

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.austinlibrary.org

Kim Lindros, President

January - February - March 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hey folks, things are cooking during this usually quiet time for the Austin Friends. And it's good.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we contracted with bLogistics to sell books for us online. In early November, we shipped 24 pallets of books that tend not to sell well at the Monster. To our surprise, we earned back our freight costs during the first month of sales, and netted \$3,800 from mid-November through December

2004. In addition, the Friends booth at the Southwest Book, Photo, and Ephemera Show in November, and the All Austin Holiday Sale (a collaboration of the Friends and the Austin History Center Association) in December, brought in a combined \$1500. Thanks to Linda Zalzala for coordinating the Southwest booth.

If you're interested in books on tape and CD, watch the Friends website at www.austinlibrary.org, where we'll announce a giga-BIG books-on-tape/CD sale to be held in March or April. In addition, we'll sell records donated by the Alpine Public Library, formerly part of a collection owned by an extraordinary philanthropist, Mr. George Bechtel. See the "Mr. Bechtel's Vinyl" article for the complete story.

Tina Dacus was recently elected the new Friends representative on the Austin Public Library Foundation (APLF) board, and is already working with the APLF Advocacy Committee. John-Michael Cortez, president of the Austin History Center Association and a Friends board member, has filled the APLF rep position for the past year. Thanks to John-Michael for cross covering,

and to Tina for taking on an important role with the Foundation.

Finally, thank you to all of the volunteers who continue to sign up and show up for sorting sessions for the Friends. Your efforts are invaluable to keeping the "machine" running smoothly.

Kim Lindros, Friends president
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FRIENDS BOARD OFFICERS

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

www.austinlibrary.org/site/FRN_Volunteers

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OUR MISSION

The Friends of the Austin Public Library is an enthusiastic group of people working to ensure that Austin public libraries can continue to provide quality resources to the citizens of Austin.



Friends volunteers at the Southwest Book Show.

FROM THE BASEMENT

Another year ends and another begins. Prepare to be informed. The month of January derives its name from the ancient Roman god, Janus. He was the guardian of portals and patron of beginnings and endings. So, here is a little retrospective on the FAPL volunteer experiences of the past year.

The year started with a towering mountain of unsorted books dwarfing the efforts of our small but persistent crew of volunteers. It seemed to be a fruitless endeavor. But, like the tale of the little engine that could, we climbed over that mountain in a variety of ways. Two book sales, one large and one small, helped to

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Online sales are showing signs of being a worthy contender to the Monster Sale. Conversely, the annual meeting has gone from a well-attended social gathering to the Dry Gulch. What does this mean for the Friends organization? That's where you, dear Member, come in. Please take a moment to complete and mail the Members Survey (see the insert in this newsletter) or weigh in at <http://www.austinlibrary.org>. Let the Friends board know what you want in 2005 and beyond, so we know how to drive this bus to your satisfaction!

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FROM THE BASEMENT

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mine books from the mountain. A book company contracted to buy certain categories of books. This led to a new sorting system and a no holds barred sorting effort by volunteers.

The people power for these endeavors arrived in the form of temporary volunteers from businesses and schools, ^{plus our} permanent volunteers, who gave time from their schedules to join the diverse group of individuals working in the basement. We had help from young and old and everyone in-between. There was a group of high school kids who spent the weekend sorting through our donated records, tapes, videos, and CDs (it's not just books we sort), and a lady and her two teenage sons, who spent the summer months with us. A number of older volunteers, who, having more of that precious commodity called time, with energy and wits to match, have made a commitment to work for the public library. And there have been the in-between folks, in other stages of life, who enjoy working with books.

A fact worth noting is that we have gained a number of volunteers of European and Asian origin whose presence has lent a broader worldview to our activities. So far, we have enjoyed the company of people from Holland, France, England, Russia, India, and Pakistan. Mount Pile of Unsorted Books is diminished and our crew of volunteers has expanded, both desirable results. So, 2004 has ended on a good note.

As for the beginning of 2005, expectations are for a Monster Book Sale in the fall. Sorting has returned to the old book sale categories. Hooray! Much more interesting. The smaller mountain of unsorted books will be receiving a fresh infusion shortly. We continue recruiting volunteers, both temporary and permanent. All help is welcome.

Job Seekers: Escape the rigors of the job hunt! Have your ego stroked by profuse thanks! Come be appreciated for your efforts! Volunteer in the basement one morning a week. Free snacks!

Commercials are just everywhere these days, aren't they? So, the Friends of the Austin Public Library sets sail into 2005 in a spirit of hopeful expectation of the coming year. We wish the same for all of you.

Carol Murnane

MR. BECHTEL'S VINYL (FROM ALPINE TO AUSTIN)

In late 2004, the Austin Public Library received an email from Verna Bonner, director of the Alpine Public Library in West Texas, who had been soliciting libraries and other worthy organizations statewide to place a large collection of records that were donated to the Alpine Library over five years ago, but that the library was unable to include in its collection. The records were part of a much larger donation of books and records from the



Verna Bonner, Alpine Public Library Director

estate of George Bechtel, a Tulane University alumnus who spent his later years in Alpine, and who left a literary legacy to both Tulane and the Alpine Library. George Bechtel, the son of Dean Bechtel, Tulane College of Arts and Sciences from 1918 to 1937, was a true collector, and in his death, an extraordinary philanthropist. Some of the books from his 20,000-volume collection were rare manuscripts, including "The Golden Legend," a 13th-Century volume about the lives of saints, which is housed in Special Collections at Tulane. Part of his vast and varied collection was donated to the Alpine Public Library.

Through the coordination of Verna, and Barry Miller, Austin Public Library, many of the Mr. Bechtel's records have made the trip from Alpine to Austin via a network of Library Friends, with more expected to arrive over the next three to four months as time and vehicle space allow. The records are mostly classical in nature, with some jazz and similar categories. What the Austin Public Library can't put into circulation will be sold through the Friends at special sales, such as the Friends Spring Media Sale in March or April. Thank you to Verna for her tenaciousness in protecting and placing these records, to Barry Miller for facilitating the exchange, and to the Friends who ferry the LPs from West Texas. For more information about George Bechtel, read the article titled, "Library Legacy Broadens Special Collections" at <http://www2.tulane.edu/EditorialNewsDetails.cfm?EditorialID=421>. If you're interested in the Alpine Public Library, visit its website at www.alpinepubliclibrary.org.

FRIENDS "BIG" MEDIA SALE

A retail store in the Austin area recently went out of business and generously donated about 600 boxes of brand new and gently used books on tape and CD to the Austin Public Library and the Friends. This stuff is great—adult fiction best sellers, children's books, cookbooks, chick lit, how-to books, and ~~many~~ ^{much} more. The Library is taking what it can use for its collection, with the vast remainder to be sold at a special media sale. This sale is being organized by Yolanda Knight, Austin Public Library, as part of a project by LEAPS, a City of Austin leadership group, to which Yolanda belongs. We'll also include records sets from the Alpine Public Library donation, as mentioned in the Bechtel article in this newsletter. So, stay tuned to the Friends website at www.austinlibrary.org for the announcement of dates, times, and location. The sale is being planned for March or April.

SELF-CHECKOUT @ THE LIBRARY

The Faulk Central Library recently completed the installation of a self check-out system. Customers at the Faulk Central Library now have the option to check out their own library materials using this new system. This system is expected to alleviate lines at the circulation desk and free up staff resources to provide higher levels of service to customers. The Austin Public Library now has seven library locations with a self check-out system. The system has been well received by customers, and it is the Library's goal to implement a self check-out system in all library locations. Self check-out machines have been successfully implemented in public libraries nationwide.

Patricia Fraga, APL Marketing Program Manager

COMING UP

Westbank Community Library Ongoing Book Sale

1309 Westbank Drive, Austin, TX 78746

For more information: <http://www.westbank.lib.tx.us/> or 512-327-3045

Friends of the Georgetown Library 6th Annual Book Sale

May 12-15, 2005

Community Center in San Gabriel Park, Georgetown, TX

For more information: <http://www.georgetowntx.org/> or 512-868-2606

VOLUNTEER CALL

Want to help sort, categorize, and box books for the Friends? Join us in the basement at the Central Library, 800 Guadalupe Street, Austin, on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon or specific Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Upcoming Saturday sessions are:

February 19
March 5 and 19
April 2, 16, and 30

The 2005 volunteer schedule is posted at www.austinlibrary.org/FRN_Volunteers. To sign up, contact Sharon Edwards (512-974-7443 or sharon.edwards@ci.austin.tx.us).

COMPACT SHELVING FOR THE AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER

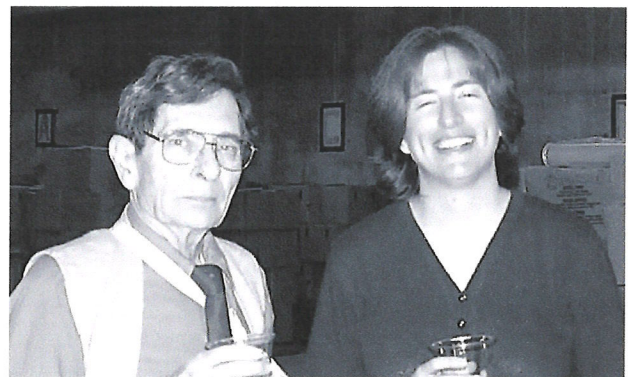
The Austin History Center (AHC) recently completed installation of an adjustable compact shelving unit, which was generously donated by a local law firm. This shelving houses archival material that was previously inaccessible to the public. The Friends donated \$5,000 to help dismantle the shelves from their original location at the law firm and set them up at AHC.



Compact shelving helps AHC provide more materials to the public

FRIENDS 2004 AWARD RECIPIENTS CEREMONY

Linda Zalzal and George Hermes were recognized as the Friends 2004 Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Service award recipients, respectively, on Saturday, January 8, 2005. In lieu of plaques, the Friends purchased two books, selected by the recipients, to be put into circulation in the Library system. The books include a book plate recognizing each volunteer and their award. Linda was presented with "The Count of Monte Cristo," and George with "They Made America: Two Centuries of Innovators from the Steam Engine to the Search Engine." Thank you, Linda and George, for the many things you do for the Friends.



George Hermes and Linda Zalzal

FRIENDS ONLINE BOOK STORE
www.austinlibrary.org

(click the Book Store link in the left pane)

YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

Star Saturdays at Faulk Central Library

February 12, 2:00 p.m.

ECHO's PALS Puppet Troupe presents "How the King's Daughter Lost Her Hair"

March 12, 2:00 p.m.

MAGIC featuring Gusto the Great

April, 9, 2:00 p.m.

CHASKI Penas Pequeñas Latin American Folk Trio

These family programs include sign language interpretation.

Bilingual Storytimes at Highland Mall

Saturday, February 19, March 19, and April 16 at 11:00 a.m., outside J. C. Penney's

Daddy and Me Storytime at the Howson Branch

Tuesday, February 15, March 15, and April 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Lunchtime Storytime at Faulk Central Library

Every Friday at 12:15 p.m. Bring a sack lunch; we provide juice boxes and cookies for the kids (courtesy of FAPI). Parking is a "lot" easier at Central on Fridays!

Preschool storytimes are scheduled throughout the city. The schedule is online at www.cityofaustin.org/library/kids.htm or call 974-7302.

YAYA (Young Adult! Young Adult!) Book Club

Teens are invited to read and discuss books (and enjoy snacks).
5:00 p.m.

Walter Dean Myers
Monster by **Walter Dean Myers**

February 16, Windsor Park Branch

February 23, Howson Branch

Alanna: The First Adventure by Tamora Pierce

March 16, Windsor Park Branch

March 24, Milwood Branch

Bronx Masquerade by **Nikki Grimes**

April 20, Southeast Austin Community Branch

April 27, Howson Branch

Jeanette Larson, APL Youth Services Coordinator