



Of Books and Things

A newsletter published periodically by the
Friends of the Rancho Bernardo Branch of the San Diego Public Library

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friendsoftheranchobernardolibrary.org

New Board Members Introduced at FOL Annual Meeting



New Board members were elected February 2 at the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting. Shown above are new and continuing Board members for 2019: (from left) Diane Harris, Newsletter; Elisabeth Koenig, Secretary; Oliver Smoot, Webmaster; Dave Hall, President; Diane Heinz, Bookshop; Harvey Levine, Concerts and Finance; Laurie Davidson, Fundraising; Maureen Hons, Treasurer; Kathy Leuhring, Hospitality and Lending Library; Bob Leuhring, Lending Library; Millie Boaz, Vice President Operations. Not shown are: Jeanne O'Connor Green, Vice President Membership and Support; Dick Leuhring, Book Sales; Vickie Ihrig, Workroom; Seema Pateel, Publicity.

March Madness Brown Bag Book Sale

March 2 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm - \$3 per bag for members, \$5 for non-members

President's Message from Dave Hall

Judy Levine, after serving two terms as president of FOL, has passed the gavel to me. Our hope is to continue on with the momentum provided by Judy's leadership and dedication to the mission of the Friends. Not enough can be said about her influence and inspiration in leading our efforts. This resulted in an increase in membership as well as finding unique fund-raising techniques that enhanced our ability to provide financial support to the Rancho Bernardo Branch Library.

Much of the President's job involves work seldom seen by others, but has significant influence. Networking with other Friends leaders, writing thank-you notes for donations, chairing meetings, tracking and monitoring various Friend's events, developing relationships with key stakeholders are just a few examples of Judy's work. All of it has had a positive influence on those of us who worked around or with her. Her time and energies are greatly appreciated.



(Shown above, Dave presents Judy with a thank-you gift from the Board.)

We would also like to welcome several new board members that include: Maureen Hons, Treasurer; Jeanne O'Connor Green, Vice President of Membership and Support; Vickie Ihrig, Workroom Coordinator; and Seema Pateel, Publicity Coordinator. Returning to serve additional terms are Millie Boaz, Vice President Operations; Elizabeth Koenig, Secretary; Dick Luehring, Book Sales; Kathy Luehring, Hospitality; and Bob and Kathy Luehring, Lending Library. Thanks to all of you.

As you see, our efforts to support the library are truly collaborative. We all are of the belief that helping the library enhance or add programs for both children and adults serve a purpose – that purpose being to enrich the cultural experience for our community members.

Thanks to all of our volunteers, members and those who provide financial contributions. Our effort will be to continue on with the wonderful work that Judy, through her leadership, encouraged and facilitated over the past four years.

Annual Financial Report 2018

It is important to note that the RB Branch Library provides many programs and services that are not funded in the San Diego City budget. Examples of such items are most adult and children's programs (including the concerts), the leased books collection, and the children's paperback books collection.

The primary purpose of the Friends of the RB Library is to raise money to cover the cost of these important services. In the past year, RB Friends donated a total of \$27,662 to the library; \$26,400 of this went to a fund maintained by the SDPL Foundation, which provides additional funding based on a matching funds formula. The purchase of 175 new chairs for the community room and seminar rooms was made possible with an additional \$7,000.

Where did this money come from? The Friends earned \$26,348 in 2018, after expenses. Forty-two percent of this came from the sales of used books. Thirty-four percent came from earnings on investments. Sixteen percent came from membership dues and donations, and 8 percent from the chamber concerts.

Virtually every person who uses this library is availing themselves of the fruits of the labor of our hard-working, dedicated volunteers.

Harvey Levine, Financial Chair

Don't Forget to Renew!

If you haven't yet sent in your FOL membership renewal, do it today! Stop by the Bookshop or download a membership form on our website. Your membership is important to the continuation of our many Library programs.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Our featured speaker at the FOL Annual Meeting was Karen Tillquist, Chief of Innovation and Engagement for the San Diego Public Library. She spoke to us, and stimulated an energetic discussion with us, on the question: Why Is the Library Like a Fortune 500 Company?



We found many similarities, including the need for strong leadership, responsiveness to change, quality products, customer

service, stakeholders, social responsibility, and a way to measure success.

Ms. Tillquist spoke to how these attributes are being addressed at SDPL. Her team is involved with programs and events such as *Do Your Homework at the Library*, *Summer Reading Program*, *Spring Into STEAM* (science, technology, engineering, art, math), *Library Next* (in partnership with UCSD), special events at the Central Library, marketing help with promotional materials and social media for local branches, partner programs such as those with USD and the business community, Library art gallery (with the Arts Commission of San Diego), *ICAN Center* with help for disabled kids and adults, and media relations.

In essence, her role is to actualize the vision of the SDPL: opportunity, discovery, inspiration,

We appreciate the time Tillquist took to share her vision and generously answer our many questions. Her background includes the practice of law,

animal welfare, and most recently working in the office of the mayor of San Diego. She has published the book *Kindness in Business* (2009).

Fundraising Corner

In the past, I mentioned that one way all of the Friends can become involved in raising more financial support for the Library is by seeing ourselves as ambassadors. I would like to put out a call for more “formal” ambassadors.

So many in our community are unaware that it is Friends of the Rancho Bernardo Library, not the city of San Diego, that provides the funding for virtually all the free programs offered. We need to get the word out!

So if you’re planning to attend a program at the Library and would be willing to speak briefly about the Friends organization, please contact me at donate@friendsoftheranchobernardolibrary.org.

Trish Jenkins, our wonderful RB Library Branch Manager, and her staff always put in a plug for the Friends at these events, but we feel strongly that adding words of encouragement from Friends members will have more impact.

Don’t worry about what you should say, or how to do it! We have talking points and materials for you to use. A few of us have already make these presentations, but because there are so many programs, we need more assistance! Please consider helping out in this important way. It’ll only take a few minutes of your time.

Thanks for all you do for the Library! Please email me at the address above with any interest, questions, or ideas.

Laurie Davidson, Fundraising Chair

The Chamber Concerts

Our 21st Season

The 2019 Chamber Concerts season, sponsored by the Friends of the RB Library, kicked off with a presentation of appreciation to Margaret Briggerman. The Chamber Concerts have been a community service since Mrs. Briggerman sent her grand piano over to the library on a loan basis, exactly 20 years ago. She has decided to gift the piano, permanently, to the Friends.

Concert Director, Harvey Levine, accepted the piano on behalf of the Friends. Having the piano has allowed us to host a wide variety of concerts that would otherwise been very limited.



Our twenty-first season started with an evening that will be hard to beat. An overflow audience was treated to a recital by the Boston-based Neave Piano Trio. Their interpretation and execution of works by Debussy, Shostakovich, and Piazzolla were exquisite, and were performed with perfection, with the most delicate soft passages and fully heroic fortissimo. A truly thrilled audience showed their appreciation by setting a new record for donations for a classical concert at the RB Library.

Two more piano trio performances will be presented in March and May, with jazz concerts scheduled for February and April. All concerts are on the fourth Wednesday at 6:15 pm.

Operations News

Our four bag sales last year yielded a handsome profit: just over \$2,200. Thanks for your support in raising funds for the RB Library.

Bounce on over to our March Madness Book Sale on Saturday, March 2. And put the dates of future sales on your new 2019 calendar. Those dates are June 8, September 7, and December 14, all Saturdays. Hours are 9:30 am through 3:30 pm. We'll start when the library opens and begin our teardown in time to be finished before the library closes.

As one of our volunteers puts it: "The savings are in The Bag." Prices remain the same: \$3 for a bag of books for members; \$5, for non-members. Remember to bring your own brown grocery bags or bags of comparable size.

Volunteers are always needed, often as substitutes for the busy travelers in our group. Contact Diane Heinz (dsheinz@icloud.com) for the Bookshop and/or Vickie Ihrig (vihrig@gmail.com) for the Workroom.

Both the Workroom and the Bookshop have had a busy time sorting and shelving books from some very generous donations. Rumor has it that a certain tidiness guru is encouraging people to "Kondo-ize" and we are quite happy to have the donations.

Look over some of your "better" books that might bring in good money on Amazon. Dick Luehring (dbluehring@san.rr.com) and his team are doing very well selling on Amazon. Last year, their total was just under \$2,400. Great work on the part of many volunteers!

Millie Boaz, VP Operations