



# NEWS EXCHANGE

WINTER 2020



**WE REDESIGNED OUR WEBSITE!**  
CHECK IT OUT! [www.friends-sblibrary.org](http://www.friends-sblibrary.org)



**WE REDESIGNED OUR BUSINESS FRIENDS BROCHURE**

## WE READ

Explore what your Friends of the Library board members have been reading during the time of COVID-19. They may spark your interest and expand your reading pleasure!!

Yolie Lopez LOVES, Loves, loves scary horror books!!! These were great!

**Are you sleeping?** by Kathleen Barbar, a murder whodunit

**Strange Weather** by Joe Hill, a collection of 4 chilling short stories

## WHAT WE DID: WORKING HARD AND SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY DURING THE PANDEMIC

### WE PRODUCED & HELD OUR 2020 ANNUAL MEETING ONLINE!

This year's Annual Meeting on Oct. 21, at 5 p.m. did not involve coffee, tea and delicious goodies as it has in the past. Because of the pandemic and the avoidance of meetings, we held a Zoom meeting. Instead of yummy food, we featured a local mystery author, **Karen Keskinen**, who discussed her writing process and introduced her books, **Blood Orange**, **Black Current** and **Dragon Fruit**, all set in Santa Barbara. She donated a signed set of her books to a member of FOL, and that lucky person was Theresa Weissglass. At the end of her talk, **Jessica Cadiente**, the Director of the Santa Barbara Public Library, wowed us with an overview of all the programs and services that are going on now, despite the Covid-19 crisis. If you haven't done so recently, please go to the library's website and check out the wonderful offerings the staff provides to our community. We are looking forward to the time, hopefully next year, when we can hold our usual Annual Meeting in the Faulkner Gallery.



*Our Annual Meeting featured local mystery uthor Karen Keskinen.*

Linda Love recommends:

**Less** by Andrew Sean Greer-The Pulitzer Prize winner, 2017 is an entertaining romp with a struggling novelist who travels to Paris, Berlin, India, and Japan for writing conferences. The many cultural mishaps and mistakes made by this lovable character made me laugh out loud.

**The White Tiger** by Aravind Adiga - The Man Booker prize winner in 2008 has a self made entrepreneur in India recounting his epic life story  
*continued 3rd pp*



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Kim Shingle

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Jessica Cadiente, Director

## WEB SITE

[www.friends-sblibrary.org](http://www.friends-sblibrary.org)

## E-MAIL

[Contact@friends-sblibrary.org](mailto:Contact@friends-sblibrary.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Although I stepped into this position in January, I haven't had an opportunity to write a message until now. I joined the FOL in 2017, started with producing the newsletter, moved to vice president, president elect and now president. I love coming up with creative ways to raise funds for the library and to advocate for them.

I am passionate about volunteering with the adoptable dogs at the Santa Barbara Humane Society, but my second love is helping support the library with all of its fabulous services, and programs.

In these tumultuous times, the library has been instrumental in supporting members of the community with their programs and services. As a retired teacher, I am thrilled we could help with the summer reading program, which the library managed to keep going despite its closed doors. Many people contributed gift cards from local businesses as prizes, but also as a way to help support businesses at this challenging time. We had planned to have a fundraising event in the Faulkner Gallery in September, but when that was no longer an option, we switched to a new format and produced a virtual platform for "Only You can Tell Your own Story."

I am thrilled to be working with such caring and hard-working members of our board. I am especially grateful to Jean Lemberger and Sallie Coughlin for working with Lynda Rae of Aurora Productions on the update of our website and to Linda Love, our administrative secretary who keeps track of our membership, contributions, and mailings. We are so grateful for Anna Lafferty's donation of time and expertise creating and producing our award-winning graphics for over ten years! We are excited to have completed our beautiful business friends brochure so we can potentially raise even more funds to support our library through business donations. If you're a Facebook user, be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates.

We hope you will include us in your year end donations.

*Barbara Cronin Hershberg*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Last year the Library requested \$65,000 for their wish list to the Friends, and we were able to fulfill that request, thanks to the generosity of our membership. The same was asked for the upcoming 2020-2021 fiscal year and the Board voted to work to make it happen.

In the previous 2019-2020 year, the largest share of donations to FOL were as follows: Membership Renewals: \$22,646; New Members: \$5,190; General Donations: \$1,300; Author Signing Event: \$1,140; Mah Jongg Event: \$1,172; Year-End Appeal: \$27,165; Spring Appeal: \$5,950.

The Year-End Appeal and Membership Renewal are by far our best way of raising funds for the Library so please continue to be generous. You make it happen! We wish we had room to list every single donation.

Here is a list of our most generous donors, from July, 2019 through October, 2020:

## THANKS TO OUR MOST GENEROUS DONORS!

Anonymous

Anonymous

Paul Ballard

Leslie Bhutani

Susan Bower

Guy Brown

Zora Charles

Mary Jane Cooper

Sallie & Curt Coughlin

Paul Gawronik

Frank & Joseph Gila Fund

Susan & Gary Gulbransen

Pam Hasler

Barbara & Ken Hershberg

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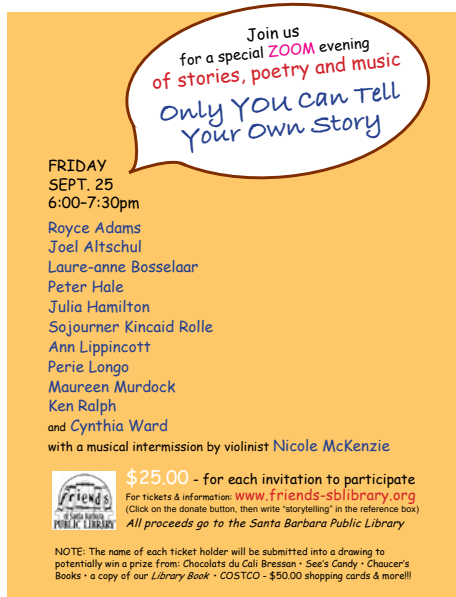
Katie Szopa

Mary D. Thompson

Shirley Tucker

# WHAT FRIENDS ARE DOING TO SUPPORT THE SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY DURING A PANDEMIC

## WE Created an Online Fundraiser: ONLY YOU CAN TELL YOUR OWN STORY



Join us for a special ZOOM evening of stories, poetry and music  
*Only You Can Tell Your Own Story*

FRIDAY  
SEPT. 25  
6:00-7:30pm

Royce Adams  
Joel Altschul  
Laure-anne Bosselaar  
Peter Hale  
Julia Hamilton  
Sojourner Kincaid Rolle  
Ann Lippincott  
Perie Longo  
Maureen Murdock  
Ken Ralph  
and Cynthia Ward  
with a musical intermission by violinist **Nicole McKenzie**

**\$25.00** - for each invitation to participate  
For tickets & information: [www.friends-sblibrary.org](http://www.friends-sblibrary.org)  
(Click on the donate button, then write "storytelling" in the reference box)  
All proceeds go to the Santa Barbara Public Library

NOTE: The name of each ticket holder will be submitted into a drawing to potentially win a prize from: Chocolats du Cali Bressan • See's Candy • Chaucer's Books • a copy of our Library Book • COSTCO • \$50.00 shopping cards & more!!

Although originally planned as a live event with a reception, we were delighted with the willingness of all of the presenters to switch to a digital delivery. Each writer and our violinist sent in a video of them-selves, and Isaac Hernandez Herrero of Mercury Press worked his magic and wove them all into one lovely video.

We had over 100 viewers who paid \$25.00 or more per ticket to support the Friends of the Library. Our special thanks to Royce Adams, Joel Altschul, Laure-anne Bosselaar, Peter Hale, Julia Hamilton, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, Ann Lippincott, Perie Longo, Maureen Murdock, Ken Ralph, Cynthia Ward and Nicole McKenzie.

We also appreciate the generosity of Chocolats du Cali Bressan, Chaucer's Books, COSTCO, Bristol Farms and Nicole McKenzie for donating gift cards for our drawing.



Perie Longo, Santa Barbara Poet Laureate (2007-2009) was one of our wonderful story tellers.

## WHAT WE READ *cont.*

and how he came to be the "white tiger". It has been likened to Richard Wright's "Native Son" and made into a just released movie.

Marianne Robinson loves history and loves books by Doris Kearns Goodwin. The newest book by this prize winning author is **Leadership in Turbulent Times** which focuses on Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. What shaped them as leaders?

Anna Lafferty has enjoyed 3 very different books over the past months.

**The Weight of Ink** by Rachel Kadish - One of the best books ever! Two amazing stories weave together in London during the 1660s epidemic and modern day (pre covid) world of academic competitors.

**The Guardians** by John Grisham - Grisham just keeps getting better! A group of lawyers, law enforcement, and non-profit folks committed to helping those in jail who are innocent.

**"Circe"** by Madeline Miller - I got lost in the action-filled world of Greek gods, demigods, nymphs, and mortals. Makes the Greek myths come alive.

Jean Lemberger reread two favorites:

**The People of the Book** by Geraldine Brooks  
This is an imagined story based on the real Sarajevo Haggadah, a rare illuminated Jewish

manuscript. The mysteries of an insect wing, a wine stain, a white hair, a salt crystal; all discovered in the ancient book are clues to the history and mystery of the provenance of this text. Vivid storytelling!

### **"Devotions: Selected Poems of Mary Oliver"**

This is one to keep on your nightstand and return to over and over. It is a compilation of her best work from over 5 decades. Treasured observations of the natural world and the bonds between all living things. Uplifting and soothing from another Pulitzer Prize winner.

Kim Shingle recommends this book club read **Americanah** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
A young Nigerian immigrant to America searches for identity and the meaning of home. The universal questions of race and belonging are woven into this well written novel.

Barbara Hershberg read these diverse titles, including one based in our hometown.

**Paris in the Present Tense** by Mark Helprin -  
Mystery, passion, moral dilemma, aging and gorgeous writing.

**Members Only** by Sameer Pandya - Set in Santa Barbara over a period of one week, we follow the life of an Indian American university lecturer after he makes an inappropriate racist comment in an interview at a private tennis club.



# YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Yes, we are in the middle of a pandemic, and the new normal is to stay away from people as much as possible. But, our Library is still working for you in so many ways:



- **Sidewalk Service** – order books on-line and pick up at the curb
- **Book Browsing** – tables set up outside the library with books
- **Podcasts** – featuring local business owners, nonprofit leaders, and other community members for conversations focused on Santa Barbara
- **Spanish Conversation Group**
- **Phone Help** – submitting job applications and resumes
- **Virtual Tutor Training** – for Adult Literacy
- **BookMatch Service** – preparing book bundles for children and teens
- **Virtual Summer Reading Program** – 518 children participated, completing 900 reading challenges and logging almost 3000 books
- **Hoopla** – digital resources for library patrons
- **Teen Dungeons and Dragons** – teaches storytelling and narrative skills, problem solving and developing social emotional skills



*Find even more resources by going to the Library's website.*



*Please make a year-end gift to the Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library to support children's programming and book and digital purchases. By working together, we can continue to have a great Library in Santa Barbara.*

**HELP KEEP CONTRIBUTING & SUPPORTING PROGRAMS  
& MATERIALS FOR THE SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Donate by going online to: [www.friends-sblibrary.org](http://www.friends-sblibrary.org)

