Arts & Letters Awards Celebrates 32 Years of Excellence

The Arts & Letters Awards were held October 31, 2004, in the Central Library Auditorium. Below are photos of the event taken by Marti and Andy Nodine.

The Arts & Letters recipients were Rick Riordan, Kathy Vargas, and Joan Christenson.

Friends of the San Antonio Public Library

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 23, 2005

Central Library Auditorium

600 Soledad, San Antonio, Texas

2:00 p.m.
Call to Order: Barbara Isner called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

President’s Report: Barbara Isner: No report.

Treasurer’s Report: Branch totals $53,104.79 Overall total $123,767.87.

Membership Report: Renewal letters have gone out, and people are responding.

Newsletter: Don Norton reports that all is running smoothly.

Book Cellar: Aaron Konstam reported that the Book Cellar Committee will meet on Nov. 19 to do some decision making.

Arts & Letters Report: The ceremony on Oct. 31 was well organized and successful with around 65 people in attendance.

Library Administration: Beth Graham submitted a suggested budget request in the amount of $36,000 for 2005. It was moved and seconded that we give the Library a check for $30,000 right away. The motion passed. The budget committee will address the additional $6,000 in their upcoming meeting. Nov. 20 is the Tamalada. It is likely that the Book Cellar will open at 9:30 that day to take advantage of the numerous people who will be at the library that morning.

Library Foundation: Lucy Gale announced a celebration of 15 years from the fall of the Berlin wall. There is a Gallery Exhibition of East and West German artists in the Central Library. The window in front of the fountain has another display. An orchestra from Berlin will be performing at the Empire Theater Nov. 19. On Dec. 2, there will be a Downtown Holiday and Luxury Apartment Tour at a cost of $50 per person that will include food, gift-making demonstrations, and wine tasting.

Library Board: Cathy Dean reported that the director search is drawing to a close, and there may be finalists by the end of the year. The Friends may choose a liaison as a representative on the Planning Board. It has been necessary to raise some fees. On Monday, Dec. 20, there will be "limited" automation available at "all" library facilities.

Nominations Committee: Bettie Ward reported that the committee nominated Linda Nairn for President, Robert LaCaff for Vice President, Lucy Gale for Secretary, and Nancy Gandara for Treasurer. Nominations will be open from the floor.

Don’t forget to renew your dues!
Book Cellar

Adult mysteries and Westerns are the two-for-the-price-of-one specials during January. The February clearance sale will feature adult and children’s books in the 600s, a nonfiction category that includes health and medicine, cars, pets, gardening, homemaking, parenting, job hunting, and business management. Premium books—such as marked-up garden and cookbooks—are not included in the sale.

After thanking Jim Wogstad for his long service in the job, the Book Cellar Committee, at its Nov. 19, 2004, meeting, elected Aaron Konstam as chair for a one-year term. The Committee also promoted Monica Hernandez to Book Cellar manager from interim manager.

On policy matters, the Committee decided that no discounts on regular prices will be offered to customers and reaffirmed that volunteers must work a four-hour shift to be eligible to buy books at half price. Robbi Ruppert and Pat Konstam were delegated to draft a document of standard procedures for processing books to be considered at the Committee’s Jan. 21 meeting. The Book Cellar Committee also includes vera banner, Pat brown, Josie martinez, Jeanne Papa, rowena Rodgers, Lucille teeter, and Barbara Isner.

If you have books you don’t need, the Book Cellar gladly accepts donations and issues receipts for tax purposes.

Pat Konstam

Brook Hollow

The Friends of Brook Hollow Library are hosting a reception honoring Brook Hollow Branch Manager Beverly Jack-son, who is retiring at the end of January. The reception will be held in the Brook Hollow meeting room on Sunday, January 23, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Brook Hollow had another successful book sale in November. Thank you to all the friends who helped sort, set up, sell, and clean up. And an extra-special thank you to those who fed us while we worked! Our efforts earned over $3,400, which will be used for the library after the planned renovations are completed.

The friends of Brook Hollow Library will have its next general meeting on March 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the library.

Beth Crabb

Texana/Genealogy

Just a quick reminder that the Friends of Texana/Genealogy will host its annual book sale on Saturday, January 15, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The sale will be held in the auditorium of the Central Library. We always need more books and would appreciate your donations of materials related to Texana, genealogy, history, etc. (we always have a miscellaneous table). Please call me at 222-1586 or drop your books off at the Texana/Genealogy Department on the 6th floor of the Central Library. All proceeds are used to purchase items that are needed to make the Texana/Genealogy Department a better place to do research! We hope to see you and your friends at the sale!

Maria Pfeiffer

Thousand Oaks Branch

Thousand Oaks branch of the FOS-APL was very pleased at the outcome of our November book sale. This one-day sale brought in over $1,400 to use for our library.

In early December, we decorated the library for the holidays. Our “elves” hung wreaths, decorated trees, and strewed garlands and decorations everywhere possible. The library looks very festive, indeed! We will return at the end of the month to “undecorate.”

We also hosted our annual “Potluck Luncheon” for our members and our guests, the library staff. We used this occasion to present each of the library employees with a card thanking them for their work and with a gift certificate to a local store.

New officers were chosen for 2005. These will be: President—Nancy Fitzgerald, Treasurer—Ginny Carr, and Secretary—Renee Hermanson.

Linda Nairn

Westfall

On October 27, the Westfall Branch Library played host for the meeting of the San Antonio Public Library Board. The Friends of Westfall provided refreshments and served as hostesses. It was a privilege to meet the board members who set the policies for the entire system and to realize the responsibilities the Board carries to meet the needs of the entire San Antonio community.

The Westfall used book sale in November was successful because of the hard work of sixteen of our members and friends who volunteered their time and energy. We also appreciated the support of the staff. During the sale, we have a sign-up sheet at the cashier’s table for people who would like to be called and reminded of future sales. We have found this to be very good PR as our patrons often tell us that they really appreciate the reminder calls.

For the holiday season, we decorated the library with poinsettias, and we shared in a “pot-luck” lunch organized by the staff to thank the volunteers who work every week at Westfall Branch. (See photo on page 6.)

Happy New Year to all!

Bettie Ward

New Newsletter Mailing Team

Thank you, Bettie Ward, for volunteering to lead the Newsletter Mailing Team.

And thank you, Rowena and Keith Rodgers, for your tireless efforts to get the SAPLings to the post office in a timely manner.
Library Activities

December 12–January 9
Just for the Art of It!

Central Library Gallery, 600 Soledad, 1st Floor, 207-2500. Join us for a special exhibit designed to celebrate the artistic talents of the staff of the San Antonio Public Library System. From a candid vacation photograph of children beating the heat to the delicate intricacies of fine metalwork, the items are as diverse and distinct as the individuals who created them.

Donation to San Antonio Public Library by the Mexican Consul

On December 7, Ambassador Martha Lara, Consul-General of Mexico in San Antonio, donated more than 100 volumes to the San Antonio Public Library. The collection includes classics of world literature such as works by Tolstoy, Melville, Dostoyevski, and Cervantes, and works of nonfiction encompassing diplomatic history and commentaries on treaties, all in Spanish. The ceremony took place on the second floor of the Central Library.

The donation is part of an ongoing program of support of the San Antonio Public Library by the office of the Consul-General.

In 2004, It’s a New Millennium at the Library

On December 21, the San Antonio Public Library opened a new Millennium in computer service for both library users and library staff. Millennium is a state-of-the-art product from library software designer and manufacturer Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (III). The new software rollout is the first since the San Antonio Public Library was completely automated in 1995 with the opening of the Central Library. The system cost $458,150 and was acquired under a lease-purchase plan.

Acting Library Director Aubrey W. George noted that advanced service features for library customers especially appealed to the Library staff and Board. The new Millennium OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) will allow users to search the library catalog, databases, and Internet from the same window. The enhanced catalog allows customers to see book covers, summaries, tables of contents, and reviews online prior to checking out the item. Catalog information will include not only the branch where an item may be found, but also in what section of the branch (for example, “adult fiction” or “children’s books.”) Users will even be able to limit searches to only items available at their own branches, or only items that may be checked out. As additional features are added, in the future the catalog will also reference all the periodicals in the library’s collection.

Other advantages provided by the new system include email notification when reserved items can be picked up, and when checked-out materials are overdue. Additionally, ease of collecting and reporting customer usage patterns will allow the library to better customize services and materials for the communities served by the various library branches.

“We looked at a number of systems, and Millennium gave us both the features we need now and the flexibility to expand as our library grows and we need to offer more services to more users,” said Mr. George.

Mr. George stated that Library staff are learning how to use the elements of the new system and assist customers through the changeover. “From December 13 through December 21, while information is being transferred from our old system to Millennium, we will not be able to place any items on hold, although items currently on hold will transfer to the new system. After the transition period, we will be able to offer our current services and more to Library customers.”

Books For Soldiers

Books For Soldiers is a soldier support site that ships books, DVDs, and supplies to deployed soldiers and soldiers in VA hospitals via our large volunteer network.

If you have old, but useable books or DVDs sitting around, collecting dust, why not send them to a soldier for a big morale boost?

Many of our volunteers have received email and letters from the soldiers they have adopted.

Help us out, help the troops out, mail them your books.

For more info, go to http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/index.php
More A&L Photos

Aubrey George (left), Acting Director of the San Antonio Public Library greeted the guests and Lee LaCaff (right), Immediate Past President of the FOS-APL discussed the past, present, and future of the Friends.

Lyn Belisle (left), 2003 Arts and Letters award winner, introduced her son, Rick Riordan (lower left), a mystery novelist and educator.

Awardee Kathy Vargas (bottom left), a photographer, educator, and mentor, was introduced by Bryce Milligan (bottom right), poet and publisher.

Joan Christenson (right), Artistic Director of Musical Offerings, was introduced by Symphony Concertmaster Stephanie Sant’Ambrogio (upper right).
Treasurer’s Report
as of November 10, 2004

Accounts Balance
Cash and Bank Accounts 192,644.78
TOTAL ASSETS 192,644.78

Branch Funds 55,599.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES 55,599.79

OVERALL TOTAL 137,044.99

BROOKHOLLOW 16,490.49
CARVER 1,499.23
CODY 8,058.03
JOHNSTON 770.53
McCREELESS 4,241.13
OAKWELL 7,267.73
TEENS 55.89
TEXANA-GEN 6,448.38
THOUS OAKS 2,531.91
WESTFALL 5,081.29
WRITER FRIENDS 3,155.18

TOTAL BRANCH FUNDS 55,599.79

For the holiday season, Westfall decorated the library with poinsettias and shared in a “pot-luck” lunch organized by the staff to thank the volunteers who work every week at the Branch.

Teen Winter 2004-2005:
Peace & Love

Teen Summit: Middle Eastern Teens
Discuss dating, friends, school and other teen stuff. All teens are welcome, and total audience participation is requested. Moderated by Sarwat Husain from the Council of Islamic/American Relations.
Memorial Branch Library – Thursday, January 6 – 7:00 p.m.
Carver Branch Library – Monday, January 10 – 7:00 p.m.
Guerra Branch Library – Wednesday, January 12 – 7:00 p.m.
Westfall Branch Library – Wednesday, January 19 – 7:00 p.m.
Central Library – Monday, January 24 – 7:00 p.m. – Auditorium, 1st Floor
Cody Branch Library – Wednesday, February 9 – 7:00 p.m.

Peace & Justice: What It Is & How to Get It
Memorial – Thursday, January 13 – 6:30 p.m.

Sahaja Yoga/Meditation for Teens
Guerra – Tuesday, January 4 – 6:00 p.m.
McCreeless – Call 532-4254 for date & time
Thousand Oaks – Saturday, January 8 – 2:00 p.m.
Central Library – Monday, January 10 – 6:30 p.m.
Brook Hollow – Saturday, January 15 – 2:00 p.m.
Great Northwest – Tuesday, January 18 – 6:00 p.m.
Oakwell – Tuesday, January 25 – 4:00 p.m.
Carver – Saturday, January 29 – 1:00 p.m.
Cortez – Thursday, February 3 – 6:30 p.m.
Westfall – Monday, February 7 – 7:00 p.m.
Pan American – Tuesday, February 15 – 6:30 p.m.
Johnston – Saturday, February 26 – 1:00 p.m.

For more information, call 207-2678 or visit the Youth(wired) website at www.sanantonio.gov/library
Form for Gifts, Donations, and Memorials

Honor a loved one with a remembrance for birthdays, anniversaries, or “just because.” It can also be a wonderful, thoughtful, and lasting way to honor the memory of a relative or friend.

If you do not want to make a contribution at this time, clip this form and save it for the appropriate occasion.

I would like to make the following donation:

☐ In honor of  ☐ In memory of

☐ Special event (birthday, graduation, etc.)

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________
City, State, Zip _____________________

Amount $__________________________ (All donations are tax deductible.)

Acknowledgement to:

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________
City, State, Zip _____________________

My Name and Address:

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________
City, State, Zip _____________________

Phone ____________________________

Please fill out in full, make your check payable to: Friends of the San Antonio Public Library and mail to: Sheila Figueroa, Chair, Gifts, Donations, & Memorials
Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL)
P.O. Box 831174, San Antonio, Texas 78283-1174

FRIENDS of the SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY
Membership Application

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________
City, State, Zip _____________________
Telephone __________________________

☐ Individual (Adult) $ 10 ☐ New Member
☐ Dual (Adult) $ 20 ☐ Renewal
☐ Individual (Teen, Ages 13-18) $ 5
☐ Patron (Per Person) $ 50 Branch Group __________________________
☐ Contributing (Per Person) $100 Additional Donation $____________________
☐ Life (Per Person) $250 TOTAL ENCLOSED $____________________

☐ Do not include my phone number in the Friends’ directory.
☐ I’d like to volunteer at the Book Cellar (used book store).
☐ Please call me: I’d like to be an active participant.

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (or FOSAPL).
Your contribution is tax deductible.

and mail to:
Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL)
P.O. Box 831174
San Antonio, Texas 78283-1174
(Note: Membership is from Jan. 1—Dec. 31. Members receive a renewal notice in early Dec.)
DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY IS FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Articles to be submitted should be a simple text file or in Word or WordPerfect. Please email files and photos to Alana Woods at <awoods@swri.org> with a cc to Don Norton at <dorisnorton@satx.rr.com>. Hard copy articles and photos should be mailed to Alana Woods at Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78238.