

Check It Out! Podcast Transcript
Episode #35

“Singing the praises of opera and libraries with Lorraine Burdick”
Sno-Isle Libraries, Aug. 16, 2019



Ken Harvey:	00:09	Welcome to season two and episode 35 of Check It Out!, the Sno-Isle Libraries podcast for lifelong learners with inquiring minds.
Speaker 2:	00:17	The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle Libraries.
Ken Harvey:	00:25	Paul Pitkin from the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation is here with me, as we welcome another studio guest to join us. We have with us Lorraine Burdick. Lorraine is a librarian with Sno-Isle Libraries and she serves as a collections librarian. Lorraine, we're delighted to have you with us. We're going to explore what you do for Sno-Isle Libraries and some of the passions that you pursue. Thank you for being with us.
Lorraine Burdick:	00:52	Thank you. Happy to be here.
Ken Harvey:	00:55	Paul I just want you to wave to the audience and let them know that you're here.
Paul Pitkin:	00:59	I'm here.
Ken Harvey:	01:00	Yeah, he's waving everyone-
Paul Pitkin:	01:01	I'm waving.
Ken Harvey:	01:01	... [inaudible 00:01:01] if you can't see that. Hey Lorraine, you've been with Sno-Isle Libraries how long now?
Lorraine Burdick:	01:08	11 years.
Ken Harvey:	01:10	You came aboard as a collections librarian?
Lorraine Burdick:	01:12	I was hired as a collection development librarian. Yes.
Ken Harvey:	01:15	Tell us about collection development for a library.

(Continued)

Lorraine Burdick: 01:20 The collection development is the librarian term for how we do the selection of the materials, and how we remove materials from the libraries. We-

Ken Harvey: 01:32 When you say materials, you're talking about the books and the-

Lorraine Burdick: 01:37 The books, and the audio books, and the E-books, and the films. Well, they're not films, the DVDs and all of the materials that people can check out are selected and purchased for Sno-Isle Libraries through the collection development department.

Ken Harvey: 01:54 There's someone who actually has the job of selecting all the things that people find in the libraries.

Lorraine Burdick: 02:00 I'm one of those people, yes, and I love it.

Ken Harvey: 02:02 Gosh. Fascinating. How old were you when you realized that's what you wanted to do?

Lorraine Burdick: 02:08 Well, I've been working in the library since I was in high school. I started as a page putting books away and-

Ken Harvey: 02:14 For two or three years, then, right?

Lorraine Burdick: 02:17 That's a long time ago. I've worked in all the different levels of being a staff member at the library. I put myself through college, my undergraduate degree, by working in the library. When I finished with my undergraduate degree, I decided to work full-time for the library, but I was not a librarian. I worked for a few years and went, "Boy, I really like this work. I want to be a librarian." I've been in the library since I was very young and I decided, when I was about 28, to become a librarian.

Paul Pitkin: 02:52 Is that when you went to library school-

Lorraine Burdick: 03:00 That is when I decided to go to library school, yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 03:01 You guys always seem to call it library school.

Lorraine Burdick: 03:03 It is library school, yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 03:06 Where did you go to college?

Lorraine Burdick: 03:08 For my library degree?

Paul Pitkin: 03:09 Yeah.

Lorraine Burdick: 03:10 I went to San Jose State University in California.

Paul Pitkin: 03:13 Where did you go to get your undergrad?

Lorraine Burdick: 03:15 California State University at Long Beach.

Paul Pitkin: 03:17 Okay. All in California.

Lorraine Burdick: 03:18 Yeah, that's where I was from-

Ken Harvey: 03:20 You're a California girl.

Lorraine Burdick: 03:21 Mm-hmm (affirmative). I was until 25 years ago. Yeah. I've been a Washington girl since then.

Ken Harvey: 03:26 Always in Southern California?

Lorraine Burdick: 03:27 Yes. Well, I went to school in the Bay Area at San Jose, but grew up and lived, until the early 90s, in Southern California.

Ken Harvey: 03:36 Did you ever get into the valley girl kind of thing?

Lorraine Burdick: 03:38 No, I was not a valley girl. I was more coastal. I was in the Long Beach area.

Paul Pitkin: 03:44 You're a beach person.

Lorraine Burdick: 03:46 No, that's why I moved to Washington.

Paul Pitkin: 03:48 You don't like the beaches?

Lorraine Burdick: 03:49 I love the beach, but I'm not really... I'm not a sun-

Ken Harvey: 03:53 Sun lover.

Lorraine Burdick: 03:53 ... adorer.

Paul Pitkin: 03:55 I lived in California for a little while, and I got really tired of it being sunny every single day.

Lorraine Burdick: 04:00 It gets kind of boring, yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 04:01 Very boring.

Lorraine Burdick: 04:02 Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 04:02 You just wants some rain, some clouds.

Lorraine Burdick: 04:04 That's why I moved to Washington, because I love the weather here.

Ken Harvey: 04:07 Variety is a spice.

Paul Pitkin: 04:08 Yes. You came to the right place.

Lorraine Burdick: 04:10 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 04:13 Essentially, you grew up in California, went to school there.

Lorraine Burdick: 04:16 Yes.

Paul Pitkin: 04:17 Now we are well aware that you are a singer, and that you have been... I think I heard before we started that you're not just an opera singer but you have sung opera.

Lorraine Burdick: 04:30 Well, I perform opera professionally with Seattle Opera right now. I'm a member of their regular chorus and so, and I've been doing that. I've done 11 seasons with them so far, and whenever there is a show that has a full chorus, I'm in it unless I'm not available. But I usually am, because I love it.

Ken Harvey: 04:47 Very cool.

Paul Pitkin: 04:52 I have many questions for you about this, because I'm always impressed by opera singers. You have no microphones, right?

Lorraine Burdick: 05:00 No.

Paul Pitkin: 05:00 You just sing and everyone can hear you in the audience.

Lorraine Burdick: 05:03 Yes, it's training. Lots of breath control.

Paul Pitkin: 05:08 That projection, is it mostly coming from your diaphragm or from your breathing, or how are you doing that?

Lorraine Burdick: 05:13 It's using your diaphragm and all of your muscles and your breathing. Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 05:17 Yeah. My sister was an opera singer, so I [crosstalk 00:05:19]-

Lorraine Burdick: 05:19 It also helps with if your body has the right... your larynx and all of that is... The shape of things inside your head also helps project it [inaudible 00:05:29].

Ken Harvey: 05:29 I always thought opera singers sing from their loins, from their thighs and stomach muscles, lower abdominals.

Lorraine Burdick: 05:38 It's your whole body.

Paul Pitkin: 05:40 Yeah, I could imagine. You actually won a contest as a mezzo-soprano.

Lorraine Burdick: 05:46 Yes.

Paul Pitkin: 05:48 Can you tell us what the contest was, and how that came about?

Lorraine Burdick: 05:49 Yes. It was in Llangollen, Wales.

Paul Pitkin: 05:53 Oh, my God-

Ken Harvey: 05:53 I'm not even going to try that one.

Lorraine Burdick: 05:54 I had to practice that one a lot when I went. I was singing with a choir that, it's in Llangollen, Wales, they have the International Musical Eistedfodd which is an international-

Paul Pitkin: 06:04 I think my head's about to explode.

Lorraine Burdick: 06:07 ... competition which they've been having for decades, I think 50 or 60 years. They have it every year in July, and my choir that I was singing with was going. I thought, "Well, I'm a singer. I will go and participate in the solo competition." I'd never done anything like that before. I had a bachelor's degree in vocal performance.

Ken Harvey: 06:25 Oh, wow.

Lorraine Burdick: 06:27 I thought, "Well, I'll just go." I prepared some music with my voice teacher and they required one song from your own country, which I sang a beautiful Samuel Barber piece. They wanted you to sing something by Mozart. Mozart didn't really write anything that works well for my voice. He writes more for sopranos and lighter singers than I am. I did an art song by him, which was quite lovely, called An Chloe. I got to go and sing and I took part in a couple of preliminary auditions, and I went and I won first place, which was a lot of fun. I won 100 pounds.

Ken Harvey: 07:08 [inaudible 00:07:08]-

Paul Pitkin: 07:08 You spent it all in one place, right?

Lorraine Burdick: 07:11 I did, I put a down payment on a piano.

Ken Harvey: 07:15 Just so the audience knows we're not talking about you won additional weight. You won...

Lorraine Burdick: 07:20 British pounds.

Ken Harvey: 07:21 British currency.

Lorraine Burdick: 07:22 Yes. Right. It was very exciting, and I had never done anything like that before, and I haven't done anything-

Ken Harvey: 07:29 Congratulations.

Lorraine Burdick: 07:29 I haven't participated in any type of competition since then because the year after I won that I moved from California up to Washington where I was working as a youth services librarian on the peninsula. The Olympic Peninsula, excuse me, in the Port Townsend area, and there wasn't really any professional type of singing I could do, though I did lots of my... I made lots of music in the Port Townsend area. It's a very dynamic music community-

Paul Pitkin: 08:00 There's really a great music scene there it seems like.

Lorraine Burdick: 08:04 Yeah, I really enjoyed the time I was there.

Ken Harvey: 08:05 Were you one of the reasons why the hills were alive with the sound of music? It was you up in the hills singing?

Lorraine Burdick: 08:12 I just sang that wandering through the Olympic National Forest last week.

Ken Harvey: 08:18 It's a lovely time.

Lorraine Burdick: 08:18 People looked at me very oddly, but I enjoyed it.

Paul Pitkin: 08:21 It sounds like you do some other singing, not just opera.

Lorraine Burdick: 08:24 I do. I started singing in church when I was 10. I've done church music, lots of folk music. I love musical theater-

Ken Harvey: 08:33 Oh, wonderful.

Lorraine Burdick: 08:35 ... and, just all sorts of different kinds of... In fact, I came to opera quite late. I didn't really know anything about classical music until I was in college when I started my vocal

performance degree. I never had really experienced much with it. I grew up on Harry Belafonte and the Kingston Trio, and so I... As I said, I was late to it, and when I was... Right after I graduated with my undergraduate degree, the local professional opera company was looking for singers that had skill, and I auditioned for them. I worked professionally with Long Beach Grand Opera for about four shows in the late eighties, and the early nineties, and then I moved up here.

Ken Harvey: 09:23 I had a friend growing up who called... he and I talked a few times about opera and he called opera, talk singing or sing talking. He was disparaging about it until he got talked into being in an opera. From that point on, he was very, very complimentary of the skill it required, and the quality of the music. Just for listeners who don't really know opera as a form of music, how would you define opera?

Lorraine Burdick: 09:58 Well, opera usually tells very big stories. There's often lots of strong feelings, and it is done with people... It depends on what style of opera it is, but it's usually, there's no speaking in it. There are some opera that has speaking in it, but for most grand opera, it's, story happens with people singing to each other, then you break into what's called an Aria, which is, it's like a soliloquy in Shakespeare, where you take an idea and you share that idea in song. It's a solo moment where you are thinking about something or telling a story or something like that. That's what the Arias are-

Ken Harvey: 10:48 You're thinking out loud in song.

Lorraine Burdick: 10:50 Yeah. One of the things I love about opera is you get to dress in wonderful costumes, and you have a symphony of orchestra performing for you and-

Ken Harvey: 11:01 Which is always wonderful.

Lorraine Burdick: 11:02 Yeah, and you have... In Seattle Opera, we have a few thousand people in the audience, and I just love being under the lights and having the people there. There's just so much joy and excitement.

Paul Pitkin: 11:16 This might be... Well, you can tell me if I'm wrong, but I think, when I think of opera, when I think of the vocalization of opera, and I think probably when a lot of people do, when people think of it, they think of, is this the right term, the covered sound, where you're using some of your soft palate to create more of a deep sound in your voice? Or is that a mischaracterization?

Lorraine Burdick: 11:40 The deep sound comes from what type of voice you are. You sing with all... It can be really complicated. I still study with a teacher now, and I've been singing for a long time, and every time I learn new things. One of the things that... When you're hearing sound, you hear overtones, which is, you hear the sound and then you hear other sounds that make it fuller, and I'm not a physician... a physician, a physics person, so I can't really explain it very well. But you can have a sound and then it gets fuller with all of these overtones that are sounding. My voice teacher always says, "You're not trying for decibels, you're trying for overtones," and so it has a richer and fuller sound when... That comes from singing using your soft palate, and using your nasal cavity. Using-

Paul Pitkin: 12:36 Your mask all the time-

Lorraine Burdick: 12:38 ... your head. I mean, you just use your whole head and your whole body.

Paul Pitkin: 12:43 Do you have a favorite language to sing in?

Lorraine Burdick: 12:44 I love singing in German.

Paul Pitkin: 12:46 Really?

Lorraine Burdick: 12:47 Yeah, I do-

Paul Pitkin: 12:47 Oh, that's great, because I thought that isn't like-

Lorraine Burdick: 12:50 Italian [crosstalk 00:12:51]-

Paul Pitkin: 12:51 Italian is supposed to be the main thing. That's awesome. I guess German, thinking about it, if you could master it, would be really cool [crosstalk 00:12:59]-

Lorraine Burdick: 12:59 My grandmother is from Vienna, so I have a fondness for it.

Paul Pitkin: 13:02 Excellent.

Ken Harvey: 13:02 How many different languages does opera-

Lorraine Burdick: 13:04 Well, [crosstalk 00:13:05] many-

Ken Harvey: 13:06 ... reveal itself in?

Lorraine Burdick: 13:06 It's often the most common are French, Italian, German, Russian, English. I mean, there's many... Czech. I mean there's

many, many, many more languages, but the most frequently performed in the setting that I'm in is Italian and French.

Ken Harvey: 13:26 With your background being in opera, and your professional work in libraries, what would you tell listeners in terms of what they can find through libraries to fit their musical tastes?

Lorraine Burdick: 13:40 Well, we have all different ways that you can access music. We have actual CDs that you can check out, and we also have electronic resources. I'm not the person that selects them. I buy the children's music, so I can tell you all about that.

Ken Harvey: 13:56 Tell us.

Paul Pitkin: 13:56 Yeah, what makes children's music? I assume it's not screeching electric guitarish.

Lorraine Burdick: 14:02 No, well it can be, but it's usually not. It's usually songs that are... There's not so much drama or angst.

Paul Pitkin: 14:15 The stakes are lower, is that what you're saying?

Lorraine Burdick: 14:17 Right, it's usually fun, get up and dance kind of music. A lot of the music that's done for children right now is self-published. A lot of people do a lot of concerts and such, and so there's a whole part of children's world that's called, what is it called? Kindie music.

Paul Pitkin: 14:36 I think I've heard of this.

Lorraine Burdick: 14:37 Kindie music which is-

Paul Pitkin: 14:38 I think the library-

Lorraine Burdick: 14:40 Kids independent, and it's just... I always look and find who's going in the kindie movement around the country and try to make sure that we have all different ranges of music for kids.

Paul Pitkin: 14:50 Because I think there've been, actually several programs with kindie performers.

Lorraine Burdick: 14:55 Oh yeah. Yeah. Like, Caspar Babypants is a local...

Paul Pitkin: 15:00 I'm sorry, just, I'm imagining, "Ladies and gentlemen, Caspar Babypants-"

Ken Harvey: 15:04 Caspar Babypants. What are you listening for? When you listen to music to buy for the library?

Lorraine Burdick: 15:08 Well, it needs to be in tune.

Paul Pitkin: 15:11 What? Come on-

Ken Harvey: 15:13 [crosstalk 00:15:13].

Paul Pitkin: 15:13 Are you saying there's not going to be a bunch of Velvet Underground for little kids?

Lorraine Burdick: 15:16 There probably is. No, I listen to see if it sounds like it's well produced, because a lot of these are self-published. I listen to how it's orchestrated, meaning what kind of instrumentation it has. I listen to how the person sounds. I listen to several of the songs on it to make sure they don't all sound exactly the same, and I look and see what they're singing about and such.

Paul Pitkin: 15:44 I'm curious about if... I'm assuming that most of the checkouts for this material are from parents, right?

Lorraine Burdick: 15:52 I would assume. Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 15:54 Are they checking out CDs or are they actually downloading stuff?

Lorraine Burdick: 15:59 Right now, I think it would have to be CDs. The downloading services do not provide a lot for children at this time.

Paul Pitkin: 16:04 Okay, so they just-

Lorraine Burdick: 16:05 Hopefully that will be expanding in the future because we need to have them. But yeah, it's still hard disks.

Paul Pitkin: 16:14 It's interesting that they're... Because what you're talking about as a singer, music for young children is so important for their literacy and for-

Lorraine Burdick: 16:23 Oh, very much. It's for language-

Paul Pitkin: 16:23 ... just in general.

Lorraine Burdick: 16:25 ... building and such. Yes.

Paul Pitkin: 16:27 Yeah. That's interesting that you'd be curating that.

Lorraine Burdick: 16:30 Yeah, it's a lot easier now that I can listen to stuff. I used to just look at the front cover of the album and look at the song listing. I really appreciate being able to access, listening to things online.

Paul Pitkin: 16:42 Yeah. I bet.

Lorraine Burdick: 16:43 It makes a big difference, because I feel like I'm making better decisions from what's available.

Ken Harvey: 16:49 You're making those, in some ways, pre decisions that help provide the rich collection that the library offers. Are you thinking in terms of... As you're listening to some of these things, are you looking and listening with the thought of what others might enjoy or... What's the kind-

Lorraine Burdick: 17:10 It's, more than what I would enjoy. I've been selecting materials for children since about 1985. I have an idea of what... When I was working as a children's librarian, I used to do a lot of story times, working with young children. I have an idea of what is fun, what's exciting, what's catchy. I read a lot about what's going on in the business and this is also true with the books and such. I try to keep up on what's up, our librarians in Sno-Isle Libraries also. We have a tool within our library system that the staff... it's not just the librarians, it's the staff can make suggestions to me if they feel that we're missing something. I get that. Also from our request process, if people are interested in something that we don't own, I can look into it and see if we can-

Paul Pitkin: 18:06 A customer can [crosstalk 00:18:08]-

Lorraine Burdick: 18:07 Our customers. Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 18:09 Well, that's-

Lorraine Burdick: 18:09 Using our request process.

Ken Harvey: 18:10 That's a great service.

Lorraine Burdick: 18:11 Yes it is, yeah. Works really well.

Paul Pitkin: 18:13 Have you noticed anything, any trends that have happened with children's music and books? I mean, I'm sure there's a lot. What's changed since 1985 to now?

Lorraine Burdick: 18:22 The music is... I mean, there's more. I mean, in 85 I used to buy records. There's a lot more available because there's a lot more people able to produce because-

Ken Harvey: 18:35 Wait, wait, wait, wait, because there's probably some listeners out there saying, "What's a record?"

Paul Pitkin: 18:41 Oh, no.

Lorraine Burdick: 18:44 No, they're coming back.

Ken Harvey: 18:46 Explain what a record is.

Lorraine Burdick: 18:47 It's a-

Ken Harvey: 18:50 Large vinyl disk-

Lorraine Burdick: 18:51 Large vinyl disk. I'm going, "It's not a 45." Okay. It's a large vinyl disc that has music on it and you place a needle onto as it spins around, and music comes out of the speakers of your stereo.

Paul Pitkin: 19:05 As far as the way it's changed... The music itself-

Lorraine Burdick: 19:08 The sound, what you're listening to. There's a lot more available because people are able to make their own studios and make their own music, which in the past it was hard to have a disc made, a vinyl disc, but now people can just make mp3s and sell them, and such.

Paul Pitkin: 19:24 As far as the content of the music though, has that changed or is it... I mean some of the messaging, some of the-

Lorraine Burdick: 19:29 I'd say the messaging hasn't really changed that much. The sound has changed. It depends on what's popular.

Paul Pitkin: 19:33 Has it become more digital now than it used to be?

Lorraine Burdick: 19:36 Sometimes. Yeah. I mean-

Ken Harvey: 19:38 By digital you mean electronic [crosstalk 00:19:40]?

Paul Pitkin: 19:40 Yes, I'm imagining like in 85 maybe there'd be a lot more, obviously, more analog instruments like acoustic guitars and things like-

Lorraine Burdick: 19:47 I think [crosstalk 00:19:47] children's music is still more done with analog than digital. Guitars, and... I mean, it depends. I

mean, there's bluegrass children's music, and there's a big trend of taking popular music of the hit pop singers and making making music to go to sleep to. Yeah. They make it with little ding, ding, ding, ding sounds and stuff. That's...

Paul Pitkin: 20:15 That's to help the [crosstalk 00:20:17] sleep-

Lorraine Burdick: 20:17 I think it's so the parents get to hear tunes that they're familiar with, and it's gentle lullaby music for their kids.

Ken Harvey: 20:23 Lullaby music.

Paul Pitkin: 20:24 Okay.

Ken Harvey: 20:24 Or for adults, zen music.

Lorraine Burdick: 20:26 Yeah, zen.

Ken Harvey: 20:28 Relaxation music.

Paul Pitkin: 20:29 Yeah.

Lorraine Burdick: 20:29 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 20:30 I should just point out to all of our listeners that the three of us gathered here all have some background in music and so we're having a little love fest here as we're talking about-

Lorraine Burdick: 20:41 We talk about [inaudible 00:20:42].

Ken Harvey: 20:44 Well, I just wanted to follow Paul's initial question. When you think back to your years growing up, what kind of music technology were you enjoying as a teen?

Lorraine Burdick: 21:00 It was records, it was vinyl.

Ken Harvey: 21:01 The vinyl record, 45s and 70?

Lorraine Burdick: 21:03 My friend's parents had a car that had an 8-track player in it.

Ken Harvey: 21:07 I remember 8-tracks.

Lorraine Burdick: 21:08 We used to go to... Because I lived in Southern California. One of my favorite memories is, she had this big red Checker station wagon, it was her dad's, and it had an 8-track player and we put The Beach Boys in, and we'd roll all the windows down and we'd ride down Pacific Coast-

Ken Harvey: 21:20 Blast it-

Lorraine Burdick: 21:21 ... Highway-

Ken Harvey: 21:21 Fun, fun, fun.

Lorraine Burdick: 21:21 ... and play The Beach Boys. That was just one of my favorite teen memories-

Ken Harvey: 21:25 Surfin' Safari and the rest of those.

Lorraine Burdick: 21:28 We didn't have an 8-track player, but my friend's family did. When I was in college it was mostly audio tapes. That's where it went-

Ken Harvey: 21:36 Cassette tapes-

Lorraine Burdick: 21:36 Cassette tapes, and then that evolved into CDs, which is still...

Ken Harvey: 21:41 Yeah. In the time that you've been working as a librarian and professional, you've seen that technology change as well.

Lorraine Burdick: 21:51 And I have purchased all the different formats of it.

Ken Harvey: 21:54 Wow.

Lorraine Burdick: 21:54 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 21:55 What do you see happening with CDs?

Lorraine Burdick: 21:59 They're going to be going away. Not in the very near future, but more and more people are listening to their materials through their devices-

Ken Harvey: 22:09 Their digital devices-

Lorraine Burdick: 22:11 Digital devices and downloading, and-

Ken Harvey: 22:13 Smartphones, tablets, laptops.

Lorraine Burdick: 22:15 Yeah, I have my iPod, I listen to all the time, but we do have lots of things available online that you can see if you go to our website.

Paul Pitkin: 22:22 You can essentially go and download music and listen to it? You don't have to have a membership with some music plan-

Lorraine Burdick: 22:29 No, you have to have a library card.

Paul Pitkin: 22:30 Yeah, that's your membership.

Lorraine Burdick: 22:31 That's your membership. Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 22:32 That's great. When you're talking to friends or family about the library, do you find that any of them are ever surprised about what libraries offer these days?

Lorraine Burdick: 22:45 Yes, they do. I think that people, excuse me, people tend to think that libraries are just books, and we are books. Books are real big, and I love books, and I read books all the time-

Ken Harvey: 22:59 So do I.

Lorraine Burdick: 23:00 ... but it's not just books. We have music, we have DVDs, we have downloads, we have extensive collections of magazines, if you still want to read paper magazines. Not a lot of people do that. But we have paper magazines. We also have downloadable magazines that you can check out. We have wonderful databases that are available that you can access information. Say my husband and I were interested in buying a lawn mower and he went online and went through our databases and used consumer reports and read through that. That's a service that's provided through the library with your library card. You can use those kind of tools. I think that libraries have just a wealth of wealth of information available. Also if you're not finding what you need just doing a Google search, you can speak with one of the staff at the library and they can help you do more in depth searching and such. Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 24:02 Which is a great service.

Lorraine Burdick: 24:03 Yeah. Well, it used to be... When I first started as libraries, we used to do a lot of answering questions of finding phone numbers for people, and finding addresses, and things. People can now find that pretty much online. It's nice to know that if you need more in depth help, you can go to the library and get that assistance.

Ken Harvey: 24:25 Now you mentioned your husband a little bit earlier. I think I heard a rumor somewhere that he's a musician-

Lorraine Burdick: 24:30 Yes-

Ken Harvey: 24:30 ... or he's been involved in music-

Lorraine Burdick: 24:31 We actually met singing together in the Pirates of Penzance. We make a lot of music together. Sometimes we do concerts together and such. We just did one on the peninsula where he grew up. He grew up on the west end of the peninsula, and we'd sing a little musical theater concert as a fundraiser for their local-

Ken Harvey: 24:49 How neat-

Lorraine Burdick: 24:49 ... community group there.

Paul Pitkin: 24:50 Is it strange doing music with your husband?

Lorraine Burdick: 24:54 No, we love it. We don't get enough opportunities to do it.

Paul Pitkin: 24:57 Okay, that's great. Excellent.

Ken Harvey: 24:59 You have a real musical love story.

Lorraine Burdick: 25:01 Very much. Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 25:02 And a life story [crosstalk 00:25:03]-

Lorraine Burdick: 25:02 Yeah, Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Ken Harvey: 25:03 That's great. I'm wondering if in your life history of music and becoming involved in choosing this as a profession. If you can think of someone who was really instrumental, someone who stands out as having helped you by doing something or saying something at the right time.

Lorraine Burdick: 25:33 Well, for me, the person I say that helped me the most in my career as a librarian was my children's librarian when I was growing up was a woman named Penny [inaudible 00:25:42]. She was the person who introduced me to so many books and she had me as a children's volunteer, and she had me hired, helped me get my first job as a page at the library. She left the library that she was working at, my library, to become the children's services coordinator for Los Angeles County Public Library. Over the time, and when I decided I wanted to become a librarian, I contacted her and she helped me get a job with LA County just before I started library school. Then afterwards, she's retired now, and I ran into her at a library convention a few years ago. I said, "Penny, you're the reason I'm a librarian today. Thank you so much."

Ken Harvey: 26:25 That's an amazing story.

Lorraine Burdick: 26:27 Oh, it was wonderful. She is a really wonderful person, so yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 26:32 That's great. I know you read a lot. Do you-

Lorraine Burdick: 26:35 All the time.

Paul Pitkin: 26:35 Yeah. Do you have a particular genre that you are into or is it one of those-

Lorraine Burdick: 26:39 I'm a romance reader.

Paul Pitkin: 26:40 Okay.

Lorraine Burdick: 26:40 And science fiction, yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 26:42 Oh, science fiction. I science fiction.

Lorraine Burdick: 26:43 I do too.

Ken Harvey: 26:44 I've come to understand that there are different types of romance.

Lorraine Burdick: 26:48 Oh yes. Very much.

Ken Harvey: 26:51 Each stream of romance seems to have its own followers.

Lorraine Burdick: 26:54 Yes.

Ken Harvey: 26:54 What are some of the different streams?

Lorraine Burdick: 26:57 There's historical, and there's contemporary, and there's cowboy, and there's... I'm trying to think what else. There's a whole genre of people that are supernatural, not supernatural, but like werewolves and... That was trending a little bit a few years ago.

Ken Harvey: 27:18 With Twilight and-

Lorraine Burdick: 27:20 Yeah-

Ken Harvey: 27:20 The Twilight series.

Lorraine Burdick: 27:20 Well that was really big in, teen.

Ken Harvey: 27:22 I understand there's a-

Lorraine Burdick: 27:28 Well, and then historical. You got the Regency, the Georgian, the Victorian, there's all those sorts of different-

Ken Harvey: 27:34 Like Amish and-

Lorraine Burdick: 27:35 Oh, and Amish as well. Yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 27:40 I'm speechless at the moment.

Lorraine Burdick: 27:41 And you want to know about science fiction, yeah.

Paul Pitkin: 27:44 Well, [inaudible 00:27:45] Amish romance sounds like that could be-

Lorraine Burdick: 27:47 [crosstalk 00:27:47]-

Paul Pitkin: 27:47 ... You could turn that into a science fiction.

Lorraine Burdick: 27:49 Yeah. If you could have it on another planet.

Paul Pitkin: 27:52 Exactly-

Ken Harvey: 27:52 Alien romance.

Lorraine Burdick: 27:53 Maybe not... I've probably-

Ken Harvey: 27:56 [crosstalk 00:27:56]-

Lorraine Burdick: 27:56 ... said it where there was a group of people that left earth and started their own community and then the aliens came. No.

Paul Pitkin: 28:05 Interstellar romance, I like it.

Ken Harvey: 28:06 What makes a good romance novel for you?

Lorraine Burdick: 28:10 For me, I like there to be... Well, there has to be a happily ever after. That's one of the reasons I like HEA as it's called in the biz.

Paul Pitkin: 28:18 HEA?

Lorraine Burdick: 28:19 An HEA, that's the happily ever after.

Paul Pitkin: 28:24 Oh, okay. Got it. Okay, it took me a second.

Lorraine Burdick: 28:26 Yeah. That's why I had to explain it. It's two people that, there's usually some kind of adversity. There's some tropes that I just don't like and that's if they don't communicate. The whole

meaning behind it is, if they would just sit down and say, "Hey, I like you," then there would be much less drama. I particularly like Regency stories though, there are more dukes available in the regency romances than I think there would ever be possible to have in the entire history of the world. I like Victorian and I like contemporary. Usually the contemporary ones are more humorous. Well, I like humorous ones. I don't like them to be really angsty. I don't know. I like a nice happy story. It's a little steamy.

- Ken Harvey: 29:22 Most of the angsty romance is teen romance. It seems like something when the hormones are pumping that makes life full of angst.
- Lorraine Burdick: 29:31 A lot of teen books have a lot of angst. Yeah. Not just in the romance. There's-
- Paul Pitkin: 29:37 It reflects being a teen.
- Lorraine Burdick: 29:38 Yeah, it's all the dystopia and such. I think it helps people feel like life's not really that bad.
- Paul Pitkin: 29:49 "Look at how bad it can get."
- Lorraine Burdick: 29:51 [crosstalk 00:29:51]-
- Paul Pitkin: 29:51 I think you hit the bottom of the barrel and then you lift up the barrel.
- Lorraine Burdick: 29:54 Right, right.
- Paul Pitkin: 29:55 Yeah. Interesting. Sci-fi is related... That's an interesting mix of genres that you like, because sci-fi has a lot of dystopia and a lot of gnarly endings.
- Lorraine Burdick: 30:06 My very favorite sci-fi writer is Lois McMaster Bujold.
- Paul Pitkin: 30:10 Oh, okay. I've never heard of her.
- Lorraine Burdick: 30:13 You could say that she writes space opera, which is a genre of science fiction, which is... it's usually character driven, big story. Star Wars would be considered a space opera-
- Paul Pitkin: 30:24 Very grand, right? Space opera-
- Lorraine Burdick: 30:26 Not necessarily grand, but mostly more character driven, not so much spaceships. I mean there are spaceships in it. Some of her

stories are military, some of them aren't. She's my favorite science fiction author.

Paul Pitkin: 30:39 You'll have to remind me of her name.

Lorraine Burdick: 30:42 Okay, I will.

Paul Pitkin: 30:42 Because-

Lorraine Burdick: 30:42 Lois McMaster Bujold.

Paul Pitkin: 30:44 Okay, because actually that's the kind of sci-fi I like.

Lorraine Burdick: 30:47 Oh, cool-

Paul Pitkin: 30:47 I'm not into laser beams and things so much. I like the idea of putting... Ursula Le Guin, I love her as a sci-fi writer.

Lorraine Burdick: 30:57 Very good.

Paul Pitkin: 30:57 I love it when you can basically put the human experience in a different context because it gives you so many more ways to tell a story. You're not confined by our current environment.

Ken Harvey: 31:11 I too am a sci-fi person. It's interesting that I like different types of sci-fi based upon the mood I'm in. Everything from alternate universe types of things where it's really kind of rewriting history and future together. But also the ones that have some very hard science woven into them, and then those that are just fantastic, meaning they're fantasy-based, and it's like, "Oh, there's no way in the world that could really happen that way."

Lorraine Burdick: 31:44 There's another really good author named Connie Willis, and she writes science fiction, but also a term that she uses is speculative fiction.

Ken Harvey: 31:52 Yeah, speculative fiction.

Paul Pitkin: 31:53 Did she write the Domsday-

Lorraine Burdick: 31:55 Domsday Book-

Paul Pitkin: 31:56 Yeah, Domsday Book. Yeah. Okay. Yeah.

Lorraine Burdick: 31:58 That's excellent.

Paul Pitkin: 31:58 Yeah, I've heard that one. It was really good. She calls it speculative fiction.

Lorraine Burdick: 32:04 Speculative fiction. In the Domsday Book it's in the future when they have time travel, and college students from Oxford travel back in time to study the time period so that they can write their dissertations. A student gets sent back to the Middle Ages and something happens in London, or in Oxford I beg your pardon, that they can't bring her back and she's stuck during the plague, and it's really intense.

Paul Pitkin: 32:31 Yeah. That's a good one. You think you know about the Middle Ages and turns out no, you don't.

Lorraine Burdick: 32:38 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 32:39 A lot grittier.

Lorraine Burdick: 32:40 Yes. She has written really funny books and really grim books. She has one about a person who travels back and is on the Titanic, it's called Passages. That one I've never been able to read a second time because it was so intense.

Paul Pitkin: 32:53 Wow-

Ken Harvey: 32:53 Wow.

Paul Pitkin: 32:55 You travel back in time and you land on the Titanic, what a rip off.

Lorraine Burdick: 32:58 No, it's not traveling back in time. It's too difficult to explain it. That's not a time travel when it's kind of more... I've only read that one once. It was so intense.

Ken Harvey: 33:09 Let me ask, if there was a time in the past that you could travel back to just to visit for a week, what time would that be?

Lorraine Burdick: 33:18 Wow. Probably if I had to visit, and I could come back and have modern conveniences like flushing toilets, it would probably be-

Paul Pitkin: 33:30 I think a condition of this-

Lorraine Burdick: 33:34 ... medicine. I would really like to go back to probably the, say, 1817 in England, and go to a ball.

Paul Pitkin: 33:49 Yeah. I guarantee that you're not going to get a debilitating flu-

Lorraine Burdick: 33:54 Right, no debilitating diseases. I would be healthy and happy and of course I would have to be of the aristocracy.

Paul Pitkin: 34:01 Okay. I was going to ask you if you are going to be one of the dancers or one of the servants.

Lorraine Burdick: 34:05 No, I would be one of the dancers. If I got to go back, I get to be one of the aristocracy, and I wouldn't just be... It would have to be wealthy aristocracy. I wouldn't want to be some poor person. I mean, if it's going to be fantasy, let's make it best.

Paul Pitkin: 34:19 Yeah, you don't want to work in the barn and-

Lorraine Burdick: 34:20 Right.

Ken Harvey: 34:22 You'd have to go back with enough time to learn the steps-

Lorraine Burdick: 34:26 Well, actually-

Ken Harvey: 34:27 ... to the ball-

Paul Pitkin: 34:28 I have a feeling she already knows some of the steps.

Lorraine Burdick: 34:29 Some yeah. I've-

Ken Harvey: 34:30 Really?

Lorraine Burdick: 34:31 Yeah, I've done some contra dancing, country dancing, yeah. When I graduated from library school, when I went back to San Jose State for my graduation, there was a science fiction convention going on in San Jose at that weekend. At the science fiction convention, every year, they have a Regency Ball. My friend that I went to school with, she and I both got full Regency ballgowns and we went and danced and it was just the most fun.

Ken Harvey: 34:58 [inaudible 00:34:58]-

Paul Pitkin: 34:58 You are already prepared for your time travel.

Lorraine Burdick: 35:00 You got it.

Paul Pitkin: 35:00 That's fantastic.

Lorraine Burdick: 35:01 Yeah, no, I love costumes, so I've made lots of costumes. That's one of the things I love being in the opera, I get to wear lots of costumes.

Ken Harvey: 35:07 When my wife and I watch period dramas, like some of the ones for Jane Austen and others and they are dancing in the balls, we are fascinated by the dance steps for some of those.

Lorraine Burdick: 35:23 Oh yeah.

Ken Harvey: 35:24 They're actually pretty complicated.

Lorraine Burdick: 35:26 Yes, they are.

Ken Harvey: 35:27 I've always wondered, who comes up with those dances?

Lorraine Burdick: 35:31 I don't know. Somebody did. But in the earlier times in the historical periods, they learned from children. I mean, that's what they did. They-

Paul Pitkin: 35:41 Wouldn't it just get passed down from generation to generation?

Lorraine Burdick: 35:43 They had dancing masters and such.

Paul Pitkin: 35:45 Oh yeah.

Lorraine Burdick: 35:47 [inaudible 00:35:47]. My husband wrote his dissertation on how the music of Bach has dance music in his choral music. He and I took a class that's offered in Seattle from a wonderful woman who teaches baroque dance. We took an entire six-month course on dancing baroque dance, which was really fun, which has lots of element of ballet in it. You dance in groups of... When you're in a square dance, you have like four couples. Square dance came out of that and such. Yeah, I love folk dancing. All kinds of dancing.

Ken Harvey: 36:27 Well, I'm thinking that, I'd love to give you a chance to maybe give our audience a closing thought or two. What would you tell them... maybe one would be on the music side from what you're passionate about. What would you invite them to do in terms of opera or other music that you know is out there?

Lorraine Burdick: 36:52 Well, I feel that we really need to welcome all different kinds of performance. Live performance is such a joy. I just went a few weeks ago to the Seattle Symphony and saw them play along with the film of Star Wars, and they played all of the soundtrack music-

Ken Harvey: 37:17 Oh really. Oh my gosh.

Lorraine Burdick: 37:18 That was incredible. I mean, and I know the soundtrack music, but it was sitting there live. I mean, when they started and they were playing the 20th Century Fox theme, and there was the orchestra playing, and the audience just... We stood up, [inaudible 00:37:32], "Yes." I mean I love listening to music through my stereo system, and I love listening to my little devices and stuff, but there's one thing-

Ken Harvey: 37:41 But live is different.

Lorraine Burdick: 37:42 When it's live, there's a fire and a joy. That can be anything from one person being on the stage holding a guitar to an entire symphony or a [crosstalk 00:37:53]-

Ken Harvey: 37:53 Or a church, or a-

Lorraine Burdick: 37:53 Or a church, or 100 voices in a choir. There's an experience with live music that is... I have a friend that's an artist and she and I we've talked at length... She's the one I went to the Regency dance with, but she's an artist and she says she spends all of her creation time alone, and when she's done, she shows it and then people get to enjoy it. When you make music, all of your creation time... I mean you spend a lot of time preparing for it, but your creation time is live.

Paul Pitkin: 38:23 Well, and there's an energy there just-

Lorraine Burdick: 38:25 There is an energy. There is a feeling. One of my favorite points is when I finish singing and there's this moment of silence before the audience starts to applaud. I just feed on that. That's just a joy. I think that if people can go out and support the arts, all arts, but I like music a lot. But just live performance, and theater, and orchestras, and bluegrass bands, and whatever, but just go out and experience it live. Because, I like to be home a lot, but we really try to go out and support the arts because it's just so fulfilling for yourself. Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 39:08 And it builds quality of life-

Lorraine Burdick: 39:09 It does.

Ken Harvey: 39:09 ... too. What would you say, maybe last thing, maybe to parents of young children or children early in school who may not really understand or appreciate what's available for them through the library?

Lorraine Burdick: 39:31 Well, I really believe that the library provides many, many, many tools for people to live fully. There are people that you can talk to, there are books that you can help you with, there are story times that are available for all ages of children, and there's programming and such for people. We have lots of books for parenting if you want to talk about young people, but not just that, but for all ages of people to live their lives. Those tools are available for free for everyone. It's not limited as to what you can afford. I just think that libraries are so important in our world and in our communities. I just think that having those tools available, you can use as many as you need or as few as you need, and there are people there that can help you access those tools.

Ken Harvey: 40:27 That's great.

Paul Pitkin: 40:28 Well said.

Ken Harvey: 40:30 Well, Lorraine, Paul and I would like to thank you again for spending this time with us and-

Lorraine Burdick: 40:35 Thank you.

Ken Harvey: 40:36 ... enlarging our own appreciation, both for opera and for the work that you and others in your profession do.

Lorraine Burdick: 40:43 Thank you.

Paul Pitkin: 40:43 And Regency dancing.

Lorraine Burdick: 40:44 And Regency dancing.

Paul Pitkin: 40:45 Yes.

Ken Harvey: 40:46 And romance.

Paul Pitkin: 40:48 And interstellar romance.

Lorraine Burdick: 40:49 Right, right. Thank you so much.

Ken Harvey: 40:51 Thank you, Lorraine.

Paul Pitkin: 40:52 Thanks Lorraine.

Speaker 5: 40:54 Did he know you could download some of the best business and finance magazines for free with your Sno-Isle Libraries card? Learn more online at Sno-Isle Libraries.

Ken Harvey:

41:06

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