

# The Next Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SARATOGA LIBRARIES

Fall 2023

## Saralyn Otter

**COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN  
SARATOGA LIBRARY**



We are pleased to introduce Saralyn Otter, who has been selected as the new Saratoga Library Community Librarian. Saralyn started her library career as a page for Santa Cruz Public Library and continued on to work in libraries around the Bay Area.

She spent six years at the Los Angeles City Library working as a teen and children's librarian before returning to the Bay area to join the Santa Clara County Library District in 2005. She has been the Children's Supervising Librarian at the Morgan Hill Library for the past 17 years before becoming the interim Saratoga Community Librarian in December 2022.

When not working, Saralyn enjoys reading, music, gardening, and spending time with her kids.

## Fall 2023 Membership Drive

It is that time of year when we start our Friends of the Saratoga Libraries membership drive for 2023-2024. Whether you are an existing member or have yet to join, we deeply value your support of the library.

We kicked off our membership drive with an information table in the library's lobby during National Friends of Libraries week where we spoke with patrons about the Book-Go-Round (BGR) and Friends Cafe, and we made many prospective members aware of the Friends' annual grant to the library. At our "Friends" table, children and adults also had fun guessing the number of candy pieces in a jar for the chance to win a gift basket filled with items from the BGR: children's books, a cookbook, a puzzle, a Halloween themed piece of art, a calendar, and also a gift card to shop at the BGR. Our historic used bookstore is filled with treasures!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [membership@fsonline.org](mailto:membership@fsonline.org) or visit our website at [fsonline.org](http://fsonline.org). Thank you for joining us in maintaining our exceptional Saratoga Library and its programs!



### **FSL BOARD 2023-2024**

**FRONT ROW:** David Guidry, Immediate Past President, Susan Carter, Treasurer, Joyce Gross, Secretary, Beth Kingsley, Vice President, Jennifer Van Dalsen, President. **BACK ROW:** Sheeba Garg, Membership Director, Jane Lin-Li, Assistant Treasurer, Kristi Oberhauser, Communications Director, Julie Stallman, Newsletter Director, Peggy Patrick, Parliamentarian, Annie Ying, Community Outreach Director, Kristin Gagnola, Retail Manager, Saralyn Otter, Community Librarian, Wayne Innamorato, Development Director.

## Saratoga Library Photographs by Ansel Adams

The library recently rediscovered two photographs by Ansel Adams circa 1930 of the old Saratoga Library building, currently the Book-Go-Round. The library is working on securing the photos so they can be displayed in the library for all to enjoy.



### ON VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

## Golu Dolls

In South India, the annual ten-day Hindu festival of Navaratri is celebrated in the fall with a unique tradition called Golu, or Dasara. Navaratri means “nine nights” in Sanskrit, and the festival celebrates the triumph of good over evil.

Golu is the decorative display of clay dolls and figurines, typically made by rural artisans, representing the god and goddess narrators in a legend from Hindu text. Within the display, dolls are arranged on tiers or steps. The hierarchy begins with gods on the uppermost tiers, and ends with dolls representing the people and their environments on the lower



levels of a platform. Though it holds cultural significance, the more practical reason behind celebrating the nine-night (and ten day) festival with clay dolls is to encourage the desilting of clay in river beds. The clay figures are handed down from generation to generation, and family collections are expanded with each passing year.

A collection of Golu dolls is available to view in the library lobby.

## Letter from the Editor

Thank you for reading the second installment of *The Next Chapter*, the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries’ rebranded, quarterly newsletter. *The Next Chapter* is distributed by email and published on our website, with copies in print available at the Book-Go-Round and the Saratoga Library. You might have noticed that our quarterly newsletters are supplemented by *Long Story Short*, a brief, monthly email providing timely and useful information about our organization and the library. No longer just for members, both newsletters are now sent to all email subscribers, along with occasional publicity for upcoming events such as the recent children’s book sale at the Book-Go-Round and Friends Cafe, and Halloween Trivia Night at the Library.

What do you think of the new design? Do you have suggestions for an upcoming article or a story you would like to share with the Friends? Please send your comments and suggestions to [president@fslonline.org](mailto:president@fslonline.org).

If you’re seeing this newsletter in print and would like it delivered to your inbox, subscribe on our website [fslonline.org](http://fslonline.org).

Julie Stallman, Newsletter Chair

# Saratoga Library's 20th Anniversary Celebration!

The library recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of the renovation of the building, which added 30,500 square feet. The Friends of Saratoga Libraries funded new furniture and additional collection for the new space. The anniversary celebration took place over the weekend of September 23 & 24, and included a kickoff event on the patio to promote the upcoming patio shade funded by the Friends and new patio furniture. There was a foam party for kids, face painting and balloon animals, a magic show, a jazz band, a local author event, and a presentation from the Saratoga Historical Foundation on the history of Saratoga libraries. All events were well attended and largely funded by the Friends. *Thank you Friends!*



## UPCOMING FALL PROGRAMMING

### Beginner Mah Jongg

**Mondays: October 16, October 23, October 30, and November 6 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.** Come join the fun and discover why so many love this game. Register to attend. This is a series, so by registering you are signing up for a series of four classes.

### Drop-in Bridge Session

**2nd Friday of the month, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** Come play bridge in a drop-in session at the Saratoga Library. This is not an instructional class, it is a way to practice playing in a friendly environment.

### Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club

**1st Tuesday of the month, 7 – 8 p.m.** Please visit the Adult Reference Desk at Saratoga Library to register and pick up a copy of the book.

### Knit & Crochet Circle

**1st Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.** Join Saratoga Library's monthly knit and crochet circle. Bring your own projects and yarn, ask questions, receive help, give help, share ideas, and meet new people!

### Crafts for Kids

**2nd Tuesday of the Month, 4 – 5 p.m.** Join us for monthly themed craft projects!

### STEM for Kids

**3rd Tuesday of the Month, 4 – 5 p.m.** Join us for a monthly themed STEM activity!



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 – 5:00 p.m.

Mon – Wed, Friday:

12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday:

12:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday:

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*The Book-Go-Round is now  
open late every Friday,  
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.*

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

## Good As New Sale

The holiday season is around the corner, and FSL volunteers are turning their attention to our annual Good as New sale. The sale begins Friday, November 24, and members of the Friends get the first opportunity to shop our Good as New inventory during members-only hours of 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

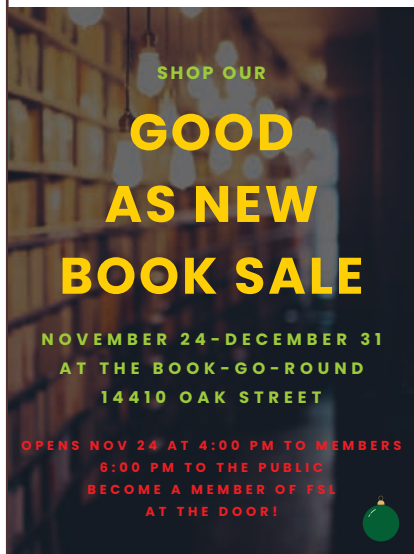
The sale opens to the public from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., and continues through the month of December.

This special shopping day coincides with several downtown Saratoga events. Join your neighbors at Candy Cane Village, featuring music, arts and crafts, and photos with Santa Claus from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., and visit us for book shopping during the Holiday Wine Stroll from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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 24.

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.



## Forecast calendar

**November 9** –  
Friends Sharing Books

**November 24** –  
Good As New Sale, continuing  
through December

**January 11** –  
Friends Sharing Books

**February-March**  
Silicon Valley Reads  
"A Greener Tomorrow  
Starts Today"

