

State Librarian Greg Lucas Visits PVLD

PVLD was pleased to host California State Librarian Greg Lucas on April 13. Mr. Lucas toured the Peninsula Center Library, then visited the Malaga Cove Library. At Malaga Cove he was joined by elected officials from several Peninsula cities, Library Trustees, and PFL Board members for a presentation by staff and a reception hosted by the Malaga Cove Library Advisory Committee. Mr. Lucas and the other guests learned about key library programs, heard about the restoration of the Malaga Cove Library, and had an opportunity to visit the Pop-Up Library, which was set up in the Gallery Garden.

Here are some of Mr. Lucas' comments:

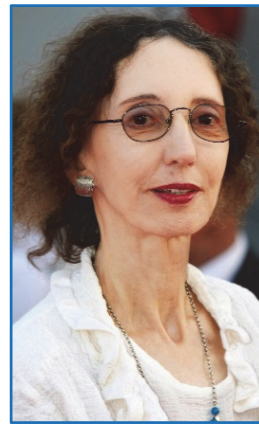
"Benjamin Franklin is credited with creating America's first fire department and its first lending library. Both institutions have changed a lot in 280 years but, fundamentally, they're the same. Firefighters still put out fires but they provide far more emergency medical care. Libraries are still information hubs for their communities,



State Librarian Greg Lucas, Assistant Branch Manager Jennifer Chaffey, Circulation Assistant Ketzie Diaz, and District Director Kathy Gould

but they supply that information in many more ways than books. "Without the library, you have no civilization," says Ray Bradbury, one of the most ardent advocates of public libraries, which he insists were where he got his education." *Continued on page 11*

Joyce Carol Oates Reads at the Norris



On Wednesday, April 1, award winning author Joyce Carol Oates shared her fiction—and many truths—at the Palos Verdes Performing Arts Norris Theatre. Sponsored by Marymount University, the Negri Foundation, the Meid and Macfarlane Foundation, and the Peninsula Friends of the library, this event was a special evening attended by nearly 300 book lovers from around the Peninsula and beyond. Before going to the theater, 40 attendees from Marymount, the Palos Verdes Library, and the Peninsula Friends of the Library enjoyed dinner with the author at the Norris Pavilion. Marymount president Michael Brophy and PVLD Director Kathy Gould co-hosted the evening.

Joyce Carol Oates started writing at the age of 14 and has published more than 100 works since 1963, including novels, short stories, poetry and non-fiction. She has been awarded the National Book Award for Fiction, two O. Henry Awards, and the National Humanities Medal. Three of her novels, *Black Water*, *What I Lived For*, and *Blonde* were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. She has already published one book this year, *Sacrifice*, and another, *Jack of Spades*, is due out in May. Not many writers publish two novels in a year, let alone before even half the year is out.

Continued on page 10



PFL President's Message

April 29, 2015

Dear Friends,

Not everyone gets the chance to say "goodbye" and I feel privileged to do that. I was given so little time and yet I stole so much more. They gave me three to six months and I came out on the winning side – I "lucked out" with nineteen months to say goodbye.

It has meant a lot that you have had trust in me and that you weren't afraid to let me carry the reins for another year. I really hope that the Legacy Society will grow, and flourish, and that others will think about the future of the library and make their bequests early enough that they don't run out of time.

When we started, our goal was a five million dollar fund to support library's ongoing operations in the future. We've almost gotten to one million this year. I am proud of those who stepped forward in any small or large way. I hope my service has made a difference. I have been privileged to work with each and every one of you.

I want you to know that I am at peace. I'm not worried about the laundry, the dirty dishes, getting somewhere on time or anything that doesn't really matter. I feel like my universe is expanding. I wish each of you nothing but the same joy and peace I am now experiencing.

Peace be with you,

Marion

Friends Welcome the Newest Legacy Members

Thank you to the Lennertz family for becoming a members of the Friends Legacy Society. This type of gift makes a significant impact in the long-term financial health and growth of the library. Here's how the Lennertz family sees it:

"Our entire family has benefitted tremendously from the Palos Verdes Library, its resources, programs, services and everything that it has to offer. Given this era of budget cuts, it is essential that the library be able to continue its mission to serve our community for generations to come. We are proud to include Friends of the Library in our estate plan, because it supports our legacy as a family that is committed to education and insures that future Peninsula residents will benefit from this vital community resource just as we have."



*The Lennertz family:
Neil, Harrison, and Nikki*

Medawar Film Project

The Friends organization partnered with Roy Medawar and Lloyd Greenlund to produce a film about the early days in Palos Verdes Estates and in particular a segment specifically about the formation of the Malaga Cove library. Loretta Patterson, Charles Crouse, and I had the privilege of previewing this film and I am pleased to tell you it is the first half of a wonderful story about the Malaga Cove library. It is so well scripted and so very professional, we have plans to make this a focal feature of a fundraising event this coming year when the restoration at Malaga Cove is complete. In fact, the Friends board has approved the funding of the second half of the Malaga Cove story, which we anticipate will be ready for an October showing.

Volunteers Needed for Internet Book Sales

“Fun! Committed! Very rewarding!!” This is how Katy Watkins, Head of Internet Book Sales, describes the work her volunteers do for the Peninsula Friends of the Library. Since its inception in 1979, the Peninsula Friends of the Library Book Sales Program has generated over \$3.3 million in total revenue, which is then provided to the Palos Verdes Library District to support the many services that PFL makes possible.

A large and sustaining part of this Book Sales program is the Internet Book Sales. The Internet Book Sales operate at the main Peninsula Center Library and run like a small business with a need for commitment and imagination.

The Friends of the Library Book Sales volunteers obtain books, CDs, and DVDs by donation. Items that are in good condition and with a value of \$5 or more are forwarded to Internet Sales, where they are cataloged and listed for sale on Amazon or Alibris.

Volunteers are currently needed for two types of jobs within Internet Sales. One is determining if the item is appropriate to list for sale through Amazon.com or Alibris.com. Katy describes this as the “fun” part, wondering why someone would write about the subject, who in the world would buy it, how much he or she might pay for it, and seeing all the places in the U.S. that we ship to. After the volunteer concludes the item is listable and determines a competitive price, the details are entered into a database and the item is put on the Internet Sales room shelves as soon as possible because the items are often sold immediately.

The second job is packing, shipping, processing emails, and handling returns. Katy describes this as the “committed” part because both Amazon and Alibris require their 2nd party vendors to fulfill orders within two business days or they cancel the order. Volunteers work in two person crews on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday starting around 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. and finish within two or three hours depending on the number of items to ship.

“Very rewarding” comes from the realization that the Internet Book Sales unit has contributed nearly \$450,000 since 2007 and that our volunteers can really make a very large impact on their Peninsula community!



Linda Herman and Katy Watkins

Interested? Please contact:

Katy Watkins: kathleen6068@att.net

Ron DeFrees: rondefrees@cox.net; or

Loretta Patterson: lpatterson@pvldfriends.org

Board of Trustees Recognizes Employee Service Milestones

Trustee President Debby Stegura acknowledged the following employees for reaching a milestone at PVLD and for their dedicated service to the District:

20 years:

- Ginger Bell, Senior Page
- Patricia Chagi – Senior Branch Clerk
- Suzanne Dominguez, Senior Branch Clerk

15 years:

- Andrea Dickerson, Technical Services Clerk
- Dennis Piotrowski, Adult Reference Librarian

10 years:

- Jose Leiva, Facilities
- Larry Ray, Facilities
- Louise Beebe, Young Readers Assistant Manager (Teen)
- Marisa Perley, Young Readers Assistant Manager
- Debra Petersen, Adult Reference Assistant Manager
- Kathy Gould, District Director

2014 In Review

I'm pleased to report another exciting and successful year for the Peninsula Friends of the Library and would like to share with you some of our accomplishments.

Our first newsletter of the year introduced the new Friends logo designed and colorized to make it easier to reproduce.

The circus theme was featured at our 5th annual fundraising Gala in March. The Gala committee worked tirelessly to put together a fun-filled evening for everyone under the direction of returning co-chairs Francine Dominique and Jim Gamble. The event raised approximately \$40,000 for the Friends and again raised awareness of how the library meets the needs and desires of so many in our community. The Galas have been wonderfully successful over the past five years, but because of the extensive preparation required, we are working with Library Director Kathy Gould to reconsider a fundraising event for the Fall of 2015; you'll be hearing more about that soon.

The Friends pay for the PVLD newsletter "Bookmarks" to be sent to the entire population of our local communities. This year we worked with the Library to include a one-page, double-sided membership insert in the winter issue, which captured a lot of attention and spread the word about the importance of the Friends organization. We'll continue to weave the Friends and PVLD more closely so the entire community understands and appreciates the role of the Friends organization.

The Chuck Sears Art Gallery event sold three paintings for a \$1,000 donation to the friends.

Major donations during this year included:

- Jeff Earle's gift to the Local History room
- The Ralph and Loraine Scriba gift to remodel the bathrooms at Miraleste Library
- The Mary Steinmetz gift to repair the service elevator at Peninsula Center Library
- The Norris Foundation gift to cover Sunday operating hours at Peninsula Center Library
- Don Knabe's gift for the restoration of the circulation desk at Malaga Cove Library
- The Long Family Foundation gift of a sculpture for the garden at Malaga Cove Library
- Pat Foltz's gift for additional restoration projects at Malaga Cove Library

Two additional study rooms were named this year, leaving only one large study room still available. These rooms were named for Jack O'Connor by his family and by Dr. Ronald and Miriam Sommers.

We completed the new donor wall project begun last year and celebrated the installation of the wall with a reception in September which was attended by more than 40 people. Many donors opted to make additional donations to move up a donor category or two prior to the unveiling of the new wall. The result was more than \$65,000 in unexpected donations.

We joined with the Library again for the One Book, One Peninsula event which featured a fireside chat with the author Richard Louv about his book *The Nature Principle*.

Our Development Office under the direction of Loretta Patterson celebrated Valentine's Day with cards and flowers for the major donors, worked with Membership to create a new brochure and a major presentation folder for potential donors, created welcome to the neighborhood postcards, increased Legacy Society membership to seven, and got two more study rooms named for a total of nine. They held their first focus group meeting to find out how our Friends organization could better reach a variety of age and ethnic groups for new members, new volunteers, and new library supporters. The process was very successful and netted some much-needed Marketing expertise as well as two new Friends members. I would like to thank Loretta and her wonderful staff (Charlie Trujillo and Diana Morgan) for their great work.

Of course, in May we celebrated our wonderful volunteers at our annual volunteer luncheon at Palos Verdes Golf Club. More than 200 adults and teens in our community have again provided service to the library this past year in excess of 24,000 hours at a value of more than \$600,000 (calculated at the national volunteer service rate of \$26.34/hour). The services our volunteers provide could never be handled by our already busy library staff and, in fact, there is no room in the library's tight budget to pay for these services. We are a most fortunate community that recognizes the value to education that our libraries provide and that has volunteers who step up to fill the gaps in service.

The Book Sales volunteers were celebrated this year for two major achievements. The Peninsula Center Library volunteers reached \$2,000,000 in sales this year, and total sales for all locations topped \$3,000,000.

What an achievement! These dollars went straight to our library to support supplies, books, services, and programs.

The Library Shop continues to be a wonderful source of gifts for everyone on your list and is doing more and more business now that it is accepting credit cards. If you haven't been to the shop yet, you are missing out on great gifts for others, and yourself too! The Shop is always looking for volunteers; so consider spending some time there and get a first look at the latest merchandise that is constantly changing.

We published two issues of the informative Friends newsletter, which continues to be well received by our members and brings in many donations as well.

Under the direction of board member Ron DeFrees, we began work on our strategic planning.

Our Development Committee, chaired by immediate past president, Jane Jones, created a donor pyramid and prioritized donors and prospects for follow-up.

This year, unfortunately, we lost a long-time, valued member of our Friends organization and our board of directors with the passing of Glenous Absmeier. She has long been a community volunteer and been associated with a number of non-profits in addition to the Friends. Glenous was always behind a whimsical pair of glasses; we will always remember her great sense of humor.

I'd like to thank our four board members who have retired from the board. Lisa Augustine has worked with Membership and Governance for the past couple of years, and a little bird told me she might be willing to remain on one or both committees as a non-board member. Nell Mirels was our secretary last year and did a wonderful job with our minutes as well as being the Book Sales Liaison. Nell, of course, has been with the Friends organization for many years and has previously served on the board, as secretary and also as Friends president. Dick Moe helped with our Gala entertainment as well as served on our development committee. Fran Pullara also retired, and you can read about her contributions on page 7. Thank you all for your generous service.

There are so many other people to thank for the great year, but at the very least I need to mention Library Director Kathy Gould. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with Kathy. She is a professional, a wonderful team player, and a great leader. She is at the top of a

wonderful organization of talented individuals that we are lucky to have at PVL D. Our Friends members are always appreciated for understanding and supporting the value of our organization. I can't say enough of a thank you to the PFL and PVL D volunteers; so if I'm being redundant, forgive me, but volunteers are at the very heart of our organization. Of course, my fellow board members are also volunteers who give their support by seeing that the Friends run smoothly. Thank you for your service and support, both financial and in-kind. Finally, Pat Foltz who has provided the most delicious spreads all year for every event and who does it with love and kindness.

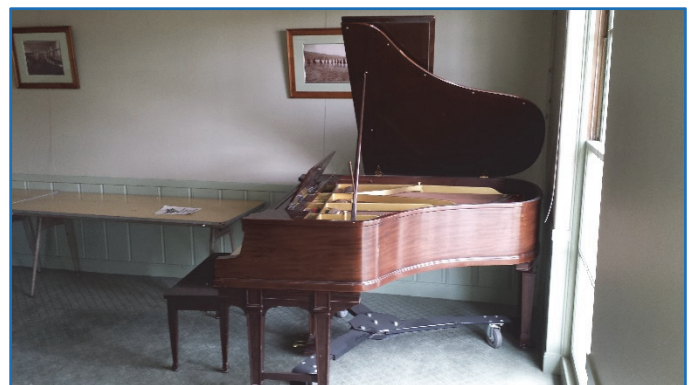
Our Mission is to raise funds to support the Palos Verdes Library District and to build community awareness and enthusiasm for PVL D services, programs, and needs. To that end, I am very pleased to end my report on a very positive note. This year we booked \$473,371 in support to PVL D.

Marion Martelli, PFL President

We're Looking for a New Piano

Peninsula Friends of the Library needs a piano! The piano we have in the Gallery at Malaga Cove Library has seen its best days. We are looking for a baby grand or a grand piano in good working order. If you have one that no one has played in years or are just downsizing and can't use it anymore, please let us know. We would love to talk to you!

Please call Loretta Patterson, Friends Director of Development at (310) 921-7505 or email her at lpatterson@pvlfriends.org.



Spirit of Giving: Get More From Your Charitable Gifts

Charitable giving by definition is “a gift made by an individual or organization to a nonprofit organization, charity or private foundation.”¹ By definition, we must give something away to satisfy the requirement of a charitable gift. But would it surprise you to know that when structured properly, giving something away can also lead to you getting a substantial benefit in return? That’s right, you can give something to charity and get a tangible benefit in the form of tax deductions to help build your overall wealth and mitigate your annual tax liability. Today’s article will focus on real life donors who maximized their tax benefits with creative, easy-to-do gifting ideas.

It begins with a donor we will nickname Tom. Tom has been a lifetime supporter of the Palos Verdes Library District and every year would give gifts of cash to the Peninsula Friends of the Library to support the District and its services. Every year, Tom would dust off his checkbook and write a check to the Peninsula Friends of the Library, and in return, get a tax deduction based on the value of his gift. Somewhere along the line, Uncle Sam decided that offering tax incentives to donors would encourage additional support of non-profits, and he was right. But what Uncle Sam neglected to tell Tom is that he would only get a tax deduction based on his tax bracket, not the full value of his gift! So when Tom wrote his \$10,000 check to PFL and was in the 25% tax bracket, his deduction was worth only \$2,500.²

Well, Tom had two very important variables that made alternative gifting possible: First, he had hired a very savvy CPA who specialized in tax planning. Second, he had a highly appreciated investment portfolio due to the post-recession run-up in the stock market. His CPA recommended that instead of selling some of his investments to gift cash, he instead consider gifting stock or mutual funds directly to the Friends of the Library, known as gifting of appreciated assets. By doing this in lieu of cash, Tom was able to avoid having to pay capital gains tax on the increase in value of his stock. As we know, when we buy stock and sell it for an amount higher than we bought it, we have to pay tax on that increase in value;³ he was also able to take the very same tax deduction he would have gotten on his cash gifts based on the value of his stock at the time of the gift. By gifting appreciated stock Tom was able to get a tax deduction

and avoid capital gains tax, thereby maximizing his tax benefits while also giving a substantial gift to benefit the PV Library District. Because he was willing to have a conversation about alternative ways to give, Tom was able to maximize his charitable impact.

Our next donor, we’ll call her Kim, was 72 years old and a retired engineer and a dedicated saver throughout her life. Consequently, she had a very large Individual Retirement Account or IRA that she had rolled over from her employer’s 401k plan. Kim was also an avid supporter of the Peninsula Friends of the Library and every year would give cash gifts in support. But for Kim, like many other hard working retirees, every dollar she pulled out of her IRA was fully taxable to her in the year withdrawn. Kim also used her IRA withdrawals to support her living expenses so it was difficult to find excess money to gift that did not create a difficult tax burden. What was worse, being over 70½ meant she was required to pull a portion of her IRA every year, known as her required minimum distribution. The RMD is Uncle Sam’s way of saying he is tired of waiting for his taxes...

Knowing her propensity towards charitable giving and adversity to taxes, Kim’s financial advisor told her about a provision in the American Taxpayer Relief Act known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD⁴. With this provision, Kim could gift up to \$100,000 directly from her IRA to the Friends of the Library and not have to declare that withdrawal as income on her tax return. Let’s reiterate that last bit, her withdrawal did NOT count as income, she paid NO TAX! As an added bonus, the QCD also applied toward her RMD that year and by reducing the overall balance of her IRA she was also able to reduce the amount of her future RMDs in process, decreasing her tax liability for years to come!

New Look Coming to the Friends Website

Spring is the perfect time to show off something new, and soon we’ll be introducing a fresh website for the Friends of the Library. We are redesigning the current website to bring it more up-to-date; a new design will feature easier navigation and improved content with timely news and information. You’ll be able to jump easily from one topic to the next, access the specific information you need from pull-down menus, and enjoy the additional photos and graphics that make the site more fun to use. So keep an eye out for the new look, coming soon to pvlfriends.org.

Because Kim was willing to consider gifting directly from her IRA, she was able to avoid income tax on the withdrawal and reduce her future required minimum distribution, reducing her tax burden in the process. As long as Congress continues to extend this provision donors can take advantage of this great benefit.

These are just two basic examples of how donors have been able to maximize their tax benefits while still supporting a great cause in the Peninsula Friends of the Library. It is gifts such as these that have enabled the Friends to give over \$400,000 in support to the Palos Verdes Library District in fiscal year 2014 and has them on track to give over \$500,000 in fiscal year 2015. This support helps to fund Sunday Hours, the Summer Reading Program, an expanded eBooks program, restoration projects and much, much more.

Every individual and family is unique and it is for that reason we are happy to discuss any ideas you may have for your own creative giving ideas to help maximize your tax benefits and support your favorite library district. Give the Friends office a call today at (310) 921-7503 and Loretta Patterson, our incredible Development Director, will help you explore the many ways the Friends of the Library can help you maximize your charitable impact, while you help support the Palos Verdes Library District in its mission to help our community.

Remember, only the curious have something to find...

¹ Investopedia.com

² \$10,000 multiplied by his 25% tax bracket. Subject to AGI and gifting limitations

³ Capital gains tax amount depends on marginal tax bracket. Consult CPA for specific impact

⁴ Provision expired at the end of 2014 and is being considered for extension in 2015

*Submitted by Mark Boujikian, CFP®
Harris Financial Advisors, Inc.
Director, Peninsula Friends of the Library*



Fran Pullara Leaves Friends Board

When library volunteer Fran Pullara started helping at the Malaga Cove Library used book sales 11 years ago, she never dreamed she would ultimately volunteer hundreds of hours for the Peninsula Friends of the Library. “It was my original intent to be an out-of-sight worker bee,” she said. But she agreed to serve on the former Library Foundation Board for two years until it was dissolved. Then she joined the Friends Board as Director of Communications, handling media and publication activities, photography at special events, and preparing to launch the Friends first website along with Ed Long, Debby Stegura, and library IT employees David Campbell and Erik Adams. Fran also served on the Malaga Cove Library Advisory Committee for 10 years. Her responsibilities grew to include the Friends website, media and public relations, and the duties of historian.

She has worked at Chadwick School for 23 years, first as Director of Communications and then as the school’s archivist. She also worked in the field of communications since 1976—at El Camino College, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Loyola Law School, and the Center for the Partially Sighted. She served two years as a Library Commissioner for the City of Torrance in the 1980s. Fran has three adult children, six grandchildren ranging from 28 to 6, and for the past several years has dabbled with art. “I have been passionate about libraries since I learned to read and it has been a pleasure to serve the Palos Verdes Library,” she said. “You’ll still see me at the book sales, taking photos for special events, and after the new Friends website is launched, I hope I can continue to contribute there from time to time. And I’ll be a used book sale volunteer as long as I possibly can. We are so blessed to have the Palos Verdes Library District in our community.”

Meet the New Friends Board Members

Janet Baszile

Ten years after migrating to California, Janet Baszile moved to Palos Verdes in 1972 with her late husband, Barry, and her two daughters. A graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a B.A. in education, Janet worked as an elementary school teacher for 19 years. For more than 35 years, Janet has been active in organizations in Palos Verdes, the South Bay and Los Angeles.



In the early 1980s Janet began her volunteer career on the Peninsula by serving on the Board of Directors of the Community Association of the Peninsula (CAP), the organization responsible for building the Norris Theater. Realizing the need for cross-cultural understanding, Janet organized the Multi-Cultural Committee of CAP and later served on the Board of Directors of International Visitors Council of Los Angeles.

Janet's passion for volunteer work has led her to participate in organizations throughout Los Angeles. She has served on the boards of Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, Providence Trinity Care Hospice, and the California African American Museum Foundation.

Janet currently serves as Secretary, Board of Trustees of the Palos Verdes Art Center and is also on the board of the Palos Verdes Chapter of Links. She is Co-President of the Black Heritage Association. Janet has received several volunteer service awards, holds membership in numerous organizations and attends St. Peter by the Sea Presbyterian Church.

When time permits, she enjoys travel, gardening, golf and reading. Janet's two daughters, Natalie and Jennifer, are both published authors. She has three grandchildren.

Thomas Chan

Thomas Chan is a Partner at Fox Rothschild LLP in Los Angeles. Tom is a versatile, highly acclaimed and internationally renowned lawyer and mediator known for strategies and negotiation skills. For more than 30 years, he has represented clients in multimillion-dollar patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, corporate and contract



disputes; closing public company merger and acquisition, joint ventures, licensing, and strategic transactions in the U.S., China, and around the world; setting up operations in the U.S., China, and worldwide; registering hundreds of trademarks, patents and copyrights for clients worldwide; and acting as outside general counsel for small to medium size firms from incubation to exit.

He has represented entrepreneurs and multi-nationals in industries such as computer, software, aerospace, energy, consumer electronic, communication, e-commerce, automotive, sporting good, toy, healthcare, nutritional supplement, food and beverage, home and garden, beauty & fragrance, jewelry, fashion, financial service, real estate, entertainment, publishing and education. Fluent in Chinese, he is an early pioneer in China trade. Tom has been selected as a member of the Worldwide Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) List of Neutrals and was trained as a mediator at the California Academy of Mediation Professionals. Tom was selected to serve on the Panel of Neutrals of the International Trademark Association (INTA) and the Panel of Mediators and Arbitrators of the Los Angeles County Superior Courts.

A frequent lecturer and commentator, Tom has been widely quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and makes frequent appearances on television and radio broadcasts. Additionally he has been recognized for his dedication and positive impact over the years by the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Chinese Americans United for

Self-Empowerment, Southern California Chinese Computer Association, The judges of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Global Advanced Technology Corporation, The Secretary of Commerce, The Southern California Chinese Lawyers' Association Board of Governors, The South Bay Chinese American Chamber of Commerce, Southern Bay Chinese Cultural Center and Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices.

In addition, Tom has served or continues to serve professional and civic organizations including, the Business Software Alliance (Founder), CAUSE (Founder and past chair), China Enterprises Council Associated Member, Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (Founder and past Board of Governors), National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Chinese American Lawyers Association of Southern California, Export Managers Association of California, Big Brothers and Sisters of Wausau, Wisconsin, and the Torrance Memorial Medical Center Foundation.

His son Kyle and daughter Inez grew up visiting the library regularly as a favorite family pastime.

Christine Chui

Christine has eight years of experience in international business management and 14 years of experience in financial services.



From 2001 to 2012, Christine worked for Merrill Lynch helping clients determine their long-term financial goals, investment needs and risk tolerances. Christine specializes in asset allocation, investment portfolio management, cash management and liability management.

Since her husband's passing in 2013, Christine has managed her family business and worked for LPL Financial. She is a licensed investment representative at FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority).

Christine graduated from the University of Southern California with an M.B.A. in International Business Management and Finance. She is a Rotarian honored with a diamond sponsorship at the Paul Harris

Foundation. She serves as a Board Member at the East Los Angeles College and also at the South Bay Chinese School. Christine resides in Palos Verdes Estates with her two children. In her spare time, she enjoys painting, yoga, golfing and travel. She is committed to supporting the community with the highest level of service.

Mary Tavetian

A native Californian, Mary Tavetian has resided in Palos Verdes since 1988 with her husband, John. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor's degree in English and worked for 35 years as a writer in several high tech companies. She also wrote freelance in journalism and corporate communications.



A great believer that frequent exposure to books develops a curious mind, Mary visited the Palos Verdes Library almost daily with her two daughters when they were growing up. The girls are now in college and still love to read.

Previous to joining the Friends board, she volunteered at the Peninsula High School library for three years. Mary also delivered for Meals on Wheels in Torrance for 10 years and volunteered for seven years in the Palos Verdes public schools. She is currently tutoring elementary grade students at the Long Beach Boys and Girls Club after-school program. In addition to reading, Mary enjoys going to museums, concerts, and movies, and traveling as much as possible.

Starting with the next issue of the Friends newsletter, Mary Tavetian takes over from Marion Martelli as the editor. Please send any questions, suggestions, or comments to mary.tav@verizon.net.

Thank you for your service!

We gratefully acknowledge all the hard work and commitment given so generously by the retiring Board Members:

Lisa Augustine

Fran Pullara

Nell Mirels

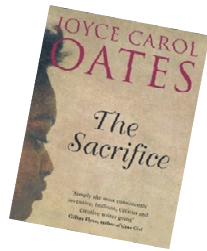
Dick Moe

Joyce Carol Oates

Continued from page 1

Her fiction takes on the grittiest of human conditions. The stories expose the harsh realities of living in a complex world of social, racial, and political inequalities, and her characters endure the brutality and oppression of the world and the people around them. Oates is famously suspicious of “happy endings,” and has said “Uplifting endings and resolutely cheery world views are appropriate to television commercials but insulting elsewhere. It is not only wicked to pretend otherwise, it is futile.” She grew up in rural New York, near Lockport, and later lived in Detroit. Both experiences gave her ample material for the challenging environments in which her characters struggle to survive.

Little, however, of this darker view of life was evident that evening when this beautiful, graceful author generously shared her vision at the Norris. Seeing Joyce Carol Oates in person is a surprise, for it is hard to believe that this slight, almost fragile-looking woman could be the source of such abundant and powerful drama. Standing at the podium, composed and almost still, she read her story “The Mastiff” in a sweet, steady voice that kept the audience spellbound. Her ability to convey the complex and aching emotion of her characters with a minimum of words demonstrated to everyone in the theater why she is one of the greatest writers of fiction alive today.



After reading, Oates graciously answered questions from the audience and shared some of the secrets of her craft. One woman in the audience asked how she could overcome the “writer’s block” she had been struggling with for five years after the death of her parents. Oates expressed surprise, saying that it is usually the parents who are still alive that threaten the writer’s progress because of their potential to read and criticize the work. Oates also described which times of the day she likes to write—early in the morning, for example, before “the Husband” wakes up. She explained how she gathers ideas for her stories and develops the plot and characters while walking or running or “looking out the window.” Never does she just sit down at the computer and invent the story there. In fact, when it comes to putting the words on the page, Oates said she still frequently writes in long hand.

The author, who has taught at a number of universities including Princeton, UC Berkeley, and Stanford, advises her students to daydream and spend a lot of time thinking about their work before sitting down to write. We can all be grateful for the profitable hours this exceptional author has daydreamed, and we are fortunate to have been able to enjoy her fiction live, in first person, right here in Palos Verdes.

*Submitted by Mary Tavetian
Director, Peninsula Friends of the Library*



Joyce Carol Oates signs copies of her book, above, and reads her short story “The Mastiff,” right.



Greg Lucas

Continued from page 1

“California’s 1,112 libraries – the most of any state – mirror our unique diversity. They’re enriched by thousands of librarians who exemplify the innovation and generosity California is recognized for around the world. California’s students get help achieving their dreams from on-campus libraries and teacher-librarians. Our public and private universities operate world class research libraries.

Each day, 21 million Californians – from preschoolers to 100-year-olds – use their library cards to open windows on the limitless realm of ideas and knowledge. Libraries are vital, thriving 21st Century institutions that literally change lives. Libraries are the most welcoming place to our most disenfranchised. They’re on the front line of improving the reading skills of all Californians. And there’s absolutely no investment in human capital that’s more cost-effective than teaching someone to read.

Libraries invigorate our workforce. They’re an essential part of our education system, offering safe havens for homework and preventing academic “summer slide.” Spend time in the children’s section and see toddlers getting rowdy over a book at Storytime. Visit the Young Adult section and see parents sneaking off with books written for their teens that happen to be some of the most thought-provoking, page-turning fiction being written.

Today, library bookshelves are interspersed with banks of computer terminals...The state is working to improve the connectivity at every public library from Alturas to National City. We’re an Information Economy and the library is where many Californians – some 25 percent of the state doesn’t have Internet at home – plug into the information they need to succeed or survive... Databases, streaming video and E-Books are becoming the norm.

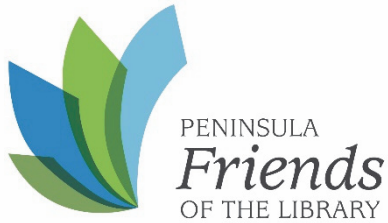
Ben Franklin and Ray Bradbury would be proud. But they’d expect more. So should we. Let’s make this a state where every Californian entering kindergarten has a library card, every Californian reads at more than a Fifth Grade level and every Californian can use their library card anywhere in California.”

Congratulations to our new PFL board:

Janet Baszile	Mark Boujikian
Tom Chan	Christine Chui
Ronald DeFrees	Jane Jones
Alan Kennan	Kaaren Lee
James Lin	Richard Lohrer
Nancy Mahr	Marion Martelli
Lloyd Mistele	Bill Roberts
Mary Tavetian	Gail Tierney



District Board of Trustees Vice President Kingston Wong, State Librarian Greg Lucas, Board President Debby Stegura, and Secretary Kay Cooperman Jue



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The mission of the Peninsula Friends of the Library is to raise funds to support the Palos Verdes Library District and to build community awareness of and enthusiasm for Library services, programs, and needs.

Friends is the newsletter of the Peninsula Friends of the Library. Please send comments and suggestions to Mary Tavetian, Editor, at mary.tav@verizon.net.

To Addressee or Current Resident

Peninsula Friends of the Library Board of Directors

Officers:

Marion Martelli, President
Nancy Mahr, VP Governance
Alan Kennan, Treasurer
Ron DeFrees, Secretary

Directors:

Janet Baszile
Mark Boujikian
Tom Chan
Christine Chui
Jane Jones
Kaaren Lee
James Lin
Richard Lohrer
Lloyd Mistele
Bill Roberts
Mary Tavetian
Gail Tierney

Upcoming Library Book Sales

Peninsula Center Library	Malaga Cove Library
May 7 – 10	May 15 – 16
June 4 – 7	June 19 – 20
July 9 – 12	July 17 – 18
August 6 – 9	August 21 – 22
September 10 – 13	September 18 – 19
October 1 – 4	October 16 – 17
November 5 – 8	November 20 – 21
December 3 – 6	December 11 - 12