

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Wed, Jan 16th, 7pm

Friends of the Library Quarterly Meeting, Program Room

### Sun, Feb. 3rd, 11-5 pm

Second Annual Silicon Valley Puzzle Day

### Thur, Feb. 28th, 7:30pm

Morgan Hill Reads One Book: Author Bo Caldwell, Program Room

### Fri, Mar. 7th, 7-8:30pm

Members-Only Preview Night for the Big Quarterly Book Sale

### Sat, Mar. 8, 10am-4pm

Big Quarterly Book Sale

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### 2008 Membership Renewal Form

Congratulations to Mike and Mary Cox who have been selected Morgan Hill's Man and Woman of the Year for 2008. They are members of the Friends and big library supporters. They will be honored at the Chamber of Commerce Salute Morgan Hill dinner on January 26.

## Message from the President

Lisa Pampuch, [lisapampuch@iname.com](mailto:lisapampuch@iname.com)

I'm excited about the opportunity and privilege to lead the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library this year. With the huge success of the Beyond Books Campaign behind us, and a beautiful new library to enjoy, I'd like to focus on these goals – that range from the lofty to the mundane, but are all important – in 2008:

- Building Silicon Valley Puzzle Day into a signature event for our organization and community.
- Turning more FMHL members into active volunteers.
- Bringing all FMHL records – currently scattered – together in one place and organizing them.

Following Carol O'Hare as president of this organization is an intimidating task – she leaves huge shoes to fill. I'd like to thank her for setting such a fine example and all of you for your trust.

We have a wonderful foundation, a cadre of capable membership. I hope each of you will renew your membership using the enclosed form, and join me in working to make 2008 a great year for the Friends and the library. I look forward to working with you.

## Books Among Friends

We asked some of the board members of the Friends about books they've read over this past year that they would recommend to others. Here are a few of the responses. If you have a book you'd like to recommend, please send an email to [emily@chocolatespoon.com](mailto:emily@chocolatespoon.com) for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.

**Carol O'Hare:** *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khalad Hosseini, author of the *The Kite Runner*. Another epic set in Afghanistan, this one is told through the lives of two women married to a brutal husband, who have few options in the conservative Islamic society ruled by men. Hosseini is a natural storyteller, and those who loved *The Kite Runner* will not be disappointed.

Two other recommended novels also have strong female protagonists: *The Blood of Flowers* by Anita Amirrezvan takes place in 17th century Persia where a young woman learns carpet weaving at a time when only men were allowed this occupation; *Vivaldi's Virgins* by Barbara Quick is set in 18th century Venice. The main character, an elite musician cloistered in a founding home, is determined to find out who she is and where she came from.

More recommendations, p. 5



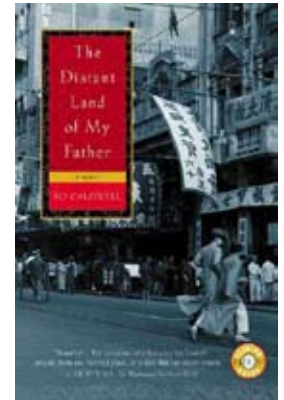
Past Friends President Carol O'Hare was presented with flowers at the last board meeting. Carol continues on the board as co-treasurer.

## *Morgan Hill Reads One Book: The Distant Land of My Father Author Bo Caldwell at Library on February 28, 2008*

The Friends of the Library is one of the sponsors of "Morgan Hill Reads One Book," the group that supports the Silicon Valley Reads program. The book chosen for 2008 is *The Distant Land of My Father* by Bo Caldwell. We are fortunate to have the author appearing at the Morgan Hill Library on **Thursday evening, February 28, 2008, at 7:30 PM**. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

In this debut novel, Anna, the narrator, lives in exotic prewar Shanghai with her wealthy, young parents. Later, when Anna and her mother flee the Japanese-occupied city to return to California, her father stays behind. Through Anna's memories and her father's journal; we learn of his fall from charismatic millionaire to tortured prisoner.

*The Distant Land of My Father* is available at the library or may be purchased at BookSmart or at the event at a 10% discount.



In addition to the Friends, other co-sponsors of Morgan Hill Reads include Morgan Hill Library, BookSmart, City of Morgan Hill, American Association of University Women (Morgan Hill Branch) and Morgan Hill Times.

This is the sixth year of Silicon Valley Reads One Book, a program that encourages everyone to read the same book at the same time and then gather together to discuss it. For more information, contact the library at 779-3196, or visit [www.siliconvalleyreads.com](http://www.siliconvalleyreads.com).

## *Report from Recent Meeting of the Friends of the Library* Teresa Stephenson, Secretary

- \* The meeting was held on November 14, 2007 with 15 people attending.
- \* Minutes of the August meeting were approved. Treasurer Bud O'Hare reported total assets of \$119,014.30. A quick analysis of book store sales from August to November shows an average of \$421.73 per week for 15 weeks.
- \* Rosanne Macek reported that all statistics for the library are up: attendance is up 48%, circulation is up 50%, new library cards increased by 167%, reference requests are up 50%. The Body Works display had 150 people attend, standing room only!
- \* Carol O'Hare was honored as the Friends Volunteer of the Year at the Morgan Hill Community Foundation Philanthropy Day luncheon on November 13th.
- \* Karen MacDonald reported that volunteers are still needed to staff the bookstore, especially on Fridays and Saturdays. The quarterly book sale in December will be two separate sales: a regular sale and a \$5 a bag sale. We will again borrow tables from the Buddhist Center. We may want to purchase tables to have them available for sales.
- \* Officers for next year were elected: Lisa Pampuch, President; Yvonne Duckett, Vice President; Teresa Stephenson, Secretary and Bud and Carol O'Hare as co-Treasurers with Katie Scanlon assisting.
- \* The budget for 2008 was proposed and approved: with estimated income of \$31,500 and estimated operating expenses of \$23,220.
- \* All the tote bags were sold. We are looking into purchasing more, with a new design.
- \* Applications for renewal of membership will be mailed with the next newsletter.
- \* Silicon Valley Puzzle Day will be February 3rd from noon to 5 P.M. at the library. Committee chairs and volunteers are needed. Emily Shem-Tov and Lisa Pampuch are coordinating the event.
- \* Flowers were presented to Carol O'Hare in grateful appreciation of her service to the Friends.
- \* A presentation on Library Collections and how books are chosen was given by Sarah Flowers.



Sarah Flowers presents at the meeting

## Librarian's Report, January 2008

Rosanne Macek, Community Librarian



Happy New Year everyone! Can it be 2008 already?

What an exciting year we've had in Morgan Hill with the opening of our new library. And we couldn't have done it without all of your support. So many of you worked so hard to support the opening of this important community resource. Whether it was raising money to purchase public art or getting the new Friends bookstore organized or sorting books on Wednesday mornings or selling used books in the bookstore or at the quarterly sale, you have been there! Morgan Hill is truly fortunate to have such a hard-working and enthusiastic group of volunteers.

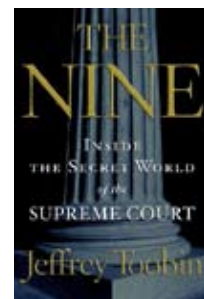
The community is loving its new library, which is very clear when you look at our usage statistics. Comparing November 2007 with last year, circulation was up 39%, the number of visitors to the building was up 32%, the number of new library cards requested was up 96%, and wireless usage was up 193%.

As we continue to settle into the building and evaluate how it functions from an operational perspective, we are continually making improvements. Some enhancements will be made possible because of all the hard work that went into fundraising, led by Carol O'Hare. We have already upgraded our wireless Internet access and purchased a new puppet stage, a video enhancement station to assist the visually impaired, and some display shelving. In the next few months we will be purchasing new video/DVD shelving, "planet" book-ends and a variety of seasonal decorations for the children's area, a new electronic open/closed sign, and some additional materials for the collection.

The new library is becoming a community gathering place for a variety of programs, many made possible with funding from the Friends. In addition to our ongoing programs, over the past few months we've had special programs on valuing antiques, starting a franchise, and a teen guitar hero contest that attracted over 40 participants. We also had two wildly successful holiday puppet shows, each attended by over 120 happy children and adults.

Next year promises to be just as busy with programs. We'll be continuing with all our regular programs such as storytimes, book discussions, weekly Knit-In, class visits, and AAUW foreign policy discussions. In January we'll also have a SuperCollege workshop and will begin a new baby storytime series on Jan. 26. In February we'll start a new teen graphic novel discussion group, which will meet through April. And don't forget our annual Silicon Valley Reads program. This year's book selection is *The Distant Land of My Father* by Bo Caldwell.

Read any good books lately? The highlight of my reading in the past few months was *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin. This book presents a fascinating behind-the-scenes look into how new justices were chosen in recent years, how the justices evaluated high-profile cases, and discusses the shift in the court with two new justices. I highly recommend this.



In addition, I've read a brand-new middle school level book called *If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period* by Gennifer Choldenko. I've continued my enjoyment of King Henry the VIII's court with *The Constant Princess* by Philippa Gregory, the story of Henry's first wife, Katherine of Aragon. And, I loved *Options: The Secret Life of Steve Jobs* by Fake Steve Jobs. Based on the Fake Steve blog, and actually written by Daniel Lyons, an editor at *Forbes* magazine, this book satirizes Steve Jobs as he goes through the recent stock option backdating scandal. Having worked at Apple for 15 years, I found this hilarious, and with a definite grain of truth.

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. It's been such a pleasure to work with all of you, and I look forward to another good year for the Morgan Hill Library in 2008.



Sharpen your pencils and join us on February 3rd  
for a puzzle-filled Sunday at the Morgan Hill Library!



The Friends of the Morgan Hill Library present the  
**2nd Annual Silicon Valley Puzzle Day**

**Feb 3, 2008 • 11am-5pm • Morgan Hill Library**

- Sudoku tournaments for Youth (under 16) and Adults (16+) begin at noon.
- Crossword Puzzle tournaments for Youth (under 16) and Adults (16+) begin at 2:30  
-- with puzzles provided by NY Times Puzzle Master Will Shortz!
- Free workshops on puzzling topics will be occurring throughout the day.
- Stop by the Puzzle Day marketplace for snacks, games and information from local organizations.
- Help complete our giant community crossword puzzle and enjoy other puzzles and games for the whole family.

For event information and opportunities to get involved,  
please visit our web site at:

**[www.svpuzzle.org](http://www.svpuzzle.org)**

Competition Registration Onsite, \$5 Suggested Donation to the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library.

*We need your help! Volunteers are needed to help organize the event (spreading the word, recruiting organizations & vendors for the marketplace, etc.) and to volunteer at the event on Feb. 3rd (set-up, scoring, greeting, clean-up, etc.)*

*If you are interested in helping out, please contact us today at [info@svpuzzle.org](mailto:info@svpuzzle.org) or contact Emily at 408-221-9196. Thank you!!*

*Special thanks to:*



**Morgan Hill Times**

## *Books Among Friends, continued from p. 1*

**Lisa Pampuch:** With so many good books, it's hard to narrow it down to just one. I've decided to share a great book that you might not have heard of: *Look Me In The Eye* by John Elder Robison.

*Look Me In The Eye* is an autobiography detailing the experiences of a man with Asperger's Syndrome, an autistic spectrum disorder on the high-functioning end of the spectrum. Robison wasn't diagnosed until he was 40 years old, partly because Asperger's Syndrome wasn't well known when he was a boy. If you have friends or family members with high-functioning autism diagnoses, this book will help you see the world through their eyes. If you don't, it will help you appreciate the wonder of the human mind and entertain you with the story of this man's fascinating life. Robison is the older brother of *Running With Scissors* author Augusten Burroughs.

**Teresa Stephenson:** Aside from some of the best sellers, like *The Kite Runner*, and *Little Heathens*, one that sticks in my mind is *My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Picoult. The main character was conceived and born to be a bone marrow match for an older sister who has leukemia. The story is told from the perspectives of different characters in the book. It was funny and sad and thought provoking.

**Bud O'Hare:** Here are a couple of suggestions from a history buff. *The Coldest Winter*, David Halberstam's last book, a good look at the Korean War and the civilian and military leaders on both sides that were involved. For lighter reading, *Thunderstruck* by Eric Larson, a historical novel set in early 1900 England bringing together a famous (or infamous) murder case and the start of wireless communication by Guglielmo Marconi.

## *Report from the Treasurer* **Bud O'Hare, Treasurer**

2007 was a banner year for the FMHL. Our total income was \$207,625 of which \$173,899 came from BBC contributions. An additional \$50,000, not included in the income, was contributed by the Friends from money that had been earned from prior years book sales. Our total expenditures were \$152,326 which included \$128,570 for new library purchases. That leaves a net gain of \$55,299 available for purchases and activities in 2008.

## *Library, Culture & Arts Commission Update* **Emily Shem-Tov, LCAC Commissioner**

At the December 11th meeting of the Library, Culture and Arts Commission (LCAC), the group finalized a workplan status report to be presented to the City Council. The workplan lays out a number of projects for the Commission, including assisting the Library in being able to serve the entire community to its full potential. This year, LCAC Commissioners were involved in the grand opening of the new library and will be attending the County Library's annual Friends & Commissioners Forum in January to learn more about the county library system's goals for the coming years. The Commissioners also volunteered at the Friends of the Library booth at the Taste of Morgan Hill and plan to participate in Art ala Carte in the Spring. At a recent meeting, the Commission received preliminary cost estimates from the County for Sunday/Monday hours at the library, and they will continue to research possible funding sources for extended library hours.

Another Commission project is to explore potential partnerships between the public library, local schools, home school groups, the Senior Center, arts and cultural groups, and other community organizations. Commissioners and library staff met with school board members to discuss opportunities to exchange services between schools and library, which resulted in a link from the school district's website to the library's on-line tutoring service. LCAC has also been involved in setting up a small library at James Boys Ranch. Shelving for the library has been completed, and donated books and basic furnishings have been received. The commission also hopes to plan a community forum of local arts, cultural and related groups.

Another project is to make recommendations to the City Council for approval and codification of guidelines, policies and procedures relating to art and culture in Morgan Hill. A draft document prepared by Commissioner Cook in 2006 has been used as a reference guide. LCAC has also begun a draft of a policy covering art (rotating exhibits and permanent collections) in city facilities.

Commission meetings are open to the public and the group meets in the Library's Program room the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. There is time set aside at the start of each meeting for comments from the public regarding items not already on the agenda if there are issues you would like to raise there.

Morgan Hill Library  
660 West Main Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-4128

Phone: 408-779-3196

[www.santaclaracountylib.org/morganhill](http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/morganhill)

**Library Hours:**

Sunday and Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 1pm - 9pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 10am - 9pm

Friday & Saturday: 10am - 6pm

Friends of the Morgan Hill Library

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

Contact Editor Emily Shem-Tov with  
newsletter comments -  
[emily@chocolatespoon.com](mailto:emily@chocolatespoon.com)



**IF YOU ARE  
NOT ALREADY  
A MEMBER  
FOR 2008,  
PLEASE RENEW  
NOW.**



*The purpose of the Friends of the Library is to support the services of our community library. The Friends raise thousands of dollars each year for the library, mainly through used book sales. These funds are used to purchase materials and furnishings and to provide programs that the library could not otherwise afford.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Silicon Valley Puzzle Day, February 3

Bay Area fans of crossword puzzles and Sudoku are invited to compete in the second annual Silicon Valley Puzzle Day on Sunday February 3, 2008, at the library. The Friends of the Library is hosting the event to celebrate puzzle fun and raise awareness of the new library that opened last summer.

Like last year's successful event, Silicon Valley Puzzle Day is going to be a fun day filled with crossword puzzles, Sudoku, and other word and logic puzzles. Sharpen your pencils and see how you stack up against other local puzzle buffs in the crossword and/or Sudoku tournaments (this year featuring separate adult and youth <16 divisions.) The puzzles in the adult crossword tournament this year will be unpublished NY Times puzzles provided by Puzzle Master Will Shortz! Or, if you don't feel like competing, come and help us to complete our giant crossword puzzles, learn tips and tricks in a variety of workshops, check out the marketplace, and try your hand at the variety of other games and puzzles we'll be providing.

The event is free for people who want to come and watch the competitors, learn new puzzle skills in workshops, shop in the marketplace or just play the many puzzles and games that will be available. A donation of \$5 to the Friends of the Library is suggested for people who want to compete in the crossword and/or Sudoku tournaments.



Check out the web site for more information: [www.svpuzzle.org](http://www.svpuzzle.org) or contact us at [info@svpuzzle.org](mailto:info@svpuzzle.org).

There are also a number of ways to get involved – we're looking for volunteers, for sponsors, for vendors and organizations to set up booths in our marketplace and sell products or promote their services, for workshop presenters, and for help creating puzzles and games. So if you are interested in getting involved, please let us know.