



# the *Library Insider*

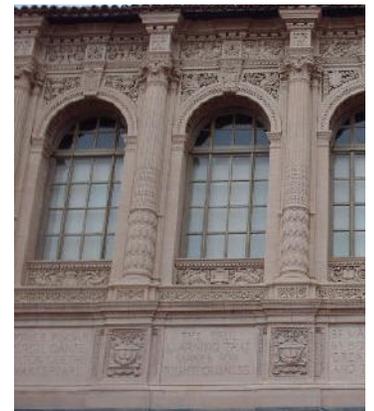
Summer 2014 Vol 20-Number 104

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## Meet Friends at our

## September Restorative Gala!

Help us restore Central Library's magnificent south facade, so impressive to Pasadena residents and visitors alike. On Sunday, September 14, The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library will co-host a cocktail party with the Pasadena Public Library Foundation (PPLF) to raise funds to restore the eye-catching "face" of the building that overlooks Walnut Street and the historic civic center, with a clear line of sight to the Pasadena Civic Auditorium five blocks south.



Why is restoration needed? Consider the history of Central Library. Ninety years ago, ten architectural firms competed for the privilege of designing it; the commission was awarded to the firm of Myron Hunt and H.C. Chambers. Construction began in 1925, so that's the date inscribed over the front entrance. Dedicated two years later, the library now ranks on the National Register of Historic Places. The last restoration took place between 1984 and 1990, funded in large measure by the PPLF. Now the magnificent arched windows, stonework and exterior wall of the south facade are in critical need of restoration, repair and painting due to decades of sun exposure and general weathering.

Our fundraising gala will highlight a year-long celebration of 130 years of reading in Pasadena. Yes, it's true: the community's first library . . . located near railroad tracks south of Colorado Boulevard . . . opened its doors two years before the city was incorporated.

The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library, founded in 1975, helps fund the library's programs, special services and cultural events. Tickets and donations benefiting the organization are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information, visit [www.friendsppl.org](http://www.friendsppl.org) to join our mailing list; email [friendsppl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsppl@yahoo.com), or telephone 626.744.4680.

PPLF, now an endowment fund of the Pasadena Community Foundation, was established 31 years ago to refurbish and maintain the beautiful and historic Central Library building.

If you're a member of either organization, please look for your invitation in the mail. Tickets (\$130 per person) may also be purchased via the Pasadena Community Foundation website at [www.pasadenacf.org](http://www.pasadenacf.org) beginning in August, or invitations can be requested by calling Judy Wilson of the Pasadena Community Foundation at (626) 796-2097, ext. 5.

Summer Reading  
Challenge  
For Children, Teens  
& Adults!

*Pages 2 and 5*

Annual Membership  
Meeting

of The Friends of the  
Pasadena Public Library

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

*Page 5*

What Local  
Book Clubs  
are Reading

*Page 3*

# What's on Your Nightstand?

If, like the U.S. Census Bureau, we define baby boomers as those born in the 1946 -1964 era, the youngest will turn 50 this year. Well they may ask: What do boomers *do* in our community? Work, volunteer, exercise, seek friends—and participate in a book club, more often than not! At least, those are the informal findings of *The Library Insider*.

Consider Akila Gibbs, executive director of the Pasadena Senior Center. She learned of her present job from a member of her book club, after confiding to the group that she was looking for a new career challenge.



Akila Gibbs

Gibbs, a veteran of 16 years in television news, worked in corporate public relations before turning to non-profit work. She directed public relations and marketing for the Alzheimer's Association before taking her current post in 2008. She's justifiably proud of the staff and benefactors who have made the non-profit Senior Center a prized asset in the community since the doors first opened in 1960. Booklovers figure among the current benefactors. Since 2009, the Center has received nearly \$125,000 in donations from the Pasadena Festival of Women Authors, the annual fundraiser that features four or more California writers and is a sell-out event.

Gibbs recently read *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* because she was so impressed by the novel's author, Aimee Bender, who spoke at the 2013 festival. "It's just a very unusual story and I really liked it," she

said. "Now I'm reading *Drowning Ruth*," the 2000 novel by Christina Schwarz, who participated in the 2014 festival. "After you meet them, you want to read their books. It's such a wonderful opportunity to meet someone and hear their journey about writing," Gibbs said.

It's no surprise that the Senior Center hosts a monthly book club. The same is true of The Pasadena Village, the non-profit organization formed in 2012 to support its members, 55 and older, in their desire to live independently in their homes.

Mike Babcock, the retired educator who co-chairs the Pasadena Village, said he's never belonged to a book club until now. (Perhaps it was due to the pace he kept as the Polytechnic School headmaster for 18 years, followed by eight years on the Pasadena Unified School Board.) "Maybe it's like this with all book clubs; you get to know people and their perspective on something, which is quite different sometimes," Babcock said. "Our mission is keeping people connected and active and in relationships. This serves that bill really nicely."

Both Babcock and Sue Kujawa, the Village's executive director, read the club's June selection: Gary Kinder's *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea*. Published in 1998, the book recounts the discovery of a side-wheel steamer that sank in 1857, laden with California gold. The search team was led by Tommy Thompson—who became a fugitive in 2012. The book is back into the news, as a fresh effort is underway to recover



Sue Kujawa

## A Summer Challenge Beckons

Do encourage a youngster to join an age-appropriate "Summer Reading Challenge," as the Pasadena Public Library calls the programs offered from June 7 through August 3 this year.

Children up to 12 years of age can improve their reading skills, earn fun prizes, and enjoy great shows. To register, visit any of the ten Pasadena libraries or sign up online at <http://pasadenasr.evanced.info/>, beneath the Children Summer Reading Challenge tab. A free game board and reading record may be obtained at any of the branches.

Teens, or those entering grades 7 through 12, may register online at <http://pasadenasr.evanced.info/>, clicking Teen Summer Reading Challenge to learn how to participate and maintain a log of books and activities to qualify for raffled prizes. One lucky teen will win an iPad mini.

The 2014 theme—"Paws to Read"—prompts *The Insider* to check the definition of homophone. Yep! Paws is a bonafide homophone for "pause," as both words are pronounced identically but have different meanings and spelling. We thank the Pasadena librarians for offering this program. Paws/pause will spring to mind if "homophone" crops up in a word game or on "Jeopardy!"

PAWS TO READ



## What the Book Clubs Are Reading

### The Pasadena Village

*All the King's Men* (Jan.)

*Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* (Feb.)

*Swamplandia!* (March)

*The Samurai's Garden* (April)

*Life After Life* (May)

*Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea* (June)

*Unbroken* (July)

### The Pasadena Senior Center

*The Jane Austen Book Club* (May)

*Where'd You Go, Bernadette* (June)

*A Week in Winter* (July)

*Caleb's Crossing* (Aug.)

*The Book Thief* (Sept.)

more of the ship's gold. "In the [1998] story, this guy's something of a hero because he's such a wizard at locating salvaged material. Then he and his buddy disappear, and they've been missing for several years. So you can imagine him living under a banyan tree somewhere ordering rum Collinses," Babcock said of Thompson.

Apart from the book club, Babcock cited several other books he's reading: *Proof of Heaven: a Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife* by Eben Alexander; *Beyond Outrage: What Has Gone Wrong with Our Economy and Our Democracy, and How to Fix It* by Robert B. Reich; and *Coming of Age in a Globalized World: the Next Generation* by J. Michael Adams and Angelo Carfagna.

Kujawa, executive director of Mothers' Club Family Learning Center in Pasadena for 25 years prior to her retirement, was recruited by the Village in 2012. She, too, is an avid reader. She recently finished *On Such a Full Sea* by Chang-rae Lee, *All Our Names* by Dinaw Mengestu and in early May, had begun reading *River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard. In each instance, she downloaded an electronic edition. "I love my Kindle. I

read book reviews and I go to my iPhone and I get it on Amazon and I buy with one click. And there it is! I just think it's the best!" said Kujawa, exhibiting the very quality that she most admires in the Village membership.

"I'm very moved by how people want to learn new things," she said of the Village, which now boasts 130 members. Babcock added his own thoughts:

"It's a group that has no mission other than to watch out for each other. Every other association I've had—a school or organization or a non-profit—the reason we were together was we had this mission out there that we were pursuing," he said. Village members "have no reason to get together at all, except that we're all we have," he said with a laugh. "And I find that really refreshing, because no one has any particular ego to bring to the table. We're just who we are at a stage of life that we're trying to make it as interesting as possible—and it's actually happening."

—Katie Harris



Mike Babcock

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For questions regarding membership or  
our activities and projects,  
please contact *The Friends* through our  
voice mail at 626.744.4680 or  
email at friendspppl@yahoo.com

## Friends Shop at Vroman's

Pasadena's independent bookseller has a marvelous "Gives Back" program that returns a portion of in-store purchases to local nonprofits—and our organization is one! Please designate The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library as the charity that you wish to benefit. Not a member of the Vroman's "Gives Back" program? Enroll at a store register, or sign up online at [www.vromansbookstore.com](http://www.vromansbookstore.com).

Make every purchase count!



# A Word from The Friends' president



When I became president of our organization two years ago, I looked at our finances to determine what our focus should be for the next few years. We raise most of our funds in two ways: members' annual contributions and the sales of donated books. The other sources of gross revenue are contributions from the Vroman's Gives Back program, and some foundation gifts and tribute gifts.

Our used-book sales are a well-oiled machine. Monthly sales are headed by board members Sydney Feeney and Helen Overstreet, while Mim Paggi oversees The Friends' bookstore at Central. We are equally fortunate to have a stable source of funds from membership, but I have concluded that we need to increase the number of our members.

We are attempting to raise the organization's visibility in a number of ways. We now have our own display in the north entrance of Central Library where potential new members can pick up our brochures and *The Library Insider* newsletter. The brochures and *Insider* are also available at each of the branches.

This past fall, we hosted "Beer, Brats & Books," an evening of beer tasting, bratwurst and coffees in the lovely patios on the south side of Central Library. Our first such undertaking in a number of years, BB&B proved to be a successful friend-making and fund-raising event. We're planning our next "Beer, Brats & Books" for the spring of 2015.

On September 14, The Friends will be co-hosting a gala with the Pasadena Public Library Foundation (PPLF) to celebrate 130 years of reading. The community's first library opened its doors in 1884. Patron gifts and ticket sales will raise funds for the restoration of Central's south façade. The event provides The Friends the opportunity to work closely with the PPLF board and the possibility of making new friends at the gala. We are pleased to help conserve one of the more beautiful features of Central Library, designed by Myron Hunt, the architect noted for such other landmarks as the Rose Bowl and the Henry E. Huntington mansion and library in San Marino.

If we attract new members, we'll presumably increase our organization's revenue, which in turn will swell the sums we provide to support the library's programs, special services and cultural events at Central and all of the nine branches. Please tell one of *your* friends about The Friends and its events!

—Joan F. Cathcart

*"Whatever the cost of our libraries,  
the price is cheap compared to that of  
an ignorant nation."*

—Walter Cronkite

## Central Library

**626.744.4066**

285 East Walnut Street  
Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Fri and Sat 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

## Allendale Branch

**626.744.7260**

1130 South Marengo  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 - 6 pm

## Hastings Branch

3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.

Mon - Thurs 10 am - 9 pm  
Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Sun 1 - 5 pm

## Hill Avenue Branch

**626.744.7264**

55 South Hill Ave.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 10 am - 2 pm

## La Pintoresca Branch

**626.744.7268**

1355 North Raymond Ave.  
Mon - Sat 9 am - 6 pm

## Lamanda Park Branch

**626.744.7266**

140 South Altadena Dr.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 pm - 6 pm

## Linda Vista Branch

**626.744.7278**

1281 Bryant Street  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 10 am - 2 pm

## San Rafael Branch

**626.744.7270**

1260 Nithsdale Road  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 10 am - 2 pm

## Santa Catalina Branch

**626.744.7272**

999 E. Washington Blvd.  
Mon - Thurs & Sat 10 am - 6 pm  
Fri 2 - 6 pm

## Villa Parke Branch

**626.744.6510**

363 E. Villa Street  
Mon - Fri 10 am - 6 pm  
Sat 9am - 1 pm



## Notice of Annual Membership Meeting of The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library

Wednesday, June 25, 2014  
Promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Preview Room in the basement of Central Library  
(Please arrive at least 5 minutes early in the Centennial Room to be escorted to the meeting.)

Directors nominated to be re-elected for new 3-year terms, 7/1/2014 to 6/30/2017:

Joan Fornaciari Cathcart  
Molly Kennington  
Janet Lundblad  
Mim Paggi  
John Price  
Sandy Schulman

The membership meeting will be immediately followed by the annual directors meeting, at which the following officers have been nominated and will be voted upon to be elected for a 1-year term:

President: Joan F. Cathcart  
Vice-President: Mary Downey  
Vice-President - Membership: John Price  
Corresponding Secretary: Sylvia Chinn  
Recording Secretary: Elizabeth "Buff" Megaw  
Treasurers: Bob and Sue Donaldson

## Read Me a Story!



Hats off to Pasadena librarian Rosa Cesaretti, who pursued a \$7,500 grant administered by the State Librarian to start a weekly Spanish-language story time for families at the busy La Pintoresca branch library. Cesaretti asked her colleague, bilingual staffer Lupita Barajas, to lead *Léeme un Cuento* ("Read me a Story"). Quality Spanish-language books for children were purchased in Mexico and Spain prior to the January start of the program. Cesaretti initially expected about 20 participants; the numbers have swelled to nearly 60 each week. Now, with the grant expiring, the Pasadena Public Library plans to continue the program that meets on Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

(Photographed on April 9) Lupita Barajas sings Jose Luis Orozco songs and leads finger-plays with children. She reads several stories in Spanish and shows a Spanish-language video of a *Curious George* story. Children and their parents then color and cut out monkey masks inspired by *Curious George*, the universally loved monkey introduced more than 70 years ago by Hans Augusto Rey and Margret Rey in their books for children.

—Photos by Molly Kennington

## A Grown-up Challenge

Each summer, the Pasadena Public Library offers wonderful reading programs for youngsters and teens (see page 2), prompting adults to look on appreciatively—and sometimes wistfully. *Voila!* Or *les presentamos!* This year, adults will have their own program. They can record their reading and complete activities to qualify for raffle prizes, including an iPad-mini. The inaugural summer program is sponsored by The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library. To register, go to <http://pasadenasr.evanced.info/> or telephone 626-744-4066 for additional information. The Adult Summer Reading Challenge runs from June 7 until August 3.





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The mission of The Friends is to support the library's programs, special services and cultural events. Priority is given to projects that instill the excitement of discovery and the love reading in library patrons of all ages.

### The Friends' Upcoming Book Sales

Saturdays  
June 14,  
July 12 &  
August 9

#### Central Library's East Patio

If you wish to donate books to The Friends' monthly sales to help raise funds for library programs, you may deposit books in the Book Drop container on the loading dock next to Central Library's north entrance.

Donations may also be left inside at the Circulation Desk or in The Friends' book store during store hours (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Need help with your donation?  
Call us at 626.744.4680

All donations are tax-deductible. Request a receipt in The Friends' book store or at the Circulation Desk. The Friends thank you!



### JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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