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July 2023

Message from Barbara Friday

Dear Friends and Library Lovers,

It is with a mixture of great sadness and great joy that I announce my retirement from the Friends of the Larkspur Library Board of Directors. Sadness, because I will miss the stepping away so that new ideas and new energy can emerge. Taking over for me will be my friend and fellow board member Diana Saint James, from whom you will be hearing in the fall. Joyous because I will be able to spend more time at the farmstead overlook on Bodega, on the right and surviving Freedom Ranch on the left.)

In the meantime, our entire slate of existing board members remains in place with one board member position and two officer positions up for grabs. Vice President, Carina Fuller, Secretary, Sandra Kaufman, editor of Among Friends, Catherine Pyle and Jim Dobbins, Treasurer, Dolly Brainerd, Marketing, Helaine Hollender and Diana Saint James, Member at Large, Van Dyke and Susan Bloom Members. My proud track here more than love, indeed a more generous with their resources and their spirit.

The six-year tenure has been my dream of a new Larkspur Library come true. My team and I have had the privilege of working with the City Council, the City Manager and the Library Director to fund funds for the new building running soon. As well, I've had the pleasure of working with amazing professionals on the Larkspur Library staff who inspired me to set lofty goals through the Friends and then helped me accomplish them. I'm sure that the new Director, Jessica Lee, and Librarian Denise Hill will continue the tradition of outstanding directors who selflessly serve our library community. Welcome.

To each of you who sent a check, participated in the summer reading program, or attended a Friends-sponsored event such as Touch Trucks, What's It Worth, or the Holiday Tea at Book Passage, I thank you for your support and encouragement. You've made my time on the board a joy. Special thanks to Dolly Brainerd, Marketing Chair, Helaine Hollender and Diana Saint James, Co-Chairs of the Ten-Gate and Susan Bloom Members. My proud track here more than love, indeed a more generous with their resources and their spirit.

Please join me in celebrating this new era at the Larkspur Library and continue to give generously to the Friends of the Larkspur Library. Our future as library lovers looks very bright indeed.

With sincerest gratitude,

Barbara Friday

Touch Trucks Event a Huge Success!

The Friends of the Larkspur Library just pulled off its second successful Touch Trucks! Thanks to the efforts of the 2023 Ten Commons Foundation Landscaping Campaign!

With help from a dedicated set of volunteers, and support from the City of Larkspur, over 3000 people attended the Larkspur Library Touch Truck event on Redwood High School.

In addition to providing an opportunity to get up close and personal with 30 trucks from local businesses and support groups, this year's Touch Trucks event also featured face painting, coastal comic book puzzles, cool through bubbles, and enjoy story time with the Larkspur Library's very own beloved Ms. Denise.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all of the volunteers, sponsors, and friends of the Larkspur community.

Literary fun this wonderful show of support and to support our library!

Interview with Librarian Anne Soliner

Anne Soliner the Larkspur Library's Librarian 1 — a title that means she provides reference service, knows rooms for the collection, plans library programs, and helps students with their next steps. All that help and connect with the public — that's why she became a librarian in the first place.

"My first memory," she says, "was as an attorney, but after some years, I wanted to do more. I was in a bookstore and Problem solving as opposed to promoting problems.

"I always liked reading," she said, "and being a librarian with a flexible schedule seemed appealing. I have two kids, a husband with a job, age 14, who plays the guitar and loves basketball, and Joel, age 9, who plays the violin and loves soccer. We have a mix, a little, they will go to work, too."

Prior to coming to Larkspur, Anne was a reference librarian at the Mill Valley Library. She wanted to work at the Larkspur Library because "it's a small library and community! Just like everything else, it's a great opportunity. Plus, my flexible schedule allows me to be successful as a mom."

She grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and moved to San Francisco to attend the University of San Francisco and Hastings Law School. For library school, she was an online student at Dominican University in Illinois. That made it less easy to do.

She says what she likes best about working as a librarian is "helping people. I'm a people person. I like to help them find information and to help them find the right information. I'm a Google Connection Child, my Mom Book Club and recently offered an introductory studies class at the library." In her spare time, she plays, reads, and hikes. She looks forward to a trip to Paris and Greece this summer. "I've been practicing my French. I love to travel."

The Secret Library by Denise Taft is a favorite book. Barbara Kinsman and Susan Orlean are favorite authors. "I'm also reading Remembrance of Things Parisian Street by Jenny Jackson and The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese."

How does she go about recommending books to those literary who ask? "The first thing I ask is for a book you loved. Or didn't love. And then I try to find a book that is similar/different. I love a conversation to try to make an informed recommendation." And do they come back to you to comment on the book? "They do! That's the best."

Summer Library Hours

Tuesday Thursday 11 am – 6 pm
Friday and Saturday 10 am - 6 pm

Toward a New Library: Building Update from The Commons Foundation

On May 4, TCF board members Jeanne Friedel, Brook Ridgeloff, and Ann Morrison met with Assistant City Manager Dan Schwarz, Library Director Jessica Lee, Library Board member Scott Carsten and Kevin Haaf to discuss the new library building timeline.

- The RFQ was slightly delayed and was posted on May 31. The city advertised in the local newspaper and social media platforms to spread a wide net.
- Once proposals are received, the Library Selection project team will narrow it down to three finalists. Each will spend time to provide expanded plans of their proposed solution and interior design.
- The July 12 public presentation by the finalists for the design-build award will be postponed to the August meeting.
- The postponement will not impact the city's ability to meet the deadlines in the grant agreement.

The city's goal is to have the new library structure completed in 2025. We are thrilled that we are moving forward at such a fast pace. The TCF Board and I look forward to working with the city and our donors to make this project a success!

An Interview with the Mayor, Gabe Paulson

Ann Morrison, The Commons Foundation's board president, recently met with Larkspur Mayor Gabe Paulson to talk about the Larkspur, and the new library. Here's what he had to say.

TCF: What is your definition of a 21st Century Library?
Mayor Paulson: A 21st Century Library is a public space that will expand our values of connection, community, and opportunity for everyone. It will be a welcoming environment that is accessible for Horowitz. I am excited and inspired by many of the visionary ideas existing Bureau community.

TCF Board President Ann Morrison recently met with Mayor Gabe Paulson to discuss the new library at The Commons.

TCF: How do you think the new library will benefit our local communities?
Mayor Paulson: We have outgrown our cherished little library at 400 Magnolia. There are many opportunities for our residents, families and special interest groups that will be better served in a modern facility.

TCF: We just kicked off our Landscape Capital Campaign. What would you and your family enjoy in this Library's outdoor environment?
Mayor Paulson: Our family of four loves the Larkspur parks and outdoors. Having a garden or outdoor space at the new Larkspur library would be an inviting indoor-outdoor setting for our community and reading spaces.

TCF: What books have you recently enjoyed?
Mayor Paulson: I found *We Summer Land*, by Ali Hazelwood, an eye-opening illustration of a new generation gap — a growing part of Miami and national politics. I also enjoyed Lisa Genova's *Every Note Played*, and Rebecca Makkai's *The Great Believers*, which argues how to read books meant to be read at home.

Meet the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Larkspur Library Foundation, Jonathan Shambroom

Jonathan Shambroom and his family live in the Greenbrae area and are members of Larkspur. His son, Cole, age 9, and wife, Jennifer, are the library most. Cole enjoys the library and is a big fan of reading Matt Gutmans Cub by Bernard Binlay, a childhood favorite of Jonathan's. Cole is also a big fan of mimosaur in the Geronimo Stilton series.

Cole and Mia last out started a small but growing father two book club with Cole's friends from second grade and their dads.

Jonathan is currently chairman of the board of trustees for the library. As such, he "helps lead the process by which the five person board represents the best interests of the library's patrons, staff, volunteers and affiliates of the library, including the Commons Foundation, and ensures that the library's reasonably with our library project."

His hopes and plans for the new library include "providing resources, environment, activities, and a physical location that provides support for community. It is full spectrum library activities for patrons, as an enriching and stimulating source of education, learning, recreation, and even entertainment, all on the foundation of community."

He is the CEO and co-founder of Cavalon, a content and technology company that makes original feature length movies for a proprietary distribution channel.

Summertime, and the Reading is Easy

Summer is the perfect time to catch up on your reading. Why not consider joining the Larkspur Library summer reading program called "All Together Now!"? The annual program, funded by your donations to The Friends of the Larkspur, encourages children, teens, and adults to enjoy events and books. Participants can sign up at the library or online and will receive a reading log and a variety of bonus rewards for marking LOTS! Games handouts. Thanks to time the library, bring about a love of summer to discover or indulge in the joy of reading. Register at the library or on the website at https://larkspur.beanstack.org. Check out the upcoming programs including Magic Mike's Magic Tricks, Tripod, the Lark Theater, Flora Restaurant, Coppertheth's Books, and Scenic Cycles. See you at the library!

Girls Who Code at the Larkspur Library

The group meets every Wednesday at 2 pm. How to join? Create an account and enter club code: 1ARKSPUR. Then, you're ready to start learning! Girls Who Code is a nonprofit dedicated to closing the image of what a programmer looks like and does. The course lasts nine weeks. Each week will focus on a chapter from the Girls Who Code book that students will review, and then practice coding in the Girls Who Code program Scratch. Students are welcome to attend as many or as few classes as they would like.

Friends' Book Recommendations

Jim
***American Midnight: The Great War, A Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis* by Adam Hochschild**

One of my favorite authors, Adam Hochschild, has written a book about one of my favorite periods in American history, 1917-1920. As I was reading *American Midnight*, I felt like I was attending a lecture and should be taking notes. Writing at what I call "smooth," that is, it just glides along. People, places, and events, most in our country's history, put me to sleep page. If you are interested in this time period, run and get this book. Hochschild is a prize book. As Bob Hill Mary is about the 19/16 1919 time period leading up to that book.

Leeanne in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Another from Jim. I liked chemistry in high school and college, and I like to cook. I generally don't read novels but when someone gives me Bonnie Garmus's book about a woman chemist who has a TV cooking show, I couldn't say no, and what I found was a wonderfully written book about both. Garmus's writing, with its twists and turns, is more like a complex organic chemical reaction. Sometimes an unexpected reaction is what it takes to balance the

equation. Her writing is sharp and frequently hilarious. Her characterization of Elizabeth Zott reminded me of a awesome with the ingredients of specialization, disappointments, egos, humor, and many more ingredients along with the five flavors of anger, sorrow, joy, sympathy, and fear. Enjoy the meal.

Mary
Thus was Adonis Murdered by Sarah Caudwell

This is a delightful, lovely, mysterious mystery (who dunnit?). The characters are barristers, mostly specializing in tax law, and artists, art experts, and art dealers of varying degrees of scholarship and honesty. The action revolves from the Inns of Court in London to Venice, where a murder takes place, and back again several times. When one of the barristers is accused of the crime, the group springs into strategic action, with the help of their excellent connections in the arts and law worlds. I loved it. Hence I learned the rest of her books.

Mary
Thus was Adonis Murdered by Sarah Caudwell

Dyan
On Animals by Susan Orlean

This is a fun summer read by the well-known author Susan Orlean (*The Library Book, The Orchid Thief, The Tin Tin*), who is keen animal-enthusiast. After living in urban New York for years, she and her husband move to the country, in part to enjoy more space and more animals. The author knows animals well and it appears there's not one she doesn't like. Orlean tells her amusing story of how she initially acquired a dog, then chickens, four guinea fowl, four ducks, several cats, some quails, a donkey, and finally, two Shetland sheep.

Orlean finds animals "funny and improbable and interesting" who give a "warm, wonderful, unpredictable texture to my life every day."

She has a special affection for ravens. Using George Washington as a dovetail her who used them extensively on his farm. In our area, the US military has used ravens to monitor airports and keep them free from birds. Pigmalion: They're numbered, steady, and effective, all reasons to be excited about ravens in my life.

She found the world's top Raven and has full days of fun with the local originally named Kafka — Swarthorn (pure raven) as Willy in the Tinker Bell film. She's also educated in a whole pod in Norway. No creature is beyond her interest or purview.

If you love animals or are just intrigued by them, this book is a delightful read.

The Friends of the Larkspur Library Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

The Friends are a dedicated group of community members who raise funds for 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 technology, as well as to promoting and leading and the involvement of learning in library patrons of all ages.

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