

# FRIENDS OF THE ENCINO-TARZANA LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26 February 2012

18231 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana 91356

<http://www.ETLibraryFriends.org>

*Note to non-computer readers: Please go to the Library, sit down at a Library computer, and read this Newsletter--enjoying our links for more information. Ask for help at the Library's Information Desk.*

## YET AGAIN – A GIANT USED BOOK SALE

**Friday & Saturday – MARCH 9 AND 10 -- 10:00 – 5:00**

Thousands of items – most for 50¢ to \$1.00 – many “like new”

*Info and to volunteer: Contact Margaret Talvin*  
[mtalvin@mac.com](mailto:mtalvin@mac.com) OR 818.343.7105

If you can't come to our Book Sale, stop by the Library and shop in our **Bookstore (open daily)** – same prices as our Book Sale but varying inventory.

**THANK YOU** to our Book Sale Managers: Norma Lamken, Margaret Talvin;  
To our Board Liaison: Mark Lamken, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President;  
And to ALL of our dedicated and wonderful volunteers -- adults and teens.

## INTRODUCING OUR BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce and welcome all of our Board members (Jan. 2012-Dec. 2013), many of whom are continuing from past years:

President - **Adele Druck**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - **Jane Gebers**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - **Mark Lamken**

Corresponding Secretary - **Esther Rose**

Recording Secretary - **Doris Friedrich**

Treasurer - **Nikki Smith**

Members-at-Large - **Ilene Braverman, Nonie Lann, and Bonnie Siegel**

Book Clubs Chair – **Carol Fox**

Communications/Telephone Chair – **Lois Levy**

Membership Chair – **Jenny Lapidus**

Publications Chair – **Barbara Leff**

Publicity/Outreach Co-Chair – **Gisela Sehnert**

Senior Librarian / Acting Branch Manager (Ex-Officio) – **David Hagopian**

## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

I expect that the first order of business as your new president should be to introduce myself to the many members who do not know me.

First, I am neither a librarian nor a teacher but spent my working years in the Group Insurance business. Libraries however, have been an important part of my life since I first discovered the New York Public Library at age eight. Over the course of my adult life I have lived in seven cities stretching across the continent and one of the first things I did in each was to seek out the public library.

When I first stepped into the Encino-Tarzana Branch, I had been retired for a few years and had finally gotten to the point where I needed something to take the edge off all that leisure. I marched myself up to the information desk and said; "I would like to volunteer." The Librarian at the time, Shahla Chamanara, immediately introduced me to Shokoufeh, our children's librarian, and before long I was installed as the Saturday morning GAB (Grandparents and Books) volunteer. Over the past eight years, I have read hundreds of books to a multitude of children from ages two to ten.

After finishing my GAB shift one Saturday, I noticed a huge crowd as I walked past the meeting room. There was a Friends Book sale in progress. I didn't know anything about the Friends of the Library but Barbara Leff, our esteemed former President, introduced herself to me and introduced me to the Friends. At the end of that conversation, I was the newly appointed Publicity Chair. I have made many posters and flyers for Friends programs, sent out press releases and, with the help of Gisela Sehnert, Co-Chair, have tried to inundate the neighborhood with information about our programs. I substitute in the Bookstore and work at all the Book Sales.

As First Vice President for the past four years, I have attended citywide Friends meetings, worked on the Measure L Library campaign, and often assisted our outgoing President and served as her sounding board.

I look forward to my tenure as president and hope to get to know more of you. Look for me at book sales or in the Children's area on Saturday morning or come to one of our Board Meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm. You might find it a worthwhile investment of your time.

-- **Adele Druck**, President, Friends of Encino-Tarzana Library

## **THE LATEST NEWS!!**

\* **Our new Young Adult Librarian, Matthew Rodriguez**, will arrive in March. He will not only work with our teens and develop more teen programming, but also will provide much-needed staff support to our under-staffed branch Library.

\* **The downtown Central Library Pop-Up Shop** on Dec. 9-10, 2011, at our branch, was a success! We had fun shopping among some of their most popular [Library Store](#) items – books, games, gift items, and other merchandise, They hope to return in 2012.

\* **Are you interested in forming new book clubs**, e.g. Nonfiction, Culinary, Biographies, Mysteries, Literature? We'll help you get started. [Contact Carol Fox, Chair](#).

\* **Our first Friends Board meeting of 2012** was led most ably by our new President Adele Druck. Also, we were pleased to welcome back **Melissa Potter, Acting Principal, Volunteer Services, Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL)**, who was our former Branch Manager (2006-2009). Melissa's role, in this new LAPL position, is to increase sharing and communication, and develop helpful tools, among the 60+ Friends groups and between Friends groups and LAPL. She has already gathered some interesting ideas about membership, projects, fundraising, problem-solving, etc., from the groups she's visited so far. Friends members are welcome to write to her ([mpotter@LAPL.org](mailto:mpotter@LAPL.org)).

## **2012 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!**

Please [visit our website](#) to find pertinent membership information or pick up our brochure at the Library.

We invite new members and welcome back our loyal members as each January we kick off our annual renewal drive. Our Friends of Encino-Tarzana Library was formed in 1972 and we're grateful that many original members continue to be loyal supporters.

**Thank you** to those of our Friends who responded so quickly to our recent mailing inviting them to renew. We are hoping for **100%** renewal of our current roster. So, if you have not renewed for 2012, please put it on your **"Do It Today List!"**

Membership renewals as well as new member applications **can be mailed** (in the return envelope) or **dropped off** at the Library. Membership income, and every stamp we save, go toward library books/CDs/DVDs, programming, supplies, and furniture, which keep our **Encino-Tarzana Branch up-to-date and state-of-the-art.**

Your past and present support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Jenny Lapidus, Membership Chairperson

## **REPORT OF THE ANNUAL FRIENDS MEETING**

Our annual meeting, held on November 16, 2011, was well attended; annual reports were brief (full reports are included in this Newsletter). We were pleased to honor two Friends of the Year: For 2010 – Jenny Lapidus, and for 2011 – Jane Gebers. We also held our biennial election of officers, whose names are cited on page 1 of this Newsletter.

Our Guest Speaker – **Cecily Young**, former principal of Steven Ehrlich Architects, gave an excellent Power Point presentation showing library buildings world-wide and our branch, which Ehrlich Architects had designed. Cecily explained the site and the Library Administration limitations, and shared the architects' solutions to design and construct our branch in 2002-2003. Everyone enjoyed and appreciated her presentation.

## **FROM: General Manager & City Librarian Martin Gomez, Los Angeles Public Library**

**To: LAPL Friends**

**Date: February 10, 2012**

“Earlier this week I met with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to inform him about my decision to leave the Los Angeles Public Library to accept the appointment as Vice-Dean in the USC Libraries beginning April 2, 2012. As Vice-Dean, I will be responsible for operations of the 23 libraries on campus and will support the work of Dean Catherine Quinlan.

“As you might suspect, this decision was a very difficult one for me to make, however the challenge of working in such a prestigious academic environment was in the end, very compelling. I leave Los Angeles Public Library with a tremendous sense of accomplishment within a very short time. During the past nearly three years, I have had the privilege of working with and getting to know many of you. I am especially proud of creating a new office dedicated to support the work of the nearly 70 Friends groups and I will forever remain impressed by your dedication, hard work and support for the various branches and subject departments of the Los Angeles Public Library.

“The next City Librarian will find an organization that is on the cusp of change and the new source of funding, Measure L (which would not have been possible without you), should make Los Angeles Public Library a very attractive opportunity for new Library leadership. I have targeted March 19th as my last day and you can expect me to remain fully engaged. Over the next few weeks I will work closely with the Mayor's office to facilitate a leadership transition. I know that the Mayor has made the recruitment of a new City Librarian/General Manager of LAPL a top priority.

“Thank you for your support. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you and I would especially like to thank Patty Desmarais and Patty Kao [Friends' liaisons] for their leadership and wise counsel during my tenure.”

*[Note from our President: City Librarian Martín Gómez has been very supportive of the Friends groups. We are sorry that he is leaving – but wish him luck in his new venture.]*

## **FRIENDS ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2011**

(Annual reports were presented at our annual meeting on Nov. 16, 2011)

### **2011 Annual Report: President Barbara Y. Leff**

I can happily report that we had a very good year. Our Membership income and Bookstore/Book Sales income have been extraordinary. We've been able to give many thousands of dollars for books, media, programming, furniture, and we're continuing our \$6000 subscription to Hot-Off-The-Press books for newest and most popular books.

We started the year by sponsoring the excellent program by Judith Sack on Senior Fraud Scams; this time she was accompanied by a police officer to answer questions. We also brought the League of Women Voters representatives here. And, when our Librarians scheduled programs for adults, teens, and children, including summer reading events, we often paid for the speakers or performers, the refreshments, and even art supplies – items beyond what the City's Library Budget could afford. Our tax-exempt status helped our teens get sponsors for some of their programs too.

When Los Angeles Public Library's budget for supplies was almost non-existent, we came through with office supplies, and hundreds of CD, DVD, and audiobook cases, and book jacket covers, so items could be circulated to patrons. Then too, we replaced some broken chairs.

David Hagopian, Senior Librarian, lists our donations in his report in this Newsletter.

We spent a lot of time on Measure L to restore the City Library Budget – adding many information pages to our website; spreading the word, and attending meetings of the City Council and neighborhood councils. We're so grateful that supporters, like our members, helped it pass, and that some positive changes have already taken place.

[Our website](#), with Judy Russell's technical skills and excellent ideas, not only looks wonderful with its unique design and new rotating photos, but also has a tremendous amount of useful information. Statistics for October 2011 show total hits of 8393, so it is being used.

Adele and I created our Banned and Challenged Books display in September. We found we had lots of those books in our own personal libraries and loaned them to the Library for our lobby display. We were happy to see patrons caring enough to stop at the Library's table display, read the literature, and borrow library books that our Senior Librarian had displayed from our collection.

We encouraged other groups to support our branch – Monarch Village with a delicious buffet lunch and a book drive bringing us more than 300 used books, Trader Joe's with bottled water, VIP\*S Family Restaurants with tasty lunches for book sale volunteers. And too, the Encino Neighborhood Council generously donated nearly \$2000 for new books.

As a librarian myself, I've been especially pleased to see that our new City Librarian appreciates Friends groups by sponsoring a few all-city Friends workshops annually to help us get to know one another, share problems and successes, and give us some helpful tools. I even attended a workshop to provide a Framework for Digitally Inclusive Communities; this is the Federal Communication Commission's mandate to provide broadband throughout the country; and they looked to libraries and museums to help provide input and support.

In conclusion, this is my last meeting as President – I am retiring. I have served since January 2004 – and they have been a good 8 years with exceptional Board members and dedicated Book Sale volunteers. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve the Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. I have truly enjoyed being here.

### **2011 Annual Report: First Vice-President Adele Druck**

As First Vice President I have substituted for Barbara at one monthly Board meeting and have served as a sounding board for her as she has presented ideas and suggestions for various Friends programs and activities.

Barbara invited me to join her at two meetings at the Main Library downtown with representatives of citywide Friends groups and representatives of various Library Departments. The first was to learn about Measure L and to strategize about supporting efforts to pass the legislation. The second was to hear about plans for the future after the passage of Measure L and learn about the new LAPL Friends Wiki -- a website for all Friends Board members, developed collaboratively.

I assisted Barbara in setting up the Banned Books Week displays in the Library.

Recently, I attended a Literacy Conference at Cal Sate Northridge where our branch and the Literacy program representative for LAPL had a table to promote our activities in this area.

I have continued to assist in Publicity by making many posters and flyers for Friends events and various signs for the Bookstore and Book Sales, and maintaining a mailing list of book dealers, who are sent invitations to our sales.

**2011 Annual Report: Second Vice President Mark Lamken** (amended to include all of 2011)

Results of Sales of Used Books:

Quarterly Book Sales

February 2011	\$3137.49
May 2011	3152.33
August 2011	3896.37
December 2011	<u>3405.12</u>
Total (Quarterly Book Sales)	\$13,591.31
Book Store Sales (courtesy of Margaret Talvin)	<u>10,681.00</u>
<b>Total Used Book Sale Income for 2011</b>	<b>\$24,272.31</b>

I wish to express the Friends thanks to the members of the Book Sale Committee and to our other faithful and wonderful volunteers.

**2011 Annual Report: Membership Committee by Jenny Lapidus, Chair**

November 16, 2011: Currently there are 183 paid members that reflect both individual and couple memberships. There are 19 first time memberships. 23 members have been deleted this year due to a variety of reasons including moved/deceased/or chose not to renew, after 4 notifications including a phone call and email when addresses were provided. Our membership levels: 51 members have joined at \$5, 30 members at \$10, 18 members at \$15, 52 members at \$25, 17 members at \$50, 13 members at \$100, 1 member at \$75, and 1 member at \$110.

Members are recruited at all functions and at the Friends of the Library Bookstore/Book Sales. Upon joining, members receive a welcome letter, a membership card, our current Newsletter, a coupon to be redeemed at our Bookstore, and a survey/interest form. Individuals/families contributing \$100 or more may have a bookplate, with their name, placed in a library book. Businesses or Organizations contributing \$100 or more may have their card with a link to their website on our Community Sponsors webpage. **2011 totals: 183 members; dues collected \$4,460.00.**

**2011 Annual Report: Book Clubs by Carol Fox, Chair.**

**Page Turners Book Club** members read and discussed a variety of interesting books: Tom Rachman - The Imperfectionists; Daniel Levin - The Last Ember; Jodi Picoult - House Rules; Tracy Chevalier - Remarkable Creatures; F. Scott Fitzgerald - The Great Gatsby; Chris Cleve - Little Bee; Barbara Kingsolver - The Lacuna; Abraham Verghese - Cutting for Stone; Irene Nemirovsky - Suite Francaise; Peter Manseau - Songs for the Butcher's Daughter; Maya Angelou - I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.

**History and Politics Book Club** members continued their presidential discussions, and shared readings, on the tenures of Presidents Harry S. Truman through William J. Clinton.

**2011 Annual Report: David Hagopian, Senior Librarian, Acting Branch Manager,**

Encino-Tarzana Branch, Los Angeles Public Library - November 16, 2011

This has been an exciting and interesting year for the [Encino-Tarzana Branch](#) and the [Los Angeles Public Library](#). 2011 started with the campaign to pass Measure L, which secured a larger portion of City funds for the Library. Friends of the Library members, Library staff and Library lovers and supporters citywide waged an enthusiastic, aggressive campaign to pass the Measure in March. Within a few months, the Los Angeles Public Library was able to restore Monday service to all branches and Central Library with the hiring of as-needed librarians, clerk-typists and messenger clerks. As the economy improves and more money comes to the City of Los Angeles more hours and

services will be restored. None of this will happen at once, but 2011 felt like the beginning of the “return” of the Library.

The Encino-Tarzana Branch Library continues to be one of the busiest. We consistently achieved the 2nd to 5th highest circulation of all 72 branches in the system throughout 2011. Our Persian and Russian language materials collections have increased in popularity, and we have added much-desired new books to the collection using Friends of the Library funds. Our Adult, Young Adult and Children’s collections were also well used by our patrons this past year; and our DVD collection continues to be one of the most popular and eclectic in the West Valley Region.

With Friends of the Library funds we were able to purchase hundreds of the best selling books and popular movies of 2011 to add to our collection. The Friends also provided an additional \$6,000.00 to renew our popular Hot-Off-the-Press subscription, which gets new books into patrons’ hands faster. In addition to these wonderful gifts, in 2011 the Friends replaced a work chair for the circulation desk, some metal chairs for the meeting room and three wooden chairs for the reading room. Additionally, they made it possible for us to purchase much-needed workroom supplies; a license to show feature length movies at our branch; and the funds to hire professional performers and provide refreshments and supplies for children’s, young adult and adult programs.

We had some pretty great and memorable events and programs. One in particular was the Chip Thrash concert. On this day we gave teens what they wanted and it was loud. I was really pleased with this program and consider it a success because the teens who attended it had a great time. Teens are one of the most difficult groups to attract to the library and to literature, and if it takes a very loud concert to do, I’ll do it. Other programs for teens this past year included a Robotics Demonstration; college exam preparations; and teen council meetings, where we invite their input on our teen collection and programming.

It is never difficult to attract kids to programs at the Encino-Tarzana Branch and we presented some pretty great children’s programs in 2011. My favorites were the musicians and storytellers, but other great programs were the African American Heritage presentation, magic shows, and an active volcano demonstration.

Some of our more memorable adult programs include How to Create a Life History; the League of Women voters, who spoke in February before the March election; money and financial management lectures; and documentary and foreign film movie screenings. Additionally, each month the Friends of the Library hold a Board of Directors meeting in our meeting room which is open to all and an excellent opportunity for people concerned about and interested in their community branch to come in and get involved.

Other notable events during the year have been an excellent Banned Books Week display, planned and presented by the Friends of the Library. This included literature about Banned Books Week, explaining why some books are banned by different groups and agencies, and bookmarks, and, of course, many of the books from the banned books list were available to borrow. In January, the Friends hosted a lunch for Branch staff, which was attended by both appreciative library staff and Friends group members. In June, our neighbor, Monarch Village, consulted with the Friends again on Monarch’s second annual “Cookout for Books” -- a buffet lunch for Friends and Library patrons along with a successful book donation drive for the Library. Also in June the Encino Neighborhood Council generously donated nearly \$2,000.00 worth of books to the branch.

The Encino-Tarzana Branch is very happy to receive donations. All year round our patrons donate their used books and movies to the Branch. We are very grateful to receive these gifts and resources. What we do not add to our collection, we pass on to our tireless volunteers who sort the books and sell them in the Friends Bookstore (located in the Library, usually keeping the same hours as the Branch) and at one of the four giant, two-day used book sales that they have during the year.

This year I have settled more into my position at the Branch. We have a very diverse group of library users and I have gotten to know them better and am more perceptive about the type of library and community center that they want. I enjoy hearing patrons’ ideas and suggestions and what they think about our branch, our staff and the quality of our service. Many of the materials I buy and programs and services I consider come from patron suggestions. This year many patrons have asked

about our extensive electronic media collection and how they can enjoy ebooks, audiobooks, music and videos on their various devices.

Patrons also tell me their views and feelings about the Los Angeles Public Library system as a whole. One of the remarks I heard frequently had to do with restoring Library service hours. Re-opening the Library on Mondays starting this past July was so important to the citizens of Los Angeles. People are pleased that the Library is on track to restore even more hours open to the public, to put more money into the materials and program budget and, especially, start to hire more staff. Our staff works so hard to provide the best service we can to the public but at a busy Branch such as this one, reduced staff is especially noticeable. In 2011 our Young Adult Librarian left us to pursue new challenges as manager at another busy branch. Her absence is strongly felt here because her knowledge of and expertise in young adult services was exemplary and admirable.

In addition to losing staff in 2011, we are also losing Barbara Leff as Friends President. I am very sorry to see her retire. I am very fortunate that in my first experience working with a Friends group I could rely on a leader who was very supportive, full of excellent advice and suggestions, always willing to help out, and whose main goals and objectives were always focused on providing the Encino-Tarzana Branch with the resources it needs to serve the community. But I am also looking forward to working with Adele Druck, the new Friends President, starting in January 2012. She has long been active in the Friends group and is one of our most popular GAB volunteers.

I am confident that 2012 will be a great year for the Encino-Tarzana Branch, full of changes and opportunities. With funding for the Library secured by two thirds of Measure L voters, Library service can only get better as the economy strengthens. I look forward to working with patrons, volunteers, staff, and Library supporters in a variety of ways to continue providing excellent service to the community and moving forward with new and traditional Los Angeles Public Library goals. The Library is here for all to use and I encourage the community to come in and see what we have to offer. *[Note: You can re-read David Hagopian's full report, at your leisure, [on our website.](#)]*

### HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS BOOKS

HOTP are located on the "New Books" shelves, next to the Information Desk. HOTP may be borrowed for seven days and must be returned to this Library. HOTP cannot be reserved or renewed. (However, these titles may be reserved from the larger library collection through the Library's Reserve ("Hold") system, but may take longer to obtain.)

A subscription to HOTP Books is a gift from Friends of Encino-Tarzana Library. Selection and acquisition of books is explained on our webpage. Our Librarians notify the Friends when HOTP Books are received and placed on shelves (see list & dates below).

#### **February, 2012**

Vince Flynn - [Kill Shot](#)

Lisa Gardner - [Catch Me](#)

Robert Harris - [The Fear Index](#)

Judith Jance - [Left For Dead](#)

#### **January, 2012**

Kristin Hannah - [Home Front](#)

Elmore Leonard - [Raylan](#)

Brad Taylor - [All Necessary Force](#)

Robert Crais - [Taken](#)

James Grippando - [Need You Now](#)

Walter Mosley - [All I Did Was Shoot](#)

[My Man](#)

Nevada Barr - [The Rope](#)

Orson Scott Card - [Shadows in Flight](#)

Bernard Cornwell - [Death of Kings](#)

Thomas Frank - [Pity the Billionaire:](#)

[The Hard-Times Swindle and the](#)

[Unlikely Comeback of the Right](#)

Elizabeth George - [Believing the Lie](#)

Jayne Ann Krentz - [Copper Beach](#)

(A Dark Legacy Novel)

T. Jefferson Parker - [The Jaguar](#)

Douglas J. Preston & Lincoln Child –

[Gideon's Corpse](#)

Tom Robb Smith - [Agent](#)

Janet Evanovich - [Love in a Nutshell](#)

Jack Higgins - [A Devil is Waiting](#)

Sara Paretsky - [Breakdown](#)

Dean Koontz - [Shadow Street](#)

Fern Michaels - [Deadline](#)

Karen Robards - [Sleepwalker](#)

*[For more, see our website: <http://www.ETLibraryFriends.org/2hotoffthepress.html> ]*

## **FRIENDS RECOMMEND**

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

Henry Nicholls - The Way of the Panda: The Curious History of China's Political Animal

Hugo, the movie in 3D.

Brian Selznick - The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Brian Selznick - The Hugo Movie Companion: A Behind the Scenes Look at How a Beloved Book Became a Major Motion Picture

Rebecca Skloot - The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum - That Used To Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back

Geraldine Brooks - Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague

Laura Hillenbrand - Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption

Lyanda Lynn Haupt - Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness

David L. Ulin (Editor, L.A. Times Book Review) - Lost Art of Reading: Why Books Matter in a Distracted Time

Nicholas Carr - The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing To Our Brains

Wallace Stegner - Angle of Repose (Pulitzer Prize)

Maria Riva - Marlene Dietrich

Tea Obrecht - Tiger's Wife: a Novel

Midnight in Paris (film) [and] Temple Grandin (film)

J. M. G. Le Clezio - Wandering Star

Mandy Moore and Leanne Prain - Yarn Bombing: The Art of Crochet and Knit Graffiti

Lisa See - Shanghai Girls

Kee Malesky - All Facts Considered: The Essential Library of Inessential Knowledge

Roz Savage - Rowing the Atlantic: Lessons Learned on the Open Ocean

Michael Crosby - Encino (Images of America series)

*[ for more, see our website: <http://www.etlibraryfriends.org/3recommend.html> ]*

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