

Friends Establish Slate for 2015 Board Term

It's that time of year again! The Annual Meeting of the Peninsula Friends of the Library will be held on Thursday, December 4, at the Peninsula Center Library Community Room and will include the election of the Friends Board of Directors for the 2015 term.

The election process is governed by Peninsula Friends of the Library Bylaws, as revised and approved by the general membership December 8, 2011. These Bylaws require that no fewer than thirteen and no more than nineteen members serve on the Board at any time. Further they vest in PFL powers to the full extent allowed by law and specify that all powers and activities of PFL shall be exercised and managed by the Board of Directors.

Board members are elected for a one year term, which runs from January 1 through December 31, at an Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the December board meeting. Bylaws call for nominations for election of Directors to be presented by a Nominating Committee, but nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting will be invited although no one may be nominated without his or her prior consent. Written notice of the Annual Meeting is required to be sent to all members one month in advance and must contain the names of the nominees.

PFL Bylaws require approval of the majority of members in attendance at the annual meeting to elect Board members for the new term. Board officers are elected by and from the elected Directors at the first meeting of the new Board which will be Thursday, January 8, 2015.

Submitted by Jane Jones, Nominating Committee Chair

*Thank you
to our 2014 Nominating Committee:
Jane Jones, Chair
Mark Boujikian, Lloyd Mistele, Bill Roberts
for your service to the Friends and PVL D*

PFL Annual Meeting

Thursday

December 4, 2014

Peninsula Center Library Community Room

Board Meeting 3:30pm

Annual Reports to Members 4:30pm

Reception / Refreshments 5:00pm

New PVL D History Video Screening

Slate for PFL 2015 Board

Continuing Directors

Mark Boujikian
Ronald DeFrees
Jane Jones
Alan Kennan
Kaaren Lee
James Lin
Richard Lohrer
Nancy Mahr
Marion Martelli
Lloyd Mistele
Fran Pullara
Bill Roberts
Gail Tierney

New Directors

Janet Baszile

Immediate Past President of PV Links and served in many board positions for Links national committees; co-president of Black Heritage Assoc of PV; PV Art Center Secretary and member of many committees

Christine Chui

Business background is in the financial service industry, marketing, financial planning and business development. Currently on the Board of Directors of East Los Angeles College and South Bay Chinese School. Has been a local resident since earning her MBA from USC fourteen years ago.

PFL President's Message



STUFF! I've been collecting stuff for years and probably most of you have as well. By now, those of us who have earned our senior citizen status have more stuff than we will ever know what to do with.

When I see a homeless person on the street pushing a shopping cart of what must be their only possessions, I often wonder what would be in my cart if one cartful was all I had.

As the holidays are rapidly approaching, I also think about how much more stuff I will probably give and get which will just be salted away with the rest of the stuff from past years. It's time to re-think our giving.

I've recently read about several young people foregoing birthday gifts to help charity.

- A 7 year old boy said "because I already have lots of things, I thought it would be nice to help other people so I asked all my friends to make a donation instead of getting me a gift."
- A young girl turning 9 said "I thought about what I would feel like if I was an orphan and I only got one pair of socks a year". She set her goal at collecting 2,000 pairs of new socks for orphans she'll likely never meet.
- Another, a 10 year old, asked her friends to bring gifts of clothing for those in need at the local shelter rather than give her a birthday present.
- "I already have enough stuff", said one teen, "I don't need more but the local animal shelter could use bowls and blankets."

Do you have enough stuff? If your answer, like mine, is yes, consider giving and asking for gifts to our Library District this holiday season. It's a wonderful way to do the most good for the greatest number while teaching a valuable lesson in sharing our good fortune. Loretta, our PFL Development Director, has some great ideas for your holiday gift-giving. Give her a call at 310-377-9584 X251.

Here's wishing you and yours a holiday filled with joy, love, peace, health and good will to all with a lot less stuff to put away after the festivities are over.

Marion Martelli

More Study Rooms Named

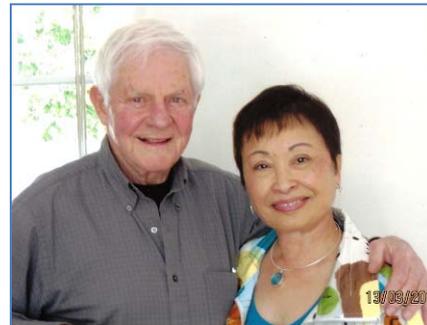
Jack O'Connor, a 60 year resident of Palos Verdes Estates, was an avid reader all his life. In 2007, when macular degeneration made it impossible for him to read, he and his family turned to the Palos Verdes Library and its large audio book library to satisfy his insatiable appetite for fiction.

Over the next six years, Jack listened to over 2,000 books. His favorites were mysteries, suspense and historical fiction. Some books he listened to more than once as he worked his way through the library's large audio book collection.



Because the library staff were so kind and attentive to his needs, his children decided to donate funds to the library and to name one of the large study rooms in his honor. We hope that you will enjoy "The Jack O'Connor Study Room" and think of a lover of books when you use it.

Dr. Ronald and Miriam Sommer, long time patrons of the library, have named a large study room.



"Miriam and I have enjoyed the Palos Verdes Library for many years, as a peaceful respite from the busy outside world."

Dr. Sommer says it's stimulating to see young folk enjoying their quiet study room areas and the older generation enjoying the opportunity to enrich their lives with knowledge. "It is an honor and a pleasure to be able to contribute to this wonderful library."

Help Friends cut printing & mailing costs

Soon we hope to offer an e-mail option for delivery of the Friends newsletter. You can help us do that by updating your mailing information now.

Send your e-mail address to Diana in the Friends office: dmorgan@pvldfriends.org.

A Legacy for the Library



Mary Katherine (Goode) Porter, 1932-2012, was a life-long supporter of learning and adventure. She lived, taught, and contributed to civic and cultural efforts on the Peninsula for a quarter of a century.

Among her many civic engagements, she regularly used the Palos Verdes Libraries and was impressed by the staff and volunteers. They empowered her to use the internet and often found books on subjects of particular interest.

At her passing, she became a benefactor to pass along her positive library experiences to coming generations. "We are proud of Mary's legacy and salute the staff and volunteers for their excellent work," says Mary's daughter, Beth Boynton.

Art in Our Library

This year, the Art in Our Library program patron is Mary Katherine Porter to honor the woman who loved our libraries and enjoyed and appreciated good art.

Art in Our Library was started in 2004 as part of the PVLD 75th anniversary celebration. Each year, this program attracts 60-70 participants, who submit at least one art piece. Library staff gets to vote on which pieces go into the show, if multiple pieces were submitted. A professional juror awards the prizes.

"The philosophy of Art in Our Library is very much like what our library does for our local authors: give our local artists an opportunity to showcase their talents and to meet other artists and network," according to Mary Cohen, program supervisor. "Many of our artists are very good, but they don't have the exposure in a gallery or other exhibit space," she says. "The art is a lovely addition to Peninsula Center for the few months it's on display."

Stop by Peninsula Center and see the work of local artists on display in the lobby. These art pieces are all available for purchase as well as viewing.

Remembering Glenous

Glenous Absmeier, a petite lady with fiery red hair and always wearing a different pair of outlandish sunglasses, passed away in June at the age of 94. A celebration of her life was held in August at Los Verdes Country Club.

Glenous was a native of Los Angeles. Her marriage to husband, John, started her long association with USC. Leading a USC field trip to Hostess Cakes led to her long-held position at Hostess, traveling all over the country for the Public Relations and Consumer Affairs Department.



The Absmeiers had three children and as Glenous says, "lots of grandchildren" – in fact, 11 grand children, 12 great-grand children and 6 great-great grandchildren.

After her position with Hostess and raising her children, she started her volunteering career. Glenous was an active volunteer for many non-profit organizations. She was a founding member, past president and on-going member of the Board of Affinity Group of the Volunteer Center in Torrance. She was also on the Board of the Palos Verdes Coordinating Council and the San Pedro/South Bay Assistance League has greatly benefited from Glenous' many Board and committee positions and contributions.

The Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce was one of her favorite activities and she's a life member and former Board member of the South Bay Botanical Gardens. Glenous was President of the Student Wives' Club at USC as well as a member of Town and Gown, an affiliation she enjoyed to the end.



Glenous was a long-time supporter of the Peninsula Friends of the Library which included many years as a Director on the Friends Board. She also served on each of the five Gala Committees.

Over her lifetime Glenous received many awards and recognitions one of which was being named a Legend in Our Time in 2008 by the Affinity Group honoring her outstanding volunteer contributions. *Continued on page 6*

7 Ways to Maximize Your Charitable Impact

As the heat subsides and we can finally settle back in to the beautiful weather the South Bay has to offer, we begin to set our sights on another festive holiday season and countdown toward another new year.

As a financial planner, the holiday season is the time to help clients take inventory of their financial affairs and focus on strategies to help augment their wealth. Some examples might be reviewing itemized deductions, making extra contributions to max out 401(k) or IRA accounts, reviewing investment allocations, confirming beneficiaries on financial accounts, and for those over 70 ½ with an IRA or 401(k), taking their required minimum distribution before December 31. Those charitably-inclined must carefully consider strategies for donating to charity. These charitable contributions can be an effective last-minute tax deduction that truly coincides with the holiday spirit.

According to the Atlas of Giving, U.S. charitable giving is up 9.1% through August of 2014 when compared with the same period in 2013. A strong stock market, low interest rates and virtually no inflation are continuing to drive strong major gift activities across the nation.

As we begin to contemplate our own giving, how can we maximize our charitable impact while addressing our own tax, income, and estate planning goals? The focus of this article is on various charitable giving techniques that can benefit not only your charity, but also your own bottom line.

The first step in any charitable giving process is to decide on the type and size of your gift, taking into account any available tax breaks, and whether you are comfortable with more complicated gifting options. Once you have a basic framework for your gift, here are seven gifting strategies to consider.

1) Cash

This is the simplest way to give. If you itemize deductions on your tax return, this technique will likely provide an income tax deduction. However, if you are looking to maximize your gifts, this is often not the best strategy.

2) Appreciated Securities

Giving appreciated stocks or mutual funds gives you two tax breaks. The first is the ability to deduct the

current value of the investment as a charitable deduction on your tax return if you itemize deductions. The second is the avoidance of paying capital gains taxes on any profits that may have been realized.¹

3) Direct Transfer from your IRA

A proposal to make charitable contributions from IRAs, also known as the Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), permanently tax deductible is currently being considered in Congress. This would make charitable contributions up to \$100,000 made directly from IRAs excluded from income while satisfying required minimum distributions (RMD).

By reducing income (AGI) other benefits may accrue to the taxpayer. Some examples are avoiding limitation of itemized deductions, and the full use of deductible medical expenses or miscellaneous itemized deductions. Importantly, using this QCD option can serve to avoid an increase in the taxation of your Social Security benefits.

Should Congress not approve the QCD proposal, you can still claim your charitable deduction as an itemized deduction on Schedule A of your tax return. This is a great way to potentially reduce income tax, satisfy RMDs, and benefit your favorite charity.²

4) Life Insurance – 2 Ways to Play

Transferring Ownership of a Life Insurance Policy – Some individuals have life insurance policies that they no longer need. Sometimes the burden of paying those premiums is enough to let the policy lapse and save the cash. However, a donor can choose to permanently transfer ownership in that policy to a charity.³ The benefits of this gift can be numerous, such as exclusion from your estate after living three years beyond the gift, and an exponentially larger gift to the charity upon your death in the form of the policy's death benefit.

Naming a Charity as Beneficiary of a Life Insurance Policy – This is a very simple alternative to transferring ownership and requires the completion of a one-page beneficiary designation form provided by the insurance company. The designation can also provide the charity with a very large gift in relation to the premium money spent by the donor to keep the policy in force.⁴

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

5) Charitable Remainder Trust

A donor creates a charitable remainder trust (CRT) and transfers property into it. The donor can then specify themselves or their designated beneficiaries to receive income for life or a term of years. You will get an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your contribution to the trust based on the term you choose for your income interest. The shorter the term, the greater your deduction.

A major benefit is that the donor will not recognize any upfront capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated assets within the CRT. Gains would not be recognized until actually paid out of the trust.

This type of trust begins to make sense for larger gifts of appreciated assets such as stocks or real estate. The charitable remainder trust allows for a current income tax deduction, annual income to the donor based on a percentage of trust assets, the potential for the gift to the charity to grow, and the trust property being excluded from the donor's estate. Talk about maximizing your charitable impact and your bottom line!

6) Charitable Gift Annuity

This strategy is one of the easiest and most popular methods of making a planned charitable gift. The donor makes a permanent gift of property to the charity; in return, the charity agrees to provide fixed payments for life to one or two beneficiaries. The payout rate is based on the age of the donor, the older you are, the higher your payout rate.

This type of gift provides an immediate income tax deduction for the value of the property, dependable fixed payments for life, a competitive interest rate based on age, potential savings on capital gains (if the asset is highly appreciate) and eventually, savings on estate tax.

7) Donor Advised Fund

A donor advised fund can be set up through many mutual fund companies and community foundations. You get a tax deduction based on the date you contribute money to the fund. Then, you have an unlimited amount of time to decide which charities to support.

This type of donation allows you to fully control your future gifts and get a current income tax deduction for each additional gift you make into the

fund year after year.⁵ With a donor advised fund, you can continue to self-direct your investments and allow your funds to grow to maximize your eventual gift to the qualified charities of your choice.

As with any charitable giving technique, ALWAYS consult with your financial advisor, tax advisor, estate attorney, and many times, with the charities themselves to explore your options and find out how to maximize your gift and improve your bottom line, a win/win scenario for you and your favorite charity. There are other charitable options that might best fit your situation...better than to rely on the expertise of your professional advisors to help you make the best decision.

The Peninsula Friends of the Library continues to strive for additional support of our Palos Verdes Library District. We hope that you will think of us and the thousands of Peninsula residents that utilize the services of the Palos Verdes Library District when you begin to make your 2014 gift list. Always remember...only the curious have something to find.

Article Foot Notes

¹ There are many things to consider when making a gift of appreciated securities. See my article from the 2013 fall newsletter "Making Your Difference: Gift-Smart Strategies for the Charitably Inclined" for more information.

² Consult with your financial and tax advisors before proceeding with this type of donation, as there are many details to consider. For more information, see my article in the 2013 summer newsletter titled "Charitable Giving with a Tax Twist"

³ Always be sure to consult with your financial and tax advisors before considering a gift of ownership in a life insurance policy.

⁴ Although this technique will not provide a current income-tax deduction, it will result in a federal estate tax deduction for the full amount of the proceeds payable to the charity, regardless of the policy size.

⁵ A word of warning: Even though you can take your time distributing your gifts to charity, you cannot take back your donations.

Submitted by Mark Boujikian, CFP®

Harris Financial Advisors Inc

Director, Peninsula Friends of the Library

Congratulations

Palos Verdes Library District,
District Director Kathy Gould and
the Staff and Volunteers

2014 Bridge Builder SEED Award Recipient

For more information about this and other SEED Awards presented by the South Bay Business Environmental Coalition (SBSEC), go to sbsec.org.

Woman's Club Continues Support to the Friends

At the July Friends Board meeting, Mary Louise Huff, a past long-time PFL Board member and past editor of the Friends Newsletter, presented the Friends with a check in the amount of \$1,000 from the Palos Verdes Woman's Club. The PV Woman's Club is a purely philanthropic organization founded in 1927.



Library Director Kathy Gould noted that the Woman's Club funded the first restoration project at Malaga Cove Library in 2006. Their continued support of Friends projects over the years is greatly appreciated.

Remembering Glenous

Continued from page 3

Prior to her husband's death many years ago, they enjoyed world-wide travel, especially to some most unusual places. But Glenous's favorite pastime was gardening; not only caring for about 100 potted plants and dozens of orchids, but her orchard of fruit trees which was bountiful and was always shared with her friends.



Glenous was always ready to express her opinion, tell a story, or enjoy a laugh. She was definitely a people person.

Glenous with DeDe Hicks

*Submitted by Jane Jones
Photos by Fran Pullara*

Congratulations to **Charlie Trujillo**, PFL Admin Assistant, who was responsible for securing a \$3,000 grant from Cox Communications for our Books for Troops program. Charlie wrote the grant request with an assist from Gene Roeder.

Have You Seen It?

The PVLD Pop-Up Library is the result of a grant applied for by Assistant Branch/Circulation Managers Jennifer Chaffey and Ketzie Diaz. This very portable library is popping up all over the Peninsula – the park, the nature center, the PV Art Center, the farmers market, the grocery store, the mall – you get the idea. The Pop-Up Library brings all the services of our libraries to convenient places where you can sign up for a library card, check out books, listen to a story time or do a fun craft and get information about all the other services provided by our libraries. Watch for the Pop-Up Library as you travel around the Peninsula.



Photos by Ellen November



Mapping Out: Cartographic Quilts
A group show by textile and fiber artists
Malaga Cove Library Gallery ~ November 1 to 29
Opening Reception ~ November 8 ~ 2:30 to 5:00 pm
Call 310-384-6912 for Information

Local Authors Close One Book Weekend



At Right
 Top: Delia Ramsey
 Center: Dawn Wynne
 Bottom: Betty Lucas and Marjeanne Blinn
 Above: Mathieu Cailler

The Legacy Society Growing the PFL Endowment

Members who have decided to leave a legacy

Edwin R and Mary E Berry
 Connie Davenport

Neal and Lydia D Haig
 Vince and Marion Martelli

James and Lois Moore
 Dr. Bernard and Faye Pipkin

Mary Katherine Porter Estate

If you'd like to consider a legacy gift or for more information about the PFT Endowment Fund, contact Loretta Patterson at 310-377-9584 x251

Donor Wall Dedicated

On Sunday, September 21, shortly after the Library closed, the new Donor Wall in the Lobby at Peninsula Center Library was dedicated. PFL President Marion Martelli welcomed everyone to the event which has been in the making for more than a year. She explained the ease of updating the new wall annually at nominal cost which will allow PFL to recognize new donors as well as additional gifts from long-time supporters much sooner than has been done in the past. Trustee Jim Moore and Library Director Kathy Gould also spoke briefly before refreshments were served.

In attendance were all the Library Trustees and several PFL Board members along with a number of major library supporters. Hostesses for the event were Loretta Patterson and Pat Foltz who provided a wonderful array of finger foods and sweets.

Friends would like to thank Loretta Patterson and her staff, Charlie Trujillo and Diana Morgan, for their hard work to see this project through to completion on time.



Trustee Kingston Wong, PFL past pres Jane Jones, PFL pres Marion Martelli, Trustees Fran Wielin, Jim Moore, Kay Jue and Debby Stegura



Fred and JoAnn Mackenbach and Diana and Ray Martin

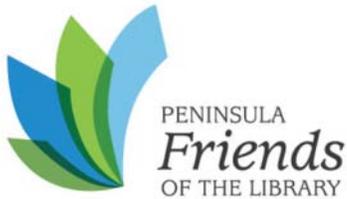
Pictured at far right: Jimi Andersen and her daughter, Kristin Andersen Bejjani

Center: Norma and Jack Burns

Immediate right: (Standing) Trustee Fran Wielin, Connie Davenport, PFL VP Nancy Mahr, and Trustee Jim Moore (Seated) Janet Smith, Diana Martin and Pat Paulson



Photos by Fran Pullara



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Palos Verdes Peninsula
California
Permit No. 22

DATED MATERIAL

P. O. Box 2361
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

To Addressee or Current Resident

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 Marion Martelli, Editor, at vinmar@cox.net.

Peninsula Friends of the Library Board of Directors

Officers:

Marion Martelli, President
Nancy Mahr, VP Governance
Alan Kennan, Treasurer
Nell Mirels, Secretary

Directors:

Lisa Augustine
Mark Boujikian
Ron DeFrees
Jane Jones
Kaaren Lee
James Lin
Dick Lohrer
Lloyd Mistele
Dick Moe
Fran Pullara
Bill Roberts
Gail Tierney

One Gift Inspires Another

Shortly after the dedication of the new Miraleste Library patio, Library Trustee Kingston Wong was able to get a donation of a very good Celestron telescope for the library. Wong remembers using a telescope at the library in his youth to view the port, the refinery and the Miraleste vista. "I wanted to restore this feature to the library because I felt that today's patrons would enjoy the same opportunity that I once enjoyed." He located Celestron, the only telescope manufacturer based in California and, in fact, right in Torrance. "All I did," he says, "was ask and they responded positively." Celestron does great community outreach and we appreciate their generosity.

Friends Board member Ron DeFrees was inspired to find an overview image of the L.A. Harbor for use with the telescope. He contacted Digital Globe, Inc (DGI), a global provider of commercial earth imagery products and information services, located in Colorado. The DGI Foundation, DGI's educational foundation and part of the Customer Relations Department, has provided the harbor image we requested which is now being professionally printed and mounted. The image was provided to Friends license free.

The Friends thank Celestron and Digital Globe, Inc. for their gifts as well as Trustee Kingston Wong and Board member Ron DeFrees for their thoughtful pursuit of these donations.