



A 2012 Silicon Valley Reads Selection

Silicon Valley Reads 2012

The 2012 selections are *The Butterfly Mosque* (see pictured on p.2) by G. Willow Wilson and Ali-Karamali's *The Muslim Next Door*. The Friends of The Saratoga Libraries, a 2012 sponsor of Silicon Valley Reads, will assist in presenting four events at the Saratoga Library:

The Muslim Next Door Author Sumbul Ali-Karamali presents February 5, 2 PM, Saratoga Library

Sumbul Ali-Karimali, author, presents her book, *The Muslim Next Door: The Qur'an, the Media, and that Veil Thing*, February 5, 2 PM, at the Saratoga Library as part of the Silicon Valley Reads program for 2012. Since 2002, the Silicon

Valley Reads program has encouraged everyone in Santa Clara County to read the same book, at the same time, and talk about it.

Saturday, January 28, 3:00 PM

Teen Book Discussion: *Skunk Girl* by Sheba Karim

Teens will share opinions with others who also read the Silicon Valley Reads young adult selection: *Skunk Girl*, by Sheba Karim. "Nina Khan is not just the only Asian or Muslim student in her small-town high school in upstate New York, she also faces the legacy of her "Supernerd" older sister, body hair, and the pain of having a crush when her parents forbid her to date."

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FSL Author Series - Author Ying-Ying Chang Shares The Story Behind *The Woman Who Could Not Forget Iris Chang Before and Beyond The Rape of Nanking*

Wednesday, February 1, 10 AM Saratoga Library



Ying-Ying Chang, Iris Chang's mother, makes a brave strike by breaking the silence surrounding suicide. Her intent, stated clearly in the book's title, "*The Woman Who Could Not Forget: Iris Chang Before and Beyond The Rape of Nanking*," is to ensure that her daughter's legacy won't be defined by its final act. "95% of her life and our memories are happy and cheerful," says Mrs. Chang. "I wanted everyone to know of the other side of Iris, the side that became so inspiring to me as I read through her letters, her emails, and this poem written when she was 10,"

Loneliness is a silent chirp of a cricket across a lake

Where the leaves on the tree rustle at sunset.

It smells like a violet patch.

It sounds like wind blowing through the prairie grass.

Only the last two chapters deal with the last three dark months as Iris struggled with insomnia and sought help, as it turn out, tragic help from medication that her mother, a biochemist, believes led to her depression and eventual suicide. Sharing Iris' story throughout the US has brought forth many from her past teachers, classmates, parents who admired Iris as a child who was always concerned for the needs of others and so very bright! More than 100 people crowded the library in the Illinois town of Iris' childhood.

Comments Mary Kissel of the Wall Street Journal (May 25, 2011): "*The Woman Who Could Not Forget*" ultimately isn't a sad story, but rather a celebration of Iris's remarkable life."

Author Ying-Ying Chang continued on page 3

Find out about upcoming events at the Saratoga Library; please see enclosed insert.

Saratoga Library Hours:

Monday, Tuesday - 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday - 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

President's Message

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. The Friends kicked off the holiday season with it's annual open house. We were treated to music from Redwood Middle School Rubato Choir. Jonathan Jow, Redwood's Music teacher and Music Director brought about 70 of his students who delighted us with a variety of tunes. The Reading Room in the Library was overflowing; it was standing room only!

In 2011 the Friends made their largest grant ever to the Saratoga Library- \$152,000! Thank you to all of you who have given so generously of your time and donations to make this possible. Membership renewal letters were sent out in November and thank you to those who have already renewed.

We will begin our Authors' Series on February 1 at 10 am in the Community Room. We also are pleased to be supporting Silicon Valley Reads and to have Sumbul Ali-Karamali – author of "Muslim Next Door" for a presentation and discussion. This event will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 2-4 pm at the Community Room of Saratoga Library. I am not big on New Year resolutions but if you are looking to add things (or start) to your New Year's Resolution list how about these?

- Renew/join the Friends
- Come to our authors' series on the first Wednesday of the month
- Check out our web site, www.fslonline.org
- Check out the Best Seller's collection at the Library
- Check out the Library web site at <http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/saratoga/> or click on the link from the Friend's web site. Sign up for book recommendations by genre or Best seller lists and explore the 24/7 Electronic Library
- Clean your books shelves, donate books to the Book-Go-Round so you have room for the ones you will take home! There are wonderful finds at the Book-Go-Round and you never know what will be there!

Terrie Creamer,
President, Friends of the Saratoga Libraries

Silicon Valley Reads continued from page 1

Saturday February 4, 10:30 AM: Getting to Know American Muslims and their Faith

Speaker: Reshma Hyder

The audience will learn about the practices and beliefs of American Muslims that one might encounter in daily life. This presentation will cover the terminology of the words "Muslim" and "Islam," discuss the Muslim population within the US and abroad, elaborate on the major beliefs and Five Pillars of Islam, cover major Muslim holidays, and expand on other principal theological teachings in Islam. In addition, the presentation addresses issues relating to American Muslims and how Islam interacts with other faiths such as Judaism and Christianity, enhancing efforts for pluralism.

Sunday, February 5, 2-4 PM The Muslim Next Door: The Qur'an, the Media, and that Veil Thing

Speaker: Sumbul Ali-Karimali, author and Marjan Fariba, moderator

Sumbul Ali-Karimali grew up in California, balancing her South Asian, Muslim, and American identities. Often the only Muslim

her acquaintances knew, she had ample practice answering questions about Islam and Muslims. ("What do you mean you can't go to the prom because of your religion?") While working as a corporate lawyer, she was repeatedly asked to recommend books on Islam, so she decided to write a book that was both academically reliable and entertaining to read. Consequently,

she moved to London and earned her L.L.M. in Islamic Law from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. She served as a teaching assistant in Islamic Law at SOAS and a research associate at the Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law in London, and then she wrote *The Muslim Next Door* for everyone who ever asked - or wanted to ask - a question about Islam.

Saturday, March 3, 2-4 PM Film: Allah Made Me Funny

These landmark concert films follows three acclaimed Muslim comedians, on stage and off, as they lift the veil to reveal the humorous truth of what it's really like to be Muslim in America. "The title doesn't lie. These guys know how to tell a joke, often at the expense of their customs, religious holidays, families and themselves" The New York Times

Silicon Valley Reads is a program designed to promote reading and literacy, broaden the exposure to and appreciation of good literature, and build community. Public events spark discussions related to the themes of the selected books. One or two books are chosen along with companion books for adults, teens and children.

In making its selections, the committee looks for books that promote discussion across cultural, gender, and age lines. Selection Criteria Books selected for Silicon Valley Reads meet the following criteria:

- Reflect universal issues relevant to Silicon Valley
- Appeal to diverse audiences
- Are appropriate for both adults and young adults
- Are the work of a living author



A 2012 Silicon Valley Reads Selection

Redwood Rubato Choir Delights Holiday Audience December 6



An overflowing crowd of library patrons and community members launched their holiday seasons with the joyful voices of the Redwood Rubato Choir, under the direction of Jonathan Jow, Director of Music at Redwood Middle School. Rubato, a musical term meaning freely reflects the students' dedication to getting together and singing on their free time and the style in which they strive to sing.

An overflowing crowd of library patrons and community members launched their holiday seasons with the joyful voices of the Redwood Rubato Choir, under the direction of Jonathan Jow, Director of Music at Redwood Middle School. Rubato, a musical term

Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with us!

Proceeds benefit Friends of the Saratoga Libraries. For more information call Cynthia Chang 867-7111 or Emily Lo, 868-9982

Year Of The Dragon

Saratoga Lunar New Year Celebration

January 28, 2012 (Saturday), 11am - 3pm
Saratoga (Joan Pisani) Community Center
19665 Allendale Ave., Saratoga, CA

Dances, Music, Drums, Crafts, Arts,
Chinese Calligraphy, Games and more

Free Admission. Donations welcome.
Please make your tax deductible
donations to Saratoga-Monte Sereno
Community Foundation.
(Net proceeds benefit the Friends of the
Saratoga Libraries.)

Sponsored by:
Saratoga-Monte Sereno Community Foundation
Friends of the Saratoga Libraries
Organization of Chinese American Women, Silicon Valley Chapter
Saratoga Vision Chinese School
Bank of the West, Saratoga Branch

Contact: Cynthia Chang, 867-7111
Emily Lo, 868-9982



Dana Bagshaw, *Mama Grace* & *Running from Grace*

Dana Bagshaw, Author of *Mama Grace* and *Running from Grace*, shared the backstory of her novels about her great grandmother, Grace, and her great uncle. Indomitable figures in the history of her family at the turn of the 20th century, Dana brought her ancestors to life with readings from her novels. Pictured with Dana are Helen Yamauchi, chair of the Authors Series presented by Friends of the Saratoga Libraries, and a member of the audience who came from the same Oklahoma area as Dana's family. (editor's note: my apologies to our guest whose name was misplaced)

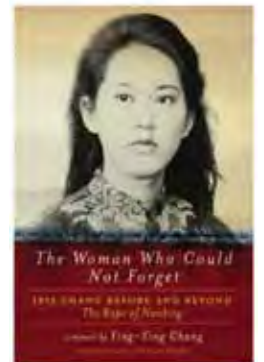


Reviews:

Author Ying-Ying Chang continued from page 1

The Woman Who Could Not Forget
Iris Chang Before and Beyond the Rape of Nanking
A Memoir, by Ying-Ying Chang
Publish date: May 15, 2011

Iris Chang was a history hero. She discovered, researched and told a story of horror that otherwise would have been unknown and ignored by the world. And she lived a life that was shortened by



her own horrors, which her mother, Ying-Ying Chan, has chronicled in a caring and graceful memoir that also deserves wide attention. *The Woman Who Could Not Forget* is a moving, superb book. (Jim Lehrer, host of PBS Newshour) In this brave memoir, you will share in the celebration of a life, allowing us to experience her presence again. Full of courage and conviction, full of life. (Richard Rhodes, from the Introduction)

Ying Ying Chang, Iris Chang's mother, should be applauded for writing a book few mothers could ever bring themselves to write. It was through her strength of character and will power to put feelings into words that the rest of us could find closure for the great loss we felt in the weeks, months and years following Iris' death. For those who admired, loved and championed Iris Chang for her bold, courageous and extraordinary research and best-selling books, her sudden and unexplained passing was a life changing experience. As it has turned out, Iris laid the cornerstone to a foundation that others are now building upon to bring back the memory of those whose lives were unfairly and brutally extinguished at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army. It was through the passion of her work and dedication to truth that other authors such as Laura Hillenbrand, and Haruki Murakami and so many others find a factual basis for their own compositions. Now and for the past many years Ying Ying Chang and her husband have worked tirelessly to further Iris' legacy to promote world peace through education, compassion and justice. Ying Ying's book, "*The Woman Who Could Not Forget*" is a reminder that we all need to continue our efforts, financially and spiritually, to fight for the human rights that Iris was struggling for people to recognize.

Join The Friends of the Saratoga Libraries

Your membership in the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries supports our local library programs. You may join online at www.fslonline.org or pick up a brochure in the library.

FSL Author Series: Upcoming Author

The Friends of the Saratoga Libraries presents local authors the first Wednesday of most months at 10 am in the Community Room. There is no charge for the presentations and light refreshments are served.

Next month's Author will be:

March 7, 2012

Tim Stanley: ***The Last of the Prune Pickers***, Pre-Silicon Valley Story. At one time, the Santa Clara Valley of California was known as the Garden of the World. This book is a history of the orchard farms that gave the Valley that designation.



Friends of the Saratoga Libraries

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www.fslonline.org

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@ Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd. (HWY 9)
one block south of Big Basin Way,
Saratoga Village

(408) 867-5552

www.BookGoRound.com

Book-Go-Round NEWS

OAK STREET USED BOOK STORE HOURS:

Sunday-Friday: Noon - 5 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SARATOGA LIBRARY

When in the Saratoga Library visit our
Library Café Bookstore
with Bargain Books section
Open during library hours
Mon-Tues 1-9; Wed-Sat 10-6; Sun 1-5

Always something new at the Book-Go-Round!

WINTER PAPERBACK SALE

Wide array of non-fiction & fiction,
children's books; CDs & videos, too!

January 21-22, 2012

SARATOGA LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

Saturday 10:00 - 6:00 25 cents each

Sunday 11:00 - 5:00 \$3 grocery bag full

AUCTION OF SPECIAL BOOKS February 19-26

Book display at the Book-Go-Round.

List available 2/19-2/26 @ www.BookGoRound.com

Closed bids accepted at the store & by e-mail.



BOOK-GO-ROUND SPECIAL FEATURES MID JANUARY - FEBRUARY

CHILDREN'S BOOKS Classics & Collectibles

Feature begins JANUARY 23

CLASSIC TOY TRAINS; EARLY AMERICAN LIFE

SPECIALTY MAGAZINES

Feature begins JANUARY 25

AVIATION HISTORY

Feature begins JANUARY 28

December 2011 sales at the store highest in our 28 years.

Thank you to our donors, volunteers and customers
for being part of the Book-Go-Round success story.

Saratoga Library January - March 2012 Events

Many of these events that enrich lives and create understandings of divergent cultures are supported with funds from the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries.

January 2012

Tuesday, January 17 - 7 PM

12 Months of Color and Food in the Native Garden

There are hundreds of native California plants suitable for use in home garden settings. By choosing carefully, you can have color, habitat, and even a little food for yourself year round. Santa Clara County Master Gardener Cayce Hill will discuss the rewards and requirements of 12 low maintenance California natives, available at many Bay Area nurseries. Plant list will be provided.

Wednesday, January 18, 2:30-4 PM

Wednesday Video Gaming

A Wii, PS3 (with MOVE!) and PS2 will be set up on big screens in the Community Room. Mario Kart, Just Dance 2, Rayman Raving Rabbids TV Party, FIFA, and more... Drop-in and challenge your friends.

Tuesday, January 24, 2:00 PM

A Day in the Life of the Renaissance

In a "you are there" experience, take a journey back in time and imagine yourself in Renaissance Florence and Venice, participating in the sights and sounds of everyday life, viewing contemporary works of art by Da Vinci, Botticelli, and Raphael. Presented by San Francisco Museums of Fine Arts Docent, Kay Payne.

*** Saturday, January 28, 3:00 PM Silicon Valley Reads**

Teen Book Discussion: *Skunk Girl* by Sheba Karim

Share opinions with other teens who also read the Silicon Valley Reads young adult selection: *Skunk Girl*, by Sheba Karim. Book description: "Nina Khan is not just the only Asian or Muslim student in her small-town high school in upstate New York; she also faces the legacy of her "Supernerd" older sister, body hair, and the pain of having a crush when her parents forbid her to date."

February 2012

Wednesday, February 1, 2:30-4 PM

Wednesday Video Gaming

A Wii, PS3 (with MOVE!) and PS2 will be set up on big screens in the Community Room. Mario Kart, Just Dance 2, Rayman Raving Rabbids TV Party, FIFA, and more... Drop-in and challenge your friends.

Friday, February 3, 6:30 PM

Teen "Coffeehouse" Open Mic Event

Teens are invited to sing, dance, recite poetry, play an instrument, tell a joke, and more! Or just come and enjoy watching other talented teens perform. Hot drinks and light refreshments will be served. Performers must sign up in advance.

*** Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30 am 12 PM Silicon Valley Reads:**

Getting to Know American Muslims and their Faith

Speaker: Reshma Hyder

Learn about the practices and beliefs of American Muslims that one might encounter in daily life. This presentation will cover the terminology of the words "Muslim" and "Islam," discuss the Muslim population within the US and abroad, elaborate on the major beliefs and Five Pillars of Islam, cover major Muslim holidays, and expand on other principal theological teachings in Islam. In addition, the presentation addresses issues relating to American Muslims and how Islam interacts with other faiths such as Judaism and Christianity, enhancing efforts for pluralism.

Saturday, February 4, 2:00 PM

Chinese Calligraphy

Saratoga resident Mr. Zhongyang Lu, whose work is on exhibit at the Saratoga Library in January and February, will give a demonstration of the five styles of Chinese Calligraphy. The talk will be in Mandarin with English translation.

*** Sunday, Feb. 5, 2-4 PM Silicon Valley Reads:**

The Muslim Next Door: The Qur'an, the Media, and that Veil Thing

Speaker: Sumbul Ali-Karimali, author and Marjan Fariba, moderator

Sumbul Ali-Karimali grew up in California, balancing her South Asian, Muslim, and American identities. Often the only Muslim her acquaintances knew, she had ample practice answering questions about Islam and Muslims. ("What do you mean you can't go to the prom because of your religion?")

While working as a corporate lawyer, she was repeatedly asked to recommend books on Islam, so she decided to write a book that was both academically reliable and entertaining to read. Consequently, she moved to London and earned her L.L.M. in Islamic Law from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. She served as a teaching assistant in Islamic Law at SOAS and a research associate at the Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law in London, and then she wrote *The Muslim Next Door* for everyone who ever asked - or wanted to ask - a question about Islam.

Monday, February 6, 7 PM

Book Club

Choice of *The Muslim Next Door* by Sumbul Ali-Karamali or *The Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson (2012 Silicon Valley Reads book selections.)

Thursday, February 9, 2:00 PM

Maharaja: The Splendor of India's Royal Courts

San Francisco Asian Art Museum docent, Bianca Larson, will present a talk on the current Maharaja exhibit. Explore the dazzling world of Indian royalty of the 1700's - 1940's by getting close to the objects they commissioned, collected and loved.

Saturday, February 11, SAT Practice Test

12:30-5:00pm

Experience the test - without the pressure! For 9th-12th grades. Program is free, but registration is required.

Monday, 2/20, SAT Practice Test Follow-up

7:00pm

Teens who took the practice test on 2/11 will receive their results. Presenters will also share test tips and strategies and talk about some of the differences between these tests, so teens who did not take the practice test may also be interested in attending this seminar. Adults are also welcome

March 2012

*** Saturday, March 3, 2-4 PM Silicon Valley Reads**

Film: Allah Made Me Funny

These landmark concert films follows three acclaimed Muslim comedians, on stage and off, as they lift the veil to reveal the humorous truth of what it's really like to be Muslim in America. Mo Amer, Azhar Usman, and Preacher Moss poke fun at themselves, their communities, government, human nature and the tricky predicament of living in post-9/11 America. *Allah Made Me Funny: Live in Concert* is rollicking good fun and gives people of all cultural backgrounds an opportunity to laugh hard, drop their guard, and open their minds.

"The title doesn't lie. These guys know how to tell a joke, often at the expense of their customs, religious holidays, families and themselves" The New York Times

Monday, March 5, 7 PM Book Club

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

*** 2012 Silicon Valley Reads activities at the Saratoga Library.**