



An illustration from 'Sally Slug,' a children's book to benefit UC Santa Cruz Foundation.

Illustration by Patricia Rebele

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A slug's life

Philanthropists produce children's book to benefit UCSC

By JONDI GUMZ
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ

Can a colorful children's book about a cute little banana slug capture the hearts and pocketbooks of Santa Cruz shoppers?

Anne Neufeld Levin and Patricia Rebele sure hope so. They have invested at least \$25,000 to write, illustrate and produce the book, "Sally Slug." And they plan to donate whatever they make to UC Santa Cruz.

The book, inspired by the campus mascot, is due to arrive in local stores Monday.

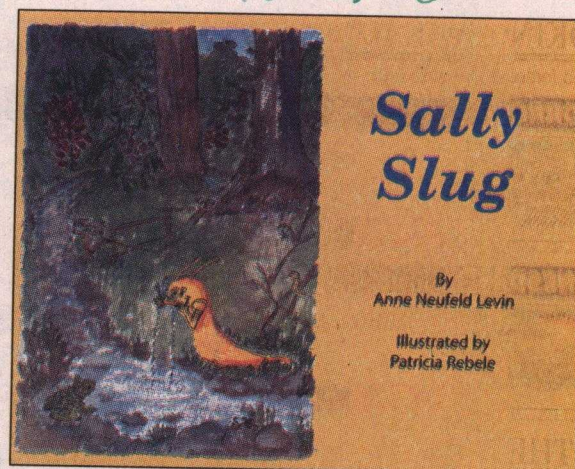
It's a cautionary tale about what can happen when children wander off. The illustrations depicting slug life in the redwood forests entertain kids less than 10-years-old, yet the story contains vocabulary-building words such as "transparent," "chortled" and "sumptuous."

The project was a first for Levin and Rebele, who got acquainted while serving on the board of the UCSC Foundation.

"From way back when, this is something I always wanted to do," said Rebele, 73, of Aptos.

"At our age, it's so exciting to think we could open new doors and do new things," said Levin, 66, of Santa Cruz.

The two women are local philanthropists who have



endowed chairs at the university, Levin in Holocaust studies and Rebele in art history. But they didn't know each other that well.

Levin, for example, didn't realize Rebele painted until she saw some snapshots of paintings she had done on a trip to Morocco. She was impressed and asked Rebele if she would be interested in illustrating the story she had written about a banana slug.

That was three years ago.

The partnership had chemistry.

Levin fled Austria with her parents to escape the Holocaust. She graduated from college at 19 and worked in educational television in Detroit before getting married and raising four children.

Rebele wanted to be a commercial artist, but took a job at Wells Fargo to pay her college bills and ended up in advertising. She got married, worked at her hus-

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Slug

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band's paper, and raised three children.

Levin and her husband were strong supporters of UCSC from the start, and she had been brainstorming with Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood about "something new and novel" for alumni entering parenthood.

Slugwear — clothing featuring a banana slug character — had proven to be a smash success and Levin figured a children's story could be the next big thing. On a drippy day, the kind slugs love, a story line came to her, and she wrote it by hand.



LEVIN

Rebele enrolled at UCSC to complete her degree once her children were in college. She majored in art history and graduated from Porter College in 1988.

She had always wanted to write a children's book, so

when Levin mentioned her idea, the time seemed right.

She modeled the title character "Sally" on the stuffed toys sold in the campus bookstore and produced three watercolor illustrations.

Levin liked all three.



REBELE

The two women brought their idea about a slug book to campus officials, who offered encouragement and plenty of support.

The chancellor has ordered two dozen copies.

Others on the UCSC Foundation board warned them that 4,000 copies won't be enough because the campus has 50,000 alumni.

Liz Sandoval, assistant development director at McHenry Library on campus, is convinced the book will find an audience.

"I'm thinking it's for all ages," she said. "Alumni are going to love it and want it. When I saw the illustrations, I was thrilled. They are beautiful."

If the book sells out, "we'll be happy to reorder," she said.

The book, priced at \$15.95, will be available Monday at local bookstores, including Bay Tree Bookstore on campus. It can be ordered online at www.slugstore.ucsc.edu.

Contact Jondi Gumz at jgumz@santa-cruz.com.