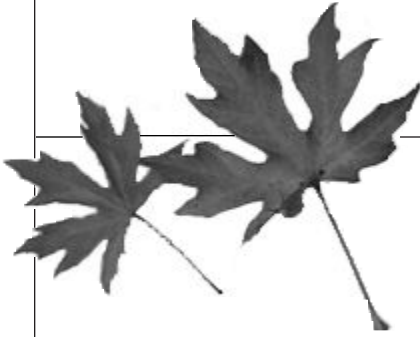


# Friends of the Larkspur Library

October 2005



## FALL HIGHLIGHTS

**T**he last author event for the Friends' program "Reading Under the Redwoods" is in October with author Tamim Ansary who will talk about his experiences growing up in Afghanistan. Read the author profile inside this newsletter.

In November the Larkspur Library Mystery Tea will be happening at the Lark Creek Inn. Sip tea, eat scones and cake, and listen to local mystery author Domenic Stansberry speak on the "mystery noir."

The Friends' will be having another Book Sale in November or early December. Come and find a treasure to read on a cold winter day.

*Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.*

Lady Bird Johnson

## SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THE LIBRARY

by Philip Terry

**O**ccasionally Library patrons ask us to explain the distinction between the various groups that support the Larkspur Library.

The Larkspur Library was founded in 1913 by a committee of seven members of the Larkspur Woman's Club under the leadership of Belle C. Brown. It was located in a small room in City Hall and staffed by volunteers. Before that it was a group of women who simply traded books among themselves. That same group at some point became the first Friends of the Larkspur Library. One of the members,

Helen Wilson, became the first City Librarian of the Larkspur Library.

### **Larkspur City Council and the Larkspur Library Board of Trustees**

Ten years later, the Larkspur City Council passed a city ordinance (Chapter 2.08 of the Larkspur Municipal Code) establishing the Larkspur Public Library. In accordance with state laws, the Larkspur Library Board of Trustees was established at the same time to manage the library. Today, the Library Board, under President Helen Brenlin, manages the

library and sets policy on matters pertaining to the library building, materials, and equipment and on the selection of library books and materials. Together with the Library Director, the Board recommends the Library's annual operating budget, which is sent to the City Council for approval and funding by the City with taxpayers' dollars.

Ultimately the City Council has the final say on decisions that affect the Larkspur Public Library. The current City Council liaison to the Library Board is Larry Chu.

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## AUTHOR PROFILE

# Tamim Ansary

Author of *West of Kabul, East of New York*



**T**amim Ansary talks about growing up in Afghanistan and a life that has straddled the fault line between Islam and the West. His ancestral line was rich in Sufi mystics, his father was one of the first Afghans sent abroad by his government for a Western-style education, and his mother was the first American woman to live in Afghanistan as an Afghan. Mr. Ansary's book has become required reading for many college freshmen not only as a means for understanding a culture but also as a journey toward understanding oneself. His commentary has been heard on the Bill Moyers Show, the News Hour with Jim Lehrer, the Oprah Winfrey Show, Hardball, and numerous NPR stations.

So far as is known by this writer no decisions by the Library Board have ever been appealed or overturned. Both the Board and the City Council have a deep commitment to the Larkspur Library.

### **The Larkspur Library Endowment Fund and Foundation**

The Foundation was created in 1978 at the urging of Charles Curley. It represented a possible alternative means of funding the Library if needed. Today's president is Larry Lanctot.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization that has helped to support the Larkspur Library financially. They raise funds in a number of ways and have assets in the amount of \$250,000, \$100,000 of which is a restricted Endowment Fund. It is a balancing act of trying to meet the current needs of the Library while also saving enough money for its future needs. The Foundation

funds were tapped in 1982 to finance part of the remodeling of the Library and to provide its unique ambience, which the library patrons have described as "a warm home-away-from-home" feeling.

### **The Friends of the Larkspur Library**

The Friends was formed to assist in the day-to-day funding needs of the library. The Friends were initially connected to the Foundation as an auxiliary group and later established as an independent group. Besides funding for things not in the library budget, the Friends are the face of

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of the library in the community. This year the Friends found new leadership under Stephanie Serleth, the current Friends' president.

### **Library Director and Library Staff**

The discussion would not be complete without mentioning the Library Director and the library staff, the most important part of the whole Library experience. As far as our records go, Frances Gordon-Archer is our fifth head librarian in 92 years. She has been

very successful in promoting the services of the library. Both Frances and the library staff have received high praise in recent surveys.

### **Larkspur Library Steering Committee**

Recently, the Library Board organized a new volunteer group, the Larkspur Library Steering Committee, with Peter Martin as Chair. This group was formed to create and recommend a plan for a new library/cultural facility for Larkspur that will preserve the

unique character of the current library. The committee will also recommend the best site for such a facility, assist in the effort to obtain funding for it, and keep the community informed of all its efforts as it accomplishes these tasks.

So there you have the list and a little history of the groups that support your Library. The Steering Committee and the Friends are looking for more volunteers. If either group would interest you, please call and join now!

## *Fast Facts*

As of June 2005 the Larkspur Library collection has about 51,000 books, magazines, and audio tapes.

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

By Frances Gordon-Archer

### **Greetings from the Library Director**

I'm delighted to be speaking to you in the pages of the newly designed and expanded Friends of the Larkspur Library Newsletter. The goal of the Friends is to keep library patrons and members informed about what's happening at the Library... and there is certainly a lot going on. Be sure to get your name on our mailing list. Some of the highlights of this past year were:

#### **The author speaker series "Between the Lines"**

Dedicated volunteers and the Friends created our first-ever



literary speaker series – a fantastic lineup of authors and poets that began in September 2004 and ran through May 2005. Proceeds went to improving our Children's Library.

### **Reading Under the Redwoods**

This summer the Lark Creek Inn and the Friends cosponsored a series of author events. What a perfect way to spend an evening under the stars listening to writers read and talk about their craft!

### **Cartridges for Kids – a new fundraising recycling program**

You can recycle your empty inkjet and laser-printer cartridges; used cell phones and components; as well as laptops and PDAs at the Library.

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## Fast Facts

Visits to U.S. public libraries are about 1.2 billion per year. Reference librarians answer more than 7 million questions per week.

### New Library Services through MARINet

#### *Interlibrary loan services*

Through this service, books and other hard-to-find titles that are not owned by Marin libraries may be borrowed from other libraries outside of the Bay Area.

#### *Paying for your library fees online*

Patrons can use their Visa or Mastercard to pay their fees online from home.

#### *My Reading History*

This new service will allow you to keep a historical list of the titles you have borrowed from the MARINet libraries.

#### *New online databases*

This service provides access to magazine and newspaper articles.

#### *eBooks*

This collection of bestseller text ebooks and audio ebooks are downloadable to your PC or MP3 player.

### New Story Time Program and Special Kids Events

In addition to our weekly Thursday preschool Story Time, we added a Friday Story Time (3:15 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.) during the school year, which will continue in the fall. This past year we had two children's puppet shows also.

On behalf of all of us at the Larkspur Library, we thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Library.

## FRIENDS CORNER

*Dear Friends and potential Friends,*

*Under the expert guidance of Frances Gordon-Archer, Library Director, the Friends of the Larkspur Library has grown into a dedicated group of volunteers. I am honored to be named president of this group. We are hoping to increase our membership with active members and for those of you who are unable to actively volunteer, through donations.*



*Please fill out the form included in this newsletter and mail it in to become a member. As a new member, you will receive a Larkspur Library book bag in either black or royal blue—your choice! You may pick up your bag at the library.*

*Our group will be focusing on these three things to start, and expanding as we get more volunteers:*

*Speaker Events, Book Sales, and quarterly Newsletter*

*Our active volunteer group is small right now. If you would like to join us in our endeavors, we would be happy to have you! Please indicate this on the form and we will be contacting you.*

*Thank you,*

*Stephanie Serleth*



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

by Ira Bagshaw

When you visit the Larkspur Children's Library, you will certainly meet Lynne Cammidge, the Children's Librarian.



Lynne was born in Stirling, Scotland, and grew up in northern England near Manchester. She now lives in Greenbrae with her husband, John (who wears the Lark costume in the Fourth of July parade and at special events), and her dog Dougal. Lynne's first profession was teaching college-prep science and geography courses. After her children were born, she took the job of school librarian. Her children later encouraged her to be a children's librarian because she loved books and children and was a kid at heart.

In 1991 Lynne joined the Larkspur Library staff and became the Children's Librarian in 1995. Due to budget cuts in the '80s, few new

children's books had been purchased. Building up the collection of books became Lynne's priority. She visited the local schools to find out what the children were reading. Then she secured a grant from the Strauss Foundation and set to work acquiring the wonderful collection we enjoy today.



Lynne has organized many events to attract children to the library and to the pleasures of reading. The Children's Summer Reading program swelled to 426 children this summer. Lynne's weekly Story Time regularly attracts more than 20 children. What Lynne enjoys most about her job is the children and their joy, honesty, and enthusiasm. Be sure to share with Lynne the titles of your children's favorite books and programs so that she can include them in her planning for the library.

If you would like to help Lynne and the Children's Library, you can:

*Support the Friends' Book Sales by donating gently used books or by purchasing books at the sales.*

*Attend the fundraising events hosted by the Friends.*

*Make a special donation for the purchase of a book.*

*Volunteer to help with the events or at the Library.*

*Colleges are not going to do any good unless you are raised and live in a library every day of your life.*

Ray Bradbury

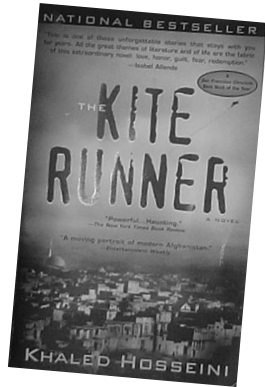
### Children's Library Events for the Fall

Thursday Story Time at 9 A.M. for 2 - 5 year olds

Friday Story Time at 3:30 P.M. for Kindergarteners through third graders

A Christmas puppet show on Saturday, December 3rd, 11 A.M.

## LIBRARY STAFF FAVORITES



*B*elieve it or not, holiday gift giving is just around the corner! We realized that the best people to recommend a book for your own or someone else's pleasure are our own library staff. Here then are their favorite books:

FRANCIS *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

JAMES *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving

LINDA *A Thread of Grace* by Mary Russell

ROB *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

MARGIE *Resistance* by Anita Shreve

PAT *Time Travelers' Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

THERESA *The Jolly Christmas Postman* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

LYDIA *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon

MARYANN *Bagdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq* by Riverbend

ELLEN *Assassination Vacation* by Sarah Vowell and *The Whale Song* (a children's picture book) by Dyan Sheldon

You may find these or other books at our fall book sale. See you there.

## BOOK SALE DONATIONS

We are now soliciting donations for our fall book sale. Your donations are appreciated!



We accept books in excellent condition of the following types:

Fiction

Art books

Cook books

Children's books and videotapes or DVDs

Note: All books must be clean and in good condition with no writing, highlighting or underlining.

We cannot accept:

Magazines

Condensed books

Textbooks

It would be greatly appreciated if donors would call in advance before dropping off book donations. Please contact Judi Provance at 927-2876 or Ann White at 924-1221.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of the Larkspur Library is a group of volunteers dedicated to supporting our wonderful library and furthering its vital role in our community.

*We promote the library and support its outreach efforts through activities including:*

*Special events, such as author events, poetry readings, and mystery teas*

*Newsletter publishing, featuring informative content from the library staff, book reviews, event notification, and "staff picks"*

*Book sales, held quarterly to*

*raise discretionary funds for the library*

*Special library projects - assisting library staff with periodic projects that keep the library running smoothly*

*Supporting special children's programs and events, such as the kick-off of the summer reading program*

The Friends organization started anew in June 2005. We hope to quickly build our membership into an active organization that reflects our community's love of our small-town library, and is able to plan and execute events and fundraisers. If you love our library, please

join us! The Friends need your energy, ideas, involvement and financial support. Whether you're a busy mom with little time to spare or an avid reader who knows all the library staff by their first names, we welcome you!

### Ready to Join?

Join the Friends and receive a Friends of the Larkspur Library book bag as well as a subscription to our newsletter. To join, complete the attached Membership Response card and return it to a Friends volunteer or the Larkspur Library along with your check made payable to "Friends of the Larkspur Library."

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## Friends of the Larkspur Library

### Membership Response Card

Yes! Sign me up as an Active Volunteer. Please check member category:

Family: \$25     Individual: \$20     Senior (65+): \$10

I'd like to join the Friends as a Financial Contributor only (minimum \$25).

Sign me up for the Events Mailing List only.

I would like a blue  black  Friends book bag.

Please enclose your check made payable to "Friends of the Larkspur Library" with this form and mail to:

Friends of the Larkspur Library, c/o Larkspur Public Library, 400 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA, 94939.

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We do not share our mailing list.

## Friends of the Larkspur Library

A quarterly newsletter

Stephanie Serleth, President

Marianne Rafter, editor

Peter Martin, designer

Contact the Friends at

[larkspurlibraryfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:larkspurlibraryfriends@yahoo.com)

You can reach the Larkspur Library online

through the City of Larkspur website at

[www.ci.larkspur.ca.us](http://www.ci.larkspur.ca.us) or through MARINet

[www.marinet.info](http://www.marinet.info)

### Library Hours

Monday 10 A. M. - 9 P.M.

Tuesday 10 A. M. - 9 P.M.

Wednesday 10 A. M. - 7 P.M.

Thursday 10 A. M. - 7 P.M.

Friday 10 A. M. - 5 P.M.

Saturday 10 A. M. - 5 P.M.

Sunday, closed

## Friends of the Larkspur Library

c/o Larkspur Library

400 Magnolia Avenue

Larkspur, CA 94939

## EVENTS

*Mark your calendar for these important upcoming events.*

### **OCTOBER**

*Reading Under the Redwoods*

Author Tamim Ansary will discuss his life growing up in Afghanistan and later in the United States.

### **NOVEMBER**

*Larkspur Library Mystery Tea*

Join us for a fascinating afternoon at the Lark Creek Inn with mystery writer Domenic Stansberry.

### **DECEMBER**

*Friends of the Larkspur Library Book Sale*

Place  
stamp  
here