



Friends of the Sausalito Public Library

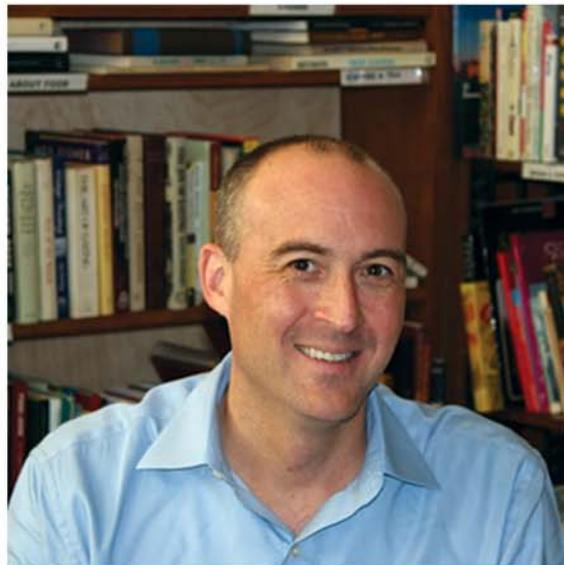
Winter 2011-12

Abbot Chambers: A City Librarian for the Digital Age

James Delano

Our new City Librarian, Abbot Chambers, assumed his position on October 17. He came to us from the Belvedere-Tiburon Library after nine years there, the last four years as Assistant Director. The large and passionate farewell party for him at the end of September was testament to the affection that library community had for him.

His first public library connection was in his home of Ann Arbor, Michigan and he said he has always felt “at home” in libraries since then. His father, a professor at the University of Michigan Law School, and his mother, a potter and gallery owner, provided a home rich in intellectual and artistic ideas. After completing high school in Ann Arbor, he journeyed east to Wesleyan University in Connecticut, but returned after two years and completed his undergraduate degree in American Culture at the University of Michigan. While in college he was employed by the Ann Arbor Public Library as a Reference Clerk, and decided to pursue graduate training, receiving a Master of Information and Library Studies degree from the University of Michigan in 1994.



Have you met the new City Librarian yet?

A graduate school project to compile a catalog of Internet resources led to his move west, away from a library position to a job with the Global Network Navigator (GNN), an early Web magazine. He was in this field early on, and reveled in “identifying resources that exemplified what was possible in this new world.” The geography of that world shifted rapidly in those days, and he moved from GNN to America Online to Excite, Inc., a pioneer in the rapidly expanding Web. His early positions as editor were followed by product development and management duties. His success led to a Senior Director position for Excite Europe Limited in London, UK. Excite, however, faltered and he returned to the United States in early September 2001.

A visit to his mother in Vermont in the fall of 2001 inspired thoughts of return to California, and an astute search committee at the Belvedere-Tiburon Library saw that a very well trained librarian with in-depth Internet experience would be an asset for their library.

Abbot is tall and trim, his physique the product of his “out of library” interests of hiking and open water swimming. He can tell a harrowing tale of swimming across the Golden Gate with fog so thick it was hard to see the bridge overhead. He and his partner, Kristen Wolslegel, have moved to the Hurricane Gulch neighborhood and were delighted to find trail access to the GGNRA not far from their door.

Abbot expresses infectious enthusiasm about the Sausalito Library and the community here. He describes it as a well-functioning system with a strong staff. He said that Mary Richardson has done “a great job” and his first challenge is to see the world as she saw it and understand the processes she has had in place.

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Inside:

A heartwarming legacy

Upcoming events with authors, docents, and more

Party photos and a sneak preview of the upcoming spring gala

Abbot Chambers, Continued

One of Abbot's primary goals is to promote reading in the community. "One thing that is great about being a librarian today is that people can now read books on many different devices," he says. "In addition to reading a book in paper format, you can now read the same book on a laptop or desktop computer, a mobile phone, an e-reader like a Kindle or Nook, or one of the new tablet computers like an iPad." At the Belvedere-Tiburon Library, Abbot introduced a "Petting Zoo" of e-readers for patrons to try out and compare. He hopes to be able to do the same in Sausalito. He says Sausalito residents are now also fortunate to have access to a new county-wide collection of downloadable books, featuring over 1,500 e-books and 1,000 electronic audiobooks, with new titles being added everyday. The collection is free to anyone with a library card. He encourages people to visit the library's website or stop by the library to learn more.

And our new librarian's two favorite books in the last five years? They are the gritty novel "Life and Fate" (Vasilii Grossman) depicting life in the Soviet Union during World War II and "The Wind-up Bird Chronicle" (Haruki Murakami.) Both are available through our library.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2012!

John Hefler

We are grateful for your membership in the Friends of the Sausalito Library. Your support – book sales, Friends' events, and donations – has enabled us to provide the Library with the funds necessary to maintain its superb services, including Sunday hours and an expanded acquisition program, in spite of California's budget crisis.

Your membership entitles you to attend the Holiday Gala and other special events for Members Only. Through the Newsletter, you will get special book sale news and advance notice of other events, such as the Speakers' Program that showcases local talent throughout the year. Your financial support for ongoing and short term library projects makes a difference. Without your support, the Library could not provide the community with all the special services it does now. Friends of the Sausalito Library is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are fully tax-deductible.

Please take a moment to check the date on this Newsletter's mailing label. The top line of the label shows your Current or Expired membership status and the effective date. If it says "Expired Membership..." or "Current until 12/31/2011" your membership has expired or is about to expire. Please take a moment to clip the renewal form on this Newsletter, complete it and return it with your dues payment in the enclosed envelope.

We switched to a rolling membership renewal system starting January 2011. If you renewed your membership on or after January 1, 2011, the expiration date will be one year from the date on which we received your renewal. We try to check all membership transactions to prevent and catch errors, but we are not perfect. Do not hesitate to contact me at jhefler@pacbell.net if you have any questions regarding your membership status.

YES! I want to renew my Friends of the Sausalito Library Membership!

Enclosed is \$_____ (Senior \$5, Member \$10, Family \$25, Supporter \$50, Benefactor \$100+)
Please make check payable to: "Friends of the Sausalito Library" and mail to PO Box 298, Sausalito, CA 94966
You can also use your credit card on the Library's website: <https://marinet.lib.ca.us/> ("Donate to Your Library")

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Would you like to get more involved?

- **Be a circulation desk volunteer on a Tues or Fri!**
To sign up, call Jim Delano at 215-6538.
- **Come to the General Meeting! Tues, 2/7, 7pm in the Bookstore**
Agenda includes nominating (chaired by Libby Wilkinson) & by-laws.



Change of Venue for Friends Annual Dinner 2012

Libby Wilkinson

Roxanne Sheridan and the Gilbert Purcells Jr. and Sr. have graciously opened their home to us for next year's Friends Dinner. "The Pines," built in 1888 by Major Orson C. Miller, has undergone many transformations and mutations over the years, but has now been lovingly and sensitively restored to its former glory and a step beyond. We promise you an exciting evening, including a tour of this marvelous house, so full of Sausalito history, the newly expanded lower story with a delightful bachelor pad, a radio station, and... wait for it... we do need to keep a few things under our hat! Save the date, Saturday, March 24, for this unique event.

The Sausalito Library Thanks Irene Morris for Gift

Sue Hock

Last March Irene Morris passed on at the age of 96, leaving the Sausalito Library a bequest of \$5,000 to be earmarked for the acquisition of books - especially English mysteries. Ms. Morris loved our Library. She lived right across the street and dropped in daily to read the newspapers and find out what new books had arrived. She was especially fond of English mysteries.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2012 Speaker Series

Announcing the brand new Speaker Series slate for 2012! The series features local authors, museum docents and other speakers you are bound to find interesting. All programs are free of charge and sponsored by Friends like you.

6:00 pm "Nosh & Browse" hour with refreshments up in the Friends Bookstore
7:00 pm Speaking events begin down in City Council Chambers

January 16th - Masters of Venice: Renaissance Paintings of Passion and Power
presented by de Young docent Jim Kohn
to coincide with de Young exhibit October 29, 2011-February 12, 2012

February 13th - Bill Broder, author, *A Prayer for the Departed*

March 12th - The Cult of Beauty: The Victorian Avant-Garde
presented by a Legion of Honor docent
to coincide with Legion of Honor exhibit February 18-June 17, 2012

May 14th - Susan Shea, author, *Murder in the Abstract*
a story about the contemporary art market

July 9th - Phil Sheridan, storyteller, *A Storytelling Event for Adults*

September 24th - Linda Bucklin, author, *Beyond His Control*

November 26th - San Francisco Ballet, Preview for the 2013 Season
presented by Cecelia Beam, Adult Education Coordinator for the Ballet

Overheard...
after a children's crafts
program in the Council
Chambers:

Mom to little daughter:
*"Come on, it's time to
go do something fun. It's
a beautiful day, let's go
outside."*

Little daughter: *"I want
to go to the library! I
want to go to the library!"*





Oh, What a Party!

Photos by Rhett Redelings

Were you able to attend Mary Richardson's retirement party? After 32 years here, Sausalito's beloved City Librarian received a great send-off. It was an event filled with laughter, tears, and a musical number by the Infomaniacs (a.k.a. Library staff members Augie Webb, Erin Wilson, and Peggy Gill).



Thank you for 50 years of Friendship!

Founded in 1961, the Friends of the Sausalito Public Library is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that is an important source of financial support to the Sausalito Public Library, augmenting much-needed services and materials not provided by the Library's budget. The Friends is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

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