

## Author Tim Stanley, *The Last of the Prune Pickers*

Wednesday, March 7, 10 AM Saratoga Library

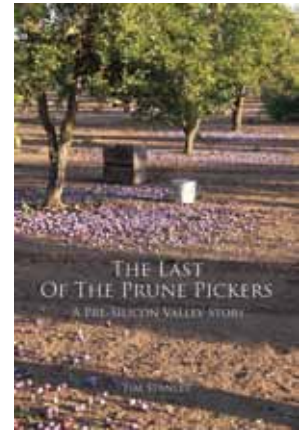


Not long before the Santa Clara Valley of California was known for silicon, the Valley was largely covered with orchards. There were orchards of pears, apricots, cherries, walnuts and the king of them all - prunes. Most of the orchards were part of small family farms, and there were thousands of them. *The Last of the Prune Pickers* is the story of how those farms came into being and thrived. It is also the story of one of the last of those farms, of the farmer, and of some of the young boys and girls who had the privilege of working for him. We were among the last of the prune pickers.

"Everyone loves hearing about how the Valley *used to be* long before asphalt covered up the wonderful farmland where I remember seeing peaches, plums, apricots, and prunes! One summer I cut apricots, the next fall I was sitting in the same place - my math class at Prospect High." Tim Stanley takes his readers back even further

from his own memories of *blossom valley* to the time when cattle roamed and when winter wheat grew as far as the eye could see. "Our valley's rainfall and temperatures were perfect for growing this important grain. Life here was all about cattle, the raising and the slaughtering; it was not pastoral with pretty senioritas." Tim's research for *The Last of the Prune Pickers* revealed unexpected information about the agricultural history of our area going back to the days when we were part of Mexico, which was followed by the impact of the gold rush and the numbers that came seeking their fortune.

Tim Stanley grew up near Gene's Market on Cox Avenue and rode his bike to pick fruit on the Pittman Farm located on what is today Paramount Drive off Saratoga - Sunnyvale Road. After he married, he and his wife moved to Los Gatos and later to Irvine where they raised two children. Retiring from running a construction business for thirty years, Tim is now working as a free-lance writer. He has published two books, a local history book titled, *The Last of the Prune Pickers: A Pre-Silicon Valley Story*, and a collection of bird poems and stories titled *Letters To My Feathered Friends: Observations, Meditations and Thanksgivings*. Tim has other books in the works and also contributes articles to various publications. He keeps in touch locally by visiting his family and by speaking at book events.



## Saratoga Library Events - February 26 through April 15

**Sunday, February 26, 2 PM**

### Poetry & Peace

An afternoon with Iranian American writers Esther Kamkar, Mojdeh Marashi, and Persis Karim, co-sponsored by the Association of Iranian Writers.

**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.

#### 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

*Join, Volunteer, Donate, Enjoy*

**D**id you know that our Saratoga Library is one of the top ranked libraries? It is an important part of our community and provides many valuable resources. It is no surprise since it has an extensive collection of books, DVDs, CDs, audio books, programs for all ages, internet ready computers, 24/7 electronic resources, a place to study and much more. I am also sure it is no surprise that library funding has been cut and continues to be asked to do more with less. Your support is more important than ever! If you have not already done so please renew or join the Friends in supporting our beloved Saratoga Library. Here's ways you can help:

- Renew/join the Friends at [www.fslonline.org](http://www.fslonline.org).
- Renew by March 1 to enjoy the Book-Go-Round Birthday Celebration Discount the week of March 11- 17.
- Clean your book shelves. Donate those 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!
- Volunteer at the Book-Go-Round or on our board.

Visit the following and enjoy the resources:

- The Friends' authors' series the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am in the community room.
- [www.fslonline.org](http://www.fslonline.org), the Friends' website.
- the Library's Best Sellers collection that is funded by the Friends.
- the Library's website: [www.santaclaracountylib.org/saratoga/](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.

**Terrie Creamer,**

*President, Friends of the Saratoga Libraries*

### Monday, March 5, 7 PM Book Club

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

### Saturday, March 10, 2-4:30 PM Teen Comics workshop

Teaching artist Karen Luk returns to teach teens how to draw comics.

### Tuesday, March 13, 7-8:30 PM, Master Gardeners: Plan Your Summer Garden

The ever-popular Master Gardeners are back to help you plan summer gardening activities.

### Saturday, March 31, 2:00 PM Christopher Dean, Celtic guitar concert

Irish, Scottish, American and English folk traditional and contemporary folk music performed on 6 & 12 string guitars, mixed with Celtic and American folklore, history, stories & humor.

### Monday, April 2 Book Club 7 PM

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake, by Aimee Bender

### Sunday, April 15, 2 PM The Language of Silence

Have you ever wondered about *Silence* and the absence of thought? Come join Saratoga author Raji Lukkoo in this fascinating journey of silence and its transformative effects. Raji recently released a memoir, titled "Inner Pilgrimage: Ten Days to a Mindful Me," based on her life-changing experience of a ten-day vipassana meditation retreat.

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## Ying Ying Chang



Ying Ying Chang shared her daughter's journey from an engaging young child deeply interested in her heritage to the highly regarded author of *The Rape of Nanking*, *The Thread of the Silkworm* and *The Chinese in*

*America*, February 1, in the Saratoga Library's Community Room. "Iris loved to write. She wrote poetry at 10, constantly wrote letters to us once she left for college, and eventually decided writing was what she wanted to do with her life. "Books, Iris said, are the ultimate way for authors to reach immortality!" Mrs. Chang and Shau-Jin Chang, her husband are pictured with Lyn Johnston and Ransom Rideout who was a Flying Tiger shot down over China during WWII. The February 1 presentation was "standing room only." 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.

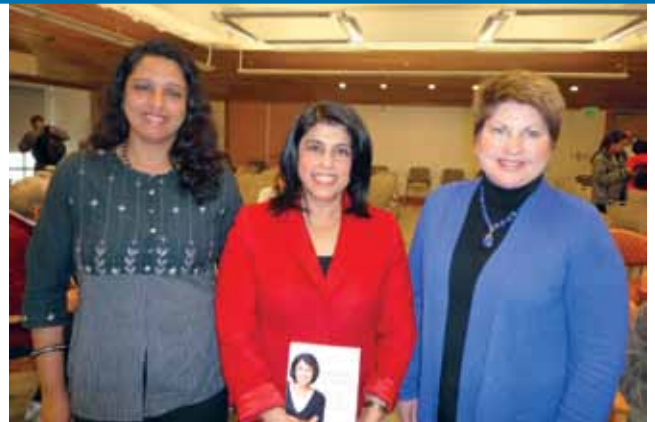
## Saratoga Celebrates Lunar New Year

Children work with Saratoga Children's Librarian, Cindy Wee and Gayathri Kanth, Community Librarian, in a Readers Story about the selection of the animals for the Chinese Zodiac and the cat who missed out because he was tricked into sleeping by the rat. More than 500 people enjoyed dancers, musicians, calligraphers who shared their talents with the community Saturday, January 28 at the Community Center.



## Silicon Valley Reads

Joining Sumbul Ali-Karimali, author of the *Muslim Next Door: The Qur'an, the Media, and the Veil Thing*, are Gayathri Kanth, Community Librarian, and Terrie Creamer, President, Friends of the Saratoga Libraries, sponsors of the Saratoga Library's Silicon Valley Reads event, February 5. Ms. Ali-Karimali shared her perspectives of Islam in the United States today. "When I came to Stanford, I found myself explaining much about life as a Muslim. At that time, I was asked, 'why I didn't eat pizza with pork (pastrami), why I didn't go to my high school prom, and why I prayed five times each day.' Today, with such focus on the Muslim dominated parts of the world, questions and issues are more politically charged, and the media provides answers. Rather than being defined as a Muslim by someone else, I chose to define myself as a Muslim."



## 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.

### 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](http://www.fslonline.org) or pick up a brochure in the library.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming authors:

#### **April 4, 2012: Lillian Natsue Morgan *Made in Japan***

The author, a child born in Japan prior to WW II to an American Missionary mother and a Japanese physician, describes her life from 1930 through the difficult and at times horrific war torn years in Japan and overcoming racial prejudice because she was an Ainoko, a child of mixed marriage.

#### **May 2, 2012 Alice LaPlante *Turn of Mind***

A stunning first novel, both literary and thriller, about a retired orthopedic surgeon with dementia, *Turn of Mind* has already received worldwide attention. With unmatched patience and a pulsating intensity, Alice LaPlante brings us deep into a brilliant woman's deteriorating mind, where the impossibility of recognizing reality can be both a blessing and a curse.



# Friends of the Saratoga Libraries

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[www.fslonline.org](http://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](http://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

*If you like books, you'll LOVE the Book-Go-Round*



## FEB. BOOK AUCTION

Book display at the Book-Go-Round 2/19-26  
List available 2/19-2/26 @ [www.BookGoRound.com](http://www.BookGoRound.com)  
Closed bids accepted at the store & by e-mail.



At press time: Items already logged in (of 100 total):

- REPORT ON THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN BOUNDARY SURVEY, 1857, by Wm. H. Emory
  - Thompson & West HISTORICAL ATLAS MAP OF SOLANO COUNTY, 1878
  - A DAY OF POETRY (at Montalvo), by Henry Meade Bland, S.F.: 1925
  - HITLER MOVES EAST, A Graphic Chronicle 1941-1943, by David Leventhal & Garry Trudeau, INSCRIBED by Leventhal, NY: Lawrence Miller Gallery © 1989
  - The VIETNAM PROJECT POSTER, SIGNED by Garry Trudeau, © 1981
  - MURMURS OF EARTH, The Voyager Interstellar Record, Commemorative Edition. Boxed set 1 book, 1 pamphlet, 2 CDs, Warner New Media (WMN) 1992.
  - Arthur C. Clarke: 2001, A SPACE ODYSSEY, NAL © 1968 First Printing
  - The PERFECT ART – The Ostrander Hut And Ski Touring In Yosemite, SIGNED by author, Howard Weamer © June 1995
  - Additional books inscribed/signed by Bill Clinton ("Say no to taxes"), Robert Gates, Tui De Roy, Wallace Stegner, Edward Teller
- plus children's, art, histories, science, and antiquarian books

## JAPANESE ART BOOKS

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celebration of the store's 29<sup>th</sup> Birthday.  
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PAPERBACK SALE

MARCH 24-25

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