

# FRIENDS



OF LOS GATOS LIBRARY

Friends of  
Los Gatos  
Library

Off The Shelf

Spring  
2023

## Discover LOST Gatos with Alan Feinberg

If you love Los Gatos, you'll love this talk by longtime resident and regular *Los Gatos* contributor Alan Feinberg! On Wednesday, May 3, he'll be speaking upstairs in the library starting at 5 p.m.



Alan is the developer of the free mobile app "Discover LOST Gatos" which offers three different self-guided walking tours of our historic downtown, highlighting the fascinating—but mostly

forgotten—people, places and events that have shaped Los Gatos over the past 200 years.

An electrical engineer with a master's degree in business, Alan relocated here 33 years ago from Concord, Massachusetts, to work in the semiconductor software industry. He and his wife, Joan, fell in love with Los Gatos, especially its downtown, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. (His favorite landmark is the Queen Anne Victorian house at 115 N. Santa Cruz Ave. which has served many purposes over the years and is currently The Palms Restaurant.)

After retiring and spending more time downtown, he became even more interested in the history of his adopted hometown and saw a need for a guide to its iconic buildings and the stories behind them, something similar to Boston's self-guided "Freedom Trail" walk. Not only would this benefit tourists, but it would also give residents a new look at their town. "We need to build interest in our heritage before it's lost or bulldozed. We need to treasure what's left," Alan says.

Instead of just a paper map and list of historic sites, Alan decided to develop a walking tour that offers an immersive Los Gatos history experience. So, in 2015, investing his own

money and teaching himself how to build a mobile app, he teamed up with former library director and author Peggy Conaway Bergtold, who wrote the historical content, and former mayor Sandy Decker to launch the app. "It was a year-long labor of love and a gift to the community," he says.

The aim of the mobile app, which is available at the Apple App Store or Google Play, is to raise awareness among residents of the value of our historic treasures and to enrich the visitor experience. The same might be said of Alan's talk, which will be suitable for all ages and promises to be both educational and entertaining. 🌿

**When:** Wednesday, May 3, at 5 p.m.

**Where:** Upstairs in the library

### FRIENDS OF THE LOS GATOS LIBRARY

#### Slate Of Officers & Directors for Fiscal Year July 1 2023-June 30 2024

<b>President</b> . . . . .	Celia Bakke
<b>Vice President</b> . . . . .	Alicia Barela
<b>Treasurer</b> . . . . .	Tom Atkinson
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<b>Parliamentarian</b> . . . . .	Celia Bakke
<b>Mailings</b> . . . . .	Louise Roon
<b>Grants and Appeals</b> . . . . .	Vickie Wendell
<b>Book Store Directors</b> . . . . .	Tricia Schaeffler & Lisa Schirmer
<b>Sorting Room Director</b> . . . . .	Tom Atkinson
<b>At-Large Directors</b> . . . . .	Ada Koransky, Ana Sorooshian & Georgina Van Horn



# President's Letter

by Mary Brence Martin

Dear Friends,

When I moved to Los Gatos nearly 50 years ago, one of the first things I did was to get a library card.

The library back then was housed in the space now occupied by NUMU (New Museum Los Gatos) and the Friends of the Library Bookstore. My family and I loved that library! The children's room was a cozy haven, and downstairs, historic photographs of the town hung on the walls surrounding the stacks and reference section.

But as the town's population increased, Los Gatos outgrew its library. During the early 2000s when high school let out, every space in the old library seemed to be occupied by teens, many sitting on the floor for lack of chairs. Downstairs, every wall was lined with unsightly boxes of donated books because the Friends of the Library had nowhere else to store them between quarterly book sales.

In 2009, the Friends launched a capital campaign which eventually raised more than \$2 million for furnishings and fixtures in a new library, the one we enjoy now. But the Friends didn't stop there! The organization opened a bookstore (located in what was once the children's library) to provide a steady income stream to support programs and special purchases for the library, a mission that continues today.

As much as I appreciated our library's former self, I can't help contrasting it with the current modern building and the profusion of services the library now provides to the community with the assistance of the Friends. One example close to my heart (because my kids were storytime regulars) is that storytime attendees no longer have to crowd around the presenter to see the pictures. Everyone has a perfect view of the illustrations because they're projected on a screen in the spacious children's room. And afterward, the youngsters get to play with age-appropriate toys, purchased with funds from the Friends. Storytimes are so popular, there are sometimes stroller traffic jams!

Though it's now 11 years old, ours is still a new library in many respects because it's always re-creating and updating itself. There are new categories of items to check out (turntables, sewing machines, and science kits, for example), new interest groups and new book clubs. With money raised through memberships, donations, and sales in the bookstore and on Amazon, the Friends of Los Gatos Library is dedicated to helping our library's amazing staff by funding performers, programs, local history, Storywalks, the Summer Reading Program, craft supplies, book club kits and more.

You can help our library by being part of the Friends—donating gently used books, patronizing the bookstore and contributing money. You can become a Friends volunteer. Be part of what we do! Our library is worth it! 🌿

## Goodbye to Good Friends

Two hardworking, longtime members of the Friends of the Library board are retiring from the board this year.

**Marlene Rodman**, who joined the board in 2010, first served as vice president and then as president for two years. Since 2015, she has been the (unpaid) director of the Friends Bookstore, a very important job since most of the group's revenue comes from sales in the store and on Amazon. In addition to managing a large team of bookstore volunteers, Marlene also manages the real estate business she shares with her daughter. And if that's not enough, she often hosts Friends events at her lovely home, Florentine Village. It's no wonder that the Friends nominated her as a Senior of Distinction in 2017!

**Cheryl McKenzie** has been on the board since 2008, serving on the steering committee of the capital campaign, as hospitality chair and, for many years, as publicity chair and website guru. Cheryl is the award-winning author (under the penname C. Lee McKenzie) of 10 published books for young adults, a second career she took up after retiring from San Jose State. Pre-COVID, she was the popular leader of five annual Young Writers Workshops, which are much-in-demand children's classes sponsored by the Friends. This year, she's the Friends' nominee for the Senior of Distinction award, a well-deserved honor! 🌿



## Support the Friends!

As a nonprofit organization, the Friends of Los Gatos Library relies on revenue from its bookstore, membership dues and financial donations to provide funding for materials and a robust selection of library programs for people of all ages throughout the year.

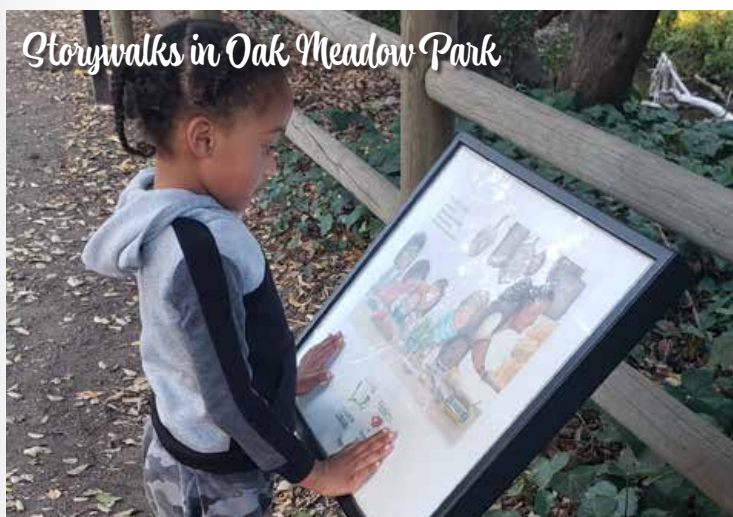
You can donate on our website:

<https://friendsoflibrary.org> (Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page for donation link.)

The names of people who donate \$500 or more to the Friends of the Library are included on the permanent rolling screen on the lobby wall near the entrance to the children's room. Here are the extra-generous donors since our last newsletter:

*Jason & Emily Ediger*  
*Carol Ann Giannandrea*  
*Catherine Grabinski*  
*Dale Hill (Hill Family Charitable Trust)*  
*Mary Hoover*  
*Robert Macartney*  
*Dennis McEvoy & Kim Worsencroft*  
*James & Sara McManis*  
*Tim & Jennifer Meighen*  
*Edward & Phoebe Morimoto*  
*Gail Randolph*  
*The Wen Family*

## The Friends of the Library provides funds for ...



### Friends of Los Gatos Library Bookstore

**110 E. Main St., Los Gatos**  
**Open: 1-5 p.m.**  
Wednesday through Sunday

All money made in the bookstore goes to support the library's programs for community members of all ages. These include storytimes, activities for teens, adult book clubs, a bestseller collection, family programs, summer reading contests, support for the local history archives and more. The bookstore is located near the fountain on the plaza which is up the stairs to the right of the library.

**Donations**

Donate up to 100 lightly used books and DVDs at one time, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Bring them to the side door at the left of the library (not to the bookstore), 100 Villa Avenue, Los Gatos.

**Volunteers**

The bookstore is an all-volunteer effort. If you are interested in sorting books, doing Amazon sales or staffing the store, please complete an application form which you can pick up in the bookstore.

# FRIENDS



OF LOS GATOS LIBRARY

100 Villa Ave.  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**DISCOVER LOST GATOS**  
**WITH ALAN FEINBERG**  
**MAY 3 AT 5 P.M.**



## Donate to Friends of Los Gatos Library

*Off the Shelf* is published by Friends of Los Gatos Library, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established to encourage use of the library for the pursuit of knowledge, information and pleasure; to increase public awareness of library resources; and to raise funds for library enhancements.

To make a tax-deductible gift and become a Friend of Los Gatos Library, please complete the form below and mail to: Friends of Los Gatos Library, 100 Villa Ave., Los Gatos, CA 95030. You can also donate on the Friends website: <https://friendsoflibrary.org> (Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page for donation link.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount enclosed:

\$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_