

The Focus

Calaveras County
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Why I Read

Welcome to 2017, a whole new year of reading. I've been an avid reader since I learned to read and libraries have always held an important place in my heart. I read while in the line at Costco, when I get up, before I go to sleep, and I especially like to read on a long airplane trip. I almost always carry my book with me or at least it's in the car nearby. Yes, I'm definitely a reading fanatic. But why do I read?



1. To reduce stress: "A study by consultancy firm Mindlab International at the University of Sussex showed that reading reduces stress. Subjects only needed to read, silently, for six minutes to slow down the heart rate and ease tension in the muscles. In fact it got subjects to stress levels lower than before they started." (<http://whytoread.com/why-to-read-10-reasons-why-reading-books-will-save-your-life/>)

2. To journey to other places: I've been to England, Italy, France, Africa, all around the United States, Russia, the planet Mars, plus more, and I've time traveled to the past (8/22/63 by Stephen King and The Outlander Series by Diana Gabaldon) and to the future (too many dystopian novels to cite here!)

3. To learn about new things: horse racing (Dick Francis), the field of law (John Grisham), wizardry (Harry Potter books), magic (The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern), boxing (The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay), how to fake my own death (Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn), and we won't talk about what I've learned from all the murder mysteries I've read! These examples are all fiction, imagine what you can learn from all the nonfiction books in the library.

4. Reading for me is simply fun and entertaining; books give me something to talk about with other similarly minded readers. Books are a great way to connect to others, plus you learn new words and become more intelligent.

There are many more reasons and some are quite scientific. But I will leave it at that. What are your reasons for reading?

Kristine Loving, Murphys Library Branch



Calaveras County
Friends of the Library
PO Box 1552
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-6510
calaverasfotl@gmail.com
calaverasreads.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

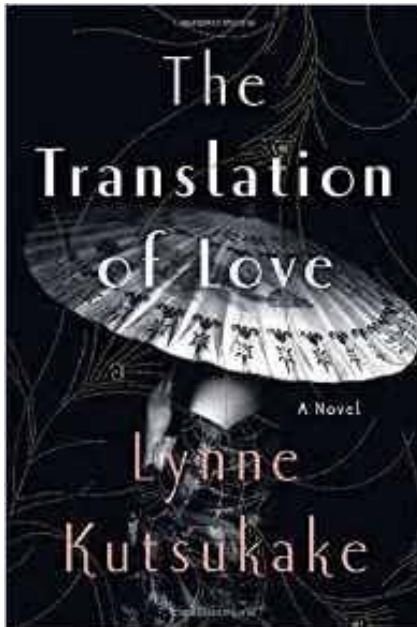
Book Reviews	2-3
Branch Highlights	4
Branch Events	5
Book Club Calendar	7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Melodrama
- Trivia Bee

Friends who read, are Friends indeed!

BOOK REVIEW by Suzanne Murphy



The Translation of Love by Lynne Kutsukake

Publish Date: 2016 by Doubleday - 315 Pages

Love in the Ruins

One of the most generous gifts that fiction gives us is a chance to examine some of the lesser-known stories of history. Against the larger canvas of monumental events, authors can weave a tale that shows the impact of history upon those who are not kings or generals. What is remarkable is these historical “fictions” leave a strong impact on our interpretation of the past. They open the window on events that occur on the world stage and let us see how people dealt with, suffered, or triumphed from economic, political, medical events that brought such massive changes.

So it is that Canadian author Lynne Kutsukake brings a story to shed light on an event that may be unfamiliar to many of us in the States. Although we know well the story of Japanese internment during World War II, it might be surprising to learn what happened to the Japanese Canadians at the close of war. After internment, the Japanese were forced to choose: either move east to other Canadian provinces or “repatriate” to Japan, which was under the authority of the Occupation and General MacArthur.

Kutsukake’s young protagonist Aya Shimamura finds herself returning to a country she has never known when her father, grieving the loss of his wife, makes the decision to return to the homeland he left so long ago. Even though Aya looks no different than her new schoolmates and the crowds who jam the streets of devastated Tokyo, she is lost in a nightmare of shortages, mysterious secrets, and fear. Her Western upbringing and brave spirit serve her well as she begins to form new relationships, help her friend find a lost sister, and make sense of this new society.

In the author’s hands, this gem of a story, written in an elegant, spare fashion, addresses the chaos of war’s aftermath and the myriad ways people seek to keep body and soul together, while struggling to hold onto a shred of dignity and love.

Characters who people the pages are heroic and cowardly, stunned with loss and unthinkable changes. History makes its periodic appearance with General MacArthur and the Occupation Forces.

Lynne Kutsukake’s first novel makes for good reading and would be a good book club choice because it touches on so many subjects, including the tension between heritage and home, assumptions about who belongs, to what lengths some must go in the face of incredible change.

Suzanne Murphy
Valley Springs

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Dean, President
Pru Starr, Vice President
Shirley Huberty, Treasurer
Jackie Wietrick, Secretary

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

Diane Jarvi - Angels Camp
Richard Raso - Arnold
Kathi Copeland - Copperopolis
Bob Dean - Mokelumne Hill
Mary Hultgren - Murphys
Charnette Boyland & Karen Eggleston - San Andreas
Jackie Wietrick - Valley Springs
Pru Starr - West Point

STAFF

Mary Cole - Membership and Promotion, *the Focus* - Editor
Amber Rack - Webmaster

BOOK REVIEW by Shannon Jewel

The Butter Battle Book by Dr. Seuss (1984 Random House NY)

In typical Seuss style of ridiculous rhymes, *The Butter Battle Book* illuminates what can happen when two different cultures with two different ways of thinking collide. The Zooks and Yooks, though separated by a very long Wall, battle it out in a volley of one-upmanship intended to keep The Other out.

There's a serious undertone going on but Seussian alliterations soften the rivalry with humor and drawings of hilarious contraptions.

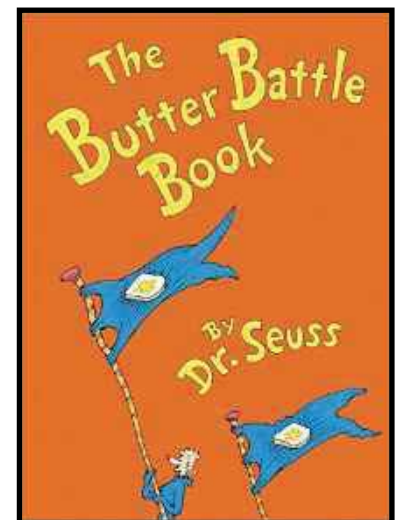
The final page, showing Grandpa Yook of the Zook-Watching Border Patrol straddling the Wall in a smack down with the Zook leader, leaves the reader questioning the usefulness of building a wall to separate people with differing points of view about which side your bread is buttered on.

In the words of Seuss (*Christian Science Monitor* March 1984) "the buttering differences might seem big to us when we focus on them alone, but if we dig deep we may just find that we're not so different."



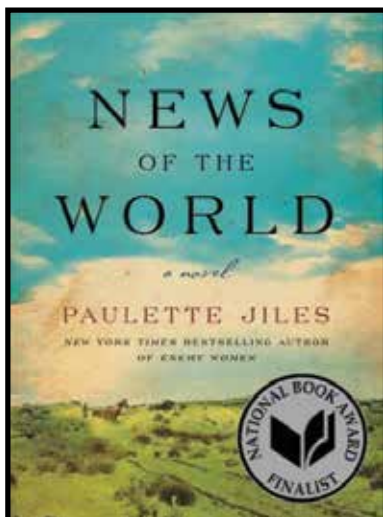
Though the ending is a cliffhanger alluding to hopelessness, *The Butter Battle Book* is a story told through the eyes of a grandson who is remembering the lesson his grandfather shared in the hopes that it would impact his future.

Submitted by Shannon Jewel
Copperopolis Library Branch Assistant



BOOK REVIEW by Judy Galli

News of the World by Paulette Jiles (William Morrow; 1st edition (October 4, 2016))



I just finished *News of the World*, Paulette Jiles. WOW! The love, human trials. Takes place in east Texas in 1870 after the war, and still lots of Indian trouble. Captain Kidd is my hero, I want him to rescue me like he did Johanna. A real page turner.

No book has affected me like this one.

Submitted by Judy Galli
Mokelumne Hill Library Branch

"This Western is not to be missed by Jiles's fans and lovers of Texan historical fiction." (*Library Journal* on *NEWS OF THE WORLD*)

An Amazon Best Book of October 2016

National Book Award Finalist—Fiction

Branch Locations & Storytime Schedule

ANGELS CAMP
426 N. Main Street
736-2198
Call Library for times

ARNOLD
1065 Blagen Road
795-1009
Fridays @ 10:30 am

COPPEROPOLIS
Lake Tulloch Plaza #106
785-0920
Thursdays @ 1:00 pm

MOKELUMNE HILL
8328 Main Street
286-0507
Fridays @ 10:00 am

MURPHYS
480 Park Lane
728-3036
Tuesdays @ 10:30 am

SAN ANDREAS
1299 Gold Hunter Road
754-6510
Wednesdays @ 10:30 am

VALLEY SPRINGS
240 Pine Street
772-1318
Thursdays @ 3:00 pm

WEST POINT
54 Bald Mountain Rd.
293-7020
Call Library for times

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

The Copper Run was a HUGE success with a bonus of blue skies! The community came out in full force with willing volunteers, dedicated runners and fantastic leadership. Everyone finished with enthusiasm and maybe a blister or two in support of the Copperopolis Friends of the Library, Copperopolis Elementary School and Copperopolis Volunteer Firemen Association.

Thanks to all who trained, ran, worked at the event and generously supported the Copper Run!!

*Shannon Jewel,
 Branch Assistant, Copperopolis Library*



Darryl Beardall who turned 80 three months ago, runs 10 miles a day, six days a week. He is from Santa Rosa, and this was his 15th Copper Run.

Other little known facts about Darryl . .

- As of 2012 had accumulated 300,000 running miles, which by most credible sources makes him the man who has run more miles than anyone in America
- Completed seven 100-milers
- Averaged 120 training miles a week from 1959-94 for 218,400
- Has done Dipsea Race in Marin 53 times
- Made 4 US Olympic Marathon Trials
- Completes 45-60 races a year
- Best Marathon time was 2:28, fastest mile 4:18 while on a full scholarship at BYU
- Goes through a pair of running shoes every 6 weeks

*Submitted by Mary Hultgren,
 Murphys Library Branch*



BRANCH EVENTS

February 11th, 2017
Love to Read
 2-4 pm
It's a party at West Point Library!

Refreshments will be provided.
 Valentines crafting station for kids.

Located in the West Point Elementary School
 54 Bald Mountain Rd.

For more information,
 call 293-7020.



Melodrama 2017
“THE PIRATE’S TREASURE or A SHORT TRIP ON A LONG PLANK” by *Don Urbanus*
 Presented by the Valley Springs Friends of the Library
 Tickets \$25

Available at the Health Habit in Valley Springs 772-1318,
 Valley Springs Library,
 or by calling 772-1000 or 772-0591.
 Tables can be reserved.

Dinner Show Dates — Doors open at 6:00

Friday, March 3rd - Saturday, March 4th
Friday, March 10th - Saturday March 11th

Saturday, March 11th Matinée
\$12 - Doors open at 1:00, Show at 2:00



Valentine’s Day in the Copper Library means we would like to “fix you up” with a blind date—with a book, of course!

We select a few books from the Copper Friends of the Library book sale and wrap them all up with red and pink paper and flair so you don’t know exactly what you’re getting until you take it out.

Sounds like a promising date!

You may be disappointed, but then again, you might be surprised and end up with a perfect way to spend the afternoon.

Stop by the Copper Library during the month of February and take a chance with your LOVE of reading!

*Submitted by Shannon Jewel
Copper Library Branch Assistant*

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS, cont.

ANGELS CAMP BRANCH — DECEMBER 2016

We saw out the year in style this Holiday season. The AC Friends gave a lovely poinsettia to each of the volunteers with one left for the window display. Our window has always been bright and cheery, and this year we have made a book Christmas tree from honor and book sale books. It really got noticed and people loved it

Our new assistant, **Debbie Hesse**, is a very welcome addition. She has caught on very quickly and is very good with public service. I don't know how she can keep it all straight revolving around three different libraries, but I'm really glad that she'll be here on Tuesdays. She is already doing a great job. You know how they say that timing is everything?

Diana Lewis, who has been a volunteer since she retired in 2008 from running the Branch for 26 years, has been unable to work for the past two months with a bad knee, and may not return. Now that Debbie is here, we don't have to worry about Diana working (or not) on Tuesdays. I feel this will be much more productive. Now, our volunteers can really back up the work that we do, and not have to run the desk along with everything else.

With Debbie's addition, we have expanded our hours and finally have regular hours that people can remember. They're working out very well with not one complaint about opening an hour later. **We're now open Tuesday - Friday from 11 am - 5 pm.**

We're starting to see a lot of the new books that the AC Friends have purchased, thanks to the cataloging help now at San Andreas. Thank you!

Thanks to a suggestion from Ray of Valley Springs, we have a nice collection of the "You Wouldn't Want to Be..." children's books.

Hopefully the New Year will bring with it an all new and improved Storytime. We have found a replacement for our much-loved **Dana Oneto** who had to leave last summer.



*Patty Smalling,
Angels Camp Branch Assistant*

Rock out to the Sights and Sounds of 50's—80's
at the Friends of the Library of Calaveras County

American Bandstand Era 20th Annual

Trivia Bee

Saturday, March 25, 2017

San Andreas Town Hall ● 24 Church Hill St.

Social 5:30 ● Dinner 6:30 ● Trivia Bee 7:30

\$30 ● Tickets available at all County Libraries and from members of FOTL
For more information, call 754-6510



BOOK CLUB CALENDAR

Children's Storytime	See schedule on page 4		All Branches
Moke Hill READS Book Club	First Tuesday each month 7:00 pm	<p>Feb 7 - "Enders Game," by Orson Scott Card</p> <p>Mar 7 - "News of the World," by Paulette Jiles</p> <p>Apr 4 - "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," by Rebecca Skloot</p>	Mokelumne Hill Branch
Book Club	Third Tuesday each month 3:30 pm	<p>Feb 21 - "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi</p> <p>Mar 21 - "Shanghai Girls," by Lisa See.</p>	Valley Springs Branch
Under the Covers Book Club	Fourth Thursday each month 2:00–4:00 pm	"The Glass Castle," by Jeannette Walls.	Murphys Branch

Your Membership as a "Friend"

For up-to-the-minute news about all of our library branches, be sure to:

- check out our website **calaverasreads.com**
- and like us on facebook at **Calaveras County Friends of the Library**

Not a member yet? You can find an application under the Membership tab so you can join today!

Mary Cole,
Membership & Promotions Staff

RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED!!

for the

20th Annual TRIVIA BEE

JUST A FEW GREAT IDEAS . . .

Vacation Condo

Piece of Art

Great Wine

Gift Certificates to Museums/Attractions

Money

Your Time - chores, repairs, cleaning

Firewood

For donations, contact Diane at 736-9430 or grnhrndi@att.net