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love your library
FRIENDS OF THE LARKSPUR LIBRARY

Among Friends

January 2023

Transition! - Email from Dan Schwarz, Larkspur City Manager

I am writing to let you know that the City Council appointed Jessica Brooks to the Interim Library Director position. As of December 12, Nick Stone is the Director of Marin County Free Libraries so not serving as Director, so he does the ability to sign contracts, approve leave and anything specifically addressed to him. Thank you for your patience as we work through this transition

Toward a New Library: Update from Joe Jennings, The Commons Foundation

On December 6, I resigned from the president and board positions I have held since 2018 when I started The Commons Foundation. Construction is well-underway completion will be June/September 2023. I've left my wife Marisa in Seattle.

TCF's Board of Directors elected Ann Morrison as our new president. Ann, a former two-term mayor of the City of Larkspur, officially became TCF's new president on January 1, 2023. I have every confidence that Ann will steer TCF and lead the city fund and build the new library.

Serving as president of TCF has been an incredibly rewarding experience and I have made many friends in the process, but the time has come for me to give that time and to. Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who have served on the TCF Board of Directors and Library Advisory Committee. Each board member and all volunteers has helped us build relationships, communicate effectively, and raise funds.

I have a special place in my heart for the Friends of the Library. In 2019, I was sitting next to Barbara Presley, who encouraged me, I think, when I started to get involved in raising funds for the new library. In 2018-19, TCF supported our 10th Reading Campaign that hosted an event with Barbara Kingsolver. In 2020, TCF supported the Friends' Virtual Book Sale. In 2021, TCF supported the Friends' Book Sale. In 2022, as a network raised over $300,000 for TCF, which was matched by the community and the state. FOL and TCF collaborated at the Season of Giving, Touch Tractor, and the Friends of Lola Parade.

Every time I asked Barbara and the FOL board for help, they generously said, "let us get back to you." Barbara and the board always responded. Always. FOL, you are amazing.

As I reflect on the last five years, the biggest lesson I have learned is that you will, with help, make the future better. And sometimes it's the people you meet along the way that matter most.

Happy holidays to you and yours, and thank you again for giving with us to make the future better for generations to come.

Joe Jennings
Seattle, WA
December 12, 2022

Honoring Joe

At City Hall December 7 -
Left to right: Barbara Beckett, Ann Fisher, Marsha Jennings, Joe Jennings, Tony McArthur

The Larkspur City Council/members recognized The Commons Foundation President, Joe Jennings, with a proclamation and ceremony. Among the City Council meeting, declaring the following day as "**Joe Jennings Day**."

Joe has worked tirelessly since 2018 to ensure Larkspur gets the best new library possible. Even after moving back to Seattle in 2020, Joe's dedication and leadership enabled The Commons Foundation to push through its $4M 2022 year-end goal. The city was able to use these privately raised funds to apply for and receive a matching grant from the state. We, for your tireless and enthusiastic leadership in helping the Larkspur Library achieve this goal.

Winners Of the TCF "Why I Love Libraries" Art Contest

First Place Winners - Physical Art

1st - 2nd grade: **Zain Dalal**, 1st grade, Neil Cummins Elementary

3rd grade: **Emma Wadsworth**, St. Patrick School and **Kamryn Paredes** (TIE)

4th grade: **Nicholas Castenschiold**, Neil Cummins Elementary

Middle school: **Anna Wadsworth**, 6th grade, St. Patrick School

Collaborative: **Ryan Bolaso**, **Caleb Hess and Dylan Christensen**, 4th grade, Cove School

Honorable Mentions - Physical Art

Henry Rich, 1st grade
Ryan Bolaso, 4th grade, Cove School
Isaiah Rich, 3rd grade
Julian Steinberg, 3rd grade, Cove School

First place winner - Digital Art

Lily Baird, 4th grade, Hall Middle School

Honorable Mention - Digital Art

Heidi Chaoyang, 4th grade, Hall Middle School

Winner – Video

Rohan Reelia, 3rd grade, Bacich Elementary

First Place Winners – Poetry

Elementary School: **Tristen McDonnell**, 2nd grade, Park School
Middle School: **Dahlena Davis**, 7th grade, Hall Middle School

Honorable Mention – Poetry

Leo Chaoyang, 3rd grade, Neil Cummins Elementary

Annual Christmas Tea at Book Passage

On Saturday December 3, Friends of the Larkspur Library hosted a tea and book talk given by Elaine Petrocelli at Book Passage in Corte Madera. Elaine's book, *Unsinkable*, is the moving Diaries she kept for Aristotle Onassis in 1932 for good gift ideas for everyone on your list. Elaine's book is filled with her many interpersonal treasures. A portion of the proceeds from books and gifts purchased that day went directly to the library.

There are, Elaine and Book Passage!

Winter Solstice Celebration at the Library

The staff of the Larkspur Library celebrated the holidays on December 21 and invited library friends to join us for cookies, tea, and coffee. We had home-made cookies baked by the Friends of the Library) were on the menu, and, as always, wonderful books were available for all.

What the Friends are Reading and Winter Book Recommendations

Jim

The Book of the Raven: Corvids in Art and Legend **by Caroline Roberts and Angus Hyland**

For those readers who like scenes and other Corvids, check out this book whose structure is visual unusual. The book is mostly pictures, drawings, and photographs of Corvids in art and literature from around the world. Interestingly, there's a lot about other authors who have written about birds and have already checked out some of their books.

Alice

The English Underworld **Mind by Helen DeWitt**

The book is only 75 pages long, but it packs a punch. The 17-year old narrator is brilliant and has been homeschooled by his mother. Events from 7 seemingly quite unconnected events and provides a taste of the book, most humorous, enlightened interaction around love, drugs, and the meaning of life. The book is a bit of a puzzle, but it's worth it for her last scenario one dead. The people who read the book the most often them, and they have disappeared with her \$250 million. New York Times Bestseller by Tony and Mary—multi-true.

But the true gift is discovering the brilliant Helen DeWitt and her three other books, *Some Trick*, *Almond*, and *The Last Samurai*, which New York Magazine called "the best novel of the century (so far)" and I think I agree, and *The Lightning Rods*, which the New York Times Bestseller by Tony and Mary—multi-true.

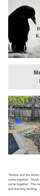
Barbara

Horse **by Geraldine Brooks**

Don't mind — a character painting in a cave pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history. From these strands, Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession and mystery across American history.

Mary Von Dyke

The Dutch House **by Ann Patchett**



Loved it!

Library Confidential

We asked some readers we know to tell us about their library habits.

All fans of the library are invited to answer these questions and send their answers to Alice Kaufman, alicekaufman@gmail.com.

Steve Stein

About how many books do you take out in a month?
3 or 4

What are the most surprising places you find out about books?
Online articles on a difference (but somewhat related) topic

How do you deal with borrowing books not available in libraries in Marin?
Links—rarely disappoints.

Favorite book(s) story?
"Disturbing the Universe" (Freeman Dyson)

Biggest disappointment story?
"Wolf Answers to the Big Questions" (Stephen Hawking)

Anything you'd like to add?
For me, print is still my 'default' medium — for anything longer than a sort of a few paragraphs.

Diana Saint James

About how many books do you take out in a month?
I work at a school library as well as CopperKnife's Books now, so I am always catching up on my children's literature. I usually 2-3 of those per month, plus an adult book or two.

What are the most surprising places you find out about books?
I recommended my new books, trade books with friends, or over Kanopy online.

How do you deal with borrowing books not available in libraries in Marin?
I'll occasionally buy new books, trade books with friends, or use Kanopy online.

Are you in a book club?
I had one last year "The Missionary Shop" by Mazyn Kamondi but the chemistry wasn't right for me. So, still seeking...

Favorite book(s) story?
I just read "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson and loved it. I also read "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance a couple of Kentucky and the Mid-1 Rock Arrow Library Project

I also timed "The Fly Girls," a Middle-Grade graphic novel by Christina Soontornvat and "Keeper of the Lost Cities" (youth novel) by Shannon Messenger. The Keeper edition I read was annotated by Messenger, which was an enlightening.

Biggest disappointment(s) reading?
Not finishing "Some Trick" by Ann Powers. My son said this was the best book he ever read, but I disagree. While the theme of time was genius, there were too many characters and short moments for me.

Dyan Pike

About how many books do you take out in a month?
Between 6-8. I forget all of them, but finish reading about half. After reading several chapters, I decide whether it's worthwhile for me to continue.

What are the most surprising places you find out about books?
Podcasts.

How do you deal with borrowing books not available in libraries in March?
Larkspur's inter-library loan program provides all the books I usually need.

Are you in a book club? Neither then one? Last book club book(s) read?
I'm in one. Over the one's they pass when my girls were young and I sought out adult conversation. I'm in one now that I've been in for about 10 years and I enjoy it very much. We've become like one another (well as well as share our common interest in books). Latest book club reads: "Dune and Furies" by Lauren Groff and "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus.

Favorite book(s) story?
The last book I truly loved was "Hamnet" by Maggie Farrell. Nothing compares since.

Biggest disappointment(s) reading?
Not a book, but disappointment in reading is having one great overambitious review by friends or reviewers.

Anything you'd like to add?
I'm so grateful for the ease of searching for and checking out books from our Larkspur Library. And if I can't make the trip to print them out myself, I'm grateful for the ease of ordering them online and knowing that the material books be put in the LuvBox behind the library building is super convenient!

Alice Kaufman

About how many books do you take out in a month?
Maybe 10? I have anything book that sounds interesting. I try to read them all, but I can't. I like books from the library but can't add them because I have to remember/a-more-be-many books.

What are the most surprising places you find out about books?
NY Times obituaries and Ben Ellison's SF Times online Crossing emails.

How do you deal with borrowing books not available in libraries in Marin?
I try Libby. If they can't come through, I will sometimes buy a used one on Amazon.

Are you in a book club?
Not in a book club. I started one but the book to read books 1 at already read.

Favorite book(s) story?
"The English Underground Mind," "The Last Samurai," and "Some Trick," all by Helen DeWitt

Biggest disappointment(s) story?
Not finishing "Ulysses" by the previously reliable Robert Galbraith, the non-de-plume of J.K. Rowling. I loved the previous books in this series, hated and couldn't/wouldn't finish this. Will I look forward to the next.

Dusky Rowland

What are the most surprising places you find out about books?
From my teen-aged granddaughter.

How do you deal with borrowing books not available in libraries in March?
I don't (Why I do?

Are you in a book club? Neither then one? Last book club book read? One book club, we mostly read fiction. *Most recent book was "Lessons in Chemistry."*

Favorite book(s) story?
I liked "Lessons in Chemistry" for its indelible characters. And "Where the Crawdads Sing" for the spellery prose and all the who-dun'-it story. I also loved Maggie Stiefvater's books.

Biggest disappointment(s) story?
I did not like Bruce Springs "Lincoln Highway," because I couldn't connect with the main characters.

Jim Schleifer

I have run 12 books a month. I'm not a book club. Favorite recent book: "Book of the Raven: Corvids in Art and Legend." The book: "Rhinoceros" has been a disappointment, probably more about me than the book.

Meet three of the Larkspur Library Foundation's newest Directors

Jose Mondragón has lived for six years in Hazelwood Gardens.

Jose says his family is probably in the Top 10 borrowers, especially his 14-year old daughter. Jose is a big reader himself, but he has been seen on occasion perusing a bartender.

He sees his role as a library trustee mostly in an advisory capacity, to help guide strategy. In his professional life, Jose has had many assumptions of how to connect with the community.

Andrew Revell has lived in Larkspur since 2013. He lives in the Heather Gardens neighborhood.

His children are the biggest library users, especially his daughter who loves comic books. She is currently reading *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving.

Now he sees his role as a trustee as "I'll try to get to the bottom of things."

Andy shared a story about his son's participation in the Lego Robotics event, especially the Lego experience. It is exciting to be part of all the work with so many people on the library and get out there in the community.

He works in financial services for a large asset management company.

Annette Fuhrman has lived in Larkspur for 25 years and lives in the Heather Gardens neighborhood.

She is a regular library user and finds out about books from friends, from book clubs, from the library book group in the New York Times, the radio, and browsing at Book Passage. Annette's key books to give away:

She is currently reading *Swimming Routes* by Jessica Francis Kane, which is a collection of stories. Another favorite author is Anne Lamott.

For her, the future holds the promise of the new building, which was achieved with the support of the state and community. She

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Her role: “To be an advisor, to work with the city. I try to focus on resources — we’re way beyond books now!”

She is retired, but still works as a contractor/consultant, helping artists and filmmakers put together exhibits and projects.

From Friends of the Library
President Barbara Friday

It is my pleasure to announce the 2022 Friends of the Larkspur Library members. We are so grateful for your generous support. Your membership funded four comfortable leather chairs for the library, $6,000 in children’s programming, subscriptions to the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal,* and *San Francisco Chronicle*. It also allowed us to refresh the library’s collection - perhaps you noticed the many new books, e-books, and DVD’s. We were also able to recognize the efforts of our wonderful library staff during the year and at the holiday season.

Additionally, with your membership, this year The Friends of the Larkspur Library funded a $25,000 matching grant which helped The Commons Foundation successfully meet its $5M goal to fund the new library. In matters both every day and grand, your membership makes our library stronger. Thank you most sincerely.

$1,000 - $5,000
Leslie Colcord
Warren Lefort
Tim Muller
Dyan and Peter Pike
Shay Walling

$250 - $500
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Michael G. Cunningham
Nicole Douglas
Jeanette Giacomini
Coreen Hester

$125 - $200
Carrie Burroughs
Barbara Friday
Michael and Armelle Futterman
George and Ann Gregory
Grace Hughes
Julie and Alan Kaye
Christina Leone
Margit Liesche
Sandra Massen
Robin Kahn and Robert Mayer
Angela Movafaghi
Cami Noble
Dipa & Christopher Cappelen
Sally Mars Carey
Connie Carnell
Leanne Ceccotti
James Cleaver
Carol Colbert
Raymond & Kathleen Cummins
Brenda Dillon
Vickie Feldstein
John & Judith Fletcher
Cynthia Folkmann
Dean and Sandra Foose
Cheryle Foskett
Barbara & Tom Gaffney
Joan Griffiths
Deborah Harnett
Karen Haydock
Tom & Kathy Hecht
Sharon & David Herzer
Helyse Hollander
Pierre Josephs
Joan Kirsner
Deloris Leiter
Jean Leutwyler
William Levinson
Bryant & Betsy Young
Michelle Foster
Shirley Hall
Kate Jaquet
Michael Lewis
Michelle Melka
Sue Missimer
Diana Saint James
James and Mary Dale Scheller
Martha Schwarz
Elizabeth and Douglas Slye
Frederic & Susan Whinery
Anne Zucchi
Angeline Papastefan
Robert and Barbara Stenson
Mary Van Dyke

$20 - $100
Mary Arthur
Jeanne Azen
Pablo Ballora
Henry & Katherine Bellatorre
Roberta Benor
Tish & Tom Borden
Dulcy Brainard
Daniel Breiner
Nancy Lubamersky
Joan Lundstrom
Dominic and Lisa Mantua
Daphne Markham
Dana Marotto
Peter & Marcia Mazonas
Marie Melka
Hank Miller
Aileen Murphy
Patricia O’Brien
Barbara Otto
Joyce Pavlovsky
Linda & Michael Perrella
Donna Poninski
Catherine Pyke
Lynne Redding
Robert Rosenfeld
Susan and Dick Schliesmann
Colin Silverthorne
Susan Southgate
Barbara Squires
Edward Summerville
Harriet Swan
Myralin Whitaker
Diane Wrona

Finally, you continue to give generously to the 2022 Season of Giving campaign. Donors will be announced in the next edition of Among Friends. Thank you so very much and have a truly wonderful holiday season.

The Friends of the Larkspur Library Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

The Friends ar a dedicated group of members who raise money for library programs, plan events, and work as ambassadors to the community for the Larkspur Library.

The Friends of the Larkspur Library are committed to supporting the library’s programs, cultural events, books, and materials. We strive to instill the love of reading and the excitement of learning in library patrons of all ages.

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