

FSL Author Series - *Mama Grace* by Author Dana Bagshaw

Wednesday, November 2, 10 AM Saratoga Library



"I find people get such pleasure when I read excerpts from the books. The dialogue rounds out the characters and gives greater depth to their stories of hardship, of joy -- of life," says Dana Bagshaw, author of *Mama Grace* and *Running from Grace*. Dana presents her works and the story behind them Wednesday, November 2, 10 am, in the Saratoga Library's Community Room.

Dana Bagshaw heard about *Mama Grace* throughout her childhood, a figure larger than life, one who played a vital role in her family's history, and one both feared and respected. Dana meets her famous/infamous ancestor through the handwritten manuscripts of her grandmother, Grace's eldest child, and her great uncle, Grace's youngest.

"My mother asked me to see that her mother's story was published. It sat with me for a long time while I wrote a couple of plays and other work. My mother and most of her generation had passed on, I had also acquired my great uncle's story, and the Oklahoma Centennial of 2007 was coming. It was time to fulfill my mother's request."

Using these two sources, Dana paints two sides of a woman, one who survives great hardship and desertion, *Mama Grace*, and one obsessed and controlling, *Running from Grace*. The real story of Grace lies in between. "I abandoned my first plan to just edit and publish the manuscripts. My grandmother wrote in a very flowery, inaccessible fashion; my great uncle was bitter. Instead, I used these sources as a basis for a historical novel of the turn of the 20th Century in Oklahoma. I am now writing a third novel of the period, *Facing Grace*, my reactions to the family's story. It will be in the first person.

Reader's Comments about *Mama Grace*



Some books feel like "stories" where you get to know the characters. This book is so "real life" and the author's crafting of it so superb, that as I read it, the characters became real people to me -- coming into focus more clearly, as the drama became more intense. I was sad when it finished I kept wanting to travel with them all. Now I keep finding myself wanting / waiting to read the author's

next book, and I rarely feel that. **Rebecca**

Duncan, Rogue River, Oregon

Mama Grace continued on page 2

**Friends of the Saratoga Libraries 2012
Membership Drive**



November 2011

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of our library! The Friends' 2011 grant to the Saratoga Library is \$152,000! The grant will purchase best sellers, adult, teen and children books, and will provide programs for all ages. Because of our support, our library can continue providing high quality programs and services for all ages in our community.

With this letter we are launching our 2012 Membership Drive. Your support is even more important this year. Our library continues to face reduced funding during this difficult economic time. We hope you will continue your commitment to our library and renew your membership today. Please consider raising the level of your membership, or making a special gift. You may submit your membership online (fslonline.org) or in the enclosed envelope. Membership information is also available at the Library's main desk.

As a member of the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries, we know you value the contribution our libraries provide our community. Renew, volunteer, and be an active member of the Friends. Your support makes a big difference in what our library can do for our community!

Please consider renewing on-line at fslonline.org.

Terrie Creamer
Terrie Creamer
President

Helen Chang
Helen Chang
Membership Chair

Note: All 2012 members will be eligible for the member only special discount every day during the Book-Go-Round birthday celebration week March 11-17.

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

Last month in my message I shared with you findings about literacy and the Reading Program sponsored by the Santa Clara County Library System that helps to raise the level of literacy in our local communities. If you would like to learn more about this program and volunteer go to <http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/> and click on the literacy tab.

This month I would like to share with you Silicon Valley Reads, a program designed to promote reading and literacy, broaden the exposure to and appreciation of good literature, and build community. Since 2002, Silicon Valley Reads has encouraged everyone in Santa Clara County to read the same book, at the same time, and talk about it. The Santa Clara County Office of Education, Santa Clara County Library System and the San Jose Public Library Foundation present the program, with funding from foundations, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and private donors.

This year The Friends of The Saratoga Libraries will provide support to Silicon Valley Reads and will host an event with one of the authors at the Saratoga Library!

Public events spark discussions related to the themes of the selected books. These special opportunities to share perspectives are held at libraries or local bookstores and are usually free. 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

This year The Friends of The Saratoga Libraries will provide support to Silicon Valley Reads. The Friends are happy to announce we will be sponsoring an event where one of the authors will be speaking at our library. Details to be announced soon!

Terrie Creamer,

President, Friends of the Saratoga Libraries

Mama Grace continued from page 1

A Novel with Great Laughs and Deep Sorrow

As a 19th century woman, her five children, and a mostly absent husband struggle to scratch out an existence on the windswept plains of Oklahoma, every manner of hardship tests their will to find happiness. The book often made me laugh out loud, and softly sob more often than I would admit. "Mama Grace" is filled with many great stories, the kind passed down from generation to generation. The most poignant of which were surviving too much, then too little water, mama chopping railroad ties to free a wagon wheel, saved from a wildfire by an Indian and the "Pride of Kansas" showing from beneath a singed dress, selling milk at \$.01 per quart, a chaw does in a threatening rattlesnake, a youngster lends nature a helping arm during the birth of piglets, and it's deeply moving depiction of the age old struggle between the sexes. Written with perhaps a bit too much drifting dialog at times, and with a heart wrenching ending, "Mama Grace" is a good story told well. We see life may not have a happy ending, but the journey is certainly worth the effort.

Ralph Jones, Hassensack, N.J.

Mark your Calendars, November Events

Mark Your Calendars

November Events at the Saratoga Library

Tuesday, Nov. 1. 2:00 pm

Pissarro's People

San Francisco Fine Arts Museum Docent Kay Payne will discuss the Legion of Honor exhibit, Pissarro's People. French artist, Camille Pissaro drew, painted and made prints featuring human subjects from every walk.

Monday, November 14, 6:30-8:30 pm (Funded by the grant from Friends of the Saratoga Libraries)

September's Multiple Intelligences: How Children Learn, funded by the FSL grant, was a great success. All our attendees gave rave reviews about the presenter and many have requested materials suggested by the presenter.

Roslyn Donald

Supervising Librarian, Saratoga Library
Adult & Teen Services

Control. Halt. Delete: Digital Life in the 21st Century (Title created by Jordan Middle School Students, Palo Alto)

Erica Pelalvin, Presenter

To adults it looks like a brave new world but to kids, it's *just life*. Welcome to their world. Parents Place, in collaboration with Common Sense Media, presents a workshop for educators that will include an overview of student's media landscape, the digital divide, digital reputation, current trends, impact on schools and education, and developing an action plan for educating students in a 24/7 digital media world.

Erica Pelavin, LCSW, Ph.D. is a family

psychologist with over 15 years' experience working with children/adolescents and their families in both individual and group settings. Using a strength-based perspective, Dr. Pelavin specializes in bullying prevention, relational aggression, cyber safety and conflict resolution. She has a passion for helping children learn the skills to become their own advocates as well as helping schools become caring communities. Dr. Pelavin has been trained and certified to teach the Committee for Children's 'Steps to Respect' and 'Second Step Bullying Prevention' curricula. In addition to her work with families, she facilitates both parenting and teacher seminars on a variety of topics, including *Sibling Rivalry*, *Temperament*, *Parenting as Partners*, and *Raising Boys*. She also works with employees in high-tech companies in the areas of *conflict resolution*, *team building*, and *stress management*. Dr. Pelavin is the co-author of *Family Therapy*, a chapter in *Current Psychotherapies*, and the mother of two boys.

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7:00 pm

Travel: Guatemala

Join us for a photographic tour of Guatemala, with accompanying original music. Photographer, composer, writer, editor and musician David Couzens has traveled to more than 25 countries. His latest book of photographs, *Images of Guatemala*, is third in his Images of the World Series.

Friday Nov. 18

Teen Coffeehouse

The Saratoga Teen Advisory Board presents a coffeehouse evening for and about local talent. Teens ages 12-18 are welcome to participate; contact Lisa Dearborn at 867-6126 x3815.

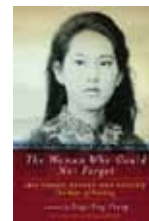
2011-2012 Author's Series

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.

Upcoming Authors:

Feb. 1, 2012

Ying Ying Chang: is the mother of the late Iris Chang, author of *The Rape of Nanking*, who honors her daughter ***The Woman Who Could Not Forget***. "One death is mortal," she says, "the other is memory. Iris' body died already, but I don't want the memory of her to die."



March 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.



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.



For a complete listing of the authors and their dates, please visit the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries website: fslonline.org

Do You Love Books? Are You Looking for Ways to Get Involved with Books and with the Saratoga Libraries?

May we suggest: Volunteering with the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries! This opportunity Includes working at the Book-Go-Round, our recycle bookstore located at the corner of Saratoga Los Gatos Road and Oak Street. Tasks include sorting donated books, sheet music, DVDs, books-on-tape, restocking shelves, and helping clients find books. The Book-Go-Round is a favorite stop for local grandparents and their grandchildren. There is a minimum monthly commitment and membership in the Friends is required. Volunteer applications are available at the Book-Go-Round and online (BookGoRound.com). For more information, contact BGR manager Mary Jeanne Fenn at info@BookGoRound.com or call the bookstore, 867-5552.

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.

Janet Pullen October Author Series

Sharing her own journey in discovering the dark side of the Crusades, Janet Pullen kept an audience hanging on every word at the October Author's Series, presented by the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries.. At the completion of her talk, there was silence as everyone took in the stories she uncovered about Mary Magdalene, about the Cathars of Occitane in southwestern France, and the scenes depicted in Chartres Cathedral, the mother of all cathedrals. Pictured with Janet, center, are Diane Stoiber and Helen Yamauchi, chair of the Author Series.



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

If you FALL for BOOKS, come to the Book-Go-Round!

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PAPERBACK BOOKSALE

OCTOBER 29-30

SARATOGA LIBRARY

Sat: 10:00 to 6:00

All types of fiction and non-fiction, children's books, too, plus cds, videos - 25 cents each.

Sun: 11:00 to 5:00

Just \$3 for all you can fit into one of our paper grocery bag or your equivalent cloth bag

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available with the Book-Go-Round. Pick up a volunteer application at the store, or download one from www.BookGoRound.com



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Premiere offering:

Book-Go-Round OPEN HOUSE

6 pm. Friday, Nov. 25th

The store is CLOSED Thurs Nov. 24 until the Friday night Open House