzbach Rd, 78209
210-207-9040