Friends of the San Antonio Public Library

SAPLings

Established 1964

Sept-Oct 2026
Vol. 39 No. 5
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From the Library Director

Dear Friends,

The San Antonio Public Library is in full back-to-school mode! As students across our communities begin a new school year, I encourage you to help us spread the word about the many free educational resources available through SAPL.

Free 24/7 **online tutoring** is just one of many resources we have available to support students and families. **Ask a Librarian** allows library users to connect with a librarian by phone, text or online chat, while our **test prep** resources prepare students for important exams like the SAT, PSAT, ACT, AP and more.

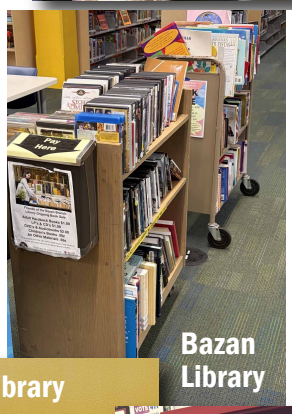
New this year, SAPL is also offering Wi-Fi hotspots for students and families, providing reliable internet access for homework, college applications, telehealth appointments and other essential needs. This pilot program has been incredibly successful and popular, with most devices checked out in the first few months. The demand reinforces that access to technology and information remains essential, and the Library has an

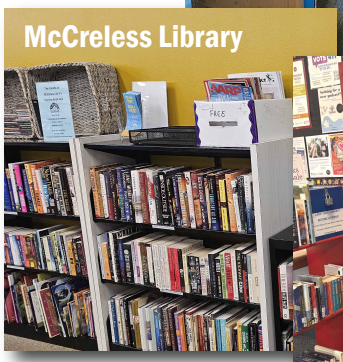
(continued on page 5)

Glimpse at Our Branch Friends' Creativity

One of the joys of attending FOSAPL Board Meetings is in visiting a few of the many branch locations in San Antonio and finding fresh ideas on fundraising efforts. The Friends' Book Nooks and Book Carts (as well as their Book Sales) are as diverse in personality as the neighborhood branch libraries.

Some branches sell more than used books. A few take the initiative to offer grouped books at a bargain price such as at Igo Library, where there was a set of Civil War books tied up in yarn and priced for $25! Thousand Oaks sells DVDs displayed on a revolving stand for ease in browsing. One branch offers unknown titles wrapped as a mystery bargain. A few sort their selections into browsing categories such as cds/DVDs, children's, history, cookbooks, or Spanish language.





Payment options also vary by branch with a traditional lockbox at most and a few with an additional QR code posted for credit card/online payments. While the items are already bargain-priced, some are especially great buys at $1 or less! The next time you drive by a library outside your neighborhood, take the time to stop, go inside, and be inspired with ideas to try at your branch.

FOSAPL Board Meetings—Sundays at 2 p.m.

September 27	**PAN AMERICAN LIBRARY**	**1122 W Pyron Ave**
November 22	PARMAN LIBRARY	20735 Wilderness Oak

REMINDER: Please do not schedule branch meetings or book sales on the same dates as the board meetings.

From the President

Many thanks to each Friends group for continuing to do such a great job in so many areas! It has been a busy and successful summer at the branches where Summer with SAPL showed just how much people, young and old, appreciate and use our neighborhood libraries. It's hard to believe that school is back in session and, fingers crossed, cooler weather will return.

I hope you were able to attend one of the Town Hall meetings on the city's 2027 budget. Please be sure to reach out to your council person and remind them our library system is important to you and everyone in San Antonio.

FOSAPL has some wonderful fund-raising events and noteworthy celebrations to include on your calendar:

- **October 4** - **Friends/Book Cellar Sale**, Central Library, noon-4 p.m.
- **October 18-24 -** National Friends of Libraries Week. Find ideas at **ALA National Friends of Libraries Week**
- **October 22** - Friends Spirit Lunch/Dinner at **Willie's** on 281 N
- **November 15 -** The **2026 Arts & Letters Awards**, Las Palmas Branch Library, 2 p.m. More info is at this **link**.

I look forward to seeing each of you at these events and remind you that October is also **Membership Renewal** month.

Get ready to Fall into reading!

Liz

Welcome, Friends (New & Returning)

Daniela Avalos
Pierre Camus
Elicia Conroy
Joseph Conroy
Erin Craig
Elizabeth Freeman
Deandra Garza
Alicia Hannon
Amir Karimi
Ronald Lorton
Kyle Mendez
Andrew Neumann
Esme Neumann
Mary Patino
Marie Rivas
Alexandra Rubio
Jessica Stuart
Hector Torres

Donations & Memorials

Send your check to FOSAPL at PO Box 461523, San Antonio TX 78246 or **click here**.

DONATIONS
Denise Barlow
Elizabeth Presley
Suzanne C. Sullivan

IN HONOR OF
Kristina by Eric Miller

—Sheila Figueroa

Branch Leaves

News from Friends at Branch Libraries

Send us your photos and stories!

Las Palmas Friends hosted a second Lotería event June 29. Friends Melissa Lovett, Velma Peña, Robert Ramirez, Sylvia Soto, and Delia Ramirez Trimble were the team leaders for the Lotería game that again proved to be a good way to promote the Library and Friends, while raising funds for the Library.

Lotería Friends

Friends participated in the special public meeting on June 30 with former San Antonio Poet Laureate, UTSA Professor, and Westside native Dr. Carmen Tafolla who has been commissioned to produce a poem that will be installed in the library. Community folks shared memories, experiences, and histories about Las Palmas that Dr. Tafolla will use as inspiration.

Carmen Tafolla

Future plans include a Hispanic Heritage Month event during Sept. 15-Oct. 15 and *San Antonio Neighbors Together* (previously *National Night Out*) scheduled for Oct. 6. The event is a collaboration with neighborhood associations, city department reps,

library staff, and Friends. And, of course, we'll support Halloween and Día de Los Muertos activities. *— Delia Ramirez Trimble*

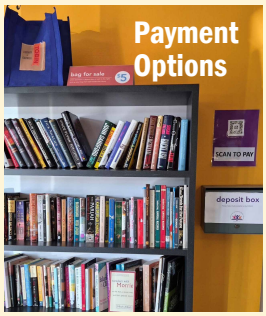
Encino Friends recently sponsored and managed a Rock Painting event, which was very well received by the community. Attendance exceeded our expectations, requiring us to set up extra tables and chairs. We used the beginning of the event to share information about the Friends and our work.

In August, we advocated for the library at local schools during the Meet the Teacher events. Encino Friends' next **Book Sale is Oct. 10, from 10 to 3**. *—Laura Glueck*

Forest Hills Friends learned that the library is now non-floating. If someone checks out a book and returns it at a different library, the book gets returned to Forest Hills. The group noted that there are more new families coming into the library and there is excitement about making connections in the community. There was also discussion about a QR code for membership and how to get more volunteers. *—Esme Neumann*

Tobin Library finished up the summer with a Ted Lasso Tea on August 29. The Friends supplied the warm English Tea for all to enjoy while celebrating Season 4 starting along with trivia, karaoke, and a craft decorating pink biscuit boxes.

Our Friends Book Nook in the foyer continues to do extremely well with sales. To assist with credit card payments, two QR codes have been posted for shoppers who do not have cash and want to pay online. These codes are currently linked to a Square that was purchased in June and, fortunately, no fees are being incurred for 6 months for either the QR codes or the Square. Cash payments are still always welcome. Our Tobin Library Book Bags continue to be offered for sale for $5 and benefit the Friends.

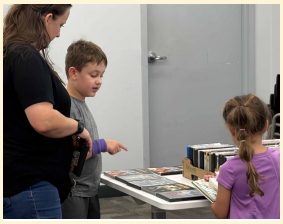


—Tracey Knouse

Great Northwest Friends had a visit from Life Member Denise Barlow at the meeting on July 18. Denise wanted to say goodbye before relocating to Ohio. She also made a sizeable donation to our branch Friends, which is earmarked for library staff appreciation. Thank you, Denise!

Our library hosted its first FOSAPL Board Meeting and robust conversations were had by all. Friends Cathy Abbott, Monique Cogburn and Lucy Poludniak were enthusiastic about the proposed CRM to help membership efforts and the first fundraising event at Willie's Hwy 281 N location in October. (See the photo of smiling board meeting attendees on page 6.)

Friends also hosted their first PopUp DVD Sale on Saturday, Aug. 22. The idea was inspired by Encino's PopUp Book Sale mentioned in July's SAPLings. A lack of storage space prevents our group from holding larger sales and the PopUp version was well-received and worth repeating. *—Monique Cogburn*



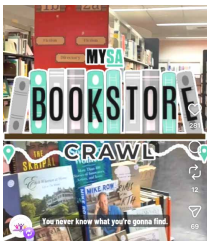
Pan American Friends held their first book sale on Aug. 22. It was well attended with people from all over the area. Special visitors included Friends Norma Haro from Collins Garden and Laura Glueck from Encino. *—Jo Ann Tobias Molina*

Join us for a SPIRIT NIGHT

TO BENEFIT Friends of the San Antonio Public Library
WHEN Thursday, October 22, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
WHERE 15801 San Pedro Ave (US Hwy 281 N) / 210-490-9220
MENTION you are dining in support of the Friends & Willie's will donate **15%** of your check. Or order curb-side or delivery at **willie'sgrillandicehouse.com** using **PROMO** SPIRITNIGHT

Unexpected Surprises at the Book Cellar

There are a lot of exciting things happening at the Book Cellar! After a social media post went viral, we saw an incredible increase in patronage and welcomed many new faces through our doors. That attention even led to an **Instagram interview with MySA** and appearances on several online lists of San Antonio bookstores.



We are also getting ready for our **Sunday, October 4 Book Sale**, from noon to 4 p.m., and with all this increased activity, we could use more volunteers. Whether you would like to help at the sale or become more involved with the Book Cellar as a regular volunteer, we would love to have you join us.

Amid all this excitement, however, we have a bittersweet goodbye. Our longtime volunteer, Linda Cheatum, moved to the Dallas area to be closer to family, and I cannot adequately express how much she is already missed.

When I arrived at the Book Cellar two years ago, Linda welcomed me with warmth, humor, and an incredible wealth of knowledge. She was a constant source of support, someone I could turn to for advice, perspective, or simply a good laugh. I could not have managed without her.

I will always remember the endless laughter, stories, and conversations we shared. Linda helped make the Book Cellar a special community and I wish her every happiness in her next chapter.

Thank you, Linda, you will always have a place at the Book Cellar.
—Ben Durocher

When kids and teachers go back to school, when we start longing for the cold fronts to kick-in, and when stores have Halloween and Christmas decorations side-by-side—no matter how hot it still is—we Friends know what season is approaching . . .

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SEASON!

In October you will start getting reminders to renew your membership for 2027. Be on the lookout for emails and letters in your mailbox. Like usual, you will be able to make your payments via the website/PayPal or a personal check. But do yourself a favor and renew early to avoid as many of the reminders as possible.

— Membership Secretary

Thank you for being a Friend, Linda

I wanted to share a few memories of Linda Cheatum, a very special Friend whose smile welcomed everyone at every FOSAPL meeting.

I got to know her as the long-time Treasurer for FOSAPL. She went over and beyond getting me checks to pay for Summer Reading performers as well as checks to have enough money for our Book Sales cash box. (She would even meet me at Cody to hand deliver them!) Linda was always nice and patient with me and I always felt she wanted our Book Sales to be successful.

Recently, I saw her with a book in her hand at the Book Cellar and that's an image that will always make me smile! You couldn't ask for a more dedicated Friend than Linda Cheatum. *—Pat Mendiola*

Library Director *(cont'd from page 1)* important role to play in bridging that gap.

Starting in September, the San Antonio Public Library is celebrating **Hispanic Heritage Month** with programming that honors Hispanic culture, history and contributions to the City of San Antonio and our country. The Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC) has spent months preparing a variety of programs that reflects our community's diverse background and experiences.

In September, the LCRC will host **Sin Vergüenza**, a solo exhibition by visual artist and painter Kayla Matta. The exhibition explores themes of resilience and generational trauma through paintings, drawings and papier-mâché sculptures.

Branch libraries will dive into **Hispanic Heritage Month** as well, with programming featuring dancing, Formula 1 drivers, arts and crafts, and much more. To check out the full list of Hispanic Heritage Month programming plus book lists, visit **SAPL's online Hispanic Heritage Month guide**.

September is **National Library Card Sign-up Month** and this year, we're excited to engage library lovers and encourage them to spread the word about our resources. Our Friends are vital advocates for increasing library use in our community. Please spread the word to your own friends, family, and communities about the many resources available at the library.

Thank you for your continued support and for believing, as we do, in the power of the Library to enrich lives and strengthen our community. We simply could not do all that we do without our Friends.

Sincerely,

Sukrit

From Your Nominating Committee

Yeehaw, Pardners! It's time for us to rustle up some new officers!

Who do you think would make a great president for the Friends of SAPL? How 'bout a trustworthy treasurer as a go-between for FOSAPL and our bookkeeper? And who's got the skill to be our secretary? We're a pretty amazing group of folks, so come up with plenty of names and send them to me and the committee at fosaplmembershipchair@gmail.com. All we need is names, folks. The Nominating Committee will contact the person you suggest to see if they're interested. Get those emails in by October 1, and thanks—ahem!—I mean . . . thank ye right kindly, pardner!

—Sheriff of Nominating

Friends of the San Antonio Public Library
Established 1964

The Friends were inaugurated on March 23, 1964, to promote public use of the San Antonio Public Library in 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
President Liz Alves Presley
Vice President Barbara Ma'at
Secretary Ana Flores
Treasurer John Costello, Immediate Past President
Membership Secretary Laura Glueck
Memorials & Donations Sheila Figueroa

BOARD MEMBERS 2025–2027
Becky Benesh ▪ Kim Cauthon ▪ Linda Cheatum ▪ Beth Crabb ▪ Laura Glueck ▪ Rochelle Lefton

BOARD MEMBERS 2026–2028
Sylvia Breland ▪ Norma Haro ▪ Sofia Holl ▪ Pat Mendiola ▪ Lucy Poludniak

SAPLings is published every two months and is available at www.friendsofsapl.org. Submit articles of interest and photos by email to saplingseditor@gmail.com
Editor Lucy Poludniak

DEADLINES are February 5, April 5, June 5, August 5, **October 5**, and December 5. All submissions are subject to space available and editing for adherence to style.

Love your library?
Become a Friend!
JOIN FOSAPL TODAY!

Photo: Monique Cogburn

BOARD MINUTES • 26 July 2026
Friends of the San Antonio Public Library
Great Northwest Branch Library

Call to Order: Liz Alves Presley, President, at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call: conducted by Ana Flores, Secretary. A quorum was present.

Introductions: President of the Friends of Great Northwest and Great Northwest staff welcomed attendees and provided an introduction to the branch.

President's Report: Liz reported on attending Friends meetings in June and the success of the McCreless Library's 60th celebration and Speak Easy event at the Book Cellar. She continues to attend committee meetings and have one-on-one meetings with Friends. She encouraged attending upcoming city budget meetings.

Approval of Minutes: as printed in the board meeting packet. Kim Cauthon moved to approve the minutes, Pat Mendiola seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: John Costello reported net income of $131,741.29, which is 7.6% over budget. Year-to-date expenses total $52,882.31, with 57% of the expense budget remaining. Several major expenses, including library support, Book Cellar payroll, and insurance, remain outstanding. Beth Graham asked about the increase in Amazon sales, which John attributed to the uniqueness of the items being sold. Lucy Poludniak asked about bank charges and merchant fees. John explained that Square processing fees associated with the large book sales had not been factored into the budget. The bank charges line item primarily reflects Square fees, particularly as most branches now use Square. Becky Benesh asked whether the charges could be broken down by branch; John said this is being addressed.

The branch report included June expenses, revenue and balances. Liz asked about the Pan American donation from Landa, which currently shows a negative balance because the city has not yet transferred the funds.

Membership Report: Laura Glueck reported that she recently gained access to Access and will begin sending membership spreadsheets at the end of August. Lucy is transitioning responsibility for membership recruitment to Laura. The group is also considering a fundraiser at Willie's Grill & Icehouse (281 N location) in October, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting FOSAPL.

Current membership stands at 479 total: 225 Individual; 78 Dual; 5 Teen; 192 Life. A total of 155 memberships have lapsed; Rochelle Lefton has been calling lapsed members. Membership has increased by 12 since the previous meeting.

Social Media Report: Ana Flores reports the Instagram page continues to grow, increasing 6% since May to 274 followers. Facebook followers have increased to 1,641, up by 20 since the last meeting. Ana encouraged members to continue submitting content, noting that book sale flyers perform best.

Book Cellar Report: Ben Durocher reported on the successful Speak Easy event at the Book Cellar, held in collaboration with poets and Gemini Ink. Liz has created an event planning committee to assist with the October book sale, with Pat Mendiola and Norma Haro helping with planning and volunteer coordination. An additional committee member is being sought. The Book Cellar has acquired additional storage space and is seeking assistance from anyone with a truck or other vehicle who can help move boxes; renting a U-Haul was considered. Ben is working with John on updates to the Book Cellar, including Square, and is exploring additional improvements.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Trustees: Beth Graham (District 10) reported that the Summer with SAPL program is nearing completion and noted the success of the Encino Library's summer kickoff in June. The Library Board recently took action to establish a nominating committee. The Board also approved a prioritized list of capital projects to submit to the city for consideration as part of the 2027 bond program; of note, the total amount available for the 2027 bond program may be less than the 2022 bond program. The next Library Board meeting will be August 26 at 4:30 p.m. at Central Library.

San Antonio Public Library Foundation: Liz Alves Presley reported that SAPLF staff are preparing for the Literacy Caravan, which will begin in mid-September, with the schedule finalized in August. The Foundation will distribute approximately 800 backpacks to students.

Library Administration: Jessica Zurita reported that Cody Library has officially closed for HVAC upgrades, wiring and ductwork. Staff has temporarily relocated across the street, with patrons seeking a full library experience being redirected to Westfall Library. The Carver bond project is funded and underway, with construction progressing. The Library is working with the Foundation on a capital campaign to support Carver, Las Palmas, Mission, and Parman libraries. The Library Board has approved a new naming policy to guide fundraising efforts, including naming opportunities. The first public meeting was held August 5 at Denver Heights Community Center. Staff will share the capital campaign plan and are currently gathering feedback. The Board is expected to consider authorizing the campaign in August, before the plan is taken to the Foundation for fundraising support.

Jessica also reported that SAPL has officially launched a pilot program for Wi-Fi hotspots at 10 participating libraries. Hotspots may be checked out for 21 days, with participating locations selected based on community need. The program is funded through a grant from Methodist Healthcare Ministries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing Committee: Kim Cauthon requested approval for the committee's continued support of events such as the Speak Easy at the Book Cellar. The committee moved to explore a CRM (customer relationship management) system, which Becky seconded. The motion passed. The committee is evaluating Zeffy and Little Green Light.

Financial Committee: John Costello reported that the committee will hold its kickoff meeting soon to discuss next year's budget and review the first half of the current year.

2026 Arts and Letters Awards: Liz Alves Presley reported that the 2026 Arts and Letters Awards is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, at 2 p.m. at Las Palmas Library. Liz is working with the city's Arts & Culture Department, which will provide an update at the September meeting. The committee is also working with the department on suggestions for submissions. Liz provided the award guidelines, noting that nominees must be Bexar County residents.

Old Business
Board members were asked to complete the nomination form for 2027-2029 officer elections. The Nominating Committee will meet to identify candidates for open positions, with nominations to be announced at the November meeting.

New Business
No new business was reported.

Announcements
The next Book Cellar book sale will take place October 4 from noon to 4 p.m. The next board meeting will be September 27 at Pan American Library at 2 p.m. The annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2027, at 2 p.m. at Central Library. Becky announced the Brook Hollow Back-to-School Book Sale, scheduled for August 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Adjournment: John Costello moved to adjourn the meeting; Cammie Brantley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.