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## *Among Friends* Fall 2024



Dear Library Patrons,

It's exciting to look ahead to the completion of the new Larkspur Library in early 2026, but today I wanted to look back at what we like to think of as the origin of Friends of Larkspur Library. The Larkspur Women's Improvement Club was a group of 29 women who first

gathered in 1912 to make Larkspur a better place to live. They started with cleaning up our streets by financing the first 24 trash cans in Larkspur and weekly trash collection service. They made their political voices heard by supporting the construction of our proposed city hall, which opened in 1913, then lobbied for a free library, which opened soon after in a small corner of the city hall with 265 books. The Women's Improvement Club supported the library much like we do today with fundraising and events.

When the fire department moved out of town hall in 1939, the library moved into the vacated space, where it has been ever since. The Larkspur Library collection has grown from 265 books to over 50,000 free books, plus DVDs, CDs, e-books, computers, games, and seeds. And now, 111 years later, here we are, still loving our library! Thank you, as always, for your support.

My Very Best,

*Diana*

Diana Saint James  
President, Friends of Larkspur Library

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## **New Board Member Interviews: Huntly Klimchalk and Jordan Jaffe**

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Let's welcome two new board members of Friends of Larkspur Library. Here is a chance to get to know them better -- **Huntly Klimchalk and Jordan Jaffe**.

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## **Huntly Klimchalk**

### **What neighborhood do you live in?**

I live in Kent Woodlands with my husband, Sean, and daughter, Anna, who is 14. We also have a Lagotto Romagnolo pup named Chloe.

We have lived in Marin, San Francisco, Tokyo, and New York. I grew up in Manila, Singapore, and Virginia, so I am definitely a California transplant.

### **Where have you worked or volunteered?**

I have been at home with Anna for the last several years, volunteering at her school (I have volunteered in the school library since Anna's first year in Kindergarten) and just enjoying being able to spend this time with her.

In my previous working life, I was a grant writer and event coordinator for various non-profits, ranging from small arts and city outreach organizations, to the National Chapter of the Girl Scouts of the USA and the New York Public Library. Joining the FOLL board seemed like a natural extension of my love for non-profit work, community engagement, and, most especially, libraries!

### **What do you do when you can't find the book you want?**

Libraries are my first choice for books, followed by Book

Passage and, yes, Amazon and eBay for used/hard to find design and art history books, most of which come from local libraries!

***What are some of your favorite libraries in your life? Where and why?***

I have a special love of the Reading Room in the New York Public Library's main branch. There is no better feeling than a quiet room full of books. Anna loves to read, too, and was helped along quite a bit in her confidence by the Larkspur Library's Read to a Dog program in the children's room.

**What is your dream occupant for the Lucky site?**

I don't have an idea for anything large enough to fill the old Lucky space, but it would be wonderful to have a local needlepoint shop pop up somewhere!

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**Jordan Jaffe**

**What neighborhood do you live in?**

Creekside

**Your family? How old are your children? Names?**

I live in Larkspur with my wife and three kids. Ages 5 (Jack), 7 (Aviva), and 9 (Izzy).

**Pets? Names, ages?**

We adopted a golden retriever puppy in February, now about eight months old. Her name is Pixie.

**What is your job?**

I'm a lawyer, specifically an intellectual property litigator. Currently I'm a partner at the firm Wilson Sonsini in San Francisco.

**Where else do you volunteer?**

I'm on the Ferry Passenger Advisory Committee for Golden Gate Ferry, the advisory board for the San Francisco Intellectual Property Law Association as well as helping coach my kids' athletic teams.

**Who is the biggest user of the library in your family?**

All of us! Our whole family loves books and the library.

**How do you find new books? For kids? For you?**

I have a very long list of books on the MarinNet app's "For Later" shelf. I try and work through that, though thankfully I never finish. To find new books to add to that list, I read *The NYTimes Book Review* as well as listen to interviews with authors for new book ideas on podcasts or the radio. Plus I add new books by authors I've read in the past.

**What do you do when you can't find the book you want?**

I put it on hold! There are so many great books out there, you can read a different one while you wait.

**What is your dream occupant for the Lucky site?**

I'd like to say something fun like an indoor skate rink, but another grocery store would be good for those times when we're out of eggs or milk.

**If you were a baseball player, what would be your walk-on music?**

Not me, but when my 5 year old started T-ball last year, his walk up song was "No Sleep Til Brooklyn" by the Beastie Boys. He loved it.

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# **Your Donations in Action: Summer Reading Program, Children's Programming, Adult Programming**

The Larkspur Library's 2024 Summer Reading Program was a great success! 32 library programs were offered and 325 children and adults participated with hundreds of books

read, resulting in prize awards from many local community businesses. Special thanks to all the donors and participants!

In addition, children enjoyed two Making Slime Workshops, Bubble Man in Piper Park, clowns Coventry & Kaluza in Dolliver Park, Henna Art Workshop, Art Day!, Latch Hook Rug Craft, and Magician Mike Della Penna. Teens showed up for Video Game Day, Scratch Art, and a Teen AI Club. Adults loved the Cozy Mystery Club, Romance Novel Book Club, and had a full house for a fascinating "Islands in the Stream" lecture offering a historical perspective on the building of Redwood High.

There is lots going on for all ages at our library! Come join in the fun.



**Making Slime!**



**Magician Mike!**

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## Island in the Marsh: Redwood High School (Projector purchased by FOLL)



**Coventry and Kaluza**



**Henna Workshop**

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## Friends Around Town



## Mobile Home Park Laundromat Library

Friends of Larkspur Library is pleased to announce that we have set up another children's laundromat library, bringing our total to three. The first two are in Larkspur at the two iDoLaundry locations (469 Magnolia Avenue and 594 Magnolia Avenue).

This new collection of free children's books is at the **Marin RV Park laundromat in Greenbrae** (2140 Redwood Hwy). We put free children's books in laundromats because they are safe, well-lit, and temperature-controlled spaces. Parents generally return weekly and their children often wait an average of 90 minutes as the family laundry is washed, dried, and folded. Offering a selection of books for kids is an engaging alternative to boredom or electronic games. If they choose to take the books home, we're pleased to know home libraries are being built.

Our board members happily restock the libraries every two weeks with donated new or gently used children's books.

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# What's Ahead?

## Wine Stroll: September 7, 4-7 pm





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## FRIENDS AND WINE!

Look for Friends of Larkspur Library at the upcoming **Larkspur Wine Stroll on Saturday, September 7 from 4:00-7:00 pm**. The stroll is a pedestrian-only event on Magnolia Avenue coordinated by Larkspur Chamber of Commerce. The event offers a wonderful opportunity to sample from a variety of local wineries and say hello to your neighbors. FOLL will have a table in front of Larkspur Library.

Please come by, say hello to us, and share your library thoughts. <https://www.thelarkspurchamber.org/wine-stroll>

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**Consider a donation to the Friends of Larkspur Library today.**

[Donate Today](#)

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**FOLL Board Members**

Diana Saint James, President  
Dulcy Brainard  
Susan Bryson, Treasurer  
Carrie Burroughs  
Helyse Hollander  
Jordan Jaffe  
Huntly Klimchalk  
Brienne Koch  
Alice Kaufman  
Lisa Levin  
Mary Sue Murray  
Dyan Pike, Vice President, Editor, *Among Friends*  
Jim Scheller  
Mary Van Dyke, Secretary

## Mission Statement

The Friends are a dedicated group of members who raise money for library programs, plan events, and work as ambassadors to the community for the Larkspur Library.

Friends of Larkspur Library are committed to supporting the library's programs, cultural events, books, and materials. We strive to instill the love of reading and the excitement of learning in library patrons of all ages.



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