



Friends of the Sausalito Public Library

Fall 2015

Libby Wilkinson: An Appreciation by Her Colleagues

Bill Broder

If you've visited the Friends bookstore on the second floor of City Hall above the Library, then you've walked into one of the friendliest and most interesting hidden nooks of our town. It's the model of community service and ingenuity, organized and manned by unpaid volunteers, many of whom have worked there for thirty or forty years. One of the benign presences there who will greet you with a warm smile and an offer to find the book of your desire is Libby Wilkinson. Libby represents the model Sausalito volunteer, a woman of many talents, professional experience, and intelligence, who has contributed greatly to the good of the community.

Libby attended Parsons School of Design and worked as a commercial interior designer, teacher, and author. One of the books she wrote with Marjorie Henderson, *The House of Boughs: A sourcebook of garden designs, structures, and suppliers* (republished in paperback as *Decorating Eden*) was considered "the most comprehensive collection of garden architecture and artifacts" drawing on "seven centuries of history and design from the great and lesser known gardens throughout the world." She also published *Whatnot: A Compendium of Victorian Crafts and Other Matters* and *Naturally Powered Old Time Toys*, both with Marjorie Henderson, and on her own *Making Cents: Every Kid's Guide to Money, How to Make It, What to Do with It*, a Brown Paper School book that Little Brown sold for years.

As a Sausalito volunteer, Libby served on Boards of Friends of the Sausalito Library and Sausalito Library Trustees, the advisory board of the Library Foundation and was a member of the City Hall Space Planning Committee and Library Space Planning Committee. Nearly every year she has been elected to chair the nominating committee to the Friends Board. But it is at the Friends bookstore where she has worked since 1985 that you would have met her at her most personal. Her sly sense of humor and the twinkle in her eye liven up every conversation. Encounters with her that produce informed opinions also provoke chuckles and laughter and a feeling of well-being.

Libby does not simply sell books, she helps sort through the great pile of donated books, price them, and man the bookstore desk. She serves three days a week, maintains contact with book dealers, and helps arrange with The Salvation Army to dispose of unwanted inventory. She also recruits board members and bookstore volunteers and nurtures unpaid interns who work in the bookstore to bolster their resumes. *(Continued inside)*



Delightful Libby, selling books inside City Hall and outside



Inside:

Books tucked into dock pilings
Shushing-free zone: amazing kids' programs
Feel like circulating more?

Would you like to hear about upcoming Friends book sales?

Prefer receiving your newsletters via email?

Just let us know:
fosl94965@gmail.com

(Libby Wilkinson article continued from front) She relies on her talent as a designer to help lay out the many colorful, fetching brochures and holiday invitations for the Friends and the Library Foundation. Her design for the Little Free Library near Galilee Harbor was chosen unanimously by the committee. She transformed the children's section of the bookstore by creating a back "private" corner where the children can explore. She purchased a small table and chairs and created a cardboard, life-size princess with a magic wand and bright pink dress to welcome the children. The princess did her work welcoming the children and departed, but Libby remained.

Libby Wilkinson is a problem solver who assesses available resources and hatches a practical plan to which people agree, often without conflict. She has such a genial and comfortable and amusing manner that she's able to mediate dramatic moments with grace. She is generous, rewarding the Friends workers with treats after their work. Best of all she's modest about her role and allows others to take the stage and credits them for their contributions.

Libby Wilkinson is a Friends friend and our delight.

The Friends Want You... To Join Our Volunteers

Jim DeLano

The Friends offer not only financial support to the Library, but also contribute time.

The Circulation Desk group comes in weekday afternoons and helps process and place on shelves materials ordered by Sausalito patrons from other libraries. A weekend crew empties the book drops and helps to gather materials requested by patrons of other libraries. This effort is fully staffed now, but openings come up regularly. If you are interested in this, call Jim DeLano at 415-215-6538 for more information.

Other volunteers work in the Bookstore, helping to process donations and getting materials to the shelves. There are immediate openings in this area. If interested, come by the Bookstore (2nd Floor of City Hall) on Monday (9 to 5), or Wednesday or Saturday (10 to 1) and let the staff there help you to get involved. Please consider giving in this way.

*Join the Friends volunteers
and circulate more!*



A Little Free Library Takes Shape

City Librarian Abbot Chambers

Slow but steady progress is being made on a new "little free library" on Galilee Harbor land near the corner of Napa Street and Bridgeway. A collaboration of the Friends of the Library and the Galilee Harbor Association, the free library will operate with donated books on a "take a book, leave a book" basis. When completed, the structure you see taking shape in the photo will look like dock pilings lashed together. Weather-proofed shelves for books will be cut out of the middle and the statue of a tern will perch on top.

*Project lead Inka Petersen of Galilee Harbor
and Friends volunteer Bob Brockob
inspect the little free library*



Children's Programming

Children's and YA Librarian Erin Wilson

This year's Summer Reading Program ended on August 8, and now that the dust has settled I wanted to give you an update on how the summer went.

The Summer Reading Program was a big success. It was 8-weeks long, and during those weeks we had 40 programs (not including our ongoing Toddler Story Time) serving 779 kids and 530 adults.

As in previous years, we had performances on Tuesday afternoons, including acrobats, dancers, and participatory drumming. This year we held most of the performances on the Robin Sweeny Park patio. It turned out to be a great location for performances; it's shady with lots of seating and has an even surface which makes it easy for performers.

We continued our year-round series of activities on Wednesday afternoons for kids of all ages, including a stuffed animal tea party, making magic wands, and Lego Club. We also had a play-based story time for kids under 5 years old, a preschool story time, and special weekly programs for kids ages 9-12, including Henna, Candy Sushi and Terrariums. Both parents and kids told me how much they appreciated having programs for the older kids, and I'm inspired to do more to serve them during the school year.

The Summer Reading Challenge is the heart of the Summer Reading Program. For the Challenge, kids get prizes for every three hours they read up through 12 hours. This year we had 135 kids sign up for the challenge. It's rewarding to watch kids transition from board books to picture books to chapter books, and one of the pleasures of the Reading Challenge is that I get to hear directly from kids about what they're reading. This year's prizes were especially great—they included a gift certificate for an ice cream cone for each child who read 12 hours. The cones were a donation from Lappert's Ice Cream.

As always, the Friends' generosity and enthusiasm are essential elements of the Summer Reading Program and all the other Children's programming during the year: thank you!



Left: Enjoying a performance in Robin Sweeny Park
Above: Care for some candy sushi?



Above: Headpiece masterpiece!



Join us at the Friends General Meeting

Tuesday, 2/2/16, 7pm in the Bookstore (City Hall top floor).
Agenda includes electing nominating committee members, headed by Alex MacDonald. Refreshments will be served.

A Letter from Our President

Dear Friends,

The Friends of the Sausalito Library has always been high on my list of our town's favorite organizations, not only because of the bargain prices on eclectic books available from the Friends bookstore, but also for the myriad of ways they support our beloved library. I remember that in the financially tricky year of 2009 we helped keep our library open on Sunday afternoons when all the other Marin County libraries were closed on that day of the week. And again, in 2009 and 2010 we subsidized the Sausalito Library's book budget until the city resumed payment for that budget item.

We are still backing the popular museum ticket program, the Fall Sausalito Library Friday night speaker's program, a highly successful children's summer program, new signage, and, soon to appear, in appropriate waterfront style, the little free library on Napa Street.

A final note to let you know that we are receiving a wonderful assortment of fine books in the Friends bookstore. We urge you to visit our upstairs quarters and enjoy a treasure hunt.

Thank you for being a Friend,

Susan Roegiers, Friends President



**“Whatever the cost
of our libraries,
the cost is cheap
compared to that
of an ignorant nation.”**

– Walter Cronkite



Thank you for your membership! Is it time to renew? (Check your mailing label)

Enclosed is \$ _____ (Benefactor \$100+, Supporter \$50, Family \$25, Member \$10, Senior \$5)
Please make check payable to: "Friends of the Sausalito Library" and mail to PO Box 298, Sausalito, CA 94966

Or  online at www.FriendsoftheSausalitoLibrary.org

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email/Telephone: _____

Would you like advance notice of Book Store sales? _____

Thank you for over 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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