Hello and Happy May, Friends!

We hope this letter finds our members sheltering safely at home and reading some good books. With the library closed for the foreseeable future and the Book-Go-Round shuttered, most of the Friends’ usual activity is halted. Since there are no upcoming events and the cost-savings is significant, we are not publishing the May newsletter. We still want to stay in touch, though, to encourage you to access the on-line library resources and to let you know what the Friends board has been up to.

If you’ve visited the library website lately, you’ve probably noticed a big change. The homepage now provides more direct access to resources for kids and teens and adults. It’s easier than ever to navigate the on-line library. Front and center are featured links, such as ”Keeping You Informed” (the latest news about COVID19), the spring reading program for kids, adult film discussion groups and live-streaming STEAM programs. If you’re downloading e-books or audiobooks for the first time, you can find handy tutorials when you click on the “digital content” icon. Scroll to the bottom of the home page to find “ask a librarian” where you can get answers to your questions from our amazing librarians!!

The Friends board has been preparing for the Annual Meeting of the General Membership in June. We’ll be electing the new board, approving changes to our bylaws, and presenting annual reports. There will be more information about the meeting, including the proposed slate and the changes to the by-laws, in the June newsletter. All members are welcome! We hope to be able to meet in person at the library but the back-up plan is to conduct the meeting on Zoom.

In early April, we piloted our first virtual “Friends Sharing Books” event. We invited folks to gather on Zoom to discuss books they were reading. (The list of books recommended can be found on our website, fslonline.org.) The consensus was that the event was loads of fun and ought to be repeated. So, we will be hosting another Friends Sharing Books event in May -- if you’re interested in receiving an invitation, email Liz Guy at lizguy2@pacbell.net.

When it’s safe to do so, we will reopen the bookstore and resume the volunteer activities that allow us to raise the money we give the library each year. In the meantime, consider browsing our eBay shop, which we update regularly. You can find us at: www.ebay.com/usr/oakstbooks. Please hold all book donations until the library reopens (date TBD) and our sorting room is back in business.

We are grateful for your membership and support.