Congratulations FSL, from Mary Jean Gravkin

Congratulations to the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries! I am so glad I was able to be a part of the organization’s growth in Saratoga. I began volunteering at the Book-go-Round in 1990, when Mary Jeanne Fenn and Pat Mahler recruited me after I retired from the Saratoga Union School District. I started out as a clerk in the store, and before long, I was filling in for the woman who kept the store staffed with volunteers. I eventually took over the job, and held it for many years. This was before we used computers for everything, so my contact with the volunteers was made by telephone. Our volunteers found their own subs when needed, and called me if they needed help. We had a roster of regular workers and subs which was printed and available to all volunteers. This was a job I held until Mary Jeanne Fenn retired as the store manager. I loved my years as a volunteer at the BGR, where I made some great friends and met interesting people. Probably the most memorable day at the store for me was when Olivia de Havilland came in with her daughter. She was instantly recognizable to me, but she didn’t want me to say anything. She was visiting Saratoga, as this is where she had grown up.

Again, congratulations to the Friends, to the Book-go-Round, and to the many dedicated volunteers who have played an important role in the Saratoga community for the past 50 years.

Mary Jean Gravkin

P.S. I am now living in a retirement community in Salt Lake City near my family.

Volunteer Appreciation Coffee

The Holiday Season is upon us, and if you volunteer with the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries sorting books, moving boxes, stocking shelves at the Book-go-Round, working the register and engaging with customers, or helping get the word out at community events, the Board is inviting you to our annual Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Coffee. Please join us at the Book-Go-Round on December 9, between 10:00am - 12:00pm for coffee and tea, festive snacks, and a chance to catch up with the Board and your co-volunteers.

The Holiday Coffee gives the Board a chance to thank everyone who makes the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries the fun, robust, and viable organization that it is. Your efforts enable the Book-go-Round to remain open daily, giving extended lives to thousands of book donations, and encouraging the community to visit Saratoga’s only bookstore. And by promoting our organization at events and through membership sales, you help library patrons learn what more they can do to support the institution they love.

If you’ve attended this event in the past, you know it will be filled with homemade treats, good cheer, and a chance to peruse the shop with old and new Friends. Last year, Peggy Patrick’s Butterscotch Nut Bars were a hit, and she has generously shared her recipe with us here. We hope to see you on the 9th!

Butterscotch Nut Bars

For the Crust:
1 1/2 cup flour
3/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 cup butter

For the Topping:
Roasted mixed nuts
1/2 cup corn syrup
1 cup butterscotch chips
2 tbsp butter

Preparation:
Mix crust ingredients together and press into 9 x 13” pan. Bake for 10 minutes at 325 degrees. Cover with mixed nuts while cooling.

Melt remaining topping ingredients over low to medium heat and stir until blended. Pour over nut mixture and cut into bars.
Welcome Lisa Duff and Mariah Robbins

New Librarians at the Saratoga Library

Lisa Duff is the new Supervising Librarian for Adult and Teen Services at the Saratoga Library. She filled this role temporarily since this past January, and as of October she is a permanent staff member. Lisa started at the Santa Clara County Library District as a librarian at the Gilroy Library in 2013, and has worked on many programs and projects for adults and teens. She is very excited to continue to work with such a great community and staff at the Saratoga Library.

Lisa has always loved books. Her first job at age 14 was as a library page. She did a work study job in her college library. After graduation she worked in marketing for a while, but felt the calling to work in the libraries and with the community. She went back to school, earned a master’s degree in library science, and became a librarian.

Among her duties at the Saratoga Library, Lisa oversees the other adult and teen librarians and helps to coordinate programs for all patrons. She loves to engage with the patrons at the various programs. She seeks their input for new programs, plus feedback regarding the current offerings. Sometimes patrons have attended programs and events at other libraries, and would like to have them offered at the Saratoga Library. She’s happy to see patrons coming back to the library in person after the shutdown, and understands that there is still a need for virtual programs, too, in order to keep everyone comfortable in these ever-changing times.

Lisa loves the Saratoga Library - the reading room, the open areas, views of the orchard, and all the beautiful spaces for patrons to sit. The new furniture in the teen area and throughout the library has been a great addition to welcome group study and enhance the space. She feels like the Saratoga Library always strives to be a welcoming space that provides access to knowledge and resources for everyone.

In her free time, Lisa enjoys hiking with her husband and dog. Their favorite spots are along the California coast both for the beaches and the mountain trails.

Mariah Robbins works three days a week as an Adult Services Librarian at Saratoga Library, and is also a floater at the Gilroy Library. She first toured Saratoga Library as a student at San Jose State, whereupon she fell in love with the space - and she is delighted to be working with us today!

Mariah wasn’t sure if being a librarian was her dream career, so she pursued an associate’s degree in Library Information Technology from City College of San Francisco, to see if it was a good fit. After a couple of internships at San Francisco libraries, she found that she loved the work! She continued her online studies in Library and Information Science through San Jose State where she earned her master’s degree in December 2021.

Mariah has worked as a library aid, a children’s librarian, and an adult reference librarian; in programs for children, teens, and adults; as a circulation clerk; and in just about every other position a library has to offer. She finds helping adults with technology to be very rewarding, whether it’s digital coaching, helping write resumes, completing online forms, or creating presentations. She loves to walk among the stacks, chat with patrons, and offer her assistance whenever it is needed.

As a child, Mariah didn’t like to read. But once she found a genre that piqued her interest, she was hooked! These first favorites were *Dune* by Frank Herbert and *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. She draws from her own journey toward a love of reading as she helps kids who do not yet enjoy to read. She guides them to the right type of book, whether it's through a new genre or the format, as there is such a wide selection to choose from. One of her goals is to make sure the library's services, resources, collections, and programs are available to all patrons when they need it.

In her free time, Mariah loves to read fantasy, science fiction, and mysteries. She also enjoys playing video games and cooking. Her life goal is to travel as much as possible. She's been to every state west of the Mississippi except Texas and Alaska, as well as many parts of Europe, Great Britain, and Japan.

Friends Sharing Books

January 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM
This is a unique “book club” where book lovers share recommendations. Consider joining if you’re interested. Check the Friends website https://www.fsionline.org/ for details and to sign up!
Saratoga Library Events, December 2022 & January 2023

Winter Craft: Make Pet Toys  Tuesday, December 6, 2022  4:00PM - 5:00PM
Join us at Saratoga Library in making toys for pets! Gift them to your furry friends or the Saratoga Library will donate to a local shelter pet.

Wreath Making Workshop @ Saratoga Library  Tuesday, December 6, 2022  7:00PM - 8:00PM
Join this holiday workshop to make your own wreath. Please bring a wire clothes hanger or a wreath form to make a base. We will provide the greenery. Consider bringing pinecones, bows, ribbons, and other ornaments to share and decorate your wreath. Registration is required.

Family Bingo: Winter  Friday, December 9, 2022  4:00PM - 5:00PM
Please join us for our monthly Family Bingo program in December with a special Winter theme. Bring the whole family, all ages are welcome.

SF Bay Birds Observatory  Saturday, December 17, 2022  11:00AM - 12:00PM
Did you know the Bay Area is home to many different kinds of ducks? Come learn about a few of these ducks and what makes them different in this interactive program presented by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Recommended for children 6-12 and their families, but all are welcome! All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Photography program - Inspirational Moments  Thursday, January 12, 2023  10:30AM - 11:30AM
Join wildlife photographer, Joan Sparks on her adventure capturing inspirational moments with her camera from the top of the Golden Gate Bridge, to soaring vistas of Canada, to the swamps of the Amazon Jungle. Blooms from around the world, brown bears from Cook’s Inlet and other animals featured through her lens round out the program.

Learn how to play chess  Fridays January 13 & 27  2:00PM - 3:00PM
Learn how to play chess through the teaching of a USCF official National Master Chess Expert, Colin Albert. Curriculum includes: Openings, Strategies, Tactics, and Game-Play. All levels welcome. Registration required.

Lunar New Year Celebration  Saturday, January 14
Join the celebration at the library for Lunar New Year. Check the library website https://sccld.org for times for our Lion Dance and crafts for all ages.

Silicon Valley Reads - Journey to New Beginnings  Thursday, January 26, 2023
A free kickoff event for Silicon Valley Reads will be held at De Anza College in Cupertino and live-streamed online. Sal Pizarro from the San Jose Mercury News will interview each of our three adult authors: Tommy Orange, Amanda Skenandore, and Kai Harris. The complete schedule of events will be published in early January on the SiliconValleyReads.org website. These events run through March and include author talks, panel discussions, educational events, and so much more!

Check the library website https://sccld.org for the current list of programs and to register.
Friends of the Saratoga Libraries
P.O. Box 2642
Saratoga, CA 95070-0642

In this issue:

Congratulations to the Friends....................... 1
Volunteer Appreciation Coffee......................... 1
Welcome Lisa and Mariah................................. 2
Friends Sharing Books................................. 2
Upcoming Library Events............................... 3

Visit Us Online At
www.fslonline.org

Book-Go-Round NEWS
14410 Oak Street
@ Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd. (HWY 9)
one block south of Big Basin Way,
Saratoga Village
(408) 867-5552
www.BookGoRound.com

OAK STREET USED BOOK STORE HOURS:
Sunday - Friday (except Thursday): 12pm-5pm
Thursday: 12pm-7:00pm
Saturday: 10am-5pm

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SARATOGA LIBRARY

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

Happy Holidays

Holiday Sale
Find holiday gifts at the Good as New Sale at the Book-Go-Round. The sale continues through December.

Check out the great selection of holiday items at the Book-Go-Round - books, movies, music, and puzzles. There are holiday stories, cookbooks, craft books, holiday romance, and children’s books.

Paperback Book Sale
at the Saratoga Library
February 4-5, 2023
Saturday 10am - 5:30pm, 25¢ per book
Sunday 10am - 4pm, $5 per bag