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love your library
FRIENDS OF THE LARKSPUR LIBRARY

Among Friends

Summer 2022

Touch Trucks!

Twenty-five trucks and a host of volunteers were the stars of the May 22 community event that was attended by over 1000 adults and children. Friends of the Larkspur Library president Barbara Friday's vision was complicated to execute and a ton of fun to attend.

Trucks included a cement truck, construction vehicles, a firetruck, police motorcycle, puppy truck, and even a 1964 Peterbilt semi from local Friend of the Larkspur Library Ed Couderc. The trucks came as far away as Cotati and Santa Rosa. Truck fans came from as far as Sacramento. The event was a fundraiser for the Larkspur Library and The Commons Foundation, with the aim of helping to fund the new library that will be built at Rose Lane. Touch Trucks netted $13,500.

We are grateful to Marin Sanitary Service, Shamrock Materials, Larkspur-based Nixie Sparkling Water, and the Corte Madera Lions Club -- all sponsored or contributed to the event.

Here are some comments by the women who put Touch Trucks together at their first meeting after the event:

Barb

ara: *I don't think I've ever had more fun putting together an event. It was joyful!*

Mary: *Touch Trucks gave us community recognition. We told people the news about the library and The Commons, news that had not been on their radar.*

Diana: *A great event! Exuberant! We were very successful creating a perfect environment for the young age group. As people were leaving, the feedback was positive and enthusiastic.*

Dulcy: *The vibe was fabulous, a really fun day. My watch told me I walked 6 1/2 miles. Next year, let's have more trucks.*

Dyan: *Terrific, I absolutely loved it. The participants loved it. Next year, let's have stickers: "Touch Trucks/Support Larkspur Library"!*

The planning committee proceeded to discuss some additional "next year" ideas. The top idea: to create a volunteer coordinator position and attract "way more" volunteers. A proposal to change the hours to 9 am - 1 pm was made, as was adding a hot dog truck and taco truck. Special thanks went to Mary Van Dyke, who had been tasked with informing local preschoolers about the event, and who succeeded brilliantly. Mary said that, overall, outreach had been "fantastic," and there were newspaper and TV stories before and after.

A Note from Joe Jennings

The Commons Foundation
Fund, Build and Sustain A New Larkspur Library

If you missed it, the Friends of the Library hosted a Touch Trucks community event attended by nearly 1000 children and adults.

By any standard, it was an amazing event to raise awareness and funds for building our new Larkspur Library.

Thank you to Friends of the Larkspur Library for your enthusiastic dedication and tireless work to create such a successful inaugural event.

Special shout-out to Barbara Friday, President, and Dyan Pike, VP, FOL, for spearheading the effort, and to the entire Touch Trucks committee.

We are grateful for your support of The Commons Foundation and the new Larkspur Library.

Update on the New Library

A decision is coming. A new library is on the horizon for the City of Larkspur, but whether it is a beautiful, conventional building or a portable or modular structure depends on the funds the city has available this summer. Fortunately, we can all influence the outcome.

What we know for certain is that the City of Larkspur will move the Larkspur Library out of City Hall due to safety and access issues and will build a new library on city-owned property at The Commons (the corner of Rose Lane and Doherty Drive).

The city has applied for a state grant to help build the new library, but these funds are not guaranteed, and whatever funds are granted will need to be matched by the city. With $31 million in deferred capital investments, the city is looking to The Commons Foundation (TCF) to raise $5 million to build the new library. TCF has raised $4.3 million to date, and they need your help to raise the remaining $700,000.

TCF has created a vision for a beautiful, modern library with integrated indoor and outdoor spaces and flexible configurations to support a variety of programs. The open floor plan, with large doors and windows for fresh air flow, will accommodate study groups, reading programs, story time for kids, and technology workshops for older adults. It will offer improved in-person service and expanded digital access to the permanent collection and online resources.

But without sufficient funds, the city could be forced to use temporary portable buildings, trailers, or similar accommodations, which may need to exist for years. Let's make sure that doesn't happen!

With the uncertainty around both state and city funding, the only way to ensure we get a functionally modern, aesthetically pleasing new library is for residents to help fund it ourselves.

All donors can be potentially matched by the state, and every gift of $50K+ will also be matched by the Lerner-Berkemeier $1 Million Challenge.
Let's build the new library our community deserves.

Visit https://thecommonsatlarkspur.org/ to donate.

News about the Library from Franklin Escobedo

The new self-checkout machine has arrived.

- A library catalog will be installed upstairs in the Non-Fiction collection this week. We had the wiring and OPAC stand assembled.
- Some furniture has also returned to the library, we're still trying to encourage patrons to keep their visit short due to the ongoing spread of the current COVID variant. We have had a few staff, including myself, catch it. This led to a couple of reduced days last month.
- The photocopier has been moved back into the Lobby.
- The *New York Times and SF Chronicle* print editions are back.
- We're nearing the completion of the RFID project and have begun shifting the Adult Non-Fiction Collection. The goal is to move the adult biography collection upstairs to make more room for the Teen and Children's collections.
- Summer Reading began on June 1st. Stop by the library to pick up your bingo card or download a fillable version **here**. Children's Summer Reading will once again be online using the Beanstack App. Teens will have a choice to either use the Beanstack Program or play Teen Bingo.

- Keep an eye out for us in your neighborhood park. This is the Summer for Popup Library, and we'll be visiting several parks around Larkspur and Greenbrae.
- **Storytime** will be held outside at Dolliver Park (aka Dark Park) on Fridays.
- We're recruiting teen volunteers to assist with Summer Reading. So, if you know a teen who is looking for something to do this summer, send them our way.
- In early June, I interviewed five candidates to fill our Librarian vacancy, who should be on board by end of summer. If all goes according to plan, we'll end curbside service and be open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm later this summer. The locker will be available every day, providing access to material for patrons who are still reluctant to come inside.
- At the end of June, I attended the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Washington DC, where I became the President of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA).

Fourth of July Parade

"Thanks to everyone, The Commons Foundation has won 1st place in the 'Walking Float' division of the Larkspur Corte Madera 4th of July parade!!

If I had to guess what tipped the judges in our direction, I'd say our loving kindness (that would be YOU, Larky) and a desire to share our passion for building a new Larkspur Library might have helped." Lori Lerner, TCF Board (see Lori and trophy at right)

"What a great event! The planning and preparation were flawless, and it was such fun to walk together and see the enthusiasm of the crowds. Special praise to Larky who held out his arms to kids large and small along the route. That hug or hand-slap meant more kids are aware of the library and all it offers. I am proud to be a part of this and all our efforts." Mary Van Dyke, FOL Board member

"How cool is the award! Larky led the way. It was so wonderful to see the kids light up and the crowd shouting cheers for the library!" Amir Movafaghi, Larkspur Library Trustee

(To the left: Larky, aka Jack Green, leading supporters of the new library in the Fourth of July Parade)

Media File

A new library for San Francisco
https://sf.funcheap.com/city-guide/sf-branch-library/?fbclid=IwAR0sxU-bfd9CCwi5sjArELXFGzMyblVpez9dhaadIV-EPDr6h-U3VNoFJB0

Our new library!
https://marinmagazine.com/community/local-news/a-modern-new-larkspur-library-goes-from-dream-to-reality/

What the Friends are Reading and Recommending

Alice

***The Anomaly* by Herve le Tellier**

The plot: A Paris-JFK 747 goes through worse-than-usual turbulence, but lands safely. Three months later, the same plane — the very same plane — approaches JFK with the same passengers, crew — same DNA, the same. The book was a "a French literary phenomenon," said the *New York Times* in a news story about the book. "Part Airplane Thriller and Part Exploration of Reality, Fate and Free Will" was the headline for the *Times* review. A page-turner and head-scratcher.

***The Palace Papers* by Tina Brown**

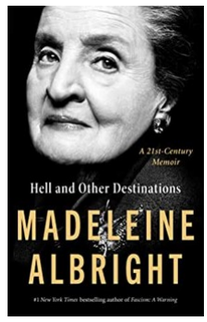
My second recommendation is *The Palace Papers*. It is deliciously gossipy about the Royal Family, people never tire of reading about, and I'm very much not alone in that.

Jim

***Hooked: How Crafting Saved My Life* by Sutton Foster**

"For you readers who like memoir, run and grab a copy of *Hooked: How Crafting Saved My Life* by two time Tony winner, Sutton Foster. While I found the book easy to read, the author took me deep into her not-so-easy life. There is a lot of dialogue, so I felt present and current as I was reading it. An easy book to stay with until finished."

Catherine

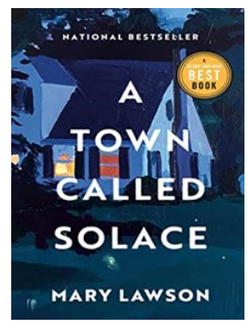


***Hell and Other Destinations:* A 21st-Century Memoir by Madeleine Albright with Bill Woodward**

Just when it seems we need the late Madeleine Albright's wisdom the most, we can at least find wisdom and solace in the ten books she left behind. The one I've enjoyed most recently was her last, *Hell and Other Destinations*. In this book she relates how she reinvented her life after stepping down from her demanding position as Secretary of State in 2001. With no intention of retiring, she hit the lecture circuit, taught at Georgetown University, shepherded the Albright Leadership Institute--a program she established at her alma mater, Wellesley College--advised Democratic candidates on foreign policy, started a consulting firm run by women, and wrote extensively, managing to balance all with great aplomb. Especially interesting are her insights on Donald Trump who she says, "has the most antidemocratic instincts of any president in modern American history," and who may have inspired her to write her book *On Fascism*. A fascinating, if policy-wonkish read, but a salve to sore eyes in our trying times.

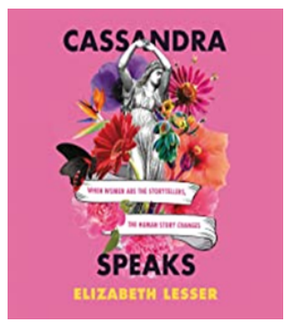
Dulcy

***A Town Called Solace* by Mary Lawson**



Three different characters tell this moving story set in remote northern Canada in the 1970s. Quiet, bright, eight-year-old Clara watches at the front window for the return of her runaway teenaged sister. She leaves her post only to take care of her elderly next-door neighbor's cat while the woman is in the hospital. Clara is confused when a young man moves boxes into the house. Events overlap as each character voices her/his view, slowly revealing the bonds that link them, past and future. Young, old, and in-between, these voices are each one clear and true, beautifully orchestrated by the author in this affecting tale that will stay with you well beyond its last note.

Dyan



***Cassandra Speaks: When Woman are Storytellers, the Human Story Changes* by Elizabeth Lesser**

"History isn't what happened. It's who tells the story." Sally Roesch Wagner

How would our values be different if women had an equal voice to men throughout history? How might our roles or perceptions of each gender change?

Lesser explores how patriarchal cultures have dominated human history and what this has meant to our understanding of what's important. Competition, war, and conquest have largely contributed to the idea that the victor dictates how history is recorded. "The(se)

stories steer men toward what is coded masculine: stoicism, warriorship, and violence. They forewarn men against anything coded feminine: the home, the hearth the heart, the 'womanly arts' of empathy and care."

Lesser reminds us of all the times and ways women have been silenced, at an incalculable cost to civilization. If human history were told through both masculine and feminine lenses, how much richer and more complete it would be.

She also ends with specific personal and social ways, particularly for women to claim their rightful voice, to change how the human story is told.

The Friends of the Larkspur Library Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

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.

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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