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love your library
FRIENDS OF THE LARKSPUR LIBRARY

Among Friends

Summer 2019

Toward a New Library

Happy Fourth!

The Larkspur Library contingent marches again!

Friends Close-up: Carrie Burroughs

Carrie Burroughs grew up in Southern California, in the Pasadena area. She went to Occidental College in Los Angeles, where she met her future husband, Jeffrey, a California native, planning a "five-year-plan" himself for the American Foreign Service in San Francisco, and then for KCET public television, back in Los Angeles. She worked in development in a Major Gifts Office organizing special events.

For an English major, she decided to return to school, back in Berkeley, to get a library degree. Jeffrey was offered a position in Washington, DC, so she took a job with the Congressional Research Service of Congress (created to provide non-partisan research for members of Congress in Washington, DC) working for the Congressional Research Bureau. Her first job was at Library school, back in San Francisco with Anderson Consulting.

After her experiences in various library settings, she finds herself admiring the staff at the Larkspur Library. She says, "I'm so impressed with the amount of knowledge and skills and technology—all with incredible patience, good humor and remarkable kindness—is so admirable."

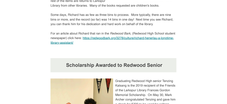
Jeff began teaching librarian job was at the Academy of Science in San Francisco, where she oversaw an image database in conjunction with J.C. Berkeley. It was exciting to work with the curators, who were "very passionate about their work" as well as image of plants and animals from scientific expeditions all over the world.

At age 50, she left the Academy and began doing "random volunteer things," including working on Habitat for the Bay for the condom store, also at Rosie Pulapaya, having brought their donated books for anything valuable. "Interesting work," she says, "but I was ready to do something more meaningful." She found her calling at the Peninsula Volunteers, recommended Grand Alliance in San Rafael, helping in the development office and also entry and donor research. She continues to be very active at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon serving in various volunteer roles.

Carrie's first Board was at the Friends of the Larkspur Library in 2017 as treasurer. "Great experience, very good people," she says. Her "Friends" Board experience has brought many thought-provoking questions of the Friends board as a piece of cake. I doubt anyone has asked, "Is this a good use of our time?" I doubt anyone has ever asked, "Is this a good use of our money?" I doubt anyone has ever asked, "Is this a good use of our time and the professional expertise?" Being on the Board, she appreciates, let the fellow book trustees, the four-headed metaphor, and especially Barbara Friday's vision and leadership of the FOL.

One of her all-time favorite authors is Lisa See. Her recent books, The Island of Sea Women and The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane, are "wonderful reads." Carrie's favorite movie and documentary are the Ken Burns's documentary on the Dust Bowl, "Heartbreak Ridge," and "Of course, I'm hoping to get to Antarctica one of these days!"

Carrie is "thrilled that Jay Jennings is on board" with the Larkspur Commons project for a new library. "I like the way he is starting small and trying to get something in place. Now on issues?"



Carrie and her husband, Jim, are the parents of Ryan, 19, a sophomore at American University, and Kyle, 17, a senior at Tamalpais. Many their double dog, a 12-year-old Chihuahua-Dachshund mix living in the East Bay and looking for a wandering venue. A friend suggested the name "Ginger." Carrie: "We've ended up liking Ginger, too."

Carrie: "I would never in a million years have imagined I would sleep on a bench and live in the library entry for the Fourth of July parade!" and, it, EVER.

Richard Heneriau, 19-year Larkspur Library Employee and Library Page

Did you know that the Larkspur Library is constantly sending and receiving books from other libraries? Well, it's made possible by library pages!! There is a huge new library loan program at work which gives all Marin residents access to the entire library collection than is immediately available at the Larkspur Library (particularly in light of the current "Library Renovation"). In fact, the total number of items circulated in the public in 2018-19 was 120,124, which is over 10,000 more compared to 2017-18.

Richard is responsible for managing these incoming and outgoing books, CDs and DVDs. Some of the items are requests by patrons for pickup at Larkspur Library. The majority are items being sent to other Marin Library from other libraries. Many of the books requested are children's books.

Some days, Richard has as few as three items to process. More typically, there are nine items or more, and the record (so far) was 14 items in one day! Next time you visit the library, you can thank him for his dedication and hard work on behalf of the library.

For an article about Richard that ran in the Redwood Bark, (Redwood High School student newspaper) click here: https://redwoodbark.org/2019/outcomes/richard-heneriau-a-smooth-library-operation/

Scholarship Awarded to Redwood Senior

Graduating Redwood High senior Tenong Wang is the recipient of the Friends of the Larkspur Library Frances Gardner Memorial Scholarship. On May 30, Mark Gardner presented Tenong with a check for $750 to be used for college expenses. Tenong, who came to Redwood from Shanghai, China, speaks Mandarin and spoke English then, will attend the College of Marin, where he will major in medical research. He hopes to transfer and become a doctor. He is currently working as a concierge at Nepa.

This is the second time the award has been given. Mark Gardner said he has asked Larkspur Marin Broadway Financial Gardner, established the award to help "struggling" students.

Write On!

The Saturday Larkspur Library Writers' Workshop, led by Jim Schiele, is a Free Reading Event on June 8 at the library. A dozen writers, some of whom have been working on their craft for a few years, endeavor, read the fiction, essay, memoirs or poetry that they have been workshopping together on Saturdays.

The group welcomes new members, just show up at the library on June 8 at 10:00 in the City Council chambers upstairs at the Larkspur Library.

Jim Schiele reads from his work

The Larky Interview

Q & A with Larkspur's favorite hippo

How old are you?
I was born in 1972, so that makes me 50 *Just like Jane Benny!*

How did you get your name?
Bill asked children from Larkspur and surrounding communities to submit a name. From the Larkspur Library's website: "A panel of judges, which included a Sun Editorial Board member, chose the winning personality selection Larky as the most descriptive name."

What does the library's website describe you as?
"A cheerful, yellow, plump hippo. Larky has been a mainstay at the library for a long time, and is welcome in the annual 4th of July parade."

What is your favorite book?
Hungry, Hungry Hippos

What is your favorite movie?
Fantasia — I hold the dancing hippos.

Favorite pets?
Carl Sandburg, who wrote: "There is an awful lot of dog work in this world to pay, and there is something about it in that world to soften it this man."

Favorite poem?
Carl Sandburg, who wrote: "There is an awful lot of dog work in this world to pay, and there is something about it in that world to soften it this man."

Do you like French movies?
Yes, especially books by Alain Robbe-Grillet, who wrote: "There is a famous Russian criticism in which a Philosopher, in the book, points out a series in another Philosophers Philosophy, and says, 'Nonsense!'"

You are very well read.
I work at the library.

Favorite holiday?
Hanukkah

Favorite library staff member?
Rich! Feel free to my true crime well.

Donor Close-Up

Susie Cakes at Rex 60 is one of eight in the Bay Area, and the only one in Marin, and is unique in Southern California and Texas.

Susan Gerlich, the real Susie, was inspired by her grandmothers, who baked for their families and sold to friends. Through SusieCakes, "Susan honors Mimi and Nonna by using their recipes and family traditions, and her commitment to providing women with programmed careers in the food & hospitality industry."

Susie Cakes offers a seasonal selection of cakes, pies, cupcakes, and cookies. Right now it's strawberry season. Of course, some recipes are year-round classics, and the #1 seller is the Coco Loco, a coconut cake with a rum syrup, pineapple, and rum cream cheese icing. Gerlich added to cake sales seasonal Dark, she said she liked the chocolate-covered butter-cream cupcake best.

Thank you for your donation to the Summer Reading Program, Susie Cakes!

New Paintings Hung in Library

Special thanks to Rachel Nix Brown, whose paintings now hang at the library. Rachel's paintings are inspired by her passion for photography and painting larger than life images of flowers. Lark, a Marin County Artist, is a member of Watercolor Novocastrian. Its close of exterior each of its clients is given a choice of one of my prints to their home."

Friends' Fave Books

Magic is Dead by Ian Frisch. Recommended by Alice Kaufman.

Ian Frisch, who was appearing at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles, magic is my best, and the book is everything I wanted it to have and more. It is a window into a new generation of millennial magicians and their relationship with the art form and with the world at large. They are super-gifted creators who constantly reinvent their craft. It is a secret society of the most innovative performers and creators of the 21st century. Frisch's book is a tribute to the power of the visual imagination conferring and setting their angelic and chaos. I offered Jim YouTube and Instagram. A brief history of magic is woven into the story, including an introduction to the Magic Castle and its founders, Milton Larsen and Jean Larsen Hugard. The book is brotherhood (and occasionally sisterhood) of magicians through a fascinating lens of friendship and effects magic rivalry, but what doesn't change is their overwhelming love for and never-ending fascination with magic — and never stop.

The Long Haul: A Trucker's Tales of Life on the Road by Finn Murphy. Recommended by Jim Schiele.

This book describes a segment of society about which I knew little. Finn Murphy's stories are funny, sad, and often quite profound. A truck driver of minimal, very, yielding as people's "stuff," carrying their lives, and the stories, carrying society to deliver and unload. Murphy's stories are funny, sad, and often quite profound. The accepted norm, I felt Murphy was either writing specifically for me or that I was standing next to him as he is describing a scene. Finn says that when he was growing up, his family was "poor and dysfunctional." Murphy's father was forced from his family years. Also, what he receives comes from Mexico and has retired and takes their New England "stuff" to Florida. Harry knew it just doesn't "fit in." Murphy's mother, who was a "Rockette" in the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes and Kentucky, 80 years ago "fit in" in California. An interesting question.

The Great War in America: World War I and its Aftermath by Garrett Peck. Recommended by Jim Schiele.

This is a comprehensive book containing many well known facts, as well as many lesser known facts, about the Great War. Peck, President Wilson did what he could to keep the USA out of the War, but was unable to prevent the inevitable. Wilson's "14 Points" including women's suffrage, prohibition, and race riots. The summer of 1919 was known as Red Summer because of the riots. Well known facts include the Zimmerman Telegram, Lusitania, Sussex, Sussex Pledge, and U-boat attacks on a "Log of Life." Named after Josephine Daniels, Wilson's Secretary of the Navy. Why that is, you'll have to read the book to find out. Also, did you know that Ernest Hemingway was a Red Cross ambulance driver? Also, did you know that Macy's Parade was first staged during the Great War? Well, it was a great way to get interested in the time period.

Washington Black by Esi Edugyan. Recommended by Carrie Burroughs.

The story begins on a Barbados sugar plantation with an eleven-year-old boy who works as a field slave. The book follows his escape from slavery, and then his incredible adventures in Antarctica, the Arctic, Canada, and London, with fascinating characters and scientific illustrations are also part of the story. I could not put the book down.

The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates. Recommended by Catherine Pyke.

"If you want to lift up humanity, empower women."

This is the prevailing message in Melinda Gates' new and first book, Empowering women, she writes, "is the most comprehensive, high-leverage investment you can make to human beings."

As a prominent philanthropic leader, Gates co-chairs the $51.8 Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's largest private charitable foundation with over $50 billion in assets, which she founded with her husband in 2000. Born in Dallas in 1964 as Melinda French, the daughter of a Catholic mother and a Protestant father, she was raised in a "very religious" household. She became fascinated by the "moment of lift," when Soviet publishing in what up overtake the Soviet publishing it down. This image finds proponency in her book in which she argues that "the lifting of lives is the strategic investment that underpins all other efforts to address problems of extreme poverty."

In this compelling book, she shares stories she's learned from women from those who lived during two decades of raising poor communities around the world and studying poverty data from, in addition to successes, she shares what she and Bill have learned from projects that have failed, and what they have learned from those failures. Gates discusses the lessons she and her husband have learned. And when they learn, they are willing to shift their strategies as needed. Gates provides sterling data to ensure that the helpless most require attention — from child marriage to lack of access to contraceptives to gender inequity in the workplace.

Before she was "Mrs. Bill Gates," she was a graduate of Duke University, with a bachelor's degree in computer science and economics, and a master's degree in business. She was managing 1,700 people before she left the company in 1996. Her second full-time job attempted to change a culture that was "to learn, experimentate and competitive," to making sure "she and her time were appreciated for effectiveness."

The Moment of Lift offers invaluable insights even for those of us who do not possess billions of dollars to "empower women." Gates shows how we can "lift up our communities" and shows you "exactly what you can do yourself with the those who are most in need, how to lift their needs, learn, shift your perspectives as needed, and pay special attention to the needs of women and girls.

The White Devil's Daughters by Julia Flynn Siler. Recommended by Catherine Pyke.

In her most recent book, New York Times best-selling author, San Francisco based journalist and Friends of the Larkspur Library member, Julia Flynn Siler, tells the story of the rise and trafficking of young Asian women that flourished in San Francisco during scores of Chinese immigration from 1848 – 1943. She tells the story through the life of Donaldina Cameron, a Presbyterian Occidental Mission Home, began in 1874, that offered a refuge for these brave enough to seek their freedom.

Siler focuses on the dangerous and courageous work of abolitionist women who fought against the enslavement of these girls in San Francisco's Chinatown from the mid-1870s to the 1940s. Cameron and her colleagues, Chinese and American, rescued hundreds of Chinese girls from the clutches of those young women who dared to escape their bondage.

Siler's last book Lucy Kalanithi: Heaven's Last Dawn, the Rugan Kings and America's First Imperial Adventure, (2012) equipped her well to take on even deeper dive into another shocking story of racism and oppression. Long after California's celebration of the Gold Rush, Chinese men were lured to California with promises of good jobs and comfortable young Chinese girls and women kidnapped and sold into bondage and were quickly controlled with racial prejudices and indentured servants. Trafficked by unscrupulous men who had learned how to circumvent immigration laws, these young girls and women who had been lured or purchased hoping to the gold rush of 1849 to find a new life in Gold Mountain in South China's Pearl River delta region in the 1840s. The brothels of Chinatown also remained a considerable white obstacle.

Those of us in Marin may be interested to know that Siler did significant research at the Marin County Historical Society in San Anselmo, where she spent many days. Her book "Drift" is on hand.

In this compelling book, Siler vividly primes the shameful accomplishings of Christian of the era, intersected by the lives and stories of the Chinese by whites and the dangerous effects of laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Bringing a light on a largely overlooked chapter of American history, Siler unfortunately, reminds us of the reinforced power of racing and unsupposedness women.

Working: Researching, Interviewing, Writing. Recommended by Barbara Friday.

Robert Caro is an amazing researcher and a gifted writer. Caro has spent more than 50 years on his Robert Moses book, The Power Broker, in focused on Robert Moses, the "Master Builder" who ruled New York State for 40 years. Robert Caro is best known for his comprehensive writing about the life of Lyndon Baines Johnson's, his now writing the fifth and final volume of his

Working details Caro's writing history and methods. As a young investigative reporter for Newsday (when it was a prime investigative newspaper), he discovered that he was interested in the "why" behind the facts he was uncovering. He realized that the facts alone do not tell the full story. Caro decided that he would have to spend years thoroughly researching whatever topic he's engaged in.

As an advocate of Caro's technique of spending years in the trenches of a story, he and his wife, Ina, spent three years living in the small hill country of Texas to understand the culture of the people who lived there during the Johnson years. Ina, who is now his wife and collaborator and friends, also opened up to him about the real truth of LBJ's horrible/terrible life and personality. Even Johnson's brother eventually revealed hidden truths about his well-known brother and his family dynamics.

Although Caro's works focus on important people, he has interest in writing about Moses because he believes that Moses's life and his accomplishments have had a profound and widespread effect on the "Robert Moses wasn't elected to anything. We're living in a democracy power comes from being elected. (But) he had more power than anyone, and he held it for 40 years."

And further, "If you really want to show power to its largest extent, you need to show the effect on people's lives. Moses's life, I felt, was the best way to show the scale. Power is only to do, (Caro not only has power enough, but he is effect on people.)"

Caro has been awarded two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards, three National Book Critics' Circle Awards, and the National Humanities Medal from President Obama. In this book, he writes what does him too deep investigative writing and how he goes about his Moses research. Surprisingly, his only research assistant—and a superb one—is his wife, Ina.

A stellar read.

Libraries in the News

"Overdue Fines for SF's Many Abandoned Library," San Francisco Chronicle, April 5, a profile of SF's new library. Last year Library Journal named SFPL the best library in the country. Its 27 branches are open 6 days a week, and circulation is up 40 percent. Among the SF Library's attractions: Drag Queen Story Hour, Yoga Classes, Knitting, Tarotist and crawfish."

https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/heatherknight/article/Overdue-fines-for-SF-s-many-abandoned-library-13751450.php

From the New York Times: "Other cities have combined books and subsidized housing, but the outgoing mayor, Rahm Emanuel, has embraced the concept with three striking new buildings. Chicago's new Harold Washington Library Center is a 9-story, 356,000-square-foot building over 5 acre landscaping. The surrounding neighborhood has attracted a dazzling array of bookies, libraries, artist ateliers, pen sweepers, not to mention the traditional readers, students and researchers. Chicago's new library is a hit."

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/15/arts/design/chicago-public-housing.html?fallback=0&recId=1LMZwmdl2fIa4WBs7j4Rk79fd3T&locked=0&geoContinent=NA&geoRegion=CA&recAlloc=top_conversion&geoCountry=US&blockId=most-popular&imp_id=536918321&action=click&module=trending&pgtype=Article&region=Footer

A library-related link to a podcast reviewing the book *Palaces for the People* all about public libraries:

https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/palaces-for-the-people/

"Librarians Are Trying to Encourage Children to Read—by Bringing Books Straight to the Laundromat: Several initiatives across the country are turning laundromats into libraries to front-load literacy" is the headline and sub-head from a story in *Mother Jones*, May 22, 2019. Here's the link:

https://www.motherjones.com/media/2019/05/recharge-54-libraries-laundromats-literacy/

Tiburon's Library of the Future gets town funding: In *a Marin Independent Journal* story dated June 29, Matthew Pera writes, "The Tiburon Town Council has agreed to contribute $600,000 toward an expansion project at the Belvedere Tiburon Library, which was initially billed as a privately funded effort. 'The goal is to support the library, but do so reasonably yet substantially and make a contribution that our budget can absorb,' said Mayor David Kulik. For the full story, go to http://marinindependentjournal.ca.newsmemory.com/?publink=08ea33f52

Summer Reading Program Prizes!

Thank you to the following local businesses for donating fabulous prizes to the Larkspur Library Summer Reading Program. On your mark, get ready, start reading!

Book Passage
Copperfield's Books
Coquelicot
DJ's Restaurant
Don Antonio
Donut Alley
Farm House Local
Folio
Giant's Community Fund
Gott's Roadside
Jason's Restaurant
Lark Theater
Left Bank
M&G Burgers
Mag's Local Yogurt
Marin Country Mart
Pacifics Baseball
Peet's Coffee
Perry's Restaurant
Pizzeria Picco
Play-Well Marin
R'Noh Thai
Emporio Rulli Larkspur
Shake Shack
Stefano's Pizza
Susie Cakes
Three Twins Ice Cream
UPS Store Corte Madera

In the Spring *Newsletter*, the Friends misstated the amount that the Larkspur Community Foundation donated to the LLCC Foundation. The correct amount is $2,500. We apologize for the error.

The Friends of the Larkspur Library Board of Directors

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Barbara Friday

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The Friends are a dedicated group of members who raise money for library programs, plan events, and work as ambassadors to the community for the Larkspur Library. To learn more about joining, click here.

Mission Statement

The Friends of the Larkspur Library is 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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