Saratoga’s State of the City Event

If you attended Saratoga’s State of the City event last month, then you may have been surprised at first by the large number of yellow shirts people were wearing that all seemed to be advertising some used book store. The reality was that we had a great turnout of volunteers who came to celebrate the recognition of the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries as the Organization of the Year by Mayor Tina Wallia and our city. It was a wonderful honor for our hard-working volunteers over the past 50 years who have done so much for our library.

The State of the City is always an interesting event with not only many of our local leaders present, but also city councilors, board trustees, and even county superintendents attending to learn about the successes and great work being done in our lovely city. Other people and groups were also recognized at this event, namely Jill Hunter as Volunteer of the Year, Lisa Oakley as Citizen of the Year, Janice Albright as Businessperson of the Year, Captain Tony Rainieri as Firefighter of the Year, and Deputy Daniel Diaz-Gutierrez as Officer of the year. Some well-known, such as Jill Hunter who has served on the city council previously and in many leadership roles, some less known, such as Janice Albright, though her success with the Village Burger Bar is certainly well known.

After the recognitions and speech by the mayor updating us on the city’s current status, a reception was held at which the Friends had an information table staffed by Beth and Annie. Refreshments were served and many people stayed to mingle and learn more about the Friends and other great organizations in our town.

Alice Patrick’s 25 Years with the Friends

I joined the Friends in 1997 so I could work at the desk at the Book-Go-Round. I’ve met many wonderful people over the years: customers, volunteers, and particularly my long-term partners, Harriet Tripp and Dorsey Braunstein.

So many of the BGR customers are interesting. A favorite customer was a small, elderly man from Campbell. He came in many Saturday afternoons, selected several books, and brought them to the desk. He had already written out a check for the proper amount but he didn’t give that to us immediately. He waited until we calculated the bill. (This was in the pre-Square era where we added and multiplied by hand.) If our amount agreed with his, he would smile and give us the check. If it didn’t, he’d just shake his head and we would, nervously, re-calculate.

I also enjoy being a category manager (paperbacks, fiction, by authors whose last names start with A through L, not romance, not historical fiction, and not science fiction). And, despite some trepidation, I served on the Friends board as membership chair and president, learning a lot and meeting many interesting and talented people.

Alice Patrick
The History of the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries

The Friends of the Saratoga Libraries (FSL) was founded in 1972 to support the Saratoga libraries. Over the years, the multiple libraries merged into the current Saratoga Library on Saratoga Avenue. And over the years, the Friends has grown and thrived, with a current membership of more than 500, 129 active volunteers, a retail used bookstore within the library, and a standalone used bookstore, the Book-Go-Round, on Oak Street.

The founders had a far-ranging vision and the dedication to pursue that vision. They set up the Friends as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization that would endure.

In 1983, they were able to persuade the city council to allow them to use the Oak Street site of the original Saratoga library as a used bookstore, the Book-Go-Round. The Book-Go-Round, open seven days a week, is staffed entirely by volunteers and sells donated books.

Several of the volunteers do multiple jobs. Besides working at the front desk, volunteers transport donated books to the Sorting Room at the library; sorters sort the books into categories; and category managers price the books and stock the shelves at the Book-Go-Round. National Charity League volunteers cover second shifts on the weekend and Boys Team Charity covers the late shift on Thursdays. Both groups help out at the quarterly paperback sales.

The Friends have consistently supported the Saratoga library. Perhaps their finest hour was in the 1990's when library expansion was desperately needed. As per Willys Peck’s book A History of Saratoga’s Libraries, the Friends “picked up the ball and ran with it”. In 1999, they commissioned a study of community support for a bond issue of three different amounts: $20 million, $17 million, and $15 million. The $15 million figure got the highest positive response.

Then a Library Awareness program was started to acquaint residents with the need for expansion. There were mailed questionnaires and brochures, one-on-one interviews, newspaper articles, and speakers at service clubs. After the campaign, the Friends commissioned another study that indicated a library bond issue would stand a good chance of passing. The subsequent $15 million library bond measure on the March 2000 ballot passed with a 77% yes vote.

The Friends still work to support the library. They are able to grant $150,000 per year to the library for collections, programs, and improvements. The grant money comes from membership fees, extra donations, and used book sales.

As Willys Peck concludes, “It goes without saying that Saratoga will always have a first-rate library as long as it has Friends.”

FSL Community Events in November

Friday, November 25th from 3:30-5:00 PM
Come and join the Friends as we kick off the Holiday Season in Saratoga Village. We will be hosting a craft or story time at the Candy Cane Village event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce at the back of the Chamber parking lot.

Friday, November 25th 6:00-8:00 PM
Visit the Book-Go-Round during the Saratoga Wine Experience following the Saratoga Tree Lighting ceremony. We will also be hosting a storyboard walk through of the winners of the City of Saratoga Poetry Contest. Please come and visit us!
Saratoga Library Events, November 2022

**Kids STEM DIY Hovercraft**  
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 4:00PM - 5:00PM  
3rd graders and up make a DIY hovercraft that can stay afloat using air power.

**Catch a Dream**  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022 4:00PM - 5:00PM  
All ages are invited to join us in the Community room at 4:00PM as we make dream catchers with a CD or paper plate, yarn, beads, and feathers. Dream Catchers are a Navajo tradition used to help assure good dreams to those that sleep under them.

**Knit a Hat Workshop for Beginners @ Saratoga Library**  
Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:30AM - 11:30AM  
Learn and practice basic stitches in this workshop while you learn how to knit a hat! Supplies will be provided or you can bring your own yarn and Size 7, 24" circular knitting needles. This is the last workshop in a series of three offered the first Wednesday of October, November, and December.

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**Good As New Sale at the BGR**

The Holiday season is upon us once again, and at the Book-Go-Round, we’ve spent the summer and fall months collecting books for our annual Good as New Sale. The sale begins Friday, November 25, the day after Thanksgiving. Members of The Friends get the first opportunity to shop our Good as New inventory during members-only hours of 4:00 - 6:00pm. The sale opens to the public from 6:00 - 9:00pm, and continues through the month of December.

This special shopping day coincides with several downtown events. The Holiday Tree Lighting begins in Blaney Plaza at 5:30pm, and festivities will include horse-drawn carriage rides, performances, a holiday exhibit at the Saratoga History Museum, and the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce Wine Stroll. We hope you’ll stop by and see us.

It’s always a good time to join or renew your membership with the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries, and even better when it gives you early access to some of our best inventory of the year. If you didn’t get a chance to sign up during our membership drive last month, we’ll accept new memberships and renewals at the door on November 25.

Another way to support the Book-Go-Round this holiday is to shop with us on eBay. Please visit Oak St Books online at: ebay.com/str/oakstbooks for unique finds. If you see something you like, send us a message to arrange free local pick up. We ship all over the country, and love selling books to our Friends.

We will be decking the halls of the Book-Go-Round with holiday inspiration, and so whatever you are reading, and however you shop this season, we hope you’ll keep us in mind.

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**The Friends Turns 50!**

The Friends of the Saratoga Libraries is celebrating our 50th Year! We would love to have you share your memories with the Friends in an upcoming newsletter.

- Why did you join the Friends?
- Do you have a Friend story to share?
- How long have you been a Friend?
- Do you know someone that was a Friend 30 or 40 or 50 years ago?
- Where you ever on the Friends Board?

If you have something to share with the Friends, please reach out to us at President@fsionline.org.
**Friends of the Saratoga Libraries**
P.O. Box 2642
Saratoga, CA 95070-0642

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**Visit Us Online At**
www.fslonline.org

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

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**Book-Go-Round NEWS**

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

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SARATOGA LIBRARY**

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**Check the Book-Go-Round website for the current featured categories**

**Good as New Sale:**
Nov. 25, 4-6 pm, Friends members only.
New members welcome, join at the door!
Everyone welcome 6-9 pm
Sale continues through December

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Book-Go-Round is closed Wednesday November 23 and Thanksgiving, Thursday November 24