

## Valerie Lewis to Speak at Annual Meeting, May 20

by *Mary Ann Cook*

Valerie Lewis, owner of Hicklebee's Bookstore, is a nationally known consultant on children's literature and a much sought-after speaker. She will speak at the Los Gatos Library on May 20 at 7 p.m., hosted by Friends of Los Gatos Library at their annual meeting.

The kid-lit authority is the author of *Valerie and Walter's Best Books for Children: A Lively and Opinionated Guide*; and a booklet called *Make Reading Fun*. In Los Gatos, she will also talk about adult books.

When Hillary Clinton was First Lady, Lewis served on the invited panel on literacy that was convened at the White House. For 17 years she reviewed children's books on *The Early Show* on CBS.

Lewis writes a regular column for *Instructor Magazine* and also wrote a monthly column for *Creative Classroom Magazine* called "Bookmarks." In addition, she writes book reviews for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and has contributed numerous articles, reviews and introductions to others' books.



She was a fixture at NPR's "Loose Leaf Book Company," hosted by Tom Bodett, and she's been the featured guest on "All Things Considered" on NPR and "The Jim Lehrer Report" on PBS.

A legendary speaker, she offered the keynote address at the National American Bookseller's Association conference for many years. She founded Hicklebee's in Willow Glen 35 years ago, a most impressive length of time for a genre so in jeopardy these days.

She recently moved to Santa Cruz where she is enjoying, on rare days off, a relaxed environment, gardening and the sea breezes. 🌿

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### Join Us!

**May 20, 7 p.m.,**

**Los Gatos Library**

**100 Villa Ave., Los Gatos**

*Refreshments available for purchase at Café Gatito in the lobby.*

### Slate of Officers for 2014-2015

**President**

Marlene Rodman

**Vice President**

Toni Blackstock

**Recording Secretary**

Christine Terpening

**Corresponding Secretary**

Betty Chase

**Treasurer**

Tom Atkinson

**Programs**

TBA

**Membership**

Georgina Van Horn

Jill Logar

**Fundraiser**

Sandy Decker

**Grants/Appeals**

Rita Baum

**Newsletter**

TBA

**Publicity**

Cheryl McKenzie

**Parliamentarian**

Dale Hill

**Book Store Liaison**

Sue Saunders

**President Emeritus**

Carol Hamilton

**Directors-At-Large**

Doris Epstein

Jean Francisco

Mary Martin

Virginia O'reilly

Alyce Parsons

*Friend of the Library members will vote on this slate at the annual meeting on May 20.*



## From Our President

by *Marlene Rodman*

DONATE! DONATE!  
DONATE!

Everywhere we go, everyone we meet seems to have a cause for us to contribute to or join.

Thus, we all need to make choices when it comes to the tremendous number of requests for donations and volunteer time.

My choice is the Los Gatos Public Library. It is here that everyone is equal and can obtain as much knowledge and education as they desire for FREE. If I can contribute to one child's successful learning experience, that is one child I will not have to feed. As

Socrates stated, "There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance," and what better place to find a wealth of knowledge than at the library.

How many times I have heard people say, "Who needs the library when we have the Internet?" Well, the library is definitely a home to the Internet, however, they are not one and the same. A book may contain the same information as the Internet, but be completely different in effect and interpretation.

Which brings me to the difference between the "The Friends of the Library" as an organization and "The Campaign" which raised \$2,100,000 to furnish the new library. Those people who so generously contributed to "The Campaign" have been recognized in various ways, including the bookshelf markers in the stacks, the leaves on the wall of our rear garden and plaques honoring those who funded large items such as the grand staircase and benches. These people are definitely our friends, but may not have become members of "The Friends" which is the organization that provides ongoing programs to enhance the public's learning experience. Whichever way you have chosen to support our library, please know it is appreciated, and in the end we are all Friends. 🍀

## Ex Libris: Bookstore News

by *Valerie Archer*

Thanks to all of our intrepid, inspired and word-worthy warriors, 40-strong, who braved the Friends' marathon reading of the epic poem "Beowulf." This loquacious lot navigated the pages battling ingenious alliterations, hyphenations and names such as Hrothgar, Hygelac, Wealhtheow, Ecgtheow and, of course, Beowulf! Pronunciations vary, as you can see and hear on the exciting, tightly-edited video

version available for viewing on the Friends' web site: [www.friendsoflibrary.org](http://www.friendsoflibrary.org). Watch our heroic, great-hearted cast including Mayor Steve Leonardis, Los Gatos Poet Laureate Erica Goss, Cupertino Poet Laureate Jennifer Brown, library directors Henry Bankhead and Heidi Murphy, teachers, students, actors, Friends' members and other well-read, word-lovers weave this wondrous tale. We hope this will be a recurring, annual event and that you are inspired to join us next year for ... "The Iliad," "The Odyssey"—or both!

**Travel books** will be featured and **on sale** in the Friends' Book Store during the month of May, as summer approaches and our thoughts turn to adventures, relaxation and fun. Browse through memoirs, travel logs and photo books for



*Los Gatos Mayor Steve Leonardis, appropriately costumed, takes a turn reading "Beowulf."*

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PHOTOS BY VALERIE ARCHER



*Bookstore patrons celebrate National Poetry Month with a marathon reading of the epic poem "Beowulf," April 10-11.*

*Ex Libris, continued from page 2*

wonderful ideas, and also pick up an affordable armful of easy beach reads, or one of the more challenging tomes you've always meant to tackle.

All proceeds from book sales directly benefit the Library. **Gift certificates** are also available, and check out our new "**Friends Book Store**" **T-shirts!** Look cool, and let others know where to go for the best bargain books in town.

Sunday, June 8, 4-7 p.m., The Friends will host a "Picnic in Pageant Park" for our wonderful volunteer staff. Feel free to drop by if you'd like to meet some of the dedicated, brilliant people who sort, price and

shelve donations and make our efforts to raise money for the library through book sales a success. You can also send an email to [booksales@friendsofglibrary.org](mailto:booksales@friendsofglibrary.org) with your contact info, and we'll get right back to you.

Support your local library and drop off all the gently used books you can bear to part with during spring cleaning! We depend upon and greatly appreciate your donations.



## Attention Summer Readers

by Catherine Gildea

As we get closer to summer here at the library, we are gearing up for Summer Reading Program Fun! This year our theme is "Fizz, Boom, Read" so we will be conjuring up exciting programs and activities throughout June, July and August. We will be featuring books about science, fantasy, nature, and creativity. Summer Reading is a wonderful way for your child to grow as a reader during the summer break and a great opportunity for parents and caregivers to play an active role in their child's literacy. Books can be read and listened to, which makes this a super family activity where everyone wins. The Children's Program is designed for ages 0-9. Prizes are awarded at the end of the summer for those who reach their reading goal, and raffle prizes can be won at all weekly Summer Reading events. Our programs this year are bubbling with excitement and have something for everyone!

Our Tween and Teen Summer Reading theme this year is "Spark a Reaction." We will be showcasing young-adult literature about chemistry, biology and other red hot topics to ignite summer-reading fun! Teens and tweens can win prizes throughout

the summer by tracking their reading and updating the online reading log. This is a great chance for those with lots of required reading to win prizes for reading the assigned titles before school starts. The Tween program is for kids ages 10-13 and the Teen program is for ages 14-19. Please visit our website for up-to-date Summer Reading Program and event information.

We are also pleased to announce a *new* Youth Only E-Book platform. Our new Kids and Teens E-Book portal has tons of popular reading titles, series, and even high-school required reading. Come check out our new site and read an e-book:

<http://losgatos.lib.overdrive.com/3D94CEEF-3C14-4A6D-88B4-BB68F7DF162F/10/45/en/Default.htm> 

## Friends of Los Gatos Library Book Store

Civic Center Plaza (diagonally across from the library)

110 E. Main Street

(408) 438-0699

[www.friendsofglibrary.org](http://www.friendsofglibrary.org)

### HOURS:

**Tuesday: 1-7 p.m.**

**Thursday: 2-6 p.m.**

**Friday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**

**Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Sunday: noon-5 p.m.**

## Summer Reading Events

**Daniel DaVinci**

**Thursday, May 29, 4 p.m.**

Daniel DaVinci's Comedy Circus show is full of original juggling, magic, stunts, audience participation, and an endless stream of hilarious comedy patter. All ages.

**Your Song, My Song**

**Friday, June 6, 10:30 a.m.**

This musical duo sings classic kids songs, Beatles tunes, creative originals, family favorites, sing-a-longs, finger plays, chants, lullabies and rock 'n' roll! Ages 0-5.

**Insect Lab**

**Thursday, June 12, 2 p.m.**

Explore the fantastic lives of beetles, millipedes, tarantulas, walking sticks, whip scorpions and more with the Insect Lab! Each presentation includes hands-on experience with live animals and observation time with live and preserved materials for everyone. Ages 7+.

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# Cusick Family Establishes Endowment Fund to Honor Kathy Cusick

by Rita Baum

A very special event took place at the April meeting of the Friends of the Library board of directors—presentation of an \$8,000 gift honoring Kathy Cusick, a founder of the current Friends organization. Kathy's eight children wanted to honor not just her involvement with the Friends, but to acknowledge her long history with libraries of all sorts.

Recently, Kathy took time from her busy volunteer schedule at The Terraces library to chat about her interest and work in libraries. She explained that in 1990 she began volunteering at Los Gatos Library—shelving books, putting bar codes on the collection that was being computerized, and later entering catalog information on the computer.

In 1993 Kathy was among the small group of founders of Friends of Los Gatos Library, serving on the Friends board as volunteer coordinator until she became vice-president in 1995 and president the following year. Her later board positions included responsibility for the Friends database and the Friends newsletter.

Kathy's interest in libraries started when she volunteered at her children's school library at St. Mary's School in Los Gatos. She enjoyed it so much that she decided to earn a degree in library science. Later, Kathy became a librarian in Evergreen School District and retired after 17 years in that position.

Wishing to honor their mother, Kathy's eight children decided to donate \$8,000 to form the Kathy Cusick Endowment Fund for Early Learning that the Friends of Los Gatos Library will use to fund a special interest of Kathy's: enhancement of early reading and learning experiences for our library's youngest patrons.

According to Heidi Murphy, library co-director, "the early-reader collection is one of the most used collections in the library—a tremendously important tool for parents to use with their children in helping them develop essential early literacy skills, which create lifelong readers and learners." She reports that there are many educational theories and learning techniques, and it is important to continually update and enhance the early-learning collection to provide books that represent the wide variety of theories and styles.

Many thanks to Kathy Cusick for her devotion to libraries and to the Cusick family for the *Kathy Cusick Endowment Fund for Early Learning* which will benefit generations of youngsters in the years to come. 🌿

PHOTO BY MARY BRENCE MARTIN



*Kathy Cusick, whose eight children have established an endowment in her name, is a longtime library volunteer.*

*Summer Reading Events, continued from page 2*

**Alphabet Rockers**  
**Thursday, June 19, 10:30 a.m.**  
 Babies, toddlers, parents and caregivers—get ready to dig into some fantastic, foot-tapping music with this energetic band! Ages 0-5.

**Prairie Rose Band**  
**Wednesday, July 9, 10:30 a.m.**  
 Folk, camp and cowboy songs with a children's twist! Get ready for a rip-roaring good time! Ages 0-5.

**Drummm!**  
**Thursday, July 17, 4 p.m.**  
 Join in the beat with special performer Drummm! Get ready to play along! All ages.

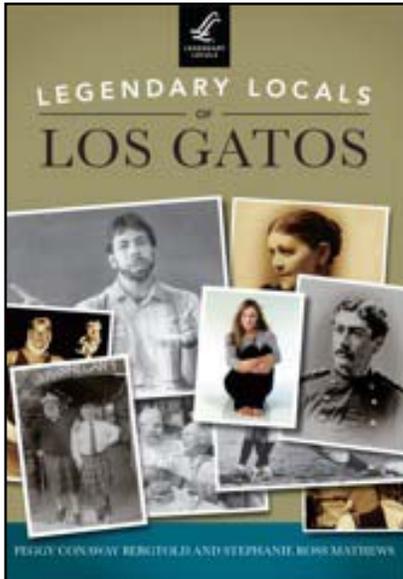
**Magician Mike Della Pena**  
**Thursday, July 24, 4 p.m.**  
 Come be amazed by magic and extraordinary illusions! Ages 5+.

**Coventry and Kaluza**  
**Thursday, July 31, 4 p.m.**  
 Summer Reading Finale with award-winning circus artists, juggling, hula hooping, acrobatics, music, comedy and more! All ages. 🌿

## Legendary Locals of Los Gatos—Book Launch on May 31

by Mary Ann Cook & Peggy Conaway Bergtold

The long-awaited, zealously researched book about Los Gatos characters—some villainous, but mostly honorable—will be out May



31. Titled *Legendary Locals of Los Gatos*, the book will be launched at a reception sponsored by the Friends of Los Gatos Library in the Grand Reading Room of the library from 2-4 p.m.

*Legendary Locals of Los Gatos* is the work of Peggy Conaway Bergtold, retired library director, and Stephanie Ross Mathews, formerly on the board of the Art and History Museums of Los Gatos. Both authors

are local historians who have written previous books for Arcadia Publishing, publisher of the new book.

The authors were aided by four members of the library's History Project, the team that is digitizing Los Gatos' past to protect it for the future. Those four are long-time Los Gatans Betty Balch Chase, Kathy Cusick, Lyn Dougherty and Donn Waters. Librarian Melissa Maglio also assisted the team. Together the group chose 180 personalities to honor with the book, giving brief bios and photos of each.

Historical figures selected outnumber the living, and because women's lives were often constricted in the 19th and early 20th centuries, men dominate women two to one. Most of those chosen led lives that benefited the community, and some were simply hard-working citizens. Some overcame terrible adversity, while a few were desperadoes.

Examples of Los Gatos legends are evident on the book's cover. We see Steve Wozniak; Mountain Charley's wife, Barbara Berrick Kelly McKiernan; and Charles Erskine Scott Wood, who built the Cats estate. Also pictured are Olympians Chris von Saltza and Peggy Fleming, plus restaurateurs Chris Benson and John Hannegan

and Bruce and Diane Ogilvie. The back cover features Louis O. Sporleder Sr., businessman and volunteer firefighter, and Neta Snook Southern, the aviatrix who taught Amelia Earhart to fly.

Many Los Gatos families have lived in town for generations. There wasn't room to picture all of those generations, so the authors picked the "first resident" or oldest ancestor (of whom they had a photograph) to write about. Examples would be the Farwell, Sporleder and Balch families.

It was a daunting task of winnowing, writing and weaving that was set in motion by this history team two years ago, after receiving an invitation to write a book for Arcadia Publishing's new imprint, "Legendary Locals." Legends and their families will be invited to attend, as well as the public. The book will be sold by the Friends of the Library, the Museums of Los Gatos, and various retail outlets around town. They can also be ordered through any of the major online booksellers.

All royalties from the new book will be donated to the library's History Trust Fund for the purchase of additions to the local history collection at the library. 🌿



*This is an image of the people on the library's history team who are responsible for *Legendary Locals of Los Gatos*. If this photo looks strangely familiar, it's because it was originally a photo of the Lyndon family taken circa 1910 on the front steps of James Lyndon's house at No. 1 Broadway. With the help of Photoshop, the Lyndon family's heads were removed and those of the history team pasted in.*

## Technology Takes Storytime to a New Level

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by Jennifer Laredo, *teen librarian*

Did you ever visit the Children's Room for a storytime program in our old library? Our programs were intimate affairs, with regular families who knew all of our songs and fingerplays by heart. On a busy day, we would host about 20 families. We'd carry all the furniture outside the doors and spread out our carpet squares, and no matter how full the room was, everyone could see the books because the space was so cozy. It was awesome, even when we tripped over each other getting the toys out for Stay and Play.

In the new library, we have a spectacular storytime space, and we regularly have a full house. Our storytime librarians use a wireless microphone to assure that everyone can hear well. We use our overhead projector to share the words to songs and fingerplays so first-time visitors can join right in. To better serve larger groups, we use books in a super-size format or books that are scanned and projected on our movie screen. We've begun to use ebooks and iPad apps, both to share favorite stories like "Pete the Cat" and "Blue Hat, Green Hat," and also to show families how

to enjoy technology with their children while fostering early literacy. Our goodbye song, "Clap Your Hands," is played through speakers in the ceiling, so we can all join in the dance party. It is awesome, though we still sometimes trip over each other at playtime since it's not uncommon for us to have more than 50 families at a program.

The core purpose of storytime is exactly the same as it has ever been—to share the joy of the library with families and to foster a love of books and reading. Technology allows us to deliver this service to a larger percentage of the community each week. My own favorite part of storytime hasn't changed a bit ... watching the kids go from Bouncing Babies to Wonderful Ones, graduating up to Terrific Twos and our Preschool Storytime. Soon they are at the reference desk asking for chapter books, and you know that the library played a part in raising another reader. 🌿

## Young Writers Workshops: A Success Story

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by Rita Baum

The 14th annual Young Writers Workshop sponsored by Friends of the Library was held March 8, and, as in the past, the event was completely sold out. It all started in the year 2000 when Friends of the Library was seeking a new program to launch the library's Centennial Year. Since the children's library has always been very popular,

the Friends board wanted to sponsor a program that would appeal to the library's young, eager patrons. The Friends board has always included one or more published writers, so the group possessed the necessary components to sponsor the program. For the early years of the workshops, board member and author, Martha Alderson

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## The Gift of Membership

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by Georgina Van Horn, *membership chairperson*

As graduations and other special events draw near, consider the gift of membership to Friends of the Library. Not only do Friends members receive the newsletter with information about timely speakers and programs, writers workshops, year-round children's programs, special book sales, and much more, they have the satisfaction of knowing that their dues help fund many of the wonderful programs offered by the library.

Membership starts at \$15. Applications can be found at the library in the area of the coffee booth and in the Friends Book Store. Or you can just click the "Membership" tab on the Friends website and sign up online:

<http://friendsoflibrary.org/membership/sign-uppayment-form/> 🌿

*Young Writers Workshops, continued from page 6*

(author of *The Plot Whisperer: Secrets of Story Structure* and *Blockbuster Plots, Pure and Simple*) was the leader. More recently, local author C. Lee McKenzie (author of *Sliding on the Edge* and *The Princess of Las Pulgas*) has been at the helm.

Many young would-be authors come to the workshop because they have creative imaginations or they love books and stories. They leave the workshop, clutching their writing journals, confident in knowing how to develop plot and characters to build their own stories. Even those who were reluctant participants complain the workshop is too short when it's time to quit. One Friends volunteer

says, "It's exciting to watch the magic happen—the discovery of their gifts."

C. Lee McKenzie reports that teaching writing to young people is an exhilarating experience. "You don't have to pull it out of them—their imaginations are free, and there are no critics in their heads telling them, 'don't say that.'"

Friends of the Library is committed to opening the world of writing to the youth of our community each year. Look for the next workshop in the spring of 2015, and register early since the workshops fill up quickly. 🍀



PHOTOS BY RITA BAUM

*Instructor C. Lee McKenzie gives writing tips to a young author.*

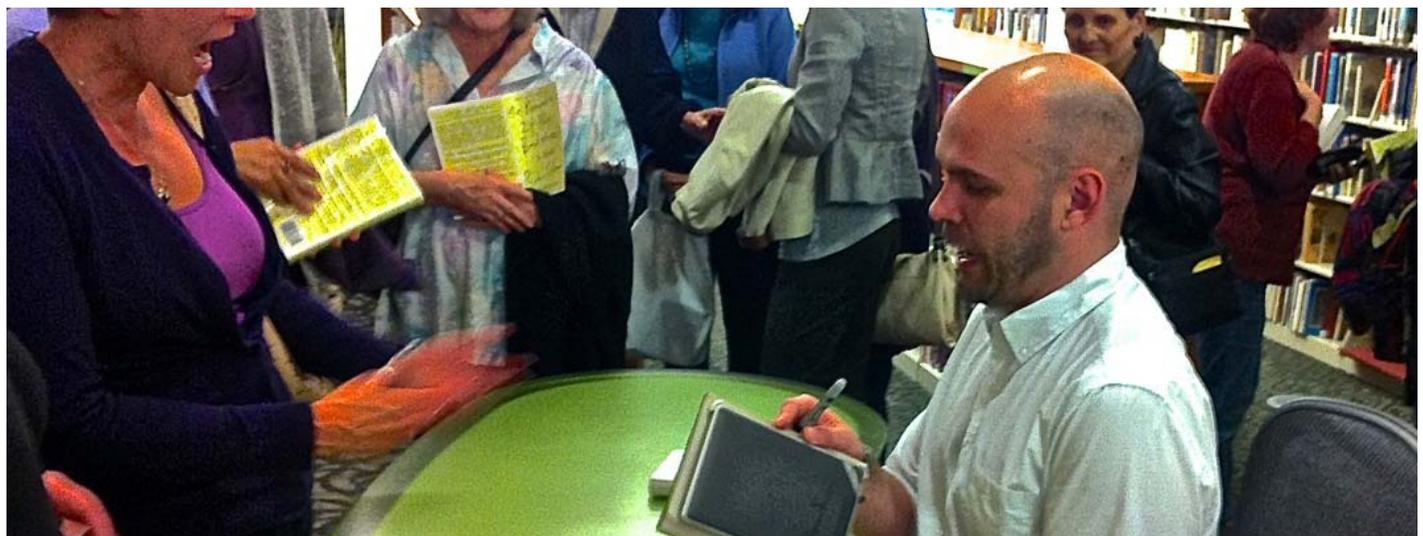


*Workshop attendees ponder their plots.*



*Young writers make themselves comfortable as they create their stories.*

PHOTOS BY VALERIE ARCHER



*Robin Sloan, author of Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore, signs his book before speaking at Los Gatos Library on March 21 at a Silicon Valley Reads event.*



100 Villa Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Editor: Mary Brence Martin  
Designer: Amy Krakar

**Save the Dates!**  
**May 20, 7 p.m.**  
Annual meeting with guest speaker  
**May 20, 2-4 p.m.**  
Launch of new Los Gatos history book

Non-profit organization  
Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

I would like to volunteer for:

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tax-deductible annual dues are as follows:    Senior/Student \$15    Individual \$30    Couple/Family \$40

I would like to become a member. Enclosed is my membership application and a check made payable to Friends of Los Gatos Library.

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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To renew your membership or to become a Friends of Los Gatos Library, please complete the membership application below and mail to: Friends of Los Gatos Library, 100 Villa Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95030.

# Become a Friend of Los Gatos Library

*Off The Shelf* is published by Friends of Los Gatos Library, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established to encourage use of the library for the pursuit of knowledge, information and pleasure; to increase public awareness of library resources; to raise funds for library enhancements; and to provide volunteer help to the library and its patrons. Friends yearly memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.