From the President

Dear Friends,

“A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.”
—Henry Ward Beecher

Clergyman, social reformer, and noted public speaker, Henry Beecher surely loved libraries. Among his numerous quotes related to literacy, the one above is my favorite. It caused me to reconsider what is luxury versus what is a necessity where great libraries are concerned.

Can you imagine living in San Antonio without a public library? What about living in this city with a library but with no children’s summer reading program materials, nor teen furniture, story-time carpets and comfy cushions, reading tables, smart TVs and video games, staff and volunteer recognition, specialty landscaping, Arts and Letters recognition of San Antonio’s best literary, visual, and musical talent, no author book readings, university writer’s camp for youth, security mirrors nor Lego blocks? And worse yet, would you ever return to a library whose staff was inadequately trained in customer service, the latest state-of-the art technology, or strategic planning?

All of the above amenities and human capital initiatives have been provided to our Central Library and its branches by the FRIENDS and BookCellar fundraising efforts. At one time, these might have been considered luxuries. However, if our San Antonio Public Library is to remain competitive nationally, we must do all we can to assist with providing these obvious necessities.

Thanks to all of you who, on a daily basis, contribute your time, talent, and financial support in this worthwhile endeavor.

To stay current and well-informed, it is no longer a luxury, but a “necessity” to have a well-trained group of branch officers. I want to urge all FRIENDS’ officers to attend our “21st Century FRIENDS: Silver, Gold, and Green” workshop, on Saturday, May 14, at the Central Library Auditorium from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our last “development day” was over 6 years ago! It is time to update your skills and share your winning strategies with others. We also ask that you do not schedule any book sales on this date so all can attend. I look forward to meeting you!

In FRIENDSHIP,
Karen Matson

21st Century FRIENDS: Silver, Gold, and Green

Nancy Gandara

Calling all Friends group presidents, treasurers, book sale mavens and other active Friends (you know who you are!). Learn about new fundraising and book sale techniques, membership recruitment and retention, and how to spend your Friends' money more efficiently on Saturday, May 14, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., in the Central Library Auditorium. Don't miss the “21st Century FRIENDS: Silver, Gold, and Green” workshop!

Standing Rules Revised to Address New Issues

On March 20, 2016, the FOSAPL Board approved a variety of additions and changes to the Standing Rules. Chief among these were:

- New Rule 1H, which disallows Friends from using the assets of the organization (e.g. sale books, contact information) for personal profit
- New Rule 2G, which outlines a procedure for groups to use if their officer(s) act improperly
- New language in Rule 3B, which authorizes and describes a procedure for use of voting via email
- New Rule 4H, which addresses complaints against directors and officers of groups
- Additional language in Rule 6D(4), which clarifies the roles of the BookCellar Manager, and of the FOSAPL President, as members of the BookCellar Committee
- New language in Rule 6D(5), which improves neutrality in judging submittals by members of the Arts & Letters Award Committee

The complete text of the changes can be found on page 6.

2016 Board Meeting Locations

May 15 – Thousand Oaks
July 17 – Johnston
Sept. 18 – Igo
Nov. 20 – Semmes
Friends of the San Antonio Public Library
Board Meeting
Sunday, March 20, 2016
Submitted by Nancy Gandara, Secretary

The Board of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library met on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, at the Mission Branch Library. President Karen Matson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Secretary Nancy Gandara called the roll, and declared that a quorum was present.

Board members present were: Karen Matson, Robert Mason, Beverly Duran, Nancy Gandara, Liz Alves, Elizabeth Bircher, Linda Cheatum, Shirley Coleman, Jose Duran, Antoinette Franklin, Beverly Harris, Linda Janney, Pat Konstam, Mary McAfee, Pat Peak, Ronnie Retzloff, Stephanie Serrata, Delia Trimble and Jill Zimmerman. Liana Benavides (Encino Branch) and Pat Cummins (Westfall) were present as voting liaison of their respective branch Friends’ groups. Also in attendance were Robert Anguiano, Terry Ybanez, and Gerald Hess (Mission), and Merrilyn and Leonce Leoniet (Encino).

Approval of Minutes: It was moved and seconded to accept the Minutes of the meeting of Jan. 10, 2016, as printed in the March/April 2016 issue (Mission), and also mailed to her at Southwest Foundations, or a Word file emailed to Alana Woods, or mailed to her at Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Rd., San Antonio, TX 78238.

Article contributions for the newsletter are always welcome!

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Lyn Belsile..........................Chair
Nancy Gandara • Bruce Gill • Stephanie Serrata • Alana Woods
Karen Matson..................Ex Officio
McAfee seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

President Matson stated that in 2016, the BookCellar will have been in operation for 25 years and that members of the BookCellar Committee have made a request for funds for a “week-long celebration”; the proposed budget had been distributed electronically to the board members. Mary McAfee moved that funds be allocated for the BookCellar’s celebration, and the motion was seconded. After considerable discussion and questions from the board members, Pat Konstam asked that the amount be limited to $500, and Ms. McAfee amended her motion to reflect that amount; the amendment was seconded by Delia Trimble. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Trimble asked that Richard Morales convey the board’s confidence in and appreciation for the BookCellar volunteers to those planning the celebration, and Bev Duran asked that the date of the “celebration week” be made known to the FOSAPL Secretary, so that it can be publicized to all the board members and FOSAPL members.

Treasurer Duran stated that the FOSAPL bylaws call for an annual review of the organization’s financial records, and she requested that the board authorize persons to accomplish that task. Sandra Wilkinson made the motion, which was seconded by Jill Zimmerman; the motion passed.

José Duran announced that Bob Mason had agreed to co-chair the Arts & Letters Award Committee for 2016 and that members of the committee include Lyn Belisle, Beverly Harris, Bruce Gill, Lori Gonzalez, Pat Peak, Ronnie Retzloff, and Jill Zimmerman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and ADJOURNMENT

After opening the floor to members who wished to announce recent or future events of their respective Friends groups, President Matson urged the membership to enjoy the refreshments that had been generously provided by Friends of the Mission Branch Library, and adjourned the meeting.

Branch Leaves

The Friends of the Brook Hollow Branch Library held their quarterly meeting on Saturday, Feb. 27, and discussed a number of issues. Those present decided to hold the Staff Appreciation Dinner at the Alamo Cafe on Thursday, May 12. All members are invited at a cost of $15 (the Branch Friends’ treasury will pay the additional cost per person). More details will be provided via email in the future.

The membership unanimously agreed to a recommendation that responsibility for maintaining the grounds of the Brook Hollow Branch Library be returned to the City of San Antonio landscaping contract effective immediately. Those present also authorized the expenditure of funds on a number of items requested by the Branch, including a locking cabinet for the area behind the circulation counter, furniture for the children’s area, and a playhouse for the children’s area.

The children’s playhouse was assembled and placed next to windows (providing a view out of its kitchen window!) in late March and was an immediate hit with children of all ages, from toddlers to pre-teens. Branch Secretary Veronica Rouse took her 3 children to “Play & Learn” on April 5, and advised that the playhouse was mobbed. The children loved it, and even the parents seemed to like it. After they returned home, Veronica’s 4 year old said, “I loved the playhouse, and I can’t stop thinking about it!”

More photos online at friendsofsapl.org

Mission Library teens shared their talents by decorating place markers during Teen Time to help enhance the Mission District Community Garden.

Carver

March 8 marked the second annual job fair sponsored by the Carver Branch Learn Center. Dozens of vendors were attracted to the event, including the San Antonio Police Department, the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office, Bio-Bridge Global, and VIA. The Friends of Carver Branch pitched in to help. They purchased food items and other goodies to share with the employers who otherwise might not have had lunch that afternoon.

Learn Center Training Officer Jeanne Johnson reported that the employers were very impressed by the generosity and hospitality of the Carver Friends, as well as the library staff. Dozens of job seekers visited the branch that day hoping to find work. According to Ms. Johnson, most applicants actually got job offers.

On March 15, the Carver group held a dedication ceremony to mark the installation of a playground canopy. The branch welcomed District 2 Councilman Alan Warrick II, SAPL Foundation’s Tracy Bennett, and other dignitaries to say thanks to all of the supporters who made the play-
Branch Leaves, from p 3.

Great Northwest

Friends of Great Northwest has grown to 20 members! In March, we said good-bye to our wonderful branch manager, Roberto Zapata, who has taken a new position in McAllen Texas. The library staff and Friends were invited to a farewell luncheon on March 2 and wished Roberto great success in his new adventure.

The Friends of GNW sponsored the Magik Theatre performance of the Three Little Pigs at the Dia de los Ninos Dia de los Libros on April 30. We also had a drawing fundraiser for five children’s books and toy baskets.

Looking forward to the busy children’s summer program, we will have a book sale on June 4, from 10 to 4. Our last book sale in January was our best yet, and we are hoping to break that record in June. Visit our Facebook event page at https://www.facebook.com/events/249832558701611/ for more information. If you have books for us, please let us know.

Best wishes Roberto, we will miss you! Denise Barlow

Igo

The Friends of the Igo Branch Library invite you to visit and participate in these programs during May and June. For additional information about the listed events, call the Igo Library at 210-207-9080.

The Holocaust: Learn and Remember on Monday, May 9, 6:00–7:30; Dr. Roger C. Barnes, UIW, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, will share history, experience, and photography about the six major Nazi extermination camps operated in Poland: Chelmno, Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor, Belzec, and Auschwitz. Severe Weather and Disaster Preparedness Training will be given on Saturday, May 21, from 2–3.

The Igo Branch will be conducting a book sale on Saturday, June 4, from 10–5, also on Sunday, June 5, from 1–4. Friend’s groups from other branches may come and pick up books for their sales after 4 on Sunday. Please call Jose Duran to let him know you are coming to pick up books prior to the sale at 210-695-9070.

Jose Duran

Las Palmas

The combined Las Palmas and Bazan Libraries Friends’ book sale took place at Port San Antonio’s “Fiesta de Los Ninos” event. Eight Our Lady of the Lake University students added their valuable creativity and energy during the day-long book sale and took charge of the very popular face painting art. They also gave out balloons to the children with a variety of messages, to include “Books are fun!” While we didn’t make a lot of money, the day was a great success because we promoted the services of the Public Library and provided access to many books for the people in the community, as part of their Fiesta celebration. All our volunteers, the OLLU students and Friends from both libraries, talked about their participation as a very positive experience.

The Las Palmas Library was honored to host Arturo Rodriguez, the president of the United Farm Workers, the union founded by Cesar Chavez. Interestingly, one of Mr. Rodriguez’ family members has a “connection” to the Las Palmas Library, giving this visit a special meaning. Our Friends group assisted in the publicity for the program and provided the refreshments.

Congratulations to Las Palmas Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez, for her May graduation from Our Lady of the Lake University with a Masters in Business Administration. In addition to her other duties and completing her Masters while working full time, Patricia coordinates the Bilingual Story Time program. Our Friends group has committed to sponsoring one of the activities during the Library’s Summer Reading program. We are looking into other possible children’s programs/activities to add to the busy summertime calendar at Las Palmas.

Delia Ramirez Trimble

Maverick

If it’s spring, it must be book sale time at Maverick! Although we could have chosen a better weekend—perhaps it’s not the best idea to compete with the Book Festival and Siclovia!—it was another success for us.

Huge thanks are due all the members who came out and brought family members and friends to help as well. P.J. and John Gaddis brought family members Nancie Gaddis, Kathy Yehl and Kerrie Adams; Becky Vargas brought her friend, Carmen Pedraza; Kim, Layne, and Kaitlyn Henage came to work as did Barbara and Franklin Steinhauser, Rick Meuse, Joyce Garcia, Elizabeth Bircher, our newest member, Amanda.

Arts and Letters

The FOSAPL Arts and Letters committee wants to honor outstanding San Antonio artists, writers (all genres), thespians, and/or musicians. If you know an artist who excels at his or her artistic endeavor and has also made or is making a significant contribution to the community, please take the time to nominate that person. This year, the Arts and Letters committee will provide FOSAPL members with a standardized nomination form to be filled out and returned to the committee. You can download the Arts and Letters nomination form (PDF) (Word doc), pick one up at our regularly scheduled board meetings, or contact Jose Duran by email to receive one. All nominations must be forwarded to Jose Duran by August 1. The committee will carefully review the nominees and post the award recipients in the September-October edition of the SAPLings. The awards will be presented at the Central Library on a date to be determined.

Jose Duran
14010 French Park
Helotes, TX 78023
Email: jbduran@att.net
Dickinson, and Sue Ratliff. Genny Lee, a volunteer from the Maverick Ladies’ Choice book group, was a tremendous help with setting up for the sale. And, as always, our Branch Manager Jef Martin, gave us not just moral support, but he ferried all of the books from storage to the meeting room for the sale.

At recent book sales, we’ve raffled off an autographed book with varying levels of success. Claudia Kohler brought in our first book, and Kim Henage acquired our more recent offerings.

For this sale, Kim, who won tickets to a breakfast/autograph party with Patty Mills, wondered aloud at a book sorting day if there were Maverick Friends who might be interested in something he’d signed. Elizabeth Bircher immediately suggested raffling an autographed basketball instead of a book.

The Henage family generously donated a signed basketball, and it was a huge hit. In fact, that probably qualifies as the understatement of the year as we made more on this raffle than on any two of the previous book raffles combined.

Because we have to reserve the room for our book sales so far in advance, we’re already planning our Fall sale. It will be from 10 to 4 on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18. We hope to see many Friends there.

Sue Ratliff

McCreless

Last SA P Lings, we reported the amount of new funds raised at the March book sale. That amount has been supplemented by $61.62 from the March Book Nook sales. Thank you to Mary Gallagher for getting that money from the Book Nook into our Friends account. The Book Nook sales help the Friends fund the upcoming summer children, teen, and adult library programs being planned by Branch Manager Cammie Brantley and the library staff.

The next McCreless Friends meeting will be on Monday, May 9, starting at 6 in the library’s meeting room. At that time, funding for the 50th anniversary celebration of McCreless Library will be voted on and planning for the Fall Holiday Book Sale will be discussed. SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, August 14 for the 50th anniversary celebration of McCreless Branch Library.

Jill Zimmerman

Memorial Amigos

The weather cooperated and the annual Amigos Oyster Bake after-hours parking fundraiser was held Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16. The Amigos supplied pizzas and beverages on both Friday and Saturday for the volunteers. April was Poetry Month and Memorial held Poetry Night on Thursday, April 7.

On Saturday, May 21, from 1–p.m., we will observe Memorial Library’s 35th anniversary with “35 Reasons to Love Memorial Library.”

Diane Duesterhoeft

Parman


Rhonda Matson

San Pedro

In addition to our book sale, we offer small plants as they become available from our members. Call first for selection.

On June 26, we are having a Kumihimo (Japanese braiding) learning session, 3–5 p.m.. All ages are welcome above 5 years old. The event is free, but any donations made to friends will be appreciated.

Lori Gonzalez

**Donations & Memorials**

Sheila Figueroa

**In Memory of**

Annie Lucille Dugas
Phyllis Massengale
Alan Hildreth
Mary Esther
Zahradnick

by

Julie & Curtis Leathers
Karen Matson
Christie Smith
Yolanda Kirkpatrick & Ira V. Lott

**Donations**

Dr. George Beddingfield
Dr. Emerson L. Besch
Jane Bowles & Francis Daunt
M. K. Brooks
Alethea Bugg
Nancy & Charlie Cheever
Amanda Dickinson
Kay Fitch
Betty Lou Jordan
Larry Luckett
O. P. McCarty
Dale McNeill
Dr. Daniel Macias
Daniel Markson

Morgan Matson
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Pacheco
Maria & Fred Pfeiffer
Bryan Ratcliff
Paul Rode
Melissa Shepherd
Sarah Smith
Louisa & Henry Steel
Hope H. Trevino
Jean Van Nest
Lori Wright
From the Library Director

The Holocaust: Learn & Remember, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and Summer Reading at SAPL

Dear Friends,

May is here, and there are a number of exciting and thought-provoking events and programs coming up at the Library. I would like to cordially invite you to celebrate the 2016 spring Mayor’s Book Club at Read to Red Carpet: A Mayor’s Book Club Celebration at Mission Marquee Plaza on Saturday, May 7, from 5-8. During March and April, the San Antonio Public Library hosted a variety of programs and discussions that focused on the themes of the book “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak. On Saturday, May 7, the spring book club will conclude with family-friendly activities including live music, arts & crafts, food trucks, and a film screening of “The Book Thief” (rated PG 13).

May is National Asian Pacific American Heritage month. Throughout the month, we recognize the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians to the American story and celebrate Asian and Pacific American culture and heritage. The Library will host a variety of events and discussions throughout the month, including: classic Indian dance, authentic Chinese tea tastings, Tai Chi, and Japanese drum performances. Check mysapl.org for details.

During the month of May, we also observe The Holocaust: Learn & Remember, a yearly commemoration and remembrance of the Holocaust. The 2016 theme, Children of War, focuses on the experiences of children during the war and beyond. Library visitors will have the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the Holocaust from local child survivors, and learn more about the experience from local and national presenters and scholars. The Holocaust: Learn & Remember will kick off on Monday, May 2, at 10 at the Holocaust Memorial Museum San Antonio (12500 NW Military Hwy, 78231).

Finally, we want to remind you that Summer Reading and the Mayor’s Summer Reading Club begin June 1. This year’s theme, GREEN, means GO to the library! Let’s get excited about all things GREEN- animals, plants, plants, recycling and more.

We hope you take the opportunity to enjoy these programs and more at the San Antonio Public Library. As always, thank you for your support and service.

Ramiro Salazar

Standing Rules Revisions APPROVED by FOSAPL Board on March 20, 2016

(See complete Bylaws & Standing Rules on www.friendsofSAPL.org, FOSAPL Bylaws.)

Changes are shown in colored type for online readers.

Standing Rules:

Rule 1. Membership

1B. Classes of Members Dual Memberships (Two persons residing at the same physical address) $25.00

1H. No member of the board of directors, BookCellar Committee or BookCellar volunteer corps, or any branch/special interest group’s population group shall derive any personal profit or financial gain, directly or indirectly, by reason of his or her participation in the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library. Members of the Friends’ board, committees, and branch/special interest groups shall refrain from the use of any contact information (i.e., electronic or physical address) that results in personal financial benefit. Persons who utilize Friends’ book sales and/or The BookCellar to acquire discounted items for resale must comply with all policies regarding volunteer service prior to their purchase of discounted items, and failure to do so will result in loss of privileges made available to volunteers.

Rule 2. Branch or Other Support Groups

2G. In the event that one or more officers of a group neglect to demonstrate appropriate leadership (e.g., failure to call meetings, failure to adhere to the bylaws of the group, suspected financial impropriety) any member of that group may request intervention by the FOSAPL President and/or the executive committee. Such situations shall be handled with discretion, but the President shall apprise appropriate staff of the San Antonio Public Library of ramifications prior to legal actions.

Rule 3. Meetings

3B. Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of the board of directors, meetings of members of branch/special interest groups, or meeting of any committee or authorized task force, may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing, setting forth the action to be taken, shall be signed or submitted electronically (i.e., via email) by a simple majority of the members entitled to vote with respect to the question. In the event that members are requested to participate in an electronic vote: 1) the question must be posed unambiguously, requiring a “yes” or “no”; 2) members must be directed to “reply” no later than a specific date and time; 3) the officer authorized to receive the votes shall retain printed records of the votes cast electronically; 4) the number of votes and abstentions cast by the stated time must be equal to or greater than a quorum of the body; 5) the officer authorized to receive and tabulate the votes shall notify the President of the results of the vote within 24 hours; 6) the officer authorized to receive and tabulate the votes shall notify the members that the affected members (voting, non-voting, and abstaining) of the result of the vote within 48 hours, and 7) the Secretary shall add a request for action to ratify the results of the vote to the next meeting agenda of the body.

Rule 4. Directors

4B. Authorized branch and other support groups of the Friends may elect a voting member with a one-year term of office, with eligibility for re-election for three additional terms. The group President will notify the FOSAPL Secretary of the name and other contact information of the branch group’s voting liaison.

4H. If a director or an officer of a branch group acts in a manner that is threatening to library staff members or Friends, misrepresents his or her authority, acts in a manner that fails to demonstrate inclusion or respect, and subsequently fails to resolve allegations or grievances brought against him or her with the executive committee, that person shall be notified in writing by the President that his/her position (on the board of directors and/or as a branch group officer) has been forfeited.

Rule 6. Committees and Task Forces

6A. A committee limited to the performance of a specific duty within a limited time frame shall be designated as a Task Force and shall be dissolved upon completion and the reporting of recommendations to the board of directors or the members.

Annually, the President will request that a Task Force of at least five (5) board members other than officers be appointed by the directors to conduct the financial review of the prior year’s financial records.

6D. The BookCellar committee is directly responsible to the President and the board of directors for committee supervision and management of the Friends’ BookCellar bookstore. The committee chooses its own membership and its chair. The committee will consist of at least ten (10) active Friends selected by the Committee. The book store Manager will be a non-voting member of the Committee, and the FOSAPL President shall be an ex-officio member of the committee. Where possible, SABF, cont on p 7.
committee members should include a volunteer from each day of the week and one person from the Board of Directors. The Committee will meet at least six times annually, the time and place to be established by the Committee Chair and made known to the Board President.

[Phrase in purple is the same wording as the BookCellar Committee Policies document approved January 10, 2016.]

The BookCellar Committee responsibilities for the bookstore operations include business hours, internal facility security, property accountability and maintenance, publicity, recruiting, training, scheduling, and supervising volunteer workers and appropriate worker service recognition. The committee, with the participation of the President in the recruiting/hiring process, may hire a bookstore manager to be responsible for and oversee those daily bookstore operations designated by the committee. The committee will recommend salary and benefits for the manager to the FOSAPL Board. The committee will at all times practice strict overall property and financial accountability and record-keeping. The BookCellar Manager, or in the Manager’s absence, a committee member appointed by the committee chair and working in the bookstore, will be accountable for proper handling, recording, security, and timely deposit of daily receipts and recording of expenditures. The board of directors shall designate that the BookCellar Manager be bonded, the cost of which will be borne by the Friends.

6D. 5. The Arts & Letters Annual Award Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members, and shall be responsible for planning, publicizing, and conducting the Arts & Letters Award program. The Committee shall describe standards of achievement required of nominees, shall solicit nominations, and conduct evaluations in an equitable manner. Members of the committee are precluded from nominating themselves, members of their family, or more than one person. Should a person be nominated whose relationship to a committee member present a conflict of interest, that committee member shall recuse himself/herself from the committee’s consideration of that nominee. The Chair of the Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the established budget is maintained, and for providing the Secretary with minutes of all committee meetings.

The BookCellar Committee is looking for a new manager for the store. The job is part-time (22.5 hours a week) and requires working mid-day between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you know someone who would like to apply, please ask that person to contact Andrea Mason, chair of the search committee, at amason70@att.net.

To welcome the summer reading season, the BookCellar is holding a huge 50¢ sale for adult readers during the last two weeks of this month. Every regularly priced fiction and nonfiction book for adults purchased between Saturday, May 14, and Sunday, May 29, will cost 50¢ instead of $1. The sale includes books in Spanish and several other languages. It will not include premium books or children’s books (most of which are priced at 25¢ or 50¢ all the time).

For gift seekers, the store has a wide variety of attractive possibilities for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, graduations, confirmations, and even weddings (maybe an authoritative cookbook or lushly illustrated guide to decorating an apartment or new home). There are beautiful books on art and artists; practical guides for building things around the house, doing crafts or gardening; coffee table books and small quirky books; books with Texas themes; books on sports, history, armchair travel and just about any other subject for adults, children and teens.

The sale of selected vintage, antiquarian and rare books is continuing at 50% off their marked price. Generally published more than a half-century ago, these books include first editions, histories, once-popular novels, children’s books, reference books useful in researching the past, and a surprising variety of other collectible books — including some that are highly valuable. Of local interest is a memoir of San Antonio’s now-closed amusement park, Playland Park. Collage artists or crafters in need of antique paper or illustrations can buy damaged vintage books for 25¢ each. Newspapers with historic front page headlines are sometimes available.

In addition to books on paper, the store has audio books — both fiction and nonfiction — for $1.00. In addition to music CDs, it has hundreds of vinyl LP albums priced at $1, plus an occasional 45 RPM for 25¢. Sheet music is also $1. Movies on DVD for adults or children, in English or in Spanish, are available.

The store has an enduring supply of National Geographic magazines, at 10¢ a copy. Branch groups that would like to pick up a free stack for their book cart should contact the BookCellar.

As testimony to the traffic the store gets, the snack vending machine in the BookCellar has one of the highest sales volumes of all such machines on city property, according to the City Finance Department. Proceeds from the machine go into the city’s General Fund, while the BookCellar makes a profit on drinks bought to go with the snacks.

Longtime volunteers were saddened to learn of the death in February of Norm Sonnenschein, who began work in the store when it opened in 1991 and continued almost every Monday until his health began to fail in 2013.
CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

May 6–7   Carver two-day book sale.
May 15   FOSAPL Board Meeting, Thousand Oaks, 2.
May 21   Memorial’s 35 anniversary to be observed with “35 Reasons to Love Memorial Library,” 1-3.
May 27–29   Guerra book sale, Friday, 4–6; Saturday, 10–4; and Sunday, 10–4. No preview sale.
June 4–5   Igo book sale, Saturday, 10–5; Sunday, 1–4.
August 1   Deadline for Arts & Letters nominations.
August 14   McCreless 50th anniversary celebration!
Sept. 17   Brook Hollow 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.