The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library invite you to attend their annual

Holiday Book Sale

Saturday, December 2nd to 5th
(Coinciding with the Christmas-By-The-Sea Weekend in Falmouth)

Located in the Hermann Room at the
Falmouth Public Library

Saturday ~ December 2nd 9:30 - 4:30
Sunday ~ December 3rd 1:00 - 4:30
Monday ~ December 4th 9:30 - 5:00
Tuesday ~ December 5th 1:00 - 5:30

Membership Preview will take place
Friday, December 1st ~ from 1:00 - 7:00

Come And Do Your Christmas Shopping

For Sale will be high quality used books suitable for Gift Giving including:

Children's Books
Gardening
Cookbooks
History
Music & Art
Also, quality DVDs
It's not easy to find qualified instructors for the Joy of Learning program... but sometimes it is.

We have been fortunate to have so many talented instructors to teach our Joy of Learning classes. For the past decade, the Joy of Learning coordinator, Yang Conley has successfully recruited members of our Falmouth community to teach inspiring, enriching classes at the library. This fall Yang did a remarkable job enlisting Betty Landowski to teach a course on Islam, Robertson Dinsmore to discuss Lightships and Weatherships, Louise Adler to share her love of French opera, the Reference Librarians to explain library resources, and David Webb to analyze the short stories of Flannery O'Connor. Unfortunately, it is becoming difficult to recruit such talented instructors twice a year for our fall and spring Joy of Learning classes. For a variety of reasons, we are finding that many of our longtime instructors are no longer available to share their knowledge and expertise in our library classes.

As members of the Friends, we should try to work as a team to guarantee the success of our popular Joy of Learning program. We have to encourage and cajole our talented neighbors to share their interesting passions and wisdom in a Joy of Learning class, as my wife Stephanie and I did in recruiting David Webb to share his love of literature. Stephanie first met David in her Academy for Lifelong Learning French class at Cape Cod Community College. As their friendship developed, David told her about the short story reading group that he moderated monthly at the Cotuit Library. On the evening that his group discussed two short stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne, I was invited to join the discussion and give my opinion on my favorite short story writer. I was so impressed with David's professionalism and enthusiasm as he offered his analysis of the characters and symbolism within the stories that I knew right away he would be a valued addition to our Joy of Learning family. I encouraged him to develop a literary topic and present it to Yang Conley as a possible course of study.

David Webb taught 42 years at Choate Rosemary Hall, an independent boarding school in Wallingford, Connecticut. While teaching English, Mathematics, and Architecture, he also served in the Dean's office for 17 years and did college counseling for 10 years. In the two years David has taught Joy of Learning classes, he has gotten rave reviews from those students in his William Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor classes.

Lenny Miele
Vice-President

Flannery O'Connor
1925 - 1964

Review Of The Class

As a member of David Webb's class in The Short Stories of Flannery O'Connor, I found myself happily back at college. The instructor, David Webb, taught 40 years in a New England prep school. Webb is folksy and friendly and has an inexhaustible supply of material about his subject. It is not uncommon to find yourself reaching to keep up. O'Connor is a superb writer and this instructor brings her to life and does her full justice. He is tentatively planning to do the poetry of Emily Dickinson next. Bring out the extra chairs. – Marilyn Sanborn
In July, the Narrative Nonfiction Book Club discussed an old, but timely book. Just a couple days after Independence Day, we got together on a sunny morning to examine *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* by West Tisbury author, Tony Horwitz.

The timeliness was two-fold: first, we were discussing one of the most important events in the history of the United States during our country’s birth week, with arguably the most significant battle of the war, the Battle of Gettysburg, having taken place from July 1 to July 3, 1863. Horwitz writes, “Probably no half hour in American history has been more closely scrutinized than Pickett’s Charge,” which was the culminating clash at Gettysburg on July 3rd. It is also timely in view of our current political climate in which state capitals and old academic institutions are reconsidering the flags they wave and the reputations of the historic people in whose honor they have named buildings, while we grapple with our country’s racism.

The main theme in *Confederates in the Attic*, which was published in 1998, is that the Civil War is still festering under the surface, that ancestors of Confederate soldiers and people of the south in general feel that their “way of life” is still under siege. They still want to assert their states’ rights and not be dictated to by big government. Reading this book helped explain to some of us northerners in the group, how southerners felt then and feel now about their “way of life”, the meaning of the Confederate flag. It also helped explain our recent presidential election.

There was a lot to discuss with this book. As I tried to break up the group at five past the hour, regretting aloud that I had to pull the plug, someone called out that we could go on talking for another hour, which was answered with a resounding “yes!” So, if you are looking for a good book for your book group, I can recommend this one. It will surely get you talking. You can find our copy on the Staff Picks shelf. ~ Faith Lee

A Participant Gives a Heads-Up Review of this Bookclub

The Narrative Non-Fiction Book Club meets every first Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. with Reference Librarian, Faith Lee, as facilitator. While welcoming input from members, Faith’s book selections are well-written, informative, and real page turners. This is a book club for readers wanting exposure to diverse subjects. Subjects read include: the history of tea, octopodes and dolphins, a memoir of a Kenyan Nobel prize winner, an obsessive collector of Shakespeare folios, immigration, and even elephants’ contributions during a war. In addition to a great read, be prepared for a lively, thought provoking discussion about the books themes, issues, and the authors’ research and conclusions. If you want to join, just pick up the current selection at the Reference Desk and mark your calendar for the group discussion! Information about the list of books is available at the Reference Desk. ~ Mary Barry

Welcome

Jennifer Woodward has been appointed as the new Assistant Director at the Falmouth Public Library. “We are so happy to have someone with her experience in the position.” Jennifer’s most recent position was Director of the Public Library in Northbridge Massachusetts. She has also worked in a corporate library, a law library and two other public libraries in Massachusetts. She grew up in Massachusetts, mostly in Plymouth, and spent most of her adult years in Metrowest and Central Massachusetts.

One of her new responsibilities is to select the fiction books and DVDs for the library. If you have any suggestions or thoughts about what you would like to see in the collection, please feel free to contact her. Jennifer is looking forward to becoming the liaison to the Friends. She hopes to meet many of you at the library very soon!

~ Linda Collins, Director
Bill English

Bill came to the Friends of the Library with his wife Nancy, out of the blue, as so many of our volunteers do, and we were mighty glad to have him. He sorted books, handled Membership and proofed the newsletter far into the night with a very technically-challenged editor. In spite of a serious illness, he did his job and he did it well. He attended a Friends board meeting within weeks of becoming confined to his bed.

Bill was a Harvard man with a degree in Physics and graduate work in Applied Mathematics. No wonder he seemed to have so much knowledge of computers. One could only be envious of how easily it all came to him.

He and Nancy were forever traveling out west hiking and climbing and always enjoying nature wherever they went. Their gardens covered a good deal of their property which attracted large numbers of birds who seemed unbothered by squirrels, perhaps because they knew a nature lover lived close by. And love nature he did. Not long ago, he heard about the great weather out west and he wanted to go out to see a particular flower that he knew would be blooming.

We wish that Bill could have been with us a longer period of time. He shall be missed.

Redwood Wright

Or 'Red' to the world. Redwood's name belongs on a building and it is there, in Wood Hole, which gives one a hint about Red's background. He graduated from Princeton, Phi Beta Kappa, with a major in History. His interests were so vast, but, after many years in the field of journalism, it was Oceanography in which he chose to earn his doctorate and soon began his work at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, joining the scientific staff and ultimately joining the Associated Scientists of Woods Hole.

Red fully participated in every endeavor he took on, and it may be that his association with community activities and support of them that stands out the clearest to those who knew him and worked with him. When the Friends of the Falmouth Library was struggling to get on its feet over twenty years ago, Red became a member and proceeded to help us with all aspects of the organization. We didn't question who he was or what he might do to help us. We were just very grateful for the help.

In retrospect, we are grateful that Red added us to his long list of organizations that he worked for and supported. Falmouth will be the poorer to have lost him. What a great world this would be if it were filled with Redwood Wrights.

~ Marilyn Sanborn
Have you ever been to Jamestown Rhode Island?

Well, I never had until the other day. My daughter wasn’t sure it was a good choice. She had never heard of it, so she looked it up on her phone and began reading off what it said. It is an island close to Newport and is not much beyond an hour away from Falmouth, so we set off with her GPS telling us how to get there. It was a gorgeous, bright sunny day and very warm for late October.

My interest stemmed from a book, Sudden Sea, about the Great Hurricane of 1938, which had swept through Jamestown and Middletown and Narragansett and all but leveled them. More people drowned than in any other area where the hurricane hit. Although I had learned that there was no sign now of the destruction, I still wanted to see the island.

The bridge from the mainland over to Jamestown was much higher and longer than the Bourne Bridge and conveyed a very dramatic effect as we approached it. Looking down, we could see groups of sailboats racing. We managed to cover a good deal of the island just driving around and we were impressed. One residential area was lush with thick greenery and large homes. Then came an area of more modest homes, many with one or maybe two boats in the yard. The public buildings all had well manicured landscaping, and although not exactly quaint, they were attractive, even including the police station.

The water was everywhere, and ultimately, we came to a wide dock with small buildings along the side. One said The Spinnaker and looked like it might be a restaurant, and, on closer examination, it was open. It was right on the water and had an outside eating section that was really charming, particularly on a lovely sunny day with the water sparkling right in front of you. The wait for outside seating was long, so we ate inside at little tables. You stood in line to give your order, choosing from several blackboards and a waitress delivered it when it was ready.

I had a lobster roll, which would never have made any of Yankee Magazine's lists. It had no mayonnaise, no salt, no celery, no lettuce, no anything except the lobster, which at best might be called just fair. Maybe they are better during the season.
I have not been to a movie theater in a very long time. I see them online if they are any good. For what is good, I read the New Yorker’s reviews. (I am indebted to Anthony Lane for his review of Our Souls at Night, starring Robert Redford and Jane Fonda, in the August 9th edition of the New Yorker. Copies of the New Yorker are available in the Reading Room of the Falmouth Public Library.

What do you know? They are back together. Remember Barefoot in the Park? They were both so young, and it worked, didn’t it?

Close your eyes. Fifty years have gone by. They are no longer young. Redford is over eighty. Briefly, Fonda asks Redford, her neighbor, if he would sleep with her because she is lonely. That immediately reminded me of another Redford movie, Indecent Proposal, in which he offers Demi Moore a million dollars if she would sleep with him. She is much younger, as so many of Redford’s leading ladies seem to be, and happily married to Woody Harrelson. Her answer is no, but Redford, with all his charm and money, persists. Will she choose money or love? She chooses the money, and he becomes her very rich lover.

As you may have guessed, the movie goes downhill from there, or maybe sooner.

But now we have a different situation entirely. The woman, Fonda, is the aggressor and Redford, “whose idea of a wild night is to complete the top left-handed corner of the crossword”, agrees to think about it. She assures him that it is not about sex. Of course not. Who would ever think that? She just wants to “pool their solitudes”.

The roles are reversed and isn’t that biologically how things begin to go between the sexes? The man no longer thinks of sex every five minutes, so they say, and the women are ready to be the CEO of some company.

In his review, Lane wistfully makes some changes. For example, when Redford and Fonda finally do make love, “the camera is left running whereas it cuts away from the movie”.

I heartily agree with Anthony Lane, that the camera should not cut away from the lovers. We have waited the whole movie long to see them come together and we should not be disappointed.

The ending (I just saw it on Netflix) is not only poor, but dissatisfying. I felt cheated.
The Florida Project

Yes, it sounds like a construction site, but it actually is a new movie and one that intrigues Anthony Lane, film critic for the New Yorker Magazine.

It is Orlando, the Disney fiefdom, where it all takes place. Bobby, (Willem Dafoe) is the manager of the Magic Castle Motel. Early in his career, Dafoe, you may remember, played the part of the decent and idealistic sergeant in Platoon, but, according to Lane, “he could have easily switched roles with Tom Berenger and played the murderous martinet”. Again, in Mississippi Burning, he was the dedicated FBI Agent, but could have also played Gene Hackman’s part. In short, he is a character actor and can be the gentle and tolerant motel owner, that he is in this movie.

Six year old Moonee, who lives with her mother in the motel, and her friends have a ball running around, not only the Magic Castle, but other colorful imaginative structures, particularly the Twisty Treat, where they get ice cream free by telling a customer they need it for their asthma. Welcome to that precocious child character we have seen before. You movie buffs will remember The Fallen Idol, with a small boy trying to help his butler (Ralph Richardson); to clear himself of a murder charge, and, long before that, Henry James’s wonderful story, What Maisie Knew, which became a captivating movie with another young child in the center of the action.

Moonee is no less precocious than her predecessors. Her scams and pranks include starting a fire in an abandoned house and turning off the power at the motel. According to the formula that I am using, of knowing these movies through the reviews in the New Yorker, I can only tell you as much as Anthony Lane divulges of the plot in his review. Thus, when he writes that the second half of the movie “acquires both shape and momentum” and “concludes on a heart breaking high”, both you and I can only guess what that means. He does not give away the ending. We will have to see the movie.
According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) "approximately 14 million Americans aged 12 years and older have self-reported visual impairment defined as distance visual acuity of 20/50 or worse." To address this issue and the aging population of Falmouth, the library offers a selection of materials in larger print, as well as audio-books, and e-audiobooks.

Our periodical collection includes large print formats of Guideposts, New York Times Large Print Weekly and Reader's Digest.

Reference materials include The Large Print American Heritage Dictionary.

Our Large Print circulating collection has nearly 4,000 titles in both fiction and nonfiction.

Also available is an Optelec Desk Top Reader by AdaptiVision. This device enables patrons to view documents in Large Print. A regular patron often uses the Optelec to balance his checkbook and read his mail.

A large print keyboard is available in the Reference Room with the JAWS (Job Access With Speech) for patrons with vision loss.

The audiobooks on CD are very popular with all our patrons, even those without vision issues. Patrons can choose from a selection of nearly 3,300 titles.

In addition to the titles available in the CLAMS network, the Commonwealth Catalog, Axis 360, BiblioBoard all offer ebooks.

Reference – Donna Burgess

Dear Friends,

Once again, we had a very successful summer book sale, thanks to lots of hard work by many, many people. Not just at the sale itself, but all year, FFPL members work many hours sorting, packing and moving the thousands of books donated by the public. Throughout the year, members sell books on-line, stock the Book Nook in the Main Library, and hold our Holiday Book Sale in December.

All of this hard work means that we can continue to support our mission — to provide financial support when requested by the Library. A few examples of the areas we support are Museum passes, extra copies of popular books, audio visual items, and programs.

We also run our own extremely popular program “Joy of Leaning” twice a year.

We always need more volunteers and more support from the community. If you would like to volunteer, whether for a few hours a year or a few hours a week or something in between, please email me at jhewitt1948@yahoo.com. We would like to increase our membership, too, so please encourage your friends who are not yet members to join. Membership forms are available at all three branches of the Library or I will mail a form upon request by email.

Thank You
Jane Hewitt

Friends of the Falmouth Public Library
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