

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2009

The Menlo Park Friends of the Library invites booklovers to the peninsula's oldest annual book fair. Also, one of Menlo Park's oldest traditions, the Book Fair 2009 again returns to the grounds adjacent to the Library and the Council Chambers on **Saturday, September 19 from 9:30 to 4:00 PM and again on Sunday, September 20, from 9:30 to 2:00 PM.**

Over 30,000 gently used books will be offered in 30 categories to make choices easier and the overall experience more enjoyable.

As part of the tradition, prices remain very attractive, most books being less than \$2.00 and close to half of those for a mere dollar.

A student still can find a complete "Shakespeare" for a dollar. In fact in every category a dollar can purchase a book, an intriguing biography, a travel book or foreign language, a children's classic, psychology, history, religion, philosophy, books to satisfy almost everyone's interests. Because of the great early deals, past visitors realize that it is wise to come early on Saturday morning for the best buys in our comfortable surroundings, and the number of cashiers has been doubled to expedite customers. Furthermore, help is on hand to help patrons to their cars with their purchases.

Volume buyers (a box or more) will be able to have their selections protected and priced and special holding areas while they continue the search.

There will be no auction this year in order to offer next year a selection of books that honors the integrity of our past auctions. In its place special books at fixed prices will be offered both days in the Council Chambers. Those who have enjoyed the written and oral auctions of the past will have many books of interest this year also.

Sunday will provide surprises all day from 9:30 until closing at 2:00 PM. Those who have enjoyed our bargain prices on Sunday will find even better deals, and again it is the early shoppers who will find the best buys. Shop early; shop often.

To keep the continuing tradition of having food available, donuts, cookies, coffee and orange juice will again be available at prices guaranteed to meet most people's pocket books.

Refinements have been made every year since the 1st Annual Book Fair in 1952. The spirit of the original book fair remained to the present. Thanks to the AAUW, and today

especially to the memory of Margaret “Maggie” Gale Moore, a founder who passed away at the time of this writing, the Friends of the Library was created. From the very beginning, the Friends with the whole community worked to honor the Library. They collected and processed books to raise money to help make the Library a centerpiece of the Burgess campus. They invited the whole community to donate books for an annual sale and asked for help in collecting and storing and transferring collections to the Library. Local stores collected books. Bekins transferred them. Boy Scouts helped in the loading and unloading of books targeted to raise money for the Library’s needs. It was truly a community endeavor that continues today.

For example, although Book Fair 2009 is much larger in size and offerings, over 100 tables filled with books, and two days of buying instead of one, it still maintains the standards set by the AAUW women who made this event so successful. Last year over 160 volunteers worked in the set-up, sale and break-down of the book fair, now a five day process. **Draeger’s and Kepler’s** circulated Book Fair bookmarks as bag stuffers. The elementary schools, especially **Beechwood**, contributed artwork for the Book Fair Youth Art Contest. **The City Public Works Department** hung our banners over Santa Cruz Avenue and helped move table and chairs to and from the grounds. **The Almanac** donated an ad and had articles in the Calendar section and in the main section promoting the event. **The Mother and Daughters of Menlo Park and the local area and the Project Read volunteers** were valued helpers. It truly was a community effort honoring a wonderful Menlo Park tradition and its founders.

Thanks to the efforts of the community and the Friends, the Friends were able to donate \$100,000 to the Children’s Library renovation, \$50,000 to Project Read and over \$100,000 for special Library needs for Both the main Library and Belle Haven.

The Book Fair receives wonderful books from a concerned, book loving community, who then receives the benefits of great book fair prices to raise money for everyone’s Library, always a “win-win” situation.

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