



Laleh Khoshkbariie — Chef, Cookbook Author, Actress & Zumba Instructor — to Speak on May 1

Chef, cookbook author, actress and popular local Zumba teacher Laleh Khoshkbariie is the featured speaker at the Friends annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1, at 5 p.m. She'll share some of her inspiring life story and how she came to write her books.

A food enthusiast from her earliest years, Laleh grew up in a family of excellent cooks in Northern Iran which is famous for its cuisine. At age 2 she was helping her mother in the kitchen, and by the time she was 13 she was cooking solo for gatherings of 30 or 40 people.

Her family left Iran during the revolution when Laleh was age 5, and ended up in San Jose ("where I belong," she says) after going through Turkey, Italy, Switzerland and Canada.

She earned a degree in marketing from San Jose State University and also studied acting at Foothill College, performing in musical theater productions until she had children, a son, now 20, and a daughter, age 14.

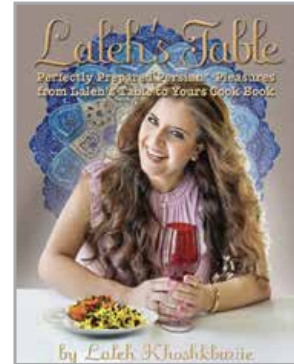
Always athletic, she's played many different sports, and especially loves aerobics, working out, and all kinds of dance. When she experienced Zumba for the first time, she was hooked, and immediately got certified to teach it. Laleh's classes at fitness clubs around Silicon Valley, such as the Bay Club Courtside in Los



Gatos and Forma Gym, are so popular that participants must reserve a spot in advance.

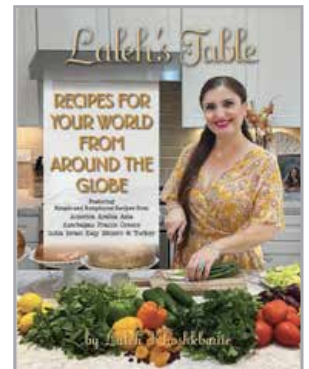
But food has always been a primary passion and has gotten her through some tough times. "When I had severe post-partum depression," she says, "what saved me was watching the Food Network."

After years of taking cooking classes, Laleh created and ran her own catering firm, Tulip Lolly Catering. But 12 years after setting up the business, she closed it during the COVID pandemic, and said to herself, "Let's see what life is trying to tell me." That's when she turned her attention to writing.



Her first book, *Laleh's Table: Perfectly Prepared Persian Pleasures from Laleh's Table to Yours*, took only one year to write since she had already perfected the recipes. For its gorgeous illustrations, she prepared the food,

staged it, and took the photos herself, describing the experience as "fun, but exhausting." Her second book, *Laleh's Table: Recipes for Your World From Around the Globe*, features dishes from 10 countries which were favorites of her catering customers. And she's currently working on a book dedicated to desserts. Laleh says the best way to purchase the books is through her website (see box on page 3).





President's Letter

by Celia Bakke

Dear Friends,

Greetings and welcome to the arrival of spring!

I'm so privileged to be working with enthusiastic, energetic and creative board members who are dedicated to supporting the Los Gatos Library as an integral and vital organization in our community. Our primary focus is generating funds through the sale of books and other materials in the Friends of the Library Bookstore and encouraging monetary donations and the donation of books to populate the store shelves. These funds support the myriad of programs that the library presents to the community each year.

The displays and materials in the store change frequently so there will always be something new to discover no matter how frequently you visit. And I'm pleased to announce that soon the store will have a new supply of T-shirts for sale in several styles and a range of sizes, so look for that announcement.

Save this date—Wednesday, May 1—for the Friends annual meeting which is scheduled for 5 p.m. in the main reading room upstairs. We will hold a very brief business meeting followed by a presentation by Laleh Imanverdi Khoshkbariie, a chef, cookbook author, actress and Zumba instructor. You can read all about her in the feature article of this newsletter.

If you have questions or would like to be involved, in the Friends contact me at celia.bakke@sjsu.edu. 🍃

FRIENDS OF LOS GATOS LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS Slate of Officers & Directors for Fiscal Year July 1 2024-June 30 2025

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Monthly meetings of the Friends of the Library board are held in the library conference room on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. Pictured here (l. to r.) are members of the 2023-2024 board: Alicia Barela, Georgina Van Horn, Ana Sorooshian, Lisa Schirmer, Toni Blackstock, Vicki Wendell, Tom Atkinson, Celia Bakke, Louise Roon, Mary Martin, Sue Tuttle, Alyce Parsons, and Jeff Lien. Not pictured are Tricia Schaeffler and Beth Raphael.

Stay in Touch!

If you're reading a hard copy of this newsletter and would like to make sure you get the next issue, send us your email address: friendsoflglib@aol.com

Willow Street Fundraiser

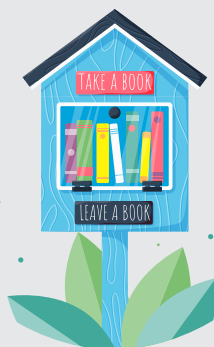
It's a long way away, but write this date—**Monday, December 9**—on your calendar so you're sure to get in on an easy and delicious way to support the Friends. Here's how it works: Take a coupon (available closer to the date) which you can pick up at the library, the Friends Bookstore or on the Friends website to Willow Street Pizza in Los Gatos. Twenty percent of your purchase of food and drink that day, both eat-in and takeout, will be donated to the Friends.



This was such a successful fundraiser for us last year that we decided to do it again. It's a perfect way to help the Friends while taking a welcome respite from the busyness of holiday preparations and shopping! 🌿

Little Free Libraries

The Friends are donating books to fill the four Little Free Libraries operated by the Town of Los Gatos in Oak Meadow Park, the Oak Hill Play Lot, Howe's Play Lot and Bel Gatos Park. The books are mostly for children ages 6 and up, but there are some books for adults as well.



A Little Free Library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. You do not need to share a book in order to take one. But if you take a book or two from a little library, try to bring some to share to that same library, or another in your area, when you can.

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In the last eight months, she's developed a line of healthful, high-protein, low-sugar snacks, and has a Class-B permit from the health department so she can cook them at home.

A bundle of energy, Laleh is also involved in community and charity work, especially around women's issues. She volunteers at PARS Equality Community Center teaching seniors different kinds of dancing.

"I'm a people person," Laleh says. "We're all connected in some way no matter what our walk in life." Her talk promises to be an inspirational, dynamic hour, so mark your calendars now! 🌿

Website: www.lalehstable.org

Instagram: @lalehstable

Facebook: laleh's table

Friends of Los Gatos Library Bookstore

110 E. Main St., Los Gatos

All money made in the bookstore, which is an all-volunteer effort, goes to support the library's many programs for community members of all ages. The bookstore is located near the fountain on the plaza up the stairs to the right of the library.

Tuesday	4-6 p.m.
Wednesday	1-5 p.m.
Thursday	1-5 p.m.
Friday	1-5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday	10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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.

What's New?

- Bookstore gift certificates are on sale in the store.
- In April, most books will be 50 percent off. (Recent best-sellers, however, will still be \$3 to \$6.)
- "Last Chance Books" is a new section that features older books that once were very popular.
- Starting in June, there will be a half-off sale on books required as summer reading by local high schools.
- We still have LOTS of puzzles.

FRIENDS



OF LOS GATOS LIBRARY

100 Villa Ave.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

SAVE THE DATE!
May 1 –
Speaker Laleh Khoshkbariie
December 9 –
Willow Street Fundraiser



Get Set for Summer!

Keep an eye out for the catalog of the library's summer events, including classes, reading programs for all ages, storytimes, speakers, performances and other events. You can pick up your copy at the library. All of the programs listed are made possible because of funds donated by the Friends of the Library.

In the most recent catalog (for March and April), there were 57 separate listings. But that doesn't mean that only 57 events took place, because many of them, such as storytimes, bookgroups and classes, are recurring.

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.)

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Amount enclosed:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____