From the President

Dear Friends,

2005 has been a fun year! We welcomed new Friends groups from the Guerra, Memorial, and Bazan branch libraries. We greeted our new library director, Ramiro Salazar, with a lovely reception. We participated in the Central Library’s 10th birthday celebration, as well as the renaming of the third floor children's department after Dr. Amy Freeman Lee, one of our past presidents. Our Book Cellar, in addition to being open from 11–3 every day the Library is open, has extended its hours to 7 p.m. on Thursdays. We participated in the opening of a new library branch, the Julia Yates Semmes Branch, at the corner of Nacogdoches and Judson Roads and have a fledgling Friends group there. Indeed, we have had an active year—and 2006 will be even better!

I have heard that a few members are concerned about the possibility of our dues price going up to $15 (part of the by-law changes to be voted on at the January meeting). Please understand that our dues have been $10 for at least eleven years, probably longer. In the meanwhile, prices for everything else have gone up. When we take that $10 and send $3 to the branch group, pay for the printing and mailing of six newsletters, and send out membership renewal letters, etc., we have no money left. We will be sending out a new directory this coming spring, which also costs money. So we really need to raise our dues. But, since they are still $10—at least until the end of January—send in your dues now.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Friends’ General Meeting on Sunday, January 15, 2006, at 2 p.m. in the Central Library Auditorium. We will elect new Board Members, vote on the annual budget, and vote on proposed by-law changes. We also will honor the "Best Friend" from each of our groups. This is a new award, but we have many wonderful Friends who give of their time and talents to make the library even better—and they deserve a "pat on the back!" Come and cheer for your group’s "Best Friend"—maybe next year it will be you!

Have a great holiday season and a happy new year!

Your Friend,
Linda Nairn

ALA Mid-Winter Conference

Mary McAfee

The American Library Association Mid-Winter Conference will be here January 20–25.

Peter Pearson (executive director of the St. Paul, MN, Friends) will be leading a program on fundraising and advocacy. His formal presentation will be followed by general discussion about topics of interest to Friends. The program is Saturday, January 21, 10:30–12:30, at the La Mansion Hotel in the Concepcion Room. This free program is presented by FOLUSA.

Participating publishers will feature book signings, and some will give away free books or galleys. Register at the FOLUSA booth (#1245) for prizes. Conference registration or an exhibits-only pass is required to participate in this program. Saturday, January 21, 2:00–4:00 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall.

The FOLUSA Author Tea, sponsored by ReferenceUSA, will be Monday, January 23, 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the Hyatt in the Rio Grande Ballroom. The authors who will participate are:

- Dorothea Benton Frank, author of Full of Grace
- Gail Caldwell, author of A Strong West Wind
- Joanne Harris, author of CHOCOLAT and Gentlemen and Players
- David Liss, author of The Ethical Assassin

Book signing will follow. Two books will be given away, and others will be available for purchase at a generous discount. FOLUSA will award the 2006 Baker and Taylor Awards during the program. Tickets are $35 in advance [$30 for FOLUSA members. Friends are members as a group.] or $45 on site. Tickets are available online (folusa.org) or by phone 1-800-936-5872 thru January 18. You may also pick up your ticket at Booth 1245.

You can purchase a one-day exhibit pass at the door if you want to see all of the exhibits. Also check the programs that are available even if you do not sign up for the conference. I will be at the FOLUSA Booth (1245) with more information or call me at 210-695-9287 if you have questions.

Honoring a Benefactor

Pat Konstam

The late Vernon Marie Fort-assain, who left a generous bequest for Friends of the Library in her will, will be honored in a ceremony in the Book Cellar on Sunday, January 29, at 2:00 p.m.

A plaque stating that Book Cellar renovations were funded from her bequest will be unveiled. Those renovations include improved lighting for the children's area, new display shelves and tables, and other new equipment.

Family and friends of Ms. Fort-assain will be present. The Book Cellar Committee is hosting the event and will serve refreshments.

All Friends of the Library are invited.
Friends of the San Antonio Public Library
BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 20, 2005

Submitted by Lucy Gale

Board of Directors & Officers present:

Linda Nairn, Robert LaCaff, Nancy Gandara, Barbara Isner, Alan Cutler, Bruce Gill, Pat Konstam, Lucille Lammert, Robbie Ruppert, Vera Banner, Lee LaCaff, Aaron Konstam, Lucy Gale, Rowena Rodgers, Shirley Horner, Bettie Ward, Cathy Dean, Nancy Fitzgerald, Lora Eckler, Sheila Figueroa, and Mary McAfee

SAPL Staff present: Beth Graham

Linda Nairn called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

The minutes for the board meeting were reviewed and approved with minimal corrections.

Treasure's Report

Nancy Gandara reported the income and expenses for FOSAPL. She noted that money will be coming in with membership renewals and memorials for the Semmes architect who passed away.

Reports

Library Board. John Nicholas, Chair. John was not present to give a report.

Library Administration. Beth Graham.

Cody had a successful ribbon cutting ceremony with Councilman Art Hall present.

Brookhollow is scheduled to reopen in mid-December.

Library staff met with Councilwoman Guajardo to discuss the grand opening in February for Maverick.

The fifth annual Tamalada was very successful. The library will send out a request for name suggestions for the Hausman Branch.

Library Foundation. Lucy Gale

Writer Carlos Fuentes was honored by the Foundation with the LILA award October 21.

The Library hosted the 3rd Annual Sleep Over for children with Rick Riordan November 12. Foundation participated in the Semmes opening by selling bookplates and placing them in the books that day.

Bailey Banks & Biddle had their grand opening and selected the Foundation as their beneficiary for this event. Proceeds benefited the Born to Read program.

The Foundation nominated Jennifer Velasquez for a librarian award from the New York Times and she was one of the national winners. Foundation is sponsoring her trip to New York to receive her award.

Secretary- Correspondence. None.

Committee Reports

Arts and Letters Awards. Lucy Gale. Lucy thanked her committee for doing a great job of putting the event together. She reported that 45 people attended the event, and both the presenters and speakers did a marvelous job. Also, Ed Tijerina wrote about the event in his column.

Book Cellar. Aaron Konstam.

Aaron reported that coupons for the Book Cellar have been secured with the Witte Museum, the FOSAPL newsletter, and the Entertainment Book. Flyers and bookmarks have been distributed for promotion, and an article about the Book Cellar was in today's Express-News.

Book sale is tentatively scheduled for the spring as well as a possible booth at the SAC book fair.

By-Laws. Lee LaCaff. Lee thanked Cathy Dean and Alana Woods for their work in placing the by-laws in the newsletter.

Membership. Ronnie Retzloff.

Ronnie was out of town but renewals have been mailed out to the membership.

Directory. Robert LaCaff. Robert is working on the Branches portion of the Directory and hoping to have it go to print in February 2006.

Memorials. Sheila Figueroa.

Sheila has made the change recommended by the board to include the exact amount given in the letter to the donor.

Newsletter. Mary McAfee. Mary reported that 749 newsletters were printed. Cathy Dean reported that the editor position is still open and that Lucy Gale has resigned from the Newsletter Committee. She thanked Lucy for her service on the committee and welcomed Bruce Gill as a new member.

Nominating Committee. Mary McAfee. Mary reported that Sheila Figueroa will finish out the term for the Secretary position for Lucy Gale.

Old Business. None.

New Business

Budget Committee. Alan Cutler is chairing this committee and recruited Lee LaCaff, Nancy Gandara, Robert LaCaff, Bruce Gill, and Linda Nairn to be on the committee.

Linda Nairn introduced the idea of a "Best Friends" award for FOSAPL members. Nominations will be sought, and winners will be named during the Annual Meeting in January.

Branch News & Announcements

Book sales are scheduled for McCreless, Westall, and Thousand Oaks.

Guerra will host an appreciation lunch for staff.

Both Cody and Oakwell had very successful book sales.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.
Brook Hollow

After many, many days of hard work unpacking boxes of library books as well as the Friends' book sale books, Brook Hollow Friends and staff took time out to enjoy a pizza and salad lunch as well as each other's company December 14. We are all looking forward to the grand opening January 9!

Pat Bjornson

Richard Kierbow is our newest Brook Hollow Friend. Richard has been at the library every day helping shelve books. To his right is James Sontag, who has been at Brook Hollow longer than anyone else on the staff. About half the staff is new to Brook Hollow in 2005, so our pizza lunch, sponsored by our Friends, was a good way to start to get to know each other.

Fred and Jane Groth, Neal Bjornson, and Dick Bowser. Dick will take over as Brook Hollow Friends' president at our next meeting, January 23. Fred will be our new vice president and Neal will be treasurer.

Richard Kierbow

McCreless

McCreless Friends met on December 14 and elected the following officers for 2006:
- President—Tom Nemeth
- Vice President—Cathy Dean
- Secretary—Vera Banner
- Treasurer—Chris McKnight
- At-large board members—Elizabeth Garcia and David Harlan.

McCreless Friends had five book sales in 2005, four at the library and one at McCreless Mall. Proceeds funded library purchases, a children's summer reading party, and our annual holiday gifts to the library and staff (poinsettias, HEB gift cards, and a donation to the staff party). Earlier in the year, books were donated to Kelly USA for Katrina evacuees and to the Memorial Library Amigos for their first book sale. The Friends were invited to participate in Councilman Roland Gutierrez’s first "Read Across District 3" program to help promote literacy in November. Vera Banner, Cathy Dean, and Evanileen Schmueckle had fun representing the Friends at area elementary schools.

Cathy Dean

Oakwell

We had our book sale November 19. Each sale is different but very successful. Our next book sale is scheduled for February 18, 2006. At our annual meeting November 12, we were very happy to have two authors from our area.

Linda Suler is a teacher as well as an author and has written a delightful book *Fiesta from A to Z*. This book will add zest to learning.

Joe Matlock's latest book is *Twilight of Fury*. This historical novel is about an American pilot during World War II. Joe is an avid pilot with many interests. Our new officers were elected at the annual meet-

Thomas Johnston

The Johnston Friends held a bake sale on December 2 & 3, which was very successful. We sold cookies, cakes, and brownies to the public. Our health-conscious customers were able to choose from a selection of "sugar-free" cookies, which was a great idea, thanks to Friends Treasurer Jeanne Mundorff. Lois Galbraith manned the checkout table for most of the day along with Johnston staff.

Friends President Kathy Rainwater, Jean Barlow, Ms. Galbraith, Jeanne Mundorff, and Johnston staff baked some incredible treats. Overall, the bake sale was a sweet success, bringing in nearly $300. The Friends may be having another bake sale around Easter time.

Vivienne Beckett

McCreless

Semmes

Johnston Friends held a used book sale on November 19 & 20 and are looking forward to the next book sale.

Fern Burke

Texana/Genealogy

The Johnston Friends have books to donate or want to volunteer. Also mark your calendars for a very interesting program on Monday, February 6. Bobbi Ravicz, daughter of Perry and Frances Kallison, will speak to the Friends about her father, his fabled farm and ranch business, and the radio program that he broadcast for many years. She will share some of the family's interesting historical material recently donated to the Texana/Genealogy Collection. It should be a great program!

Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Thousand Oaks

Thousand Oaks Friends have a used book sale on November 19 & 20 and are looking forward to the next book sale.

Ivy Durnell and friends recruiting at the Semmes Grand Opening—15 people signed up as Friends

Continued on p 6.

January–February 2006
1. Renew now. A dues increase will be voted on at the annual meeting in January.

2. Renewing early (before Feb. 1) saves money. Sending out second letters is costly in time, printing and postage. That money could be better spent to help the library!

3. Life members do not have to pay anything to designate one branch a year. But we need to hear from them annually to keep our information current. We welcome contributions from the MANY who continue to make donations each year.

4. Individual members pay one fee and may designate one branch for support. Each additional branch designation adds $3 to the total.

5. Dual members consist of 2 adults at the same address paying together. They may designate one branch each to support. Every additional branch costs $3 each.

6. Patrons, Contributors, and Life Memberships are all on an individual basis. If one partner, for example, wants to be a patron and the other just wants a membership, the envelope needs to include the patron fee and an individual fee. It also needs to state which member is in which category.

7. Your phone number will appear in the new directory unless your annual membership envelope designates in some way that it is to be unlisted. If we have a phone number and it is not written on the current year envelope, that number is moved to unlisted. If a number was previously unlisted but appears on the new membership envelope without a note to keep it unlisted, it is designated as listed.

8. Membership cards are mailed after the first of the year to all who have renewed in a timely manner. They are held so that we can save money by doing bulk mailing.

9. Accurate records are important. When a member moves without notifying us of the change of address, we sometimes get the new address from forwarded mail. But the current ‘return to sender’ fee is anywhere from $.70 to over $1 based on the weight of each piece of returned mail. Thank you to each of you who notify us when you move.

10. What if I have a problem? Call the treasurer if it is a money question, Nancy Gandara, 210-695-9648. Call the membership chairman if your new card does not reflect the selections you thought you made. If you are concerned about your phone number and the new directory please call, write, or email the membership chair to be sure it is what you want. Ronnie Retzloff, 210-490-4337, lretzloff@satx.rr.com, 319 Neches Branch, SAT 78258.

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Memorials/Donations

Sheila Figueroa

In Memory of Mollie Peacock by

Lynne M. Grix
Patricia Bjornsen
Bond Resource Partners, L.P.
Carol Lillibridge Hester
Cindy Jorgensen
Ann Springer
Pam Tranbarger

Sarah Abright Dickson
Lauck Group
Lorna B. Eichling
D. Gene Bottenberg
Janelle McArthur Gensler
Beth Atkins

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Filling the shoes of Robert LaCaff as Chair of the 2005 Arts & Letters Awards was no easy task! But with the help of an extraordinary committee (which included Robert) and phenomenal honorees, the job became a lot easier. Thanks to Robert LaCaff, Maria Pfeiffer, Lou Harris, Linda Nairn, Pat Mendiola, Lucille Lammert, and the reception co-chairs Barbara Isner and Sheila Figueroa, the event on October 30 was definitely “one for the books.”

This year we had the privilege of honoring three great individuals for their body of work as well as their dedication to San Antonio: authors Diane Gonzales Bertrand and Steven G. Kellman and artist Jamie Maverick. We were also very fortunate to have three fantastic presenters who shared with the audience some wonderful insight to each honoree. Or what I’d like to refer to as the stuff you don’t find in any bios. Catherine Jones brought a tear to every-one’s eye as she introduced Bertrand and shared with us not only Diane’s dedication to her craft but also to her friends in time of need. Kellman’s presenter was past Arts & Letters honoree Nan Cuba who shared with us how much in awe she is of Steven. Finally Bill Bristow, another past Arts & Letters honoree, described not only Maverick’s art skills but touted her as a national treasure. Audience members were treated to an afternoon of touching stories, humorous anecdotes, and words of wisdom.

A special thank you goes to Linda Nairn and to Aubrey George, Assistant Library Director, the Arts & Letters Committee, the Central Library Staff, the honorees and their presenters, and to all those folks who attended.

Photos (clockwise, starting at top left) Steven Kellman, Diane Gonzales-Bertrand with Linda Nairn, Jamie Maverick, artwork by Ms. Maverick, and books by Ms. Gonzales-Bertrand.
pleased to say it was very successful, and we look forward to our next sale in March. Most all of our DVDs, videos, and CDs were sold as well as many hard cover books that were in mint condition and suitable for Christmas gifts.

In the first week of December, the Friends decorated the library for the holiday season and made preparations for the December 7 annual Christmas luncheon. Everyone brought food to share, and the staff joined us in celebration of the holiday season. My thanks to all who helped make this luncheon a special occasion.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and the very best for 2006. The Friends look forward to another successful year.

Nancy Fitzgerald

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If you need help following your New Year’s resolutions, the Book Cellar has a deal. Dozens of diet, nutrition, and fitness books will be on sale in January, ranging from classics by Atkins and Ornish to plans you probably never thought about. They are included in the January Buy-One-Get-One-Free special, which covers all the 600 Dewey Decimal classifications—health, pets, gardening, home and family management, job hunting, and business.

The February special turns to romance—romance novels. Buy a paperback bodice ripper for 25 cents or a hardback for $1 and get a similar book FREE. Marking another February theme—Black History Month—the store has a large selection of African-American history, biographies, and fiction for adults and children. These books are priced at 25 cents to $1.

The Book Cellar Committee is planning a Big Spring Book Sale for the weekend of March 31–April 2. Lots of volunteers will be needed to help set up on Thursday, March 30; staff the sale on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; and pack away leftovers on Monday, April 3. Please save the dates if you can help. The March SAPLings will have more details.

For deals on other books, a Buy-One-Get-One-Free coupon for Friends members is published elsewhere in this newsletter. It expires in March, just before the Big Sale begins.

Book Cellar volunteers will be honored at an Apron Award ceremony and potluck supper on Tuesday, February 7, at 4:30–6:30 p.m. at the Book Cellar. There’s still time to become a volunteer; call store manager Monica Hernandez at 210-227-9519 to sign up.

Pat Konstam

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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 _________________________________

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 461523, San Antonio, Texas 78246
## Treasurer’s Report as of OCTOBER 31, 2005

Submitted by Nancy Gandara

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| Branch-designated Funds               | 61,138.64 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES                     | 61,138.64 |
| OVERALL TOTAL                         | 148,039.24|

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<td>Collins Garden</td>
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**INCOME AND EXPENSE DETAILS OCTOBER 31, 2005**

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<td>Volunteer Appreciation</td>
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<td>Water service at BookCellar</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>89.16</td>
<td>233.40</td>
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<td>75,950</td>
<td>4,868.71</td>
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CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Please refer to the Branch Leaves for Friends group meetings. It's a good idea to call and verify information before setting out for a meeting or program. Sometimes dates or times change after newsletter publication.

Jan. 9  Brook Hollow Grand Opening
Jan. 14  Texana/Genealogy annual book sale, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Central Library
Jan. 15  **FOSAPL Annual Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Central Library Auditorium**
Jan. 20–25  ALA Mid-Winter Conference (See p. 1 for more details.)
Jan. 21  FOLUSA Program at ALA Conference, 2–4 p.m., La Mansion Hotel
Jan. 27–28  Johnston Branch Friends Book Sale, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Jan 29  Ceremony honoring the late **Vernon Marie Fortassain**, 2 p.m., Book Cellar
Feb. 6  Texana Genealogy Friends, **Bobbi Ravicz**, 7 p.m., Central Library Auditorium
Feb. 7  Book Cellar volunteers potluck supper & Apron Awards, Book Cellar, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Feb. 18  Oakwell book sale, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Mar 31–Apr 2  Book Cellar big Spring book sale

**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 these meetings.