

In this issue:

- Letter from Co-Presidents
- Meet our Newest Board Member
- FOPVL Sponsored Events
- Kudos to Sue Crane



2023 Newsletter



Friends of the Portola Valley Library

Serving our Community...



Please donate!

We hope you will consider contributing to FOPVL as part of your annual giving plan. Your donations enable FOPVL to support ongoing enrichment programs and events for all ages and purchase equipment to enhance the library's resources.

Please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website to submit your contribution. We welcome your donation via check or online via credit card/PayPal.*

www.FOPVL.org/donate-now

*Made payable to:
"Friends of the Portola Valley Library"

Dear Friends,

People love our Portola Valley Library for many different reasons: the staff, the collection of books and resources, the physical space, and the programs for children, families and adults. For some, it can be a place to find solace, a resource when the power is out, or the internet is down in our own homes. Indeed, we like to think of our library as the heart of our community.

The Friends of the Portola Valley Library seeks to ensure the library's short- and long-term vitality through fundraising and community stewardship. We also proudly run an in-library bookstore, repurposing books for everyone to enjoy. Some of these funds are used to enhance the library's programs and collections. For example, this past year FOPVL provided funds to purchase books for the summer reading program, which helps to reduce learning loss over summer break.

As always, we are on the lookout for dedicated community members who share our passion for the library to join our board.

Please let us know if you are interested in joining the team.

Thank you to our generous donors. Your annual support is tremendously important to the library. Even if you have never given to the Friends before, we hope you will contribute this year. Join us in this exciting journey!

Together, let's make our library even stronger.

Warm regards,

*Kwok Lau and Karen Fisher,
Co-Presidents*

For a list of Portola Valley library programs and events, go to: <https://smcl.org/locations/1V/>

We truly appreciate our generous community's contributions. For a list of last and current year's donors, go to: [2022-2023 Donors](#) and [2023-2024 Donors](#) on our FOPVL.org website.

Meet Ateret Haselkorn, Newest Board Member!

Q: Welcome to FOPVL, Ateret! We are so excited to have you join the Board. Please tell us about your background, what made you interested in joining the Board, and what you would like to contribute.

A: Thank you for having me! I am happy to be part of FOPVL. I love books, libraries, and writing. Joining FOPVL combined my passions for those elements with my experience in healthcare, believe it or not.

I worked with US hospitals for over 15 years, mostly around patient experience, technology adoption, and strategic planning. I learned many skills that I'd love to apply here, like listening to multiple stakeholders within the community and creating solutions to address their needs. I've partnered with people ranging from sick children and their parents to hospital CEO's. I also approach problem-solving in an organized and clear way, and I collaborate well with teams.

I wrote as a hobby for years, often using the experiences of my job for inspiration. I published my first novel, *Call Me Obie*, at the end of 2022. It takes place in the year 2100, when organs can be artificially printed and most social discrimination is based on medical treatment.

Some people say that book lovers are shy, but one of the best parts of having published a novel is getting to interact with readers. I love it. Books build communities, even if they're temporary. That's what I'd like to continue doing through FOPVL.

Q: How do you think FOPVL can best serve our community?

A: When I moved to Portola Valley with my family a few years ago, I started taking my two young sons to the library regularly and realized that it was a central part of our town. Besides the aspects that were directly educational, like STEM projects, we'd see lots of friends there. The librarians knew the kids. The kids were even friendly with the caged spider at the front desk (I was not).

Portola Valley residents are a close-knit community and the library makes it tangible. I would love to broaden the population cohorts served by library programs. As a mother of two young boys, I have been very happy with the lineup of events suitable for their ages and interests. In particular, I admire how the library cultivates a love of books in very young children. For example, the daytime programming for babies and toddlers always involves reading more than one story in an interactive way. Perhaps the library could expand its programming for people in other age brackets, like teens and seniors. FOPVL could help make this happen.

Q: What programs would you like to see FOPVL sponsor/support?

A: I'd like to solicit community opinion first, but would love to see teen poetry writing competitions, senior memoir writing workshops, and guest speakers sourced from the amazing people who live right here in town. I just wrapped up heading the author reading at the Portola



Valley Arts Festival and I'm still glowing from the experience. The level of engagement we had and the depth of the questions we heard from the audience was inspiring.

Q: What are your personal interests?

A: I'm writing another book, a mystery. I also enjoy being outdoors and throwing spontaneous dance parties in our kitchen with the boys.

Q: Care to share any fun "did you know" tidbits about yourself?

A: I have unexpected encounters with wildlife everytime we travel. When we went to Costa Rica, I walked into the bathroom of our rental and found a green featherless bird relaxing inside the toilet bowl. It took me a moment to realize it was actually a toad the size of a small chicken. I politely left so he could finish his business. I also screamed.

Sally Shimada-Lee, Vice President

Book Alcove a Favorite Stop

The Friends' Alcove continues to be a favorite stop for all patrons. Our selection is varied and is renewed weekly. We thank our patrons for honoring our request to bring no more than 15 books at a time, on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, when we are there to accept them. (Please do not leave books outside or give them to the library staff.) The funds raised from book sales go to the FOPVL general fund.

*Jo Ann Mitchell and Lin Pearlstein,
Board Members*

Interested in joining FOPVL?

Like Ateret, if you are interested in learning more about FOPVL and possibly joining our Board, please contact Donna Mackowski at dwmackling@yahoo.com.



FOPVL Board of Directors

Kwok Lau, Co-President
Karen Fisher, Co-President
Sally Shimada-Lee, Vice President
Cindy Rowe, Secretary
Susan Adams, Treasurer
Sue Chaput
Lenora Ferro
Ateret Haselkorn
Donna Mackowski
Jo Ann Mitchell
Lin Pearlstein
Gloria Knowles Rosenthal

Sweet Success

2nd Annual Friends Event at the Town Picnic

We're delighted to share the sweet success of our 2nd annual Portola Valley Library ice cream event, held on September 23 at our town picnic. This annual gathering allowed the Friends of the PV Library to connect with the community and gain valuable insights into how we can further enrich our library experience.

The event was a wonderful occasion where community members of all ages came together to celebrate their love for the library. Sharing their favorite books and stories was a highlight of the day and the children, in particular, couldn't contain their excitement about the treasured books they had borrowed from the library.

We were thrilled to offer free ice cream to all who came by. The smiles and laughter of the children and the warm conversations among the adults made it a day to remember. We look forward to continuing this tradition, and we hope to see you all next year to share more cherished memories.



Valued patrons telling us about their favorite books



Ice cream for everyone!



Families enjoying sweet treats

Kudos Sue Crane!

Sue Crane is a town treasure who has dedicated her life to serving the people of Portola Valley through her leadership with our schools, open spaces, general plan, library, and The Sequoias. She served on the FOPVL board 2010-2021 and was President 2015-2018.



Sue receiving Founder's Award for Lifetime Contributions to Portola Valley

FOPVL sponsors Author Reading at PV Arts Fest

Through Ateret Haselkorn's leadership, we had a lovely afternoon sponsoring the author readings at the PV Arts Fest on September 9 with writers from across multiple genres:

Children's literature: Caryn Yacowitz with an interactive reading of her book, [An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel](#).

Memoir: Myra Strober, PhD, enlightened us with experiences detailed in her book, [Sharing the Work: What My Family and Career Taught Me About Breaking Through \(and Holding the Door Open for Others\)](#).

Fiction: Ateret Haselkorn read from her new novel, [Call Me Obie](#).



Authors reading amongst the redwoods



An interested and inspired crowd!



Sue and Helen Bigelow speaking about their book, [Behind the Barrels: The Women of Ridge](#)



Friends of the Library of Portola Valley
 765 Portola Road
 Portola Valley, CA 94028

NONPROFIT ORG.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 MENLO PARK, CA
 PERMIT NO. 581

Portola Valley Library
 Telephone: (650) 851-0560
 Website: www.smcl.org
 Monday-Thursday, 10am-8pm
 Friday-Sunday, 10am-5pm

ECRWSS
 POSTAL PATRON
 PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028



Garrett Kuramoto, PV Library Branch Manager

Thank you for hosting this wonderful get-together for myself and staff. I heard from every single person who participated how much fun they had and grateful for the chance to do it. This was an opportunity to spend a final fun moment with my team before heading out for my new position. It's quite emotional saying goodbye to a place and people for whom I've come to care so much.



FOPVL Executive Board (Susan Adams, Kwok Lau, Sally Shimada-Lee, Cindy Rowe) teaching our PV Library staff to play pickleball



Valery Marin Revolorio, Luz Galicia, Jamie Westfold, Garrett Kuramoto, Jeneen Nammar, Valerie Castillo, Eileen Browning, Jocelyne Concordel, Erica Gonzalez Palafox



Andrew Hernandez, Jack Souza, Mark Tanaka, Rachael Hood