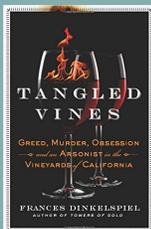




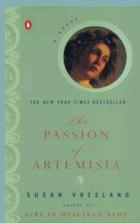
Book-Enders Book Club Newsletter

THIS MONTH

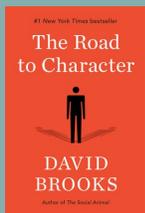


Tangled Vines by Frances Dinkelspiel

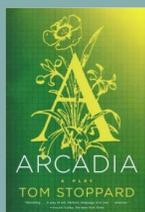
BOOKING AHEAD



February
The Passion of Artemesia by Susan Vreeland



March
The Road to Character by David Brooks

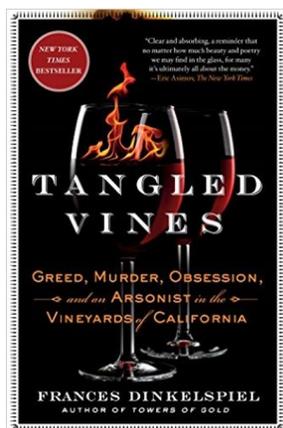


April
Arcadia by Tom Stoppard

Tangled Vines, tangled in truth

On January 7, 2017, the Book-Enders book club at the Upland Library will be hosting a Skype talk with author Frances Dinkelspiel who will be discussing her book, *Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California*. This New York Times bestseller explores intrigue, murder, and mystery surrounding the California's wine industry.

1875 bottles of Port and Angelica made in



In 2005, an arson fire consumed a wine warehouse in Vallejo, California containing valuable collections of rare wines worth more than \$100 million. Among the vin-

tage wines destroyed were 175 bottles of Port and Angelica made in 1875 by Frances Dinkelspiel's great-great grandfather, Isaias Hellman at vineyards formerly owned by Dona Merced and John Rains of Rancho Cucamonga. The

author looks at the history of the California wine industry, examining stories of a past that includes treachery and murder.

Guests are invited to the Book-Enders' meeting on January 7, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to hear Ms. Dinkelspiel and to discuss the book. A limited number of copies of the title are available for check-out upon request at the front desk in the Library.

For more information, please call the Adult Services Librarian, Lorene Broersma, at (909) 931-4202.

December Book-Enders Meeting Wrap Up

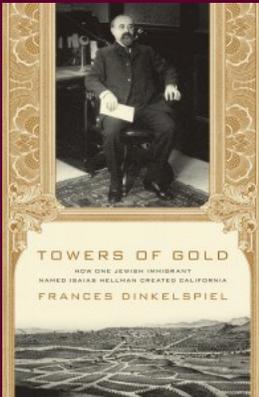
In December, our speaker was Marilyn Lubarsky who led the an excellent discussion of Anita Diamont book, *The Red Tent*. Marilyn's knowledge of the Jewish customs, language, and culture provided excellent insight into the Biblical tale of Dinah.

Many thanks to Marilyn Lubarsky for the informative talk and insightful look.





FRANCES
DINKELSPIEL



TOWERS OF
GOLD: BOOK
AVAILABLE
AT THE
LIBRARY

About the author: Frances Dinkelspiel

Frances Dinkelspiel is an award-winning journalist and co-founder of the new site *Berkeleyside*. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Daily Beast, People magazine and elsewhere. Her first book, *Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California*, was a San Francisco Chronicle bestseller and chosen as a best book of the Year by the Chronicle and the Northern California Independent Booksellers' Association.

Her second book, *Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California*, was a New York Times and San Francisco Chronicle bestseller and was named a best wine book of the year by the Wall Street Journal and Food and Wine magazine. Frances lives in Berkeley, CA with her husband, Gary Wayne and two daughters.

Source: <http://francesdinkelspiel.com/biography/>

About the speaker: Marie Boyd

After the Skype talk with Frances Dinkelspiel, BookEnder founder, Dr. Marie Boyd will lead the book discussion about *Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California*,

Marie grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire and completed her B.A. in biology from Merrimack College, North Andover, Massachusetts, and her Masters in Library Science from U.S.C. (go Trojans!). After a brief stint as a medical librarian in hospitals throughout the Los Angeles County area, she accepted a part-time, part-time (6 hours a week) position at the Upland Library. After a brief time, Marie moved up to the Children's Section and served as the Children's Librarian for Upland from 1983 - 1989 - the best job she ever had! In 1989, Marie moved to library administration and became the Principal Librarian for Upland from 1989-1999. It was during this time that Book-Enders was created in 1990 with the help of Kathy Peters, retired librarian. In 1999, Marie moved to Chaffey College for the lure of the classroom where she taught information competency (to some grown-up students from her former days as a children's librarian in Upland). In 2008, Marie became the Curriculum Chair and the Student Learning Co-Facilitator for the College. In 2012 she completed her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership in Higher Education. The Upland Library will always have a special spot in her heart.

A Backstory on *Tangled Vines*

BY FRANCES DINKELSPIEL

On my 40th birthday, I received a lovely gift from my stepmother: a bottle of Port made by my great-great grandfather Isaias W. Hellman in 1875. The green glass bottle had an intriguing shape. It was more elongated than a traditional wine bottle and had an air bubble on one side. Forest green wax covered the cork. The label offered hints to the bottle's history. There was a round emblem that resembled a cattle brand with the initials "IWH," at the top, referring to my ancestor. Then there was "Port Wine," followed by "Vintage 1875," and "Bottled from Wood in 1921." I loved getting a piece of my family's past as a gift, but I wasn't quite sure what to do with it. How does one open a bottle of port wine that is more than 120 years old? What occasion is important enough? So I put the bottle in a cool spot in my house in Berkeley and forgot about it.



It wasn't until many years later that I thought about that wine again. I was writing a story for the *New York Times* about an upcoming trial for a man accused of setting an arson fire in Vallejo, CA that had destroyed around 4.5 million bottles of wine worth around \$250 million. I suddenly remembered that my distant cousin had told me that she had stored about 175 bottles of Isaias W. Hellman's Port and Angelica, a type of sweet white wine, in that same warehouse. Now it was gone. The arson suddenly got a lot more personal. I had long been interested in the history of my ancestor. Hellman came from Germany to California in 1859, a penniless Jew who grew up to be one of the Pacific Coast's most powerful financiers. He started Los Angeles' earliest bank and eventually was president of Wells Fargo

Bank. I had even spent eight years writing a biography about him titled *Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California*.

The arson set me off on another journey, one to better understand what had been lost in that fiery cataclysm. Was it something significant, a family heirloom? Or had the wine turned to vinegar and no longer held real value? I started to research the history of the vineyard from which the Port came. I traveled to Rancho Cucamonga, where these days only a few grapevines struggle to grow. I combed through dusty archives and assessment books to find out who had owned the land.

I discovered that the vineyard in Rancho Cucamonga, about 40 miles east of Los Angeles, had a remarkable history and one that mirrored the history of California. The Kukomonga Indians had once roamed the land. Then a former alcade, or mayor of Los Angeles, was awarded the vineyard as part of a 13,000-acre land grant while California was still part of Mexico. He planted grapes there in 1839. A brash American built his bride a home on the property – only to be brutally murdered a few years later. A Frenchman whose uncle turned making wine into a commercial industry in California was the winemaker. Then the California Wine Association, a little-known monopoly that controlled 80% of the production and sale of California wine from the late 1890s until Prohibition controlled the vineyard. Finally, in the 21st Century an arsonist, a man who ironically considered himself an oenophile, destroyed much of the wine.

The more I dug into the back-story, the more fascinated I became. What I discovered shocked and grieved me. And out of that came *Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California*.

Source: <http://francesdinkelspiel.com/books/tangled-vines/backstory/>

History of Mission grapevines goes back to 1697

BY GINO FILIPPI

The Route 66 Trailhead Vineyard along the Pacific Electric Inland Empire Trail, located in Bear Gulch just east of the Upland and Rancho Cucamonga border, features an exhibit of Mission grapevines, created in 2011 by the city of Rancho Cucamonga.

Why Mission? From the 1890s into the mid-1950s, the Cucamonga- Guasti Wine District was considered California's largest wine district. Although the true origin of the Mission is not known, it is suspected that it came as a collection of seeds rather than from cuttings from an original vine in Spain.

The plaque at the Trailhead reads: "On display are Mission Grapevines, the first *Vitis vinifera* species planted in North America by the Spanish. Introduced to California by Father Juan de Ugarte, the vine plantings followed the development of Missions as far north as San Jose. The wine was used in religious sacraments as well as for daily meals. Due to its association with the church, it was given the name Mission, and from 1697 until well into the 20th century, dominated vineyards in California. Known for its hardiness; it requires little care, is resistant to disease, and can live for more than a century".

Missions are but one example of a "heritage crop" in California, where groups are working to protect and preserve pieces of its agricultural past. The primary use of the Mission is to produce the sweet fortified dessert wine Angelica. This is considered California's original wine.

Mission vine cuttings from the San Gabriel Mission were introduced to Cucamonga in 1838. They turned out to be well-suited for this area's sandy loam and climate and they thrived. Routinely yielding 10 tons per acre, Mission became the foundation for many area wineries. In fact, the oldest commercial winery in California (Rancho de Cucamonga, John Rains House Museum and Thomas Brothers Winery) was founded less than a mile east from this spot.

Over time Mission has lost acreage in California for numerous reasons including urban development and lack of marketing appeal, but pockets of this large producing grape remain including here in the historic Cucamonga Valley. Today less than 1,000 acres of Mission are being cultivated in the entire state.

Local vintner families Biane-Tibbetts, Filippi, Galleano, and Hofer utilize Mission for production of their award-winning Angelica and Sherry wines. The City's Grape Harvest Festival originated so local vintners could proudly present their wines and celebrate the end of the harvest season. Grape stomping remains a highlight of the local festival.

Gino L. Filippi can be reached at ginoffvine@aol.com.

*From: Los Angeles Times, **Foothills Reader**, 04-27-2014*



Thomas Brothers Winery

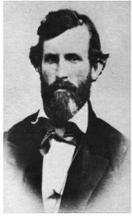


Mission Grape Plantings

These grapevine plants were obtained as cuttings from the University of California at Davis plant repository. Planted with care

– March 2012

The History of the Rains House



The story of the Casa de Rancho Cucamonga aka, the Rains house, is a story that is rich in California history, containing political intrigue and murder.

The Cucamonga Rancho was sold in 1858 to John Rains by Tapia's daughter, Maria Merced

Tapia de Prudhomme, and her husband Leon Victor Prudhomme. Rains in 1856 had married Maria Merced Williams, the daughter of Chino Rancho owner Isaac Williams and granddaughter of Don Antonio Maria Lugo, owner of the San Bernardino Rancho. Maria was thus a wealthy heiress, and Rains invested in three ranchos and the Bella Union Hotel in Los Angeles. He purchased Rancho Cucamonga for \$16,500 and constructed a burned brick building on the property at a cost of about \$18,000. The Rains House was built in 1860 by Ohio brick masons from bricks made by Joseph Mullaly from the red clay on the site. Its flat roof was waterproofed by tar from the brea pits in Los Angeles. An open flume carried water from springs through the kitchen, into the patio, and under the house to the orchard, thereby providing cooling for the structure. The original house had an entry hall, a parlor, and three bedrooms in the front, with a patio area flanked by a dining room, a kitchen, a padre's room, and two guest rooms.

John and Maria Merced moved from Chino to the new brick house with their three children in the spring of 1861. By that time, Rains (a former cattle driver) was recognized as a rich and politically influ-

ential man, generous and well-liked, who provided abundant hospitality at his strategically-located Cucamonga home.

John Rains planted 160 acres of vines in 1859. Wine and brandy made at Cucamonga gained wide popularity. An earlier small vineyard and winery is said to date back to 1839, thus establishing the claim that Cucamonga has the oldest commercial winery in the state.

On November 12, 1862, John and Maria Merced signed a mortgage for \$16,000 on Rancho Cucamonga and the hotel. Five days later, John left his wife and four children in Cucamonga and drove off in a wagon toward Los Angeles. En route, he was lassoed, shot, and dragged into the bushes near San Dimas. His body was discovered eleven days later. He was 33 years old. His murder was never solved. In June 1864, Maria Merced married José Carrillo. Maria Merced and José continued to live in Cucamonga. She had nine children in all: five with Rains, and four with Carrillo. The first school in Cucamonga is said to have been started in her home in 1870.

Isais W. Hellman, a Los Angeles banker, acquired Rancho Cucamonga at a sheriff's sale in 1871 for \$49,000. Sometime after 1876, Maria Merced and her family (nearly penniless) moved to Los Angeles. Maria Merced died at age 68 in 1907.



Source: <http://www.las-guias.com/history.htm>

Visit John Rains' House!

The house was the first in the region to be built with bricks from the red earth of the immediate area; Ohio masons did the construction. The flat roof was finished with tar from the Brea tar pits in Los Angeles.

Information:
909-989-4970

www.sbcounty.gov/museum/branches/rains.htm

Where: 8810 Hemlock St., Rancho Cucamonga

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Group tours by appointment. Closed on all county-observed holidays.

Cost: \$5 adult, \$4 senior/military, \$2.50 student/child, free for younger than 5.





Organization

Upland Public Library Book-Enders Book Club

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<http://uplandpl.lib.ca.us/#Library>

For all the chapters of your life.

Discussion Questions

1. How well does the author relate the content of the book? Does the author provide enough background material on the subject to allow readers to get involved?
2. How is the book organized? Is it chronological, thematic, topical, or arranged in some other format? Are there parts you wish had been developed further or more clearly?
3. How vividly does the author re-create a historical period, a life, or a journey? What draws you in? Is there anything that seems unnecessarily detailed?
4. Think about nonfiction and its relationship to truth. Does the nonfiction writer have an obligation to be truthful above all, or is bias acceptable in certain cases? Does the author attempt to remain objective about the subject at hand?
5. Is the book objective and balanced or deeply personal and strongly biased?
6. Did the book change the way you think about a person or event?
7. Does *Tangled Vines* give you new perspective on a historical event or topic of interest? Did you feel the book presented the human element of those effected by various tragedies?
8. What is the author's attitude toward his subject? What is the author trying to persuade you to think or do?
9. How do you think the author was changed by the experience of writing the book? (You can often find a direct response to this question in the book's foreword or introduction, or in interviews with the author.) Were you persuaded by the author's arguments?
10. What is original about this book? How does it distinguish itself from other books you may have read on a similar topic?

