

THE FRIENDS OF THE ENCINO-TARZANA LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 February 2007

18231 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356

LIBRARY PROGRAMS - SAVE THESE DATES:

Thurs., March 1 - 1:00 pm - Tony Kienitz, gardening columnist, will return to talk about spring planting. (sponsored by the Friends)

Thurs., March 1 - 6:30 pm - An Inconvenient Truth – Former Vice President Al Gore's slide show on global warming. Todd Newton, the presenter has appeared on the E! Channel and was part of a group personally trained by the former Vice President. (sponsored by the Library)

Wed. March 14 - 6:30 pm - Sam Sokolow, of the **L.A. Opera Speakers Bureau**, will discuss the components of *Porgy and Bess* (to be presented by the L. A. Opera in May). Sam's a great presenter--and will use lecture and video to teach and entertain us! (sponsored by the Friends)

Tuesday, May 8 – 6:30 pm – Denise Hamilton, a local mystery writer, will discuss her journey from Fulbright Scholar during the Bosnian War to *L.A. Times* staff writer to award winning author. (sponsored by the Friends)

LIBRARY TO HAVE EXTENDED HOURS SOON

Beginning March 1st, the Encino-Tarzana Library will be open Monday & Wednesday 10 am – 8 pm, Tuesday & Thursday noon – 8 pm, and Friday & Saturday 10 am – 6 pm. The extended hours, given to most of the branches, are due to strong community support. Mayor Villaraigosa, is a strong supporter of libraries. In addition, City Librarian Fontayne Holmes and the Board of Library Commissioners, were very persuasive when they went before the City Council.

GAIL SILLMAN RETIRES...

Gail Sillman, our Bookstore Manager for the past 2-1/2 years, retired at the end of 2006! She certainly deserves the rest - but we will miss her. She has been an outstanding leader - coordinating all the tasks and volunteers, working with book dealers -- and creating a smooth work flow. We are grateful for a job very well-done! We're also fortunate that Gail has agreed to continue to help us, as her time permits.

We honored Gail with our "Friend of the Year Award" in 2005. Her volunteers will be honoring her at our Bookstore/Book Sale Volunteer Brunch in February. THANK YOU, GAIL!

REVISED MARCH 2007

**BOOK SALE IS
SCHEDULED FOR
APRIL 20-21, 2007,
THANKS TO TANAYA
PAGE & MARGARET**

TALVIN, Volunteer Co-Chair. However, we need co-chair for the next one!

POSTPONED BOOK SALE – Our next quarterly book sale will be whenever we have a new volunteer to run the Book Sale! We'd love to schedule it for March. We hate to lose our book sale income of \$1,800 +. Please volunteer by contacting Barbara Leff, President – 818.981.6920 or <pres-fole-et@socal.rr.com.>

A BIG 'THANK YOU' to the following volunteers who have continued to do an excellent job in keeping our Bookstore alive - in spite of the lack of a Bookstore Manager:

NORMA LAMKEN and JOYCE PROPPER for sorting new book donations, and restocking the Bookstore
IRWIN (SKIP) CLAPKIN for moving boxes of books into our storage cabinets
JANE GEBERS for scheduling our Bookstore volunteers
MARGARET TALVIN for training volunteers and screening potential volunteers
AND ALL VOLUNTEERS AND SUBSTITUTES who staff the Bookstore daily.

FOL BOARD NEWS

We welcome **Mally Martin** as our new Hospitality Co-Chair, to work with Co-Chair **Helene Taneman**, who is recovering very nicely from hip surgery. **Lisa English** has retired as Hospitality Co-Chair. THANK YOU, LISA!

WE NEED YOU! We have the following open positions on our Board:

Bookstore Chair - in charge of our bookstore.
Book Sale Chair - in charge of our quarterly book sales.
Second Vice President - to help with upcoming projects
Member-at-Large - also to help with upcoming projects

If interested, please contact Barbara Leff, President - 818.981.6920 - pres-fol-et@socal.rr.com

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK BAG? by CAROL FOX, Book Club Chair

The FOL Book Club is currently reading Katharine Grahams' Pulitzer Prize winning autobiography, Personal History, an extraordinary story of the woman who guided the Washington Post during the critical period of the Pentagon Papers and Watergate.

Another fascinating autobiography is By Myself and Then Some by film and Broadway star Lauren Bacall. The book gives readers an insider's glimpse of her life, including her family, her marriages, and her decades-long career. Also recommended is Confessions of a Shopaholic, by Sophie Kinsella and the award-winning The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. A highly recommended book is Namesake by Pulitzer Prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri. Lahiri treats her readers to an incredible story of the joys and trials experienced by an Indian couple when they immigrate to America.

If you would like to recommend a book, please address the information to Carol Fox and leave it in our Library Book Store.

Please note that all FOL members are welcome to join the Book Club.

A great book should leave you...slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it. – William Styron

JANE'S BOOKS: BIOGRAPHIES AND AUTOBIOGRAPHIES **by JANE GEBERS**

I love these because I love a good gossip. I enjoy finding out more about people I know from TV, movies, or the news. There are three kinds of biographies. The first ones are strictly factual and have footnotes and data at the back. These can be very informative as well as a good read. The second classification is the "Isn't he wonderful" type. These usually have a lot of input from the person being written about. The third biography is the put-down type, such as those written by Kitty Kelly. She looks for lurid details and as much dirt as possible.

I also enjoy autobiographies, which people write about themselves. No matter how circumspect the author tries to be, you get glimpses of the real person. Some are surprisingly frank, like the ones by Mary Astor, Shelley Winters, Diana Barrymore and Drew Barrymore. But they're actresses aren't they? Male actors are inclined to be less tell-all and therefore usually duller.

Books written by relatives and friends can be very informative. One about Marlene Dietrich by her daughter Maria Riva was a true eye-brow raiser. And, of course, you can think of other actors' daughters who wrote about their mothers. Being a movie star and a mother don't seem to be compatible occupations.

Most biographies and autobiographies are written by important or famous people, but some of the most interesting are ones written by ordinary people. I remember one slim volume by a fisherman who ferried Jews from Denmark to Sweden during WWII. Another was written by a woman pioneer.

You never know what treasures you'll find when you go through our biography section in the Friends Bookstore. They are on the non-fiction side on the lower three shelves in the center. They may contain a fair amount of fiction, but it's up to us to be skeptical readers. Come see what we have. See how people became rich and famous. You might find a secret of success you can copy! And, if you've never considered reading biographies or autobiographies, you may be pleasantly surprised and find a whole new genre to dip into.

MORE RECOMMENDED BOOKS

At the end of each Board meeting, we share information on some of our readings. Here are the latest recommendations:

William Brodrick - [6th Lamentation, a Novel](#)

Art Buchwald - [Too Soon To Say Goodbye](#)

Albert Gore - [An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It](#)

Joan Didion - [The Year of Magical Thinking](#)

"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves." – Anna Quindlen

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 **by BARBARA LEFF, President**

As I began my second term of office in January 2006, I was very optimistic that it would be a good year. Many of our Board members were continuing, and our new members showed great promise. It's my pleasure to work with all of them this year and next, and I thank them for their hard work and dedication to the Library and to the Friends. Some of their annual reports follow this report.

Our Friends' focus is to promote the Library by serving our community with interesting programming, and by providing more books and audiovisual materials through our fund-raising efforts via membership recruitment and bookstore/book sales.

I'm pleased to report that the **Friends donated \$12,285 to the Library in 2006:**

- \$10,000 Books and materials to supplement City's limited branch library budget.
- \$ 500 Children's programs, i.e. Russian puppet show, Inca Music Program, and a storyteller of "Princesses, Dragons & Dreams Come True."
- \$ 350 Teen programs, i.e. a magician, a program on the ancient art of henna tattoos, and a pizza party for the Teen Advisory Group.
- \$ 100 Refreshments for YALDA - Iranian Family Celebration
- \$ 1,335 Two paperback racks - one for children's books and one for oversized book-club-type adult books.

The Board is holding a substantial Library donation request for 2007, so you can see why it is crucial that we continue with our main income source - our bookstore and quarterly book sales - for which we are seeking chairpeople. Won't you help us?

We look forward to seeing more of you at our excellent and diverse programs. If you want up-to-the-minute news of our programs and changes, please send me your email address at: (pres-fol-et@socal.rr.com)

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 **by JENNY LAPIDUS, Chair**

As of November 1, 2006, we have 203 paid members. Dues range from \$5 to \$100. Dues income from Oct. 2005 to Oct. 2006 was \$3,630. We have 41 first time members; 15 have joined since August 1. Members are recruited at all functions and at the FOL Bookstore.

Upon joining, members receive a welcome letter, membership card, current newsletter, a coupon to be redeemed at the bookstore, and a survey/interest form.

Our new year starts Jan. 1 - we welcome you to join or rejoin- your family, friends, and acquaintances.

BOOKSTORE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 **by GAIL SILLMAN, Bookstore Manager**

We have had a successful year, with revenues continually increasing in our bookstore and at our quarterly book sales. Our quarterly book sales seem to be very popular as attendance is growing with each sale. We continue to thrive because of the community's support and their donations of gently used books and the willingness of our outstanding group of volunteers.

Because of our low prices, teachers are able to buy books for their classroom and school libraries. Children come into the bookstore with their allowance and can purchase five or ten books and still go home with change, and students rummage through our classic books for their required class reading.

After our book sales, the unsold books are donated to several different local charities.

Finally, I'd like to give a hearty THANK YOU to all of our dedicated volunteers, who have worked in the bookstore and/or at the book sales during 2006. You are an inspiration - we couldn't have done it without you!

PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 by LINDA GROSE, Chair

Just how does a chairperson develop events? I read the *LA Times* to determine issues, items, and places of interest to present to the Friends group. It has been busy and interesting with a variety of speakers and local sightseeing trips.

2006 speakers included:

Rosa Lowinger discussed aspects of Cuban history in her book
Al Martinez reminisced about his dog and their last car trip together, in his new book
Peter Nabokov focused on Indian Sacred Sites while discussing his book
Ray Bradbury shared the highlights his writing career's ups and downs
Tony Kienitz, gardening columnist, addressed his personal gardening history, some triumphs and failures
James Gilden, travel columnist, talked about current travel issues
Don Burris described the successful reclaiming of Nazi art looted from an Austrian Museum by the Altman Family of Los Angeles
Shannon Diffner lectured on "Banned and Challenged Books"
David Hoselton discussed the dynamics of writing for television
Ilene Abramson, Director of LAPL Children's Services, described children's programs throughout the system; and her experience on a national library book award committee

2006 performances:

Vince Hauser et al. of the Buckley School performed music of 40's -50's
The Monotones - Buckley School students - performed holiday music

2006 visits (via bus and subway):

Tour of Los Angeles Public Library (Central) - downtown L.A.
Tour of Disney Hall - downtown L.A.

PUBLICITY/OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 by ADELE DRUCK, Chair

The responsibilities of the publicity committee encompasses disseminating information about Friends programs and activities to local print and broadcast media, as well as posting information at local merchants when appropriate.

Information on all 2006 Friends programs and book sales was sent to community newsletters, to both major newspapers, and to several free publications. (Regrettably, not all publications print our publicity each time!) Posters for programs and book sales were placed at local merchants. Flyers were placed in the Book Store and at several locations in the library, including the library's bulletin board. In addition, bookmarks with information about the sales on them were given out in the Book Store.

BOOK CLUB ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 by CAROL FOX, Chair

The FOL Book Club had its initial organizational and planning meeting April 19. Members decided to embrace both fiction and non-fiction material with each participant having an opportunity to offer suggestions. The book club is open to all FOL members.

Club members have thus far read--and enthusiastically discussed--the following:

June 7 - Elie Wiesel - The Night Trilogy, i.e. Night, Dawn, and Day
July 5 - Kazuo Ishiguro - Never Let Me Go
Sept. 6 - T. C. Boyle - Tortilla Curtain
Oct. 5 - Lisa See - Snow Flower and the Secret Fan
Nov. 9 - Erik Larson - Devil in the White City

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2006

These reports were substantially job descriptions and/or procedures, similar to Publicity, and are available to view upon request:

JANE GEBERS, First Vice President;
ESTHER BRONNER ROSE, Corresponding Secretary;
EVELYN PERL, Recording Secretary;
NONIE LANN, Treasurer;
LOIS LEVY, Communications/Telephone Chair;
MARK LAMKEN, Historian;
HELENE TANEMAN AND LISA ENGLISH, Hospitality Co-Chair;
MARYALYCE REILLY, Newsletter Editor

ENCINO-TARZANA BRANCH LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006 by MELISSA POTTER, Senior Librarian

My name is Melissa Potter and I am the Senior Librarian here at the Encino-Tarzana branch library. I'm actually the third Senior Librarian who has been here in this past year, but that is fitting when you consider what a big year of changes this has been.

Besides several staff changes, we have seen the VHS collection disappear due to vandalism, and the DVD collection grow with the help of both the Encino and Tarzana Neighborhood Councils, and our Friends Group. We have resurfaced the parking lot for safety issues, and we have welcomed two new Russian-speaking clerks to help us better serve our booming Russian population.

Our neighborhood is also becoming more diverse. I am getting more requests for Spanish materials and job applicants are listing Vietnamese and German as native languages. We are stretching to meet all of our neighbor's needs by ordering more Farsi, Russian and Spanish materials, locating materials in other languages, and buying more products to help new English language learners while still attempting to meet the regular demands for new materials in English, classics, and homework materials.

We also saw the demise of the Friends of the Library-supported "Project Best Seller" rental books program and the birth of the new free 7-day "Hot Off the Press" program. Some people have not adapted completely to the change, but it has reached a new audience of people who were not comfortable with the quarter a day charge for the "Project Best Seller" books, and we have retained most of the "Project Best Seller" fans, whose general comment seems to be, "Wow, a whole week free?"

One thing has remained constant, we are still a very busy branch. As of May, (unfortunately, that's the last month I have complete figures for) the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library was ranked 8th in circulation out of 70 libraries, despite the fact that we are not open as many hours as the other branches, our parking lot was closed for quite a few weeks, and we went several months without children's audiovisual materials.

With the generous support and hard work of the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation we have hosted 229 programs in the past year with over five thousand people in attendance. This year we are continuing our efforts to reach out to the community, and the children's and young adult librarians are reaching out to the schools to bring in more new faces.

In closing, I would just like to thank the Friends for all the hard work they are doing with the bookstore, the book sales, and with all the programs and gifts they have brought us. Your efforts have truly added another dimension to this library and have made it possible to serve more people than we could have on our own. Thank you!

FRIENDS OF THE ENCINO-TARZANA LIBRARY

18231 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana, Ca 91356 -- 818.343.1983

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2007

I would like to join / rejoin the FRIENDS of the Encino-Tarzana Library...

Name _____ Today's Date _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____ (day) (eve.) Email _____

Types of Membership: _____ Renew _____ New

_____ *Individual* (\$5) _____ *Family* (\$10) _____ *Contributing* (\$15) _____ *Supporting* (\$25)

_____ *Sustaining* (\$50) _____ **Benefactor* (\$100) _____ ***Business/Organization* (\$100) _____

Other \$ _____

****Business/Organization** - your business card will be printed in our quarterly Friends Newsletter.

***Benefactors** (\$100 or more), a commemorative bookplate naming you and/or honoring your designee will be placed in a Library volume. Please print your bookplate inscription below.

Your name _____

AND/Or In Honor of _____

AND/Or In Memory of _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to: "Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Library" Mail or drop off TODAY at the above address. Members will receive notices of membership meetings, major book sales and activities. Board meeting notices, minutes, agendas, and smaller activities are posted on Friends display stand in the Library. THANK YOU for joining us!

SURVEY OF INTERESTS

Your Name _____ Today's date: _____

(If not filled in above:)

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day)(Eve.) _____ Email address _____

Occupation (current)(former) _____

What is your area of expertise? _____

INTERESTS -- We need HELP! Please write YES / NO / MAYBE - and we'll contact you.

_____ Volunteer at Library _____ Volunteer at Home _____ Book/Media reviewer

_____ Computer skills _____ Fundraising _____ Programming

_____ Clerical tasks _____ Enjoy meeting people _____ Artistic or Idea person

_____ Social events _____ Phone Calls

Would you be interested in joining a book club? _____

Other interests or ways you'd like to help the Friends: _____

**February 2007
EVENTS**

*Life Story Writing Workshop every
Thursday at 12:30 p.m.*

6 Tues. *Resources for Seniors
Workshop.* 10:30 a.m.

6 Tues. *Teen Council Meeting.* 4:00
p.m.

13 Tues. *Valentine's Day Arts and
Crafts for Children.* 4 p.m.

22 Thurs. *Children's Multicultural Crafts
Program.* 4:00 p.m. (sponsored by
Friends)

28 Wed. *OPEN Board Meeting of
Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Library.*
1:00 p.m.

**March 2007
EVENTS**

*Life Story Writing Workshop every
Thursday at 12:30 pm*

1 Thurs. *Tony Kienitz " The Year I Ate
My Yard " - Gardener on spring
planting.* 1:00 p.m. (in Teen section).
(sponsored by Friends)

1 Thurs. *"An Inconvenient Truth" - Slide
Show on Global Warming.* 6:30 p.m.

14 Wed. *Sam Sokolow of LA Opera
Speakers' Bureau.* Lecture & videotape
on *Porgy and Bess.* 6:30 p.m.
(sponsored by Friends)

15 Thurs. *Children's Multicultural Crafts
Program.* 4:00 p.m. (sponsored by
Friends)

28 Wed. *OPEN Board Meeting of
Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Library.*
1:00 p.m.

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