President

From the
January 2007

Dear Friends,

2006 has been a fun year! Our Book Cellar, in addition to being open from 11–3 every day the Library is open and from 11–7 on Thursdays, had two Big Sales. One was held at the beginning of April and another was held in November. We also participated in the opening of a new library branch, the Maury Maverick, Jr. Branch, at the corner of Bandera Road and Mystic Park. We welcomed new Friends groups from the Semmes, the Maverick, and the Forest Hills branch libraries. Indeed, we have had an active year—and 2007 will be even better!

I hope that you have all remembered to renew your membership in the Friends. If you haven't and have lost your envelope, of course you can pick up another one at the library. Just ask someone if you do not see the envelopes.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Friends' Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2007, at 2 PM in the Central Library Auditorium. We will elect new officers and Board Members. We also will honor the "Best Friend" from each of our groups. This tradition was started at last year's Annual Meeting to honor our wonderful Friends who give of their time and talents to make the library even better. Come and cheer for your group's "Best Friend"—maybe next year it will be you!

Your Friend,
Linda Nairn

Important Issue—San Antonio's 2007–2012 Bond Program

San Antonio's proposed 2007–2012 Bond Program is currently scheduled to be presented for a vote by the citizens on May 12, 2007. The city is allocating most of the money ($550 million) for streets and sidewalks, drainage, and parks. The amount set aside for Community Initiatives (this is where they are including libraries) is $50 million. This amount will be divided among the 10 city districts.

The SAPL Board of Trustees is campaigning to, hopefully, get as big a piece of this pie as possible. Their two priorities are deferred maintenance on the branches and on the Central Library, totaling approximately $19 million. This maintenance includes things such as new roofs and air conditioners. The City scheduled three Community Initiative Committee meetings for public input. Several Friends attended the first one on December 13 and made a good show of support for our library system. We also plan to be present at the January 8 meeting to speak for the library. The last meeting will be on Thursday, January 18 at 3 p.m., at the One Stop Center, 1901 South Alamo Street.

Some of our libraries have leaky roofs. They have to place trashcans around to catch the water, or place plastic over the tops of shelves to protect the books. Some libraries have a/c units that go on the blink during the summer. These libraries sometimes have to shut down for a while because of the heat. Some have very worn carpet or upholstery, buckled sidewalks, need for repainting, etc. We are just asking for money to keep our libraries in working order.

(The Library Board had originally wanted money for two new branches and for new computers—but this seems to be out of the question now. So these are the "pared down, bare minimum, got to have'em" needs. And it is going to be difficult to get this big of a chunk out of the proposed $50 million.) We are able to have only about four of us from the Friends speaking at these meetings. But we need as many as possible to come and sit at the last meeting and say "Hear, hear!" and "Amen!" and "Yes!"

Please try to attend the January 18 meeting. This is important!

Linda Nairn

Texas Legislative Day in Austin—February 6, 2007

Message from Gloria Meraz, Director of Communications, Texas Library Association:

We need your support! TLA's Legislative's Day will take place February 6, 2007 in Austin. Every biennium, librarians and library supporters gather in Austin to visit with their elected officials. Legislative Day is coordinated by TLA, and all participants will be assigned to a legislative delegation according to their own Senate district. You will make several visits to legislative offices during the day with your assigned group and delegate leader. We will handle all logistical arrangements. There is no registration fee and a full training will be provided to all participants on the evening of Monday, February 5 at the Hyatt on Town Lake. For registration information, go to: http://www.txla.org/html/legis/legday.html.

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If you want more information before committing, call Linda Nairn or me. We went together two years ago and we are signing up again. It's always an interesting day, and it's vital that our legislators hear from their constituents (voters!) on library issues. After Legislative Day, SAPLings will print more details on TLA's priorities for this session.

Cathy Dean
Call to Order: Linda Nairn, President, called the meeting to order with 22 directors and officers present.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Gandara distributed a report as of October 30, 2006, and reported that Guaranty Bank combined the three savings accounts for a better interest rate. She also reported that Memorial Branch had received another $2,250 from Chase Bank.

REPORTS:

Library Foundation: Lucy Gale distributed a brief overview of the 2006 accomplishments of the Foundation. Since receiving new computers from AT&T, the numbers have increased at Cortez Library. In early December, there will be a reception at Bailey Banks & Biddle. San Antonio will be the inaugural city of a huge project in connection with SAMA regarding traveling around the world. An exhibit will include work by Fernando Botero. The new chairman of the board is Guillermo Nicolas who is the grandson of Raul A. Cortez (the library is named for him). Guillermo will come on board in January.

Special Guest: Vicki Ash, Children's Librarian, reported that $20,000.00 from the Friends of the Library went to the summer reading program. Security Service Federal Credit Union gave $10,000.00. They bought 10,000 books from Scholastic. 15,890 children and teenagers joined the reading program this summer.

Library Board: Jean Brady, Chair, reported that San Antonio received the Institute of Museum and Library Award for the Born to Read and Little Read Wagon programs. Jean congratulated the Friends for the Arts and Letters Awards. She reported that the bond in 2007 emphasizes roads, drainage, and parks. The Board will be campaigning to ask for money for deferred maintenance for branch and central libraries.

Library Administration: Mark Gretchen, assistant director for public services, will be attending the ALA conference. A library district commission will report to the City Council in 2007 to revise and clarify the legislation. The Great Northwest library reopened. McCreless was reopened but will close for a few days for recarpeting. San Pedro Library is closed for about nine months. It should open late 2007. Pan American Library will close November 27. Forest Hills will close December 23 for renovations. The new branch manager for Johnsong library is Sheryl Sheehan from New York. Public library computer training classes are offered in five branches, free of charge. The trainers are from Department of Community Initiatives. Over time, other branches will be phased in. WiFi will be done by the next calendar year in all the branches.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Arts and Letters: Alan Cutler said the Arts and Letters awards were very successful. Robert LaCaff designed the brochure.

Book Cellar: See page 5 for Book Cellar news, which includes Aaron Konstam’s board report.

Membership: Ronnie Retzloff reported that renewal notices have been sent out in the mail. She reported that a new membership chairman is needed.

Newsletter: Cathy Dean reported that 900 newsletters were printed. Cathy volunteered to be the editor once again. A committee chairman for the newsletter is needed. Cathy passed around a sign up sheet for the Texas Library Association hospitality committee to be held on April 10-14.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Committee, which consisted of Pat Brown, Nancy Gandara, Richard Morales, Neal Bjornson and Aaron Konstam and Linda as ex-officio, looked at the By-Laws and presented the 2007 proposed Budget for discussion. After discussion, the Budget was approved. The 2007 Budget will be published in the newsletter.

Branch News and Announcements:

Ed. Note: Due to space constraints, branch news that was also reported in Branch Leaves has been omitted from this section.

Brookhollow’s October book sale netted $2,800. Carver will have a book sale on Saturday, December 2. Cody made $3,100 at their last book sale. Maverick will have a book sale in January; they will have a dinner the first week in December for Jef (branch manager) and his wife. Oakwell made $2,031 at their last sale.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

Continued on p 6.
SALSA . . . just hearing the word makes you think of San Antonio. In our city's best traditions, the staff at the Brook Hollow branch, with help from some of the Friends, held their first annual Brook Hollow Library Salsa Taste Test, pitting area restaurants against each other to determine who had the best tasting Salsa in north central San Antonio. Library Patrons tested and compared 10 different salsas, supplied by six area restaurants, which also provided sample menus and related promotional materials. The winning Salsa was provided by Los Cucos, one of the newer restaurants in our community. A good time was had by all.

Work proceeds on the Brook Hollow Friends landscaping project. Seventeen new xeriscape trees and shrubs have now been planted around the library building. Friends members are helping the new plants become established by handling watering duties on a rotating schedule throughout the winter. So far, all the new plants appear to be thriving! As winter turns to spring in '07, we will be seeking volunteers to assist with planting additional shrubs and flowers, to further enhance the outside look of our library.

Richard Bowser

Cody

Cody Library contributed a large number of books on a one-time basis to help establish a first-ever library in the town of Natalia, Texas. This was an historic event for the town. Included in the large turnout were Carol Van Cleave, from Cody Library; Mayor Vera, who officiated; District Judge Richard Loza; and State Representative Tracy O. King, as well as a crowd of more than 100.

Carol Van Cleave

Guerra

The Monday before Thanksgiving, we held our thanks for the Guerra staff Thanksgiving lunch. Since all the staff couldn't be there at one time, it was planned so food was available until the library closed for the holiday.

The Friends brought the classic turkey dinner with trimmings. Everyone pitches in and brings additional stuff. We have some really great cooks at the library, and we had a wonderful time enjoying all the different dishes and each other. A great start to the holiday season.

This December, the Friends put out a box with holiday greetings and free children’s books in the lobby. We hope to find some good homes for these books.

Lora Eckler

McCreless

The 2007 officers and board members elected at the November 29 meeting include President, Evanleen Schmueckle; Vice-President, Elizabeth Garcia; Secretary, Josie Martinez; Treasurer, Barbara Reagan. At-Large Members are Mary Gallagher and Cathy Dean.

Tom Nemeth is Special Projects Chair, and Jim Dugelby is Co-Chair and Publicity Chair.

Jim Dugelby and Evanleen Schmueckle

The new officers started work a little early, arranging for 18 poinsettias from the Highlands High School FSA to be delivered to the library, one for each staff member. We also presented HEB gift certificates to all staff members and contributed funds for the staff Christmas party. We all look forward to helping with a celebration when the last library improvements are completed in 2007.

Cathy Dean

Semmes

The Semmes Branch Library and its Friends have had a very busy and rewarding Fall season! Proceeds from the very first Semmes Friends book sale (September 23) supported the Library's 1st Birthday Party (November 4) and the Christmas Tree Decorating Party (December 2).

The Library was abuzz November 4 with opening ceremonies and periodically scheduled entertainment.

Mrs. Patricia Semmes and District 10 Councilman Chip Haas honored the community by participating in the opening festivities and cutting the birthday cake. Library goers were entertained by community stars: the Wood Middle School Band; Footnotes Jump Rope Team, whose members hail from several schools in the North East ISD; magic tricks performed by Michael the Magnificent (Semmes Friends highly recommend this adolescent performer who captivated the entire audience of adults and youngsters); and the Delta Society humans, canines, and felines. (The Delta Society is a team of 2- and 4-legged humanitarians. Delta Society registers people and their pets as Pet Partners therapy animal teams to visit hospitals, schools, nursing homes, and other facilities.) The Library staff assembled an impressive collage of photographs noting all the activities and special events/speakers hosted throughout the year. Semmes and its Friends intend to make this an annual event to foster community fellowship and support.

The Semmes branch's second and future Christmases will be marked by the presence of a 12-foot Christmas tree that stands regally in the center hall of the library. Proceeds of the first Semmes Friends book sale enabled purchase of the pre-lit tree. On December 2, the Friends hosted a tree decorating party, during which library patrons, Friends, District 10 Seniors, and Thousand Oaks Community Stars were awarded...
At the December meeting of the Board of Directors of the library, your president and treasurer, Linda Nairn and Nancy Gandara, respectively, were happy to present a "big check" from the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library. The check was actually a very large sugar cookie, baked and decorated by Nancy. (Is there no end to her talents?)

The amount of the check was for $100,000. This is the $70,000 that the "big Friends" have given, added to the amount that the branch and special interest groups have given in 2006. This was quite an accomplishment for us, since last year we gave $65,000. We could never have done this without all YOUR work and YOUR donations. We are so proud of all our Friends.

Linda Nairn

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 13, 2006

Ms. Linda Nairn, President
Friends of the San Antonio Public Library
4503 Briardale Street
San Antonio, TX 78217

Dear Ms. Nairn,

As we draw near the end of another year, I am reminded of how important friends and Friends are. The Friends of the San Antonio Public Library certainly fill both roles. Not only do the Friends provide funds to support library activities and programs we could not offer without you, but you are also there to help out whenever and wherever help is needed.

We are grateful that you have increased your annual gift from $70,000 to $80,000 to support system-wide library programming and staff training. This one gift will impact the public through enhanced programming activities and will touch every employee in the organization through staff development and training efforts.

I ask that you pass along the deep appreciation of the library staff and Board of Trustees to all the Friends members. We are looking forward to working with you in 2007 to make the San Antonio Public Library system even better.

Sincerely,

Ramiro S. Salazar
Library Director

Officer and Board Nominations
Mary McAfee

The nominating committee met Sunday, December 3, in the Book Cellar. The following members have agreed to be candidates.

Officers 2007–09

President—Linda Nairn
Vice President—Bruce Gill
Secretary—Sheila Figueroa
Treasurer—Nancy Gandara

Board Members 2007–09

Linda Arronge
Vera Banner
Betty Kelly Berry
Pat Brown
Lucy Gale
Lou Harris
Claudia Kohler
Aaron Konstam
Pat Mendiola
Rowena Rodgers
Evanleen Schmueckle
Judy Wilson

The election will be held at the Annual Meeting, January 21, in the Central Library Auditorium. The Floor will be open for nominations, and you must have permission of the nominee to put his or her name forward.

The Nominating Committee members are Tom Anderson, Joyce Garcia, Rowena Rodgers, Libby Roussin, Sheila Figueroa, and Mary McAfee.
The Book Cellar exceeded its sales goal of $70,000 in 2006. As of mid-December, the store had taken in $70,660. That sum includes $4,122 from the two-day Monstrous Donation Sale in November, a successful effort made possible by 26 volunteers.

The buy-one-get-one-free special in January and February will be hardback fiction—novels and mysteries for adults, young adults, and children. The sale will include large print books, but not science fiction.

During February, in honor of Valentine's Day, paperback romance novels will be priced at 10 cents each, or 12 for $1.

Book Cellar Manager Monica Hernandez will be on medical leave Jan. 5 through Jan. 24. Book Cellar Committee members and other volunteers will keep the store running.

The Book Cellar Committee is planning a reception for prospective volunteers, tentatively scheduled for 2–4 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, at the Book Cellar. For more information, call Committee Chair Aaron Konstam at (210) 656-0355.

Pat Konstam

Book Sale Thanks

We have completed the Fall Monstrous Book Sale at the Book Cellar. I said it before and let me say it again—to pull off any endeavor as involved and as person-intensive as a Book Sale takes the cooperation of many people working together. It cannot be successfully carried out by any single person working alone. We took in over $4,000, and we sold a sizable fraction of the books we received as a result of the Library selling its bookmobile trailers. The money from the sale helped the Book Cellar make its goal of taking in $70,000 this year. That means we took in approximately $10,000 more than we ever made in the last 6 years. That could not have happened without the hard work of the sizable number of volunteers who came out to help. There were a large number of tasks that had to be carried out, and it was our volunteers who gave of their time to carry them out. Some gave days to these tasks and some hours but everyone's contribution of time was valuable and appreciated. So I want to thank each and everyone for the contributions you made. We could not have done it without you.

Aaron Konstam, Chair
Book Cellar Committee

Book Sale Volunteers

| Linda Arronge       | Pat Mendiola          |
| Vera Banner         | Jean Molina           |
| Pat Brown           | Richard Morales       |
| Cathy Dean          | Linda Nairn           |
| Frank DePasquale    | Judy Olsen            |
| Pat DePasquale      | Chuck Olsen           |
| Jeff Dillon         | Jeanne Papa           |
| Ruth Galindo        | Dianne Prickett       |
| Enid Hartley        | Rowena Rodgers        |
| Patricia Hartley    | Norm Sonnenschein     |
| Aaron Konstam       | Lucille Teeter        |
| Pat Konstam         | Arturo Titian         |
| Margaret Lecznar    | Judy Wilson           |
| Ira V. Lott         | Carol Wooster         |
| Josie Martinez      | Monica Hernandez,     |
| Mary McAfee         | Book Cellar Manager   |

January–February 2007
Friends decorated the tree and the Library. Sustained with home-baked cookies and wassail, the Friends end result is a most beautiful tree! We also took the opportunity to conduct a mini sale of late edition books we’ve collected since our September sale. We are pleased with the results.

No moss will grow under Semmes Friends’ feet in 2007! The Friends will sponsor a bittersweet event in January as Michelle DiGiacomo retires after 34 years of service to the SAPL (more about Michelle in the next issue).

Mark your calendars! Semmes' second book sale is scheduled for March 3.

The Semmes Library and its Friends have had a wonderful year—in large part because of the support of you, our friends. Thank you, and may you each have a blessed and restful holiday. Y’all come visit next year!

Christie Smith

Texana/Genealogy

Those who attended the November 11 meeting were treated to Jerelyne Williams’ fine discussion of African American education in 19th century San Antonio and the rich and interesting history of the Brackenridge Colored School. Her recently published book about the school is a treasure trove of local history!

News of recent acquisitions available at the Texana/Genealogy Department can be found in the South Texas Researcher, an electronic newsletter compiled monthly by department head, Frank Faulkner, and his staff. The newsletter also includes information about upcoming genealogy classes and other material of interest to researchers. Find the newsletter at www.sanantonio.gov/library/texana. Click on “newsletter” and then “South Texas Researcher.”

Finally, don’t forget the Texana/Genealogy book sale on January 27, from 10 to 3, in the Central Library auditorium. If you have books to donate, call me at 210-222-1586 for pick-up. Donations can also be dropped off at the Texana/Genealogy department on the 6th floor.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Maria Watson Pfeiffer

Thousand Oaks

Happy New Year, Friends

Thousand Oaks book sale in November was successful, and we are getting ready for our next one. Many of the books were in such good condition, they were suitable for gifts. With the funds from this book sale and previous sales, we have been able to buy the library many of the items they needed, including a new refrigerator for the lunch room, lockers for the staff, a high chair, a new rug for the children’s area, a changing table for the restroom, and an oak tree for the front of the library. We are very proud of the things we are able to provide for the library’s dedicated staff.

On December 13, we had our Christmas party at the home of Nancy Fitzgerald. Everyone brought a dish to pass and, as usual, the desserts were wonderful.

A brief meeting was held after lunch, and we elected our new officers. The new President is Leila Hileman; Secretary, Ginger Hobbs; and Treasurer, Pat Peak. Congratulations ladies. We are looking forward to a successful year.

Nancy Fitzgerald

Westfall

Our November 29 meeting was enjoyed by all as we listened to Dr. Félix Almaráz, Jr. and learned the fascinating origin of the name Bexar as related to bees, which were abundant in the area of the city of Bejar, Spain. He also presented Westfall with the book Tejano Epic: Essays in Honor of Félix D. Almaráz, Jr., edited by Arnoldo De León.

In honor of Westfall’s “2006 Champion Volunteer,” Loubelle Vandeventer, two books have been donated to Westfall Library: Ethical Assassin by David Liss and Tales With a Texas Twist: Original Stories and Enduring Folklore from the Lone Star State by Donna Ingham.


Donations of books and volunteers are happily accepted.

Pat Cummins

Writer Friends

The first meeting of the Writer Friends of the San Antonio Public Library for 2007 will be Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 p.m., at the Hannah Landa Memorial Branch Library, located in the Monte Vista Historical District, 233 Bushnell Avenue. Note that this is a new venue for the Writer Friends. The meeting will feature a panel on “The Magazine Market: How to Break In, What to Expect,” with freelance writers Julie Catalano and Karen Casey Fitzjerrell and Cynthia Leal Massey, editor-at-large, Scene in SA Monthly.

The 2007 WFSAPL board members are Cynthia Massey, President; Mary Margaret Ambson, Vice President; Caren Creech, Secretary; Diane Fanning, Treasurer.

They invite all interested people to this event, which is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Cynthia Leal Massey

Library Champion Loubelle Vandeventer with family and friend, Wayne, Loubelle, Kirk Vandeventer, and Melinda McGinty.
### INCOME AND EXPENSE DETAILS

**October 31, 2006**

*Submitted by Nancy Gandara*

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<th>Accounts</th>
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**OVERALL TOTAL**

$121,902.03

### Branch & Special-Interest Group Funds

**Dec. 31, 2005 Oct. 31, 2006**

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<th>Branch/Group</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Change</th>
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**Total Group Funds**

$65,361.44 $79,066.04

### Branch & Special Interest Group Funds

**October 31, 2006**

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<th>Budget</th>
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**Total Income**

$106,375 $23,592.90 $114,667.97

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<tr>
<td>Staff development &amp; training</td>
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<tr>
<td>[all year, all ages]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial gifts for FOSAPL Life Members</td>
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**Mail Box**

$100 $72.00

**Membership Directory**

$2,000 $2,398.75 $2,398.75

**Newsletter Prep/Editing**

$1,600 $400.00 $1,000.00

**Newsletter Printing**

$2,000 $241.20 $1,416.57

**Office Supplies**

$400 $234.50 $1,444.56

**Parking**

$4,000 $582.75 $3,537.50

**Postage**

$300 $127.43 $253.14

**President's Expenses**

$350 $261.00

**Sales Tax (Book Cellar and Branches)**

$7,600 $2,413.58 $8,935.80

**Total Expenses**

$106,375 $17,486.66 $100,354.28

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The Friends of the Library Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 21, 2 p.m.**

2007 budget will be presented.
CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Jan. 8    Community Initiatives Meeting for 2007 Bond, 3 p.m., One Stop Development Center, 1901 S. Alamo St.

Jan. 18   Community Initiatives Meeting for 2007 Bond, 3 p.m., One Stop Development Center, 1901 S. Alamo St.

Jan. 21   **FOSAPL Annual Meeting, 2 pm, Central Library Auditorium**

Jan. 27   Texana/Genealogy annual book sale, 10–3, Central Library Auditorium


Feb. 6    Texas Legislative Day, Austin

Feb. 10   Westfall book sale, 9–4

Feb. 13   Writer meeting, 7 p.m., Hannah Landa Memorial Branch Library (NOTE change in venue)

Feb. 17   Oakwell book sale, 10–3:30

Feb. 24   Book Cellar prospective volunteer reception, 2–4 (tentative, call first)

March 3   Semmes book sale

Apr. 10–14 Texas Library Association 2007 Annual Conference in San Antonio

**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.