

THE FRIENDS OF THE ENCINO-TARZANA LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 March 2008

18231 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356

Free Resources for Seniors
by Dept. of Aging, City of Los Angeles
Co-sponsored by Friends of the Library (FOL)
(Sign up at the Library Information Desk)
Wednesday, March 12 - 12:30-1:30 pm

BOOK SALE DATES - 2008
FRI. & SAT. MAY 16-17 -- AUG. 22-23 -- DEC. 5-6.
Note: The inventory and prices of our book sales are the same as in our Bookstore (open daily), except we box and store the extra donations, those beyond what our Bookstore can hold, and bring out those boxes for our big quarterly book sales. SAVE THE DATES - IT'S WORTH IT!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN -- COMMUNICATION: We do communicate regularly with our members albeit not via a timely newsletter and USPS. Our Friends of the Library (FOL) Newsletter has migrated from bi-monthly to quarterly to semi-annually to occasionally. The reason: We no longer have a Newsletter Chair and so we publish when we have the time.

However, we do keep you apprised of what's new, using three different methods:

- Our website is always current and available - www.ETLibraryFriends.org
- Our occasional emails of news reach half of our members who have given us email addresses
- Our occasional USPS mailings are sent to all members (costly, and so kept to a minimum)

We welcome your input on how we can serve you better.

-- President Barbara Leff - 818.981.6920 - president@ETLibraryFriends.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - for 2008-2010

Our 2006-2008 Board members enjoyed working with the Friends and the Library so much, they've agreed to continue - with a few changes of positions! So - we're looking forward to another good two years...

President - Barbara Leff
1st Vice President - Adele Druck
2nd Vice President - Mark Lamken
Recording Secretary - Evelyn Perl
Corresponding Secretary - Esther Bronner Rose
Treasurer - Nonie Lann
Members-at-Large: Jane Gebers
Maryalyce Reilly
Ex-Officio - Melissa Potter, LAPL Branch
Manager

Book Club Chair - Carol Fox
Telephone Chair - Lois Levy
Historian - **[open - need a volunteer]**
Hospitality Chair - Mally Martin
Membership Chair - Jenny Lapidus
Newsletter Chair - **[open - need a volunteer]**
Program Chair - Linda Grose
Publicity/Outreach Chair - Gisela Sehnert
Volunteer Appreciation Chair - Richard Kazie

JANE'S BOOKS: OUR USED BOOKSTORE IS FILLED WITH TREASURES
by Jane Gebers

You know about our Used FOL Bookstore, of course. You also know we have a great assortment of hardback and paperback fiction, don't you? But what else do we have in the store?

Well, we have our *Classics* section. Right now I can see Conrad's Heart of Darkness, Fielding's The History of Tom Jones, Jack London's Lord Jim and White Fang plus loads of Shakespeare.

Then there is our *Poetry* section right next to the Classics, as well as the *Religion* and *Inspirational* categories just below.

We have *Biographies*: Barbra Streisand, Katherine Graham, Lee Iacoca, Jack Smith and various Royals, to name just a few.

Very popular with patrons is our *History* and *Politics* section. In front of me are books by Bob Woodward, Al Franken, Winston Churchill, Ron Suskind, and R.H. Haldeman.

Are you interested in *Self-Improvement* or *Raising Children*? Our bookshelves are loaded with lots of excellent ideas for you.

Then there are books on *Writing*, *Movies*, *Business*, and *Travel* -- and don't forget our books in *Other Languages* from Farsi to Spanish.

And, we have many beautiful over-sized *coffee table books* for amazingly low prices, and *series of books*, as well as *CDs* and *DVDs*.

Visit us and browse and expand your education . . . and maybe impress your friends with your newfound wisdom. Or, just read for fun or for laughs (see the *Humor* section).

Do come visit us. [Half hour after Library opens to half hour before closing - Mon.-Sat.]

IN APPRECIATION... Bookstore and Book Sale Volunteers were invited to our annual breakfast at Carrow's Restaurant on March 4. The camaraderie was wonderful as strangers became friends with a common interest - the Library! Also, at the end of 2007, the FOL gave a gift to all volunteers and the Library Staff -- a 2008 Book Lover's Page-A-Day Calendar.

2007 FRIEND OF THE YEAR -- BARBARA Y. LEFF
by Adele Druck, First Vice President

At the annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on March 4, 2008, Barbara Leff was presented with the "2007 Friend of the Year Award."

It is no secret that the Friends of Encino-Tarzana Library owe much of its success to the untiring efforts and superb skills that Barbara has brought to the office of President. Her background as a librarian and her understanding of how libraries work has kept us on track and avoided potential missteps in our efforts to be of service to Encino-Tarzana Branch Library. Her long-time friendship with City Librarian Fontayne Holmes has benefited us, most particularly with the faster removal of unstable tiles and repaving of the parking lot.

We owe much to her organizational ability, her persuasive art of delegation, and, when no delegatee can be found, she jumps in and does the job herself. Job after job, time after time -- from taking on the duties of Newsletter Editor to maintaining the Friends display board, from publishing the Library calendar to pulling together the Board Meeting agendas, then keeping track of all the committee assignments and deadlines and jumping in when a substitute bookstore volunteer is needed.

Having been persuaded to accept another two-year term as president, we salute Barbara Leff, Friend of the Year!

2007 ANNUAL REPORTS (as of November 2007)

President's Annual Report -- Barbara Leff

We had a good year - lots of cooperation among our Board and with the Library Staff - lots of help from our bookstore and book sale volunteers - lots of membership renewals. Our only major disappointment was in program attendance, despite excellent programming, as noted below. Oh, and our Habit Burger Grill donation was minimal because few of our members participated.

However, we are very happy to report that our reserve funds, together with our 2007 fund raising efforts through membership and Bookstore/book sales, allowed us to give a healthy donation to our Encino-Tarzana Branch Library:

\$16,000 - Books and Materials
\$4,000 - DVD Cases and Inserts
\$1,200 - Multicultural Children's Arts & Crafts Monthly Programs
\$625 - Three Children's Summer Reading Programs with Performers
\$175 - Children's Arts & Crafts Program
\$100 - Young Adult Summer Reading Program
\$50 - Adult Programming
\$1,184 - Two Large Meeting Room Tables
\$740 - Media Display Cart for Teen Graphic Novels
\$281 - Decorations for the Library for 2008
\$163 - Subject Labels and Boxes for Kids' Prizes
\$24,518 -- TOTAL for 2007

Any suggestions or ideas for our FOL? Want to volunteer? Want to make a difference? Contact me - 818.981.6920 - president@ETLibraryFriends.org

Membership Chair's Annual Report -- Jenny Lapidus

Currently there are 205 paid members. There are 32 first time members and 8 of those joined since August 1, 2007. There are 15 members from 2006 who moved/deceased and approximately 20 members who did not renew. 59 members have joined at \$5, 40 members at \$10, 17 members at \$15, 56 members at \$25, 1 member at \$35, 1 member at \$45, 17 at \$50, and 6 members at \$100.

Members are recruited at all functions and at the Friends of the Library Bookstore. Upon joining, members receive a welcome letter, a membership card, the current newsletter, a coupon to be redeemed at the bookstore, and a survey/interest form. Individuals/families contributing \$100 or more may have a book plate, with their name, placed in a library book. **Total dues collected was almost \$4000.00.**

Bookstore / Book Sales Annual Report -- Margaret Talvin

Bookstore: The bookstore schedule was changed on March 1 when the library hours were extended; we were able to get volunteers to cover most of the extra hours.

Volunteers: Currently, we have 31 weekly and substitute volunteers working in the Bookstore. We need more volunteers capable of moving boxes, especially for set-up and take-down of the book sales [instead of our having to hire helpers.]

2007 GROSS INCOME (Jan.-Dec.) from Bookstore and Book Sales: \$20,230.25.

[Additional comments by FOL President: NORMA LAMKEN, JOYCE PROPPER, and MARGARET TALVIN have been managing the FOL Bookstore and Book Sales, in lieu of a single Bookstore Manager. Joyce and Norma sort, price, box, store, restock, and set up the sales; Margaret helps them, screens and trains new volunteers, is available for problems, and prepares reports. They work beautifully as a team. In addition, GAIL SILLMAN continues to help with sales and book dealers; JANE GEBERS helps assign Bookstore substitutes; SKIP CLAPKIN moves piles of boxes of books; and TANAYA PAGE co-chaired one of our book sales. The rest of our volunteers are unbelievable in their dedication and support for the Library.]

Book Club Chair's Annual Report -- Carol Fox

Our Book Club, which is open to all FOL members, is enjoying its second year. The group meets once a month at a member's home. At this time, we are exploring fiction and non-fiction works suggested by our participants. During 2007, we read and discussed:

Edward P. Jones - The Known World
Jeffrey Eugenides - Middlesex
Jeannette Walls - The Glass Castle: a Memoir
Sara Gruen - Water for Elephants, a Novel
Khaled Hosseini - Kite Runner
Jhumpa Lahiri - The Namesake
Rohinton Mistry - Family Matters
Katharine Graham - Personal History
Kim Edwards - Memory Keeper's Daughter

Publicity Chair's Annual Report -- Adele Druck

During the past year, press releases and online entries for all Friends' events, where possible, have been sent to the publications below. Regretably, they publish our publicity *only sometimes* -- resulting in poorer attendance at our programs than we would have expected. [Encino Sun is the only publication we can depend on to publish everything.] We sent publicity to:

Los Angeles Times (except for Book Sales which the Times will no longer print); Daily News; Encino Sun and other Sun Newspapers in Studio City and Sherman Oaks; Southern California Senior Life; Not Born Yesterday; Los Angeles Valley Beat; Valley Scene Magazine; Councilman Jack Weiss' online "Weiss Wire."

In addition, flyers and posters have been prepared and distributed and/or posted at: Encino-Tarzana Branch Library (in Library and in Friends' Bookstore); Studio City Branch Library; Sherman Oaks Branch Library; West Valley Regional Branch Library; Balboa Sports Center; Encino Community Center; Councilman Dennis Zine's Tarzana offices; Carrows Restaurant; Fromin's Restaurant; Gelson's Markets in Encino and Tarzana; and various other retail establishments in the area.

Program Chair's Annual Report -- Linda Grose

Poor attendance for the programs in the first half of 2007 determined the suspension of programs from Aug. 2007 to the end of the year. An article in our September 2007 Friends of Encino-Tarzana Library Newsletter discussed this predicament. There were 5 - 6 responses which ranged from there is no need for programs to there is no publicity [*not true - see above*] and to keep trying.

It is worth noting those speakers who gave of their time in early 2007: Local mystery writers Rochelle Krich and Denise Hamilton; local garden columnist Tony Kienitz; opera aficionado Sam Sokolow; a play on Viktor Frankl's writings; Kym Douglas who wrote a book on Hollywood Beauty Secrets; and Fayla Reiss and Barry Klein who wrote a book on knitting techniques. Well-known authors Ray Bradbury and Lisa See canceled when informed two months prior to their appearances that a sizeable audience could not be guaranteed. Also, during 2007, we arranged a trip to the Getty Villa in Malibu.

The Board is still discussing the future of FOL programming. We welcome your input.

Webmaster's Annual Report -- Judy Russell [www.ETLibraryFriends.org]

The FOL website's aim is to provide up-to-date information about the Friends and resources for people using the library. We started work on the website in March, went "live" in April.

We've included information about FOL such as the book club, bookstore and sales, joining, and volunteering. There are web-pages about the Library itself with general information and links to specific parts of the LAPL website, and calendars of events held at the Library.

We've put together what we hope are useful resources:

1) If looking for a book to read, try "Friends Recommend," "Jane's Books" (organized by genre), or "Jim's Lists."

2) There are guides to websites for kids, teens, and parents - including LAPL sites and others for school, games - these are "safe" sites.

3) Resources for All includes newspapers; sources for radio and TV programs about books; local, state and federal government sites; resources for seniors; and a new section on getting free credit reports, identity theft and Opt-outs.

I've used the word "we" a lot because so many people provided material for this website. Most of the content and photos are from Barbara Leff, many of Adele Druck's publicity posters have been on the site, Jane Gebers has provided an entire page, and I am the technician and supply some of the text.

If there are problems with the website, either errors or display problems, please let me know. If anyone has suggestions for additions or things to make the website more useful, please send to me. [webmast@ETLibraryFriends.org]

LAPL Branch Manager's Annual Report -- Melissa Potter

Last year, when I had to give this "state of the branch" speech, I had barely been here two months and I was totally overwhelmed. Now, a year later, I am still overwhelmed. This was an incredibly busy year. Our hours increased in March, which had a major impact on staffing. We lost two Clerk Typists and gained three Clerk Typists; we gained and lost a Messenger Clerk; we earned an entirely new full-time Adult Librarian, which position our Young Adult Librarian moved into; and we will have a new Young Adult Librarian starting on December 10. With our increase in hours, our circulation is soaring. Last year we ranked about 8th in circulation out of 71 branches; the last statistics I saw have us up to number five.

In this last year, I've also had time to really see how much the support of the Friends of the Library impacts on us and on our ability to serve the public.

- At the end of last year, the Friends bought us paperback racks, which we filled with more books, and started a very popular "Branch Favorites" collection; this year we moved the racks to serve as a privacy block between the computers and the people standing in line waiting to check out books.

- Next, the Friends bought us tables for the meeting room and we filled the seats around them with members of the computer and life stories classes, and with you, Friends of the Library.

- Further, the Friends bought us security cases and inserts for the DVDs, and this led to a big project where all the staff worked together to convert the old movies to the new cases. The result was more room on the DVD shelves, easier to read DVD boxes, more security, and the added bonus of having patrons think we had new movies just because the boxes are shiny.

- Throughout the year, the Friends have supported Children's and Teen Programs, filling up the new tables, bringing in new patrons, and making regular patrons come in more often.

- Recently, we were able to order a new Media Display Cart for our graphic novels; this will give us more room for books and college materials in the teen area without sacrificing the popular graphic novel collection.

- And, you have approved the purchase of much-needed supplies, year-round decorations, and an adult program in early January 2008.

- Finally, the Friends' impact on our materials budget has been tremendous. By adding \$8000 to our 2006-2007 fiscal year and another \$8000 to our 2007-2008 fiscal year budgets, the Friends have essentially given us almost \$20,000 worth of materials after discounts. This is an invaluable service both to the library and the community as a whole.

We thank you very much!

FRIENDS RECOMMEND

At our Board and Annual Meetings, members recommend books worth reading:

Markus Zusak - [The Book Thief](#)

Sophie Kinsella - [Confessions of a Shopaholic](#)

Lauren Bacall - [By Myself and Then Some](#)

Sherman Alexie - [The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian](#)

Bill Boyarsky - [Big Daddy: Jesse Unruh and the Art of Power Politics](#)

Michael Chabon - [Gentlemen of the Road; A Tale of Adventure](#)

Robert Whitaker - [The Mapmaker's Wife](#)

Tom Perrotta - Little Children
Geraldine Books - March (2006 Pulitzer Prize)
John Grisham - Partners
Rabbi Joseph Telushkin - Biblical Literacy: The Most Important People, Events, and Ideas of the Hebrew Bible

DID YOU KNOW?...

...that the **Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL)** does more than just maintain a main library and 71 branch libraries throughout Los Angeles??

...that **CAMP LAPL** hosted 90 kids and their parents who live in downtown hotels and homeless shelters - exposing them to literature and art this past summer?

...that **YOUNG LITERATI**, a membership group of young civic-minded individuals, raise funds and help raise awareness of libraries -- their first Annual Toast in Beverly Hills was an art exhibition with cocktails, DJ music, and celebrities who read works from their favorite authors?

...that **LITERARY FEASTS** had 54 dinners with 54 authors in 54 different homes on November 5, 2007, featuring the authors and "scintillating conversation, outstanding cuisine, and magnificent hospitality..." -- to raise funds for LAPL children/teen reading enrichment programs?

...that the **GREGORY PECK READING SERIES**, besides sponsoring programs, hosted reading and musical events with Dick Van Dyke and Alan Bergman to benefit the Peck Endowment that builds resources to maintain quality literary, educational, and cultural LAPL programs?

...that the **LIBRARY FOUNDATION** sponsored an evening with Don Rickles, comedian and author, along with Saul Turteltaub, television producer; also a first program in the San Fernando Valley -- at the Platt Branch Library (Woodland Hills) -- with author and political campaign strategist Robert Shrum?

...that **LAPL SUMMER READING PROGRAMS** scored BIG last summer -- 25,000 kids signed up for "I Spy Books" and 15,000 teens participated in "Design Your Future," which included a "decorate your own book bag" contest?

...that **two new EXHIBITIONS** have opened in the downtown main library -- "*Bunker Hill by Leo Politi*" -- Politi is a recognized artist, writer, and storyteller interested in preserving Los Angeles history (Feb. 2 - June 14); and "*Beyond the Iconic: Contemporary Photographs of Paris*" from the archives of the Musée Carnavalet, Paris (Mar. 1 - June 1)?

...that **LAPL's "READING IS POWER"** campaign features four city-wide programs:
-- "**Read to Me L.A.**" - teaches parents to read with their pre-school children;
-- "**Student Smart**" - helps middle/high school students with SAT, PSAT, college prep.;
-- "**Live Homework Help**" - provides free online tutors to grades 4 - 12 students;
-- "**Adult Literacy Centers**" - provide books, computers, & tutors to adults?

...that 600 people participated in the **2007 STAY HOME AND READ A BOOK BALL?**

...that many of **LAPL's "ALOUD"** free speaker series in the main library -- lectures, performances, readings, and discussions -- are broadcast on TV on Los Angeles CityView Channel 35, and also are available as podcasts to download from the LAPL website?

Sources: *Library Foundation of Los Angeles "Aware" publication (Fall 2007); and the LAPL website - www.lapl.org*

ENCINO-TARZANA LIBRARY EVENTS

as reported on the Friends of Encino-Tarzana Library website.
For UPDATES and DETAILS, go to www.ETLibraryFriends.org

MARCH - APRIL 2008

(Library is closed on Sundays)

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Thursday, Mar. 6 - 12:30-2:30 pm -- Life Stories Writing Class (weekly class)
Thursday, Mar. 6 - 4:00-5:00 pm -- JUST FOR TEENS - Internet Radio @ Your Library - DJ's from KILL will talk about operating an Internet radio station.
Saturday, Mar. 8 - 2:00-4:00 pm -- New Voices Poetry. (share your work!)
Monday, Mar. 10 - 3:00-4:00 pm -- Pre-School Story Time
Monday, Mar. 10 - 6:00-7:30 pm -- Computer Basics with BZ (weekly class)
Tuesday, Mar. 11 - 4:00-5:00 pm -- Arts & Crafts with Shokoufeh, Children's Librn. (Friends co-sponsor)
Wednesday, Mar. 12 - 12:30-1:30 pm -- FREE RESOURCES FOR SENIORS from the Dept. of Aging - free services available through City of Los Angeles. (sign at Information Desk). (FOL co-sponsor)
Thursday, Mar. 13 - 12:30-2:30 pm -- Life Stories Writing Class (weekly class)
Monday, Mar. 17 - 6:00-7:30 pm -- Computer Basics with BZ (weekly class)
Monday, Mar. 24 - 3:00-4:00 pm -- Pre-School Story Time
Monday, Mar. 24 - 6:00-7:30 pm -- Computer Basics with BZ (weekly class)
Wednesday, Mar. 26 - 10:30-11:30 am -- Computer Comfort -- [sign up at Information Desk]
Wednesday, Mar. 26 - 1:00-2:30 pm -- Friends Open Board meeting -- we welcome everyone.
Thursday, Mar. 27 - 12:30-2:30 pm -- Life Stories Writing Class (weekly class)
Thursday, Mar. 27 - 5:30-6:30 pm -- Book Lovers Book Club discussing Harem by Dora Levy Mossanen
Monday, Mar. 31 -- LIBRARY CLOSED (César Chávez Day)

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Thursday, Apr. 3 - 12:30-2:30 pm -- Life Stories Writing Class (weekly class)
Thursday, Apr. 3 - 7:00-8:30 pm - Friends of Library Book Club (off-site) - Book: On Beauty by Zadie Smith.
Monday, Apr. 7 - 3:00-4:00 pm -- Pre-School Story Time
Monday, Apr. 7 - 6:00-7:30 pm -- Computer Basics with BZ (weekly class)
Tuesday, Apr. 8 - 4:00-5:00 pm -- Arts & Crafts with Shokoufeh, Children's Librarian (Friends co-sponsor)
Wednesday, Apr. 9 - 6:30-7:30 pm - MARILYN ANDERSON, author of Never Kiss a Frog
Thursday, Apr. 10 - 12:30-2:30 pm -- Life Stories Writing Class (weekly class)
Saturday, Apr. 12 - 2:00-4:00 pm -- New Voices Poetry. (share your work!)
Monday, Apr. 14 - 6:00-7:30 pm -- Computer Basics with BZ (weekly class)
Thursday, Apr. 17 - 12:30-2:30 pm -- Life Stories Writing Class (weekly class)
Thurs. Apr. 17 - 4:00-5:00 pm - TEEN SCRAPBOOKING (Sign up at Information Desk--bring your pictures!)
Monday, Apr. 21 - 3:00-4:00 pm -- Pre-School Story Time
Wednesday, Apr. 23 - 1:00-2:30 pm -- Friends Open Board meeting -- everyone is welcome.
Thursday, Apr. 24 - 12:30-2:30 pm -- Life Stories Writing Class (weekly class)
Thursday, Apr. 24 - 5:30-6:30 pm -- Book Lovers Book Club [call for title 818.343.1983]
Monday, Apr. 28 - 6:00-7:30 pm -- Computer Basics with BZ (weekly class)
Wednesday, Apr. 30 - 10:30-11:30 am -- Computer Comfort -- [sign up at Information Desk]

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WHAT'S NEW?? Rotary Club of Tarzana-Encino gave a \$4000 donation for audiobooks to Encino-Tarzana Library in a presentation ceremony on January 12, 2008. They connected with our Library by searching the Internet and finding our Friends of Library website! See details and photos on our website -- <http://www.ETLibraryFriends.org/2rotary.html>

TIME TO RENEW... Thank you to those who responded to our first request mailed January 2008; postcard notes have been sent to acknowledge receipt. There's still time for those of you who have not renewed. A second invitation to join us will go out in April. Please save us the stamp, paper, and xeroxing by rejoining TODAY! -- Jenny Lapidus, Membership Chair

FRIENDS OF THE ENCINO-TARZANA LIBRARY

2008 Membership Renewal

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

I am renewing my membership:

Levels of Membership: ___ Individual \$5 ___ Family \$10 ___ Contributing \$15 ___ Supporting \$25

___ Sustaining \$50 ___ Benefactor \$100 ___ Business/Organization \$100

For a contribution of \$100 or more, a bookplate may be placed in a Library volume, selected by the Librarian, or your business card may be printed in our newsletter. Please make your check payable to *Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Library*. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

I would like to participate in the Friends - please call me about volunteer activities. _____

Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Library
18231 Ventura Blvd.
Tarzana CA 91356