

# The Next Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SARATOGA LIBRARIES

Winter 2024

## Friends and NCL: A Lasting Partnership

The Friends of the Saratoga Libraries and National Charity League, Inc. (NCL) are celebrating 20 years of partnership. Mother-daughter pairs from NCL serve as dedicated volunteers at the Book-Go-Round, contributing over 1300 volunteer hours each year.

NCL members generously volunteer their time in support of two important Friends of the Libraries-related efforts. The Book-Go-Round, a beloved local bookstore run by the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries, offers a diverse collection of used books for readers of all ages. NCL volunteers play a crucial role in maintaining the bookstore, organizing shelves, assisting patrons, and ensuring a

welcoming environment for book enthusiasts.

The Friends' quarterly paperback book sales provides another avenue for the NCL volunteers to engage with the community. These sales offer affordable reading options and contribute to the funding of library programs, resources, and events. NCL members actively participate in the setup, organization, and execution of these sales.

The longtime relationship between NCL and the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries not only fosters a



*Caroline and Emma Schuyler,  
NCL Saratoga-Los Gatos Chapter*

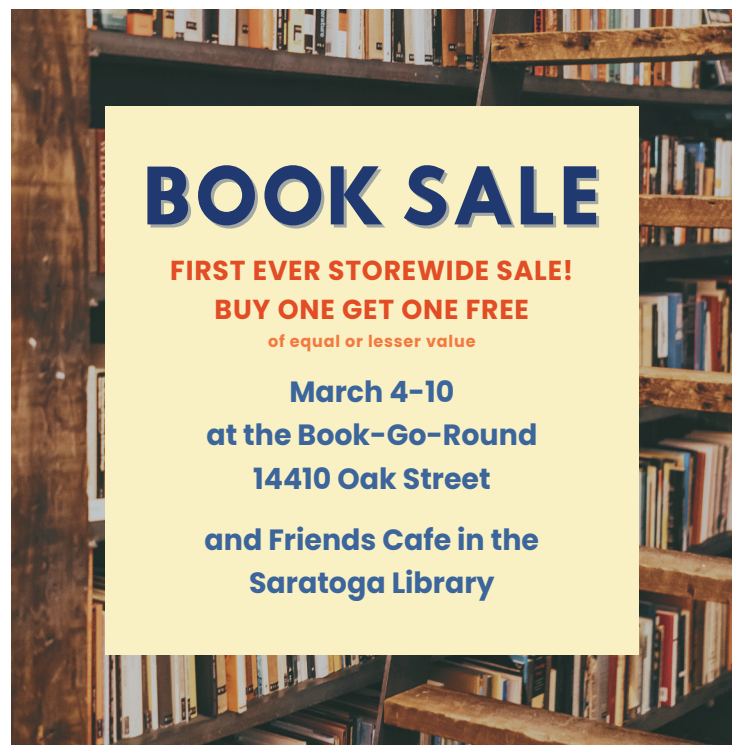
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## Membership Update

We are grateful to our members who have renewed their membership for the 2023–2024 year. Members of the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries enjoy the opportunity to volunteer with this wonderful organization in the community and at the Book-Go-Round.

If you haven't renewed your membership, or would like to join, you can do so online at [fslonline.org](https://fslonline.org) or use the remittance envelopes located at the Book-Go-Round and the library. For the first time, we are offering Student memberships for \$20. Also new this year, all memberships at the Sustaining level or higher (\$250 or more) will receive a Friends tote bag.

If you have any questions, please email [membership@fslonline.org](mailto:membership@fslonline.org) or visit our website.



## Children's Tree

Claire Campodonico is a longtime volunteer with the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries. She has also been involved with the Montalvo Service Group since 2014, and has chaired their Children's Tree Project since 2017.

For the 2023 Children's Tree Project (formerly the Teddy Bear Tree Project), Claire collected 300 donated stuffed animals, and after the Yuletide celebration at Villa Montalvo, she delivered the toys to Rebekah Children's Services in Gilroy.

This agency works with underserved children in Santa Clara, San Benito, and Monterey counties. Claire is already collecting stuffed animals for the 2024 Children's Tree, and would be delighted to take your donations.

Please contact [president@fslonline.org](mailto:president@fslonline.org) to coordinate.



*Friends and NCL, cont. from pg. 1*

sense of community but also highlights the importance of volunteerism in sustaining the Book-Go-Round's retail business. The NCL Saratoga-Los Gatos Chapter began working at the Book-Go-Round in 2003 and was later joined by a second local chapter, the Heritage Oaks Chapter. NCL mother-daughter pairs regularly work on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Kristin Gagnola, the Book-Go-Round Retail Manager, appreciates this "great partnership" and often calls on mother-daughter pairs to cover extra shifts. She is grateful for the consistent, reliable, and hard working NCL volunteers. During the pandemic, NCL volunteers kept the BGR open for business by covering all of the store shifts. Kristin said, "They kept us going during the pandemic. Their effort was huge."

NCL mothers report the benefits of volunteering with their daughters. Caroline Schuyler, past philanthropy liaison for the NCL Saratoga-Los Gatos Chapter, donated countless hours at the BGR working alongside her two daughters. Caroline recognizes the value of their time spent volunteering together. She said, "My daughter and I enjoyed working at BGR, not only because we could spend some time together, but because we love books and helping the customers with their purchases, including teachers who were buying

books for their classroom. My daughter also loved giving suggestions to children and other teens, given that she is an avid reader."

National Charity League, Inc. is a philanthropic organization that fosters mother-daughter relationships through community service, leadership development, and cultural experiences. The Saratoga-Los Gatos and Heritage Oaks chapters each have nearly 300 mother and daughter members in grades 7-12. Outside of their significant contribution to the Friends of Saratoga Libraries, these members contributed more than 12,000 hands-on volunteer hours to more than 50 local and national philanthropy partners last year alone.

## February Specials at the BGR



HEART HEALTH

ROMANCE

BLACK HISTORY

LUNAR NEW YEAR

# A Greener Tomorrow Starts Today



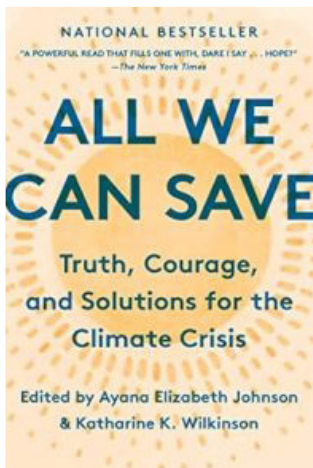
The 2024 theme for Silicon Valley Reads is “A Greener Tomorrow Starts Today,” with a goal of fostering collaboration and creating awareness around the importance of sustainability to ensure a thriving world for future generations. There are more than 100 free, public events for all ages which include author talks, book clubs, art/music events, community activities, arts and crafts, movies, and creative events or activities based on the theme each year.

This year there are seven recommended books that address this theme. There will be many in-person and virtual author talks. Check the SVR website for more details and to see a listing of all events. We look forward to seeing you at these great events!

## 2024 SILICON VALLEY READS BOOKS

### All We Can Save

edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson



*All We Can Save* showcases the wisdom and experiences of dozens of women actively contributing to environmental initiatives in the United States. These women are scientists, journalists, farmers, lawyers, teachers, activists, and innovators, who all come from different backgrounds. Their diverse perspectives offer a range of ideas

and insights on how we can swiftly and significantly reshape society for a sustainable future.

There is a virtual event for *All We Can Save* on Sunday, February 11.

### One Green Thing

by Heather White

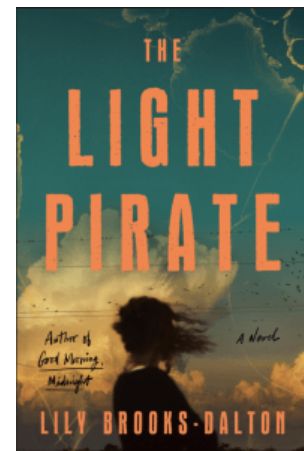


Environmentalist Heather White offers an accessible guide to taking action for a more sustainable world. Through heart-warming

and humorous anecdotes from her upbringing in East Tennessee to her experiences parenting in Montana, White demonstrates how people can contribute to the environmental movement. She encourages self-discovery, helping readers align their personalities, interests, and strengths with meaningful actions.

### The Light Pirate

by Lily Brooks-Dalton



Set in a world where Florida faces the relentless onslaught of extreme

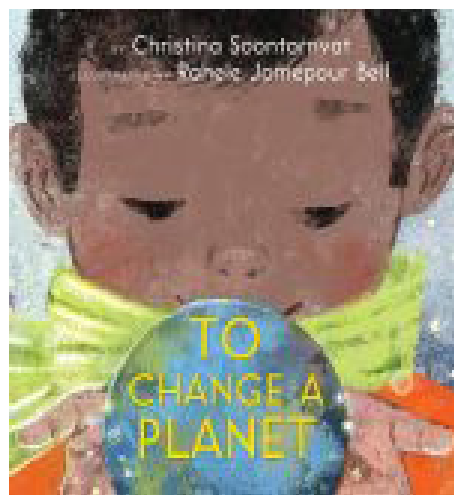
weather and rising sea levels, *The Light Pirate* is the story of a small coastal town preparing for a powerful hurricane. Divided into four parts — power, water, light, and time — this novel mirrors the rhythms of the elements and

the gradual transformation of the world as we know it. It serves as a contemplation of changes that challenge our comfort zones and a reminder of the untamed beauty and strength of nature.

There are many in-person author visits with Lily Brooks-Dalton including a February 1 visit at the Saratoga Library, plus a couple virtual book clubs.

## CHILDREN'S COMPANION BOOKS

**To Change a Planet**  
by Christina Soontornvat  
(Pre K-1st)



*To Change a Planet* demonstrates the importance of caring for our planet. Eye popping explosions of color on every page create a stunning visual narrative. Meticulously researched and brimming with beauty, hope, and hands-on solutions that will edify and empower even the youngest readers, this loving ode to our planet is vital for every child and family.

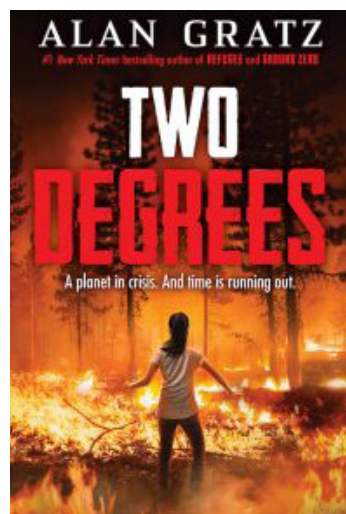
**The Forest Man**  
by Anne Matheson (Grades 1-4)

After years of harsh monsoon seasons, a forest on the river island of Majuli is in danger of being slowly washed away. Jadav, a boy living on the island, is determined to save the forest he loves. This is the true story of how one young



boy dedicated his life to creating and cultivating an expansive forest that continues to grow to this day. In a world impacted by climate change, Jadav Payeng's inspirational story shows how one person's contributions can make a difference in helping to save our environment.

**Two Degrees**  
by Alan Gratz (Grades 4-8)



When three children endure separate climate change disasters – a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida – they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world.

**Don't Call Me a Hurricane**  
by Ellen Hagan (Teen/Young Adult)



Told in verse, seventeen-year-old Eliza, an environmental activist, is navigating the after-effects of a hurricane that devastated her coastal town while falling for Milo, a rich tourist who is at the center of a redevelopment that could put her community in danger – again.

There is a virtual author visit on March 20.

## Saratoga Library Events



### Diwali Celebration

The library celebrated Diwali in November with a series of programs including henna, crafts, concerts & dance!

Other Friends sponsored events this Fall included: beginner Mah Jongg classes, STEM and craft programs for kids, wreath making, and book clubs.

## Upcoming Programming:

### Mend to End Waste: Textile Repair, Part 1

Sunday, February 11, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Learn how you can reduce your fashion waste in this workshop series of introductory mending techniques by lifelong seamstress Frances Cooke. Please register to attend.

### A Winter Start for your Greener Summer Garden

Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This one hour talk will cover: seeds and seed sources, planting seeds, germination, creating the right environment for strong seedling growth, materials and equipment, transplanting out into the garden, and early care for your seedlings in the ground. Presented by Santa Clara County Master Gardener Louise Christy.

### Drums and Dance with Onye Onyemaechi

Saturday, February 17, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

In honor of Black History Month, join us and Onye Onyemaechi as we enjoy the music and culture of West African drumming!

### Mend to End Waste: Textile Repair, Part 2

Sunday, March 10, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Learn how you can reduce your fashion waste in this workshop series of introductory mending techniques by lifelong seamstress Frances Cooke. Please register to attend.

### DIY Terrarium

Thursday, March 14, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

These mini glass containers house slow-growing plants and are easy to maintain. Come to the library and put together a terrarium of your own, all supplies provided. Please register to attend.

### Shop in your Closet and Discover the Latest Trends!

Sunday, March 24, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Join Alyce Parsons, image consultant and author of numerous style and image books, to learn how to make your closet new again. Feel free to bring a much neglected item from your closet so that Alyce can demonstrate how to make it current and perhaps the hottest thing in your wardrobe again. Please register to attend.

### Worm Composting Workshop

Saturday, March 30, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Join us for a free home composting workshop, hosted by the University of California Cooperative Extension and the Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission. Please register to attend.

### SED Talks for Teens - Engineering the Future

Saturday, March 30, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Presented by the Saratoga Library Teen Advisory Board and Saratoga Youth Commission. Listen to engaging speakers, enjoy some activities, and participate in our raffle.

**Check the website [scld.org](http://scld.org) for additional events happening at the Saratoga Library!**

# Friends

OF THE  
SARATOGA LIBRARIES

P.O. Box 2642  
Saratoga, CA 94070-2642

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



14410 Oak Street  
Saratoga CA 95070  
408.867.5552

#### HOURS:

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Sunday    | 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Monday    | 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday   | 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Thursday  | 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. |
| Friday    | 12:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. |
| Saturday  | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. |

#### February Specials at the Book-Go-Round

Romance • Heart Health  
Black History • Lunar New Year

Find a selection of books,  
puzzles, music, and more

Check our website for the March  
and April special categories.

*THE BOOK-GO-ROUND*  
the Friends' Used Book Store  
proceeds benefit the  
Saratoga Library

## Find Your Match



### Go on a blind date with a book!

Visit the Book-Go-Round in February to pick up a blind date with a book. Choose from fiction, memoir, and contemporary romance titles mysteriously wrapped and marked with clues, waiting for you to take them home.

#### FRIENDS OF THE SARATOGA LIBRARIES

FEBRUARY 3-4

DVDs, CDs, & Vinyl

Cookbooks

Fiction, Mysteries, & Thrillers

Children's Books & Study Guides

# HUGE PAPER BACK BOOK SALE

**We're always looking for new volunteers.**

Invite a friend to join and volunteer by inquiring at:  
[volunteer.info@fslonline.org](mailto:volunteer.info@fslonline.org)