



HLF News

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Annual Holiday Gala—December 4, 2017 Sara Traphagen & David Duda 2017 Helen Everett Award Honorees

When Sara Traphagen joined the Humboldt Library Foundation board in 2003 she not only brought to the board her considerable energy, creativity and work ethic but the artistic and “schlepping” skills of her husband, David Duda.

Sara grew up on Balboa Island, California and as a young girl she got to ride her bike and take a ferry to the Newport Beach Public Library. Paying just ten cents to take the ferry – a nickel for the girl and a nickel for the bike – it was a glorious adventure for an eight year old. It also set the stage for Sara as an educator, elegant designer and volunteer. She has a passion for the public library system that runs deep and today commits mountains of time helping to raise funds for our library. She originally helped on early capital campaigns, has been a driving force in the success of the live and silent auctions held at the HLF Holiday Gala and has raised loads of money for the library’s Summer Reading Program. She currently serves as the Humboldt Library Foundation Board’s vice president.

David has never officially been an HLF board member and prefers to work in the background. He is always by Sara’s side and says, “I enjoy volunteering for the artistic needs of HLF.” Countless times the board had heard Sara, quite gleefully, volunteer David’s time and skills and he always cheerfully comes through, whether it be assistance with the board’s artistic needs or to much of the heavy lifting in preparing for the Gala. Together they are quite the team and although David is not a board member in reality, he certainly is in spirit, and the board is grateful for his numerous contributions.

After Sara earned her BA in Home Economics and a K-12 Teaching Credential from San Jose State University she moved to Humboldt County and attended HSU to receive her Master’s Degree in Education with an emphasis on Textiles. In 1975 Sara and David met while both were HSU students. Sara and David lost touch for a time as he went on to earn his Masters in Art from the University of California, Santa Barbara, but, after a time, they reconnected. Romance ensued and they eventually wed in 1981.



Since 1988 Sara has owned her own business, Traphagen Design. She is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers and the Humboldt County Committee on School Organization. In the past she has been a member in Eureka Rotary, the League of Women Voters and was on the board and served as president of Six Rivers Planned Parenthood. David was formerly an electrical sign contractor and is currently enjoying retirement.

The Humboldt Library Foundation is proud to acknowledge this team’s massive contribution and honor Sara Traphagen and David Duda with the 2017 Helen Everett Award.

From the President's Desk by Elizabeth Murguia



“I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of anything than of a book!”

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

I spent August on the coast of Maine. Not bad -- stack of books, a weathered deck, a daily swim in the cove, lots of lobster, my sweetheart nearby and reading. Perfection.

Enticed by a recent New York Times Book Review examining critical works published on the 200th anniversary of her death, I reread Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The reviews, aptly titled “Austen Powers,” explored the continuing mystery: Why does she still work, why do we still care, why is she adapted and readapted in film and music and more books? Apparently, finely crafted character, irony, class struggle, personality, emotions, unfolding perceptions, the role of women, etc. still matter. Relief. *Pride and Prejudice* was still satisfying -- like visiting a best friend, or re-watching your favorite movie. The Bennet family charms and despite knowing what happens next, I couldn't wait to turn the page – I cared about Mr. Darcy, loved Lizzy's forthright sensibility and laughed out loud at the expense of Mrs. Bennet. You won't be disappointed.

On another continent and two centuries away from Jane Austen, Louise Erdrich's most recent novel, *LaRose*, also explores the nuance of character and peels back events to reveal emotions that drive the human condition. In *LaRose*, Erdrich returns to her fictional Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. On the opening pages she poses the unimaginable: while hunting, a man accidentally shoots and kills his best friend's son. Is forgiveness possible? Erdrich constructs a story of redemption that weaves the burden and power of cultural tradition and explores the present day challenges of survival with humor, dignity and beauty. Part Ojibwe, Erdrich is a masterful story teller who never disappoints.

On the non-fiction front I heartily recommend Candice Millard's latest, *Hero of the Empire the Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill*. Millard constructs the portrait of a young Churchill – brave, determined and possessed with an unflinching confidence in his own ability and luck. Having concluded a prior stint in the military, Churchill signs on as a journalist and races to South Africa to cover the Boer War. Impatient and in a fervor, he joins the soldiers in a harrowing battle but is captured and detained as a prisoner of war. He escapes, alone, and survives crossing through enemy territory. A national hero back home, he is elected overwhelmingly to serve his first seat in Parliament. The story sets the stage for WWI, explores ‘modern’ warfare and threats to Empire confounded by resurgent guerilla warfare. There are exotic tidbits: Churchill shares Oscar Wilde's psychic; his mother marries his contemporary – 35 years her junior; he meets a young Gandhi, this time supporting Empire; and Rudyard Kipling. Absolutely worth the read.

Given the tenor of the times and the popular comparison to our sitting president, Jon Meacham's *American Lion* is fascinating. Meacham explores the personality, political intrigue and national forces that formed the 7th President, General Andrew Jackson. The first president elected from outside the elite founding fathers (he succeeded John Quincy Adams), Jackson challenged the Washington establishment. He is largely credited with strengthening the Presidency into how we view it today. His actions still inform our national dialogue – the power of the Presidency, federalism versus states' rights, the Electoral College versus the popular vote, the impact of slavery on the southern states, the abrogation of treaty rights.

Be they books from the library, the bookstore or a Maine cabin bookshelf, as Jane Austen declared, “there's no enjoyment like reading!”

HLF Legacy Circle

Join members of the Legacy Circle

Remember HLF in your will or estate plans

The HLF Legacy Circle is made up of individuals who have remembered the Humboldt Library Foundation in their will or estate planning. Their gift will grow the HLF Endowment Fund, a long term strategy to enhance the library services in perpetuity.

For every new Legacy Circle member added during 2017, Ed Olsgard and Michele McKeegan will match the commitment with a \$250 contribution. So please consider today - planning now will provide immediate and long-term support for the public library.

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Edward & Judy Webb

“Why are we reading, if not in hope of beauty laid bare, life heightened and its deepest mystery probed? Can the writer isolate and vivify all in experience that most deeply engages our intellects and our hearts? Can the writer renew our hope for literary forms? Why are we reading if not in hope that the writer will magnify and dramatize our days, will illuminate and inspire us with wisdom, courage, and the possibility of meaningfulness, and will press upon our minds the deepest mysteries, so that we may feel again their majesty and power?”

Annie Dillard, *The Writing Life*

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Summer at Your Library

By Jeanine Lancaster, Youth Services Librarian

What a wonderful summer we had in the library! Children, teens and their families enjoyed “Reading by Design” in the Eureka Main Library and branches throughout the county. A special performer visited each library to kick off the celebrations, and library staff planned follow-up programs to share stories and encourage design thinking by building forts, creating wearable art, designing games and making books to fill with stories and pictures.

Patrons in Humboldt County Libraries enjoyed story time, movie nights, readers’ theater productions, book groups, writing workshops and contests, Lego clubs, arts and crafts programs, family concerts, science activities, author visits, board game and video game gatherings and other programs. Over 1500 people attended more than 120 programs promoting summer learning and fun.

The library also celebrated a generous donation from the family and friends of former library employee Pat Smith. Pat was the Children’s Services Outreach Coordinator from 2004 to 2012, and a steadfast volunteer both before and after her time as a library employee. She passed away in November, 2016, and her family approached the library to offer a donation in her memory. To honor and perpetuate Pat’s generous and playful spirit and her keen interest in supporting early literacy development, the library developed a collection of play materials to engage children and their families in construction, exploration, dramatic play, conversation and learning.

Community members and Pat’s family and friends gathered at the Eureka Library on July 22 to share remembrances of Pat, try out the new materials and read books purchased with other funds donated in Pat’s memory. Participants built with KEVA planks, MagnaTiles and Connectagons; tried out marble runs; tested scarves and paper cups in the wind tunnel; told and sang *Five little monkeys jumping on the bed*; and had a wonderful time together. The special play materials and a mini-collection of picture books notable for their excellence in supporting early literacy will rotate among branch libraries for use in programs and during everyday library visits. Library staff members will also take some of the new materials out into the community during outreach visits to spark interest in creative play and to engage

families in conversation with one another and with library staff.

Summer activities in the library were supported by a great number of sponsors and donors, who provided funding for performances, craft supplies, party refreshments, new library materials and prizes for summer reading participants. More information about the summer reading program and our sponsors can be found here: <http://humboldt.gov/1502/Summer-Reading-Club>. Thanks to everyone who donated and participated - Humboldt County’s summer was better because of you!

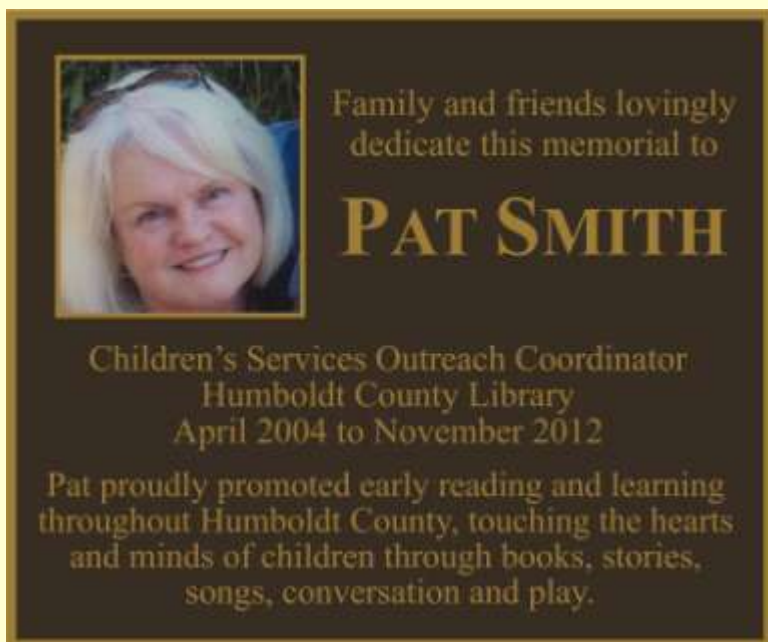


Photo Journey of the Branch Libraries

By Sara Traphagen and Kathy Murphy

This last summer HLF board members Kathy Murphy and Sara Traphagen embarked on a couple of road trips to update the website photos of some of Humboldt County Library's branch facilities. First they headed south to take photos of the Rio Dell and Garberville branch libraries while also enjoying a bit of a detour through the Avenue of the Giants. Then they headed north to update photos of the Trinidad Library and east to the Willow Creek Branch.

Log onto www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org to see what's new with HLF and be sure to like HLF on Facebook.



Children Enjoying the Trinidad Library

The Humboldt Library Foundation Welcomes New Board Member

As Humboldt County Library's retired Children's Librarian, a job she described as "the best job in the world," JoAnn Bauer is personally and uniquely qualified to help HLF keep our library system vital.

For over thirty-five years JoAnn affected many young lives, helped families and made sure services were extended to the farthest outreaches of the county. She established many of the library's most popular programs, including Family Literacy Night, Baby Read and Grow Time and development of a rigorous Young Adult Collection, including the Youth Advisory Council. Her regular columns in the Times Standard, reviewing children's literature, was a favorite for many teachers, parents and those who simply like good literature – no matter what the age.

The HLF is delighted to have JoAnn join our board. She is hard working and has signed up for the Resources Committee and Grants Sub-Committee, already applying her considerable expertise in helping HLF achieve its goals on behalf of the county library system.



Book Blurbs

By Pam Cavanagh, HLF Board Member

When did you last meet an unforgettable, delightful literary character? How did this person, though fictional, make such a lasting impression that you remember her for years? Such is the case with Flavia de Luce, whom I met seven years ago when reading *Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*.

Flavia is eleven years old and the year is 1950. Her family consists of her father and two sisters who live in a crumbling mansion located in England. She has two passions, chemistry and tormenting her sisters for a variety of reasons. Flavia finds particular solace by spending time in a fully equipped chemistry lab left to her by her late Uncle Tarquin.

Without divulging much of the plot, Flavia sets out to assist local law enforcement to solve a recent murder. She rides her bike Gladys over the countryside to gather clues, which lead eventually to solving the murder.

Alan Bradley created the charming Flavia who serves as narrator and protagonist in *Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, the first in a series. Throughout the series Bradley allows her to age, though she retains that initial spark that endears her to the reader.

If you like an enthralling mystery narrated by a clever, witty, somewhat sophisticated, precocious eleven-year-old girl, *Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* is the read for you.

Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie

Alan Bradley, Author

306 pages

“For some of us, books are as important as almost anything else on earth. What a miracle it is that out of these small, flat, rigid squares of paper unfolds world after world after world, worlds that sing to you, comfort and quiet or excite you. Books help us understand who we are and how we are to behave. They show us what community and friendship mean; they show us how to live and die.”

Anne Lamott

Buy a Book

Inspire a Child, Encourage Critical Thinking

Contribute to the HLF Buy A Book Campaign Build the Non-Fiction Children and Youth Collection

New maps, new geography books, explore the ocean floor or the highest peak. Know a child crazy about space travel, the universe, why stars shine in the night? New books spark the curiosity of the youngest.

Dinosaurs fascinate and reptiles intrigue, or is it bugs under rocks that interest your youngster? New interactive and colorful materials provide a greater understanding of the world around us.

And **new** this fall -- we've broadened the campaign to include materials to complement STEAM, a nationally developed school curriculum to support greater understanding of science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.

- Want to spark a young person's interest?
- Want to help a young person grasp the world in a new way?
- Want a young person to become a critical thinker, curious and engaged?

Because school libraries struggle with funding too, teachers, students and families look to the public library to provide these additional materials.

Did You Know?

- The library circulated over 667,000 items last year.
- There are currently 103,707 library card holders in Humboldt County; 17,634 are held by youth.

Buy a book today in honor of or in memory of a loved one. You can visit our website at www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org and use the Donate button or mail your check to the Humboldt Library Foundation at PO Box 440, Eureka, CA 95502-0440.

1 Book ~ \$25

2 Books ~ \$50

3 Books ~ \$75

4 Books ~ \$100

Buy A Shelf ~ \$500



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“A childhood without books – that would be no childhood. That would be like being shut out from the enchanted place where you can go and find the rarest kind of joy.”

Astrid Lindgren



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Arcata Branch

500 Seventh St. 707-822-5954

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1100 Greenwood Ave. 707-668-4207

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