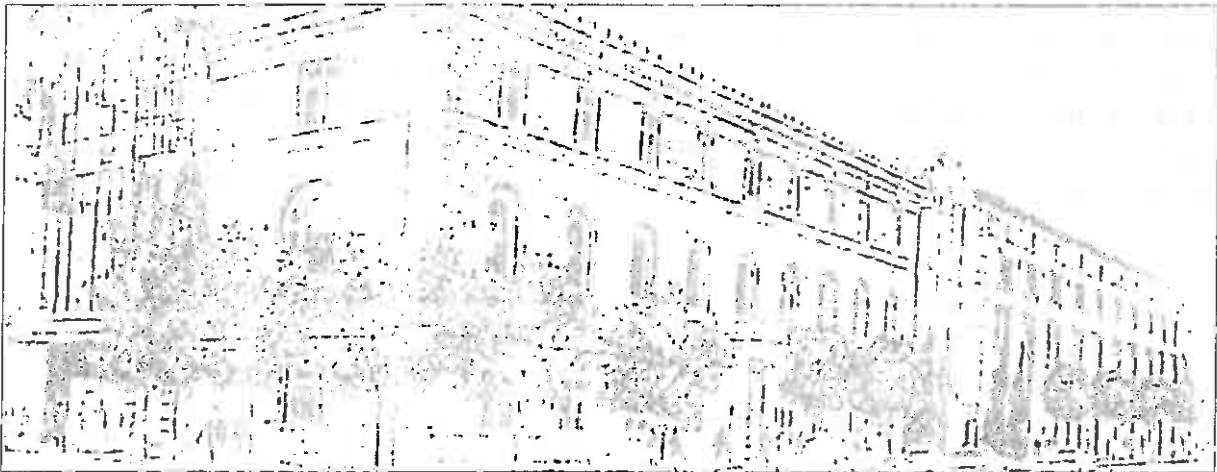


For Sacramento, gold came first, then the Library, then the Friends!



Or so proclaimed longtime Friends of the Library member Morrie Landsberg, when he wrote "The Making of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library: 1963-1990."

Landsberg went on to relate that pioneer figures like Leland Stanford, E.B. Crocker, C.P. Huntington, James McClatchy and Newton Booth gave Sacramento its first library. Lois Shellhammer, who worked as a school supervisor, told Landsberg that her own recollection of the movement to improve libraries went back to 1961:

"The situation was brought to a head for me when I advised a teacher at Washington School in Perkins to take his eighth-graders to the branch library listed in Perkins," Shellhammer recalled. "His reply: 'I can't take students there. I wish you'd come by and see for yourself why.' So I parked in front of a cowboy-movie-type porch, opened the fly-specked and broken screen door, looked at the bar keeper behind

the screen, glanced at the two 1 p.m. customers and said, 'Oh, I am just going to the library.'

"Walking past an open door, I found two lawyer-type cupboards, a table with two library file drawers and smelly beer cans. And that in 1961 was a rental space for a county library!"

Shellhammer went on to tell about making an impassioned plea to the League of Women Voters in June 1961 to do a study of Sacramento library services, noting, "It is my belief that this League study was critical in starting the Sacramento Friends ..."

As we celebrate National Friends of the Library Week Oct. 18-24, 2015, we would like to share a few highlights in the history of our Friends. It is by no means an exhaustive list of the activities of this group of people who have proved so essential to the Sacramento Public Library as we know it today.

1857: Sacramento Library Association Formed

The 1960s

June 26, 1963: Sacramento Citizens for Better Libraries creates the Friends of the Library.

November 24, 1964: The Friends have their first general membership meeting, featuring Dr. Joseph H. Peck, author of "All About Men, Life With Women and How to Survive It."

1966: The Friends list 133 members and a bank balance of \$599.61.

1969: A bylaws amendment changes the organization's name from Friends of the Library to Friends of the Sacramento Library.

The 1970s

1971: The Friends actively work for consolidation of city and county libraries, a measure that voters approve this year.

1976: The Friends Book Sale at the Arcade Library earns \$9,780.

November 10, 1976: The Friends dedicate a piano and present it to the Library.

June 18, 1977: The Friends journey to San Francisco to enjoy the Grant Avenue Arts and Crafts Fair and see a production of "Chorus

Line." The cost to members was advertised as being less than \$20.

1979: The Friends are granted tax-exempt status.

1980: The Book Sale moves to the Clunie Community Center at McKinley Park.

The 1980s

April 7, 1982: California Secretary of State March Fong Eu certifies the Articles of Incorporation for the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library.

1983: The Friends add the Alexander Hamilton Junior Invitational, a preview party held the night before the Book Sale and so named because tickets cost \$10, the bill on which Alexander Hamilton is featured.

1985: Friends support the formation of the Sacramento Public Library Foundation.

April 26, 1986: The Friends present the first "Focus on Writers" conference at the Rancho Cordova Library.

1988: At the behest of Friends President Dorothy Lancaster, the first Sunday "Buck a Bag" sale is incorporated into the Book Sale.



September 16, 1965: John Morgan (left), President of the Friends of Sacramento Libraries, and H.B. Alvord (right), Projects Chairman, award a copy of Benet's "Reader's Encyclopedia" 1965 ed. to (from left to right) Lisa Kuchman, Cathy Amundseu, and Lorraine Nobuye for their outstanding written explanations of why certain books are worth re-reading for the Read and Reread Contest.

The 1990s

1990: Revenue from the four-day Book Sale reaches a new high of \$44,000.

1990: A membership count reveals that the Friends have about 1,000 members in five branch Friends groups.

April 12, 1992: The Friends hold a reception to celebrate the opening of the newly remodeled Central Library.

July 15, 1992: The Friends of the Library Advocacy Committee is formed.

November 2, 1992: The Friends launch their "Wish List" project to enable branch libraries to specify needed items and/or services.

April 23, 1993: A preview party is held by the Friends to celebrate the completion of the Sacramento Room at the Central Library.

September 24, 1994: The South Natomas Friends of the Library celebrate the long-awaited opening of the new South Natomas Library.

November 9, 1994: The Friends sponsor a Benefit Shopping Day at Macy's in Downtown Plaza to raise money for the Library.

May 1995: The Friends annual book sale moves to the Coloma Community Center while the Clunie Community Center in McKinley Park is being renovated.

October 1995: The "Let's Be Friends" membership drive is launched with the goal of having 1% of the Sacramento-area population as FSPL members.

April 1996: The Friends announce a drive to raise funds through the sale of "Lit a la Carte," a cookbook of favorite recipes of famous authors.

May 1996: A record 100,000 items are offered at the annual Book Sale, which brought in \$71,562, topping the previous high of \$70,296 in 1993.

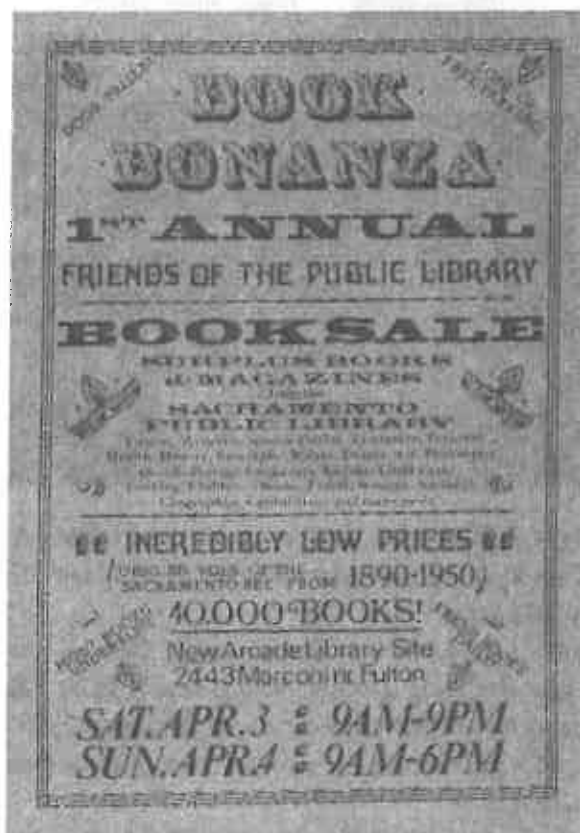
January 1997: Friends President Jean Stephens announces that membership has reached 2,242 and pledges that 1997 membership would equal that of the San Francisco Friends at 2,600.

March 22, 1997: Friends sponsor a "Paperback Extravaganza" sale of 20,000 paperback books.

May 1998: Under cloudy skies and threats of rain, the Friends Book sale stays dry, grossing a record-breaking \$74,000.

June 26, 1998: Friends of the Sacramento Public Library celebrates its 35th anniversary.

May 1999: Friends Book Sale soars to new heights, raising more than \$86,000 while celebrating the sale's 25th anniversary.

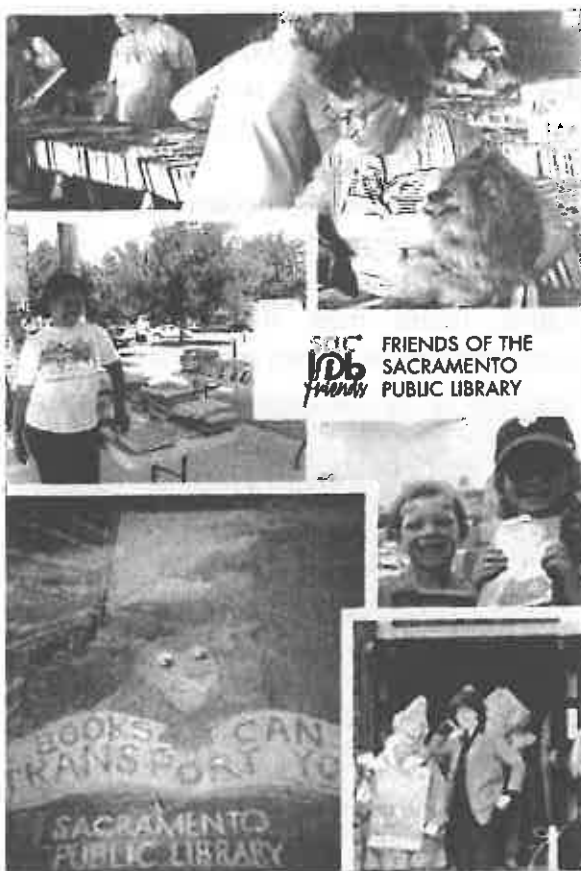


1976: A flier from the first annual Friends Book Sale.

The 2000s

Jan. 23, 2000: Husband-and-wife librarians Terry and Penny Kastanis address the Friends annual meeting with a talk titled "Computers – How Crucial to the Fate of Libraries?"

May 2000: The Friends Book Sale marks its 25th anniversary. Even with "untimely rains" the first two days of the sale, a record \$107,000 is raised through the sale of more than \$100,000 books.



Nov. 7, 2000: Despite the support of the Friends, County Library Measure P failed by less than 1% of the vote.

May 2001: The Friends Book Sale is an overwhelming success, raising nearly \$120,000, in spite of the destruction of between 3,000 and 4,000 books by vandals two days before the sale.

November 13, 2001: Retiring Library Director Richard Killian thanks the Friends for their support during his 14-year tenure and notes that Friends membership rose from 800 to 3,058 during that time.

November 2001: Friends establish an endowment fund to restore and preserve Sacramento Room materials.

January 20, 2002: A silent auction held in conjunction with the Friends Annual Meeting is the organization's most successful silent auction to-date, raising \$932.

2002: Friends move their book-sorting operation to a new facility at 701 Dos Rios St.

2004: The Friends rent space on Belvedere Avenue and open the Book Den.

May 2005: The last Friends Book Sale is held at the Clunie Community Center.

2007: A membership count reveals that the Friends have about 2,700 members in 28 branch Friends groups, including one without a library yet.

2008: The System Friends spend several months working on updating policies and procedures from a 1 ½-page document dating back to the 1960s to a multi-page document that covers all aspects of operations.

October 2011: The first annual "All-Friends" dinner is held at the Pocket Elks Lodge.

2013: The Friends establish their own webpage: www.sacfriends.org

2013: The Friends of the McClatchy Library publish "McClatchy Memories," using the I Street Press.

June 2014: A concerted campaign by the Friends results in the passage of Measure B in the City of Sacramento, a tax measure to help fund library services.

May 5, 2015: The Big Day of Giving is a big success for the Friends, who raise more than \$19,000 for the Sacramento Public Library's One Book event in October 2015.



Sacramento Library mascot Otterby Reading shares the gift of reading at the Big Day of Giving celebration.