Spring 2019
Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
10:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 27, 2019
Hermann Room
A light lunch will be served.

Guest Speaker: Dorothy Leone

Mrs. Leone, a resident of Brewster, has written an historical novel about Alfred Crosby, a Brewster native who had a successful and varied business career and returned to Cape Cod to build the Crosby Mansion. Mrs. Leone will talk about writing her book and about the restoration of the mansion.

Details Inside!
WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens
This novel is a tender coming of age story whose often lyrical prose pays tribute to the wonders and mysteries of the natural world. It is in this world that “Marsh Girl” Kaya Clark, abandoned by her family, survives alone for years among the gulls and the land’s hidden mysteries. When, as a young adult, Kaya pursues human contact in the surrounding community, she encounters rejection, curiosity and amazement as well as love. She learns to read and her many talents flourish. There is also a surprising and mysterious murder at the heart of her story. The book is a tale about a strong, sensitive and intelligent woman who was bonded to her planet as few are. It’s an inspiring read. Joan Power

THE OLD MAN by Thomas Perry
I have long been an avid reader of crime novels and thrillers. One master I wish were better known is Thomas Perry. He has been publishing longer than megastars Michael Connelly, Lee Child, and Jeffery Deaver and almost as long as amazingly prolific Jonathan Kellerman. Perry’s first The Butcher’s Boy (1982) won an Edgar Award for the best first mystery novel. He has now written 26 (one per year). Best known are his six Jane Whitefield novels, but many of his standalone thrillers are equally fine. My current favorite is his deliciously inventive story about Dan Chase, a former Army Intelligence officer living quietly in Vermont under an assumed name. One day strangers come calling looking to find the $20 million that Chase supposedly delivered some 35 years ago to bribe a Libyan warlord. Chase knew this day would come and made elaborate plans to stay hidden. How he manages to escape and turn the tables on his pursuers while protecting his daughter and folks he meets along the way is great suspenseful fun. Not many thrillers feature “senior” protagonists who use their brain, not brawn, to outwit and drummox their enemies. Highly recommended though I’m not sure if spry 60-year-olds deserve to be labelled “old”. Thomas Jewell

IDAHO by Emily Ruskovich
Readers might want to check out a book from our very own library named IDAHO by Emily Ruskovich. It is her debut novel, and it is all about murder and madness. It came out in 2017 and has gotten excellent reviews. On the way to telling her story, she gives vivid descriptions of life in that State. It’s a mysterious tale that will leave you with many questions. “She allows her characters deep and active imaginations, imbuing them with dignity and humanity.” Ms. Ruskovich is presently a member of the Boise State University Creative Writing Program. Critics are looking forward to a sequel. Gregory Gillis

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
Hello Friends,

Did you know that the revenue from the Holiday Book Sale has increased every year for the past several years? Money from the Holiday Sale and the Summer Sale allows us to give generously to the Library. For the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2019, the Library has requested approximately $45,000 from the Friends. That amount will pay for audio-visual items, museum passes, children’s programs, new technology, and many other items. We would not be able to fund library requests without hours of hard work by many volunteers. We say a big “Thank You” to all.

Another big “Thank You” to Yang Conley for all she has done on behalf of the Friends. Yang has served as the President of the Friends and also as the Chair of the Joy of Learning Program since 2003. That’s fifteen years organizing and running six to eight programs a year. Yang has decided to retire from the JOL program and the Library has offered to continue her work so that the program will continue. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting.

Jane Hewitt

YANG’S FILM REVIEW: THE OLD MAN & THE GUN

Supposedly Robert Redford’s last film: Danny Glover and Tom Waits join Robert Redford to make up the “Over the Hill Gang” of elderly, genial bank robbers. Robert Redford is the leader of the gang and he has been in and out of jail since the age of 15. Robbing banks, occasionally being apprehended, incarcerated, and then escaping from prison is a way of life for Redford’s character, Forrest Tucker. Love of the game, not riches, is the goal. The gang lives modestly, dines in diners and inexpensive restaurants, and drives modest cars. After a robbery the victims, rather than feeling violated, seem to feel they have had a pleasant encounter. Casey Affleck plays a policeman determined to catch the gang and Sissy Spacek provides the love interest. The characters are charming and the movie is a pleasant bit of fluff and nostalgia.

Yang Conley
TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN MURRAY

Kathleen (Kathy) Murray passed away on November 18, 2018, a sad loss for the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library and the entire library system in Falmouth. Although Kathy served as a library trustee for the past 15 years, she was a devoted member of the Friends who sorted and priced books in the book room every week and manned the annual book sale hours at a time. We honor Kathy’s memory and her service as president of the Friends for three years during the early years of the organization.

Nancy English, Kathy Murray, and Avis Grosslein in 2010.

BOOK REVIEWS

HOW TO WRITE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL by Alexander Chee

Somehow I had missed Alexander Chee’s novels, but this book caught my eye, perhaps because I spend a surprising amount of time having discussions about the differences between fiction and non-fiction and biographies and memoirs. This collection of essays is indeed autobiographical and much of it is about writing, but also about gardening, tarot cards, family relations, Annie Dillard, and catering, to name but a few topics covered. I especially liked his essay called “100 Things About Writing a Novel” which begins with “Sometimes music is needed.” Chee’s writing is beautiful, and now I want to read his novel Queen of the Night, about Paris and the opera in 1882.

Jill Erickson

THE HIKE by Drew Magary

If you enjoy fiction that you can relate to, a story line that you might have experienced, or if you appreciate a logical, coherent, flowing style, then this may not be the book for you. Many reviews of The Hike begin with the question, “what the heck did I just read?” The basic premise has a businessman heading out for a short hike in the woods behind his hotel. It all gets very strange from there on in. This book is more suited for those who are comfortable with a flight of fancy, who do not need everything to make immediate sense, and who appreciate an allegorical message or two. I thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful, wacky book. Stay on the path for a solid and very satisfying ending.

Linda Collins

JOY OF LEARNING SPRING 2019 SCHEDULE

THURSDAYS APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25 FROM 1-2 P.M.

This class is taught by James W. Kershner of Cummaquid. It will cover the history, theory, and practice of Buddhism and will include a slide show based on his recent tour of major sites in the life of the Buddha in India. James is an ordained Buddhist leader and founder of the Cape Sangha. He first began studying Buddhism and practicing meditation in the 1960s. In 1997 he founded the Cape Sangha, a Buddhist meditation group on Cape Cod. In 2002 he was ordained by Thich Nhat Hanh as a member of the Order of Interbeing. He is also a writer, a former newspaper editor, and a retired professor at Cape Cod Community College. Registration is requested.

PHILOSOPHY AND FILM

TUESDAYS APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 AT 1 P.M.

This class is taught by Tom Gotsill of West Harwich. Tom is a retired teacher of American literature, philosophy, and humanities. He is also an active playwright and columnist for the Cape Cod Times. In this course we will explore some essential ideas in philosophy and ethics, ideas that might help us answer the big questions such as “What is a good life?” and “How should I live?” We will view two classic American films that illustrate the ideas we explore, Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989) and High Noon (1952). On weeks 1 & 2, we will have a 90-minute lecture to introduce the upcoming film. On weeks 3 & 4, class will meet for 3 hours to include viewing of the film, and then a discussion. Registration is requested.

This program, while still sponsored by the Friends, is now being administered by the Reference Department. To register, please call the Reference Dept. at Falmouth Public Library, 508-457-2555 x 7, register online at falmouthpubliclibrary.org/register, or stop by the reference desk.

THE LITTLE PRINCE – IN ENGLISH

MONDAYS APRIL 1, 8, 15, 29 FROM 10-11 A.M. (NO CLASS ON PATRIOTS DAY APRIL 22)

The discussion will be led in English by Joanne Holcomb, retired English teacher of 35 years and English/language arts department head of over seven years at Falmouth High School. Through shared inquiry, participants will explore ideas, meaning, and themes presented in The Little Prince with a focus on Saint-Exupéry’s style, and how that style reveals the social concerns of his day and of today. Please read chapters 1-7 of the Richard Howard translation (2000) before the first meeting. Books will be available at the reference desk for participants to pick up. Registration is required.

Le Petit Prince – in French

WEDNESDAYS APRIL 3, 10, 17, 24 FROM 3-4 P.M.

Falmouth High School French language teacher, Susan Schmidt, will lead the discussion in the book’s native French language. The ability to read and speak in French at about a late high school or early college level is necessary to take part in this discussion. Books and a vocabulary list will be available at the reference desk for participants to pick up. Please read chapters 1-9 before the first meeting. Registration is required.

BUDDHISM: HISTORY, THEORY, AND PRACTICE

THURSDAYS APRIL 4, 11, 18, 25 FROM 1-2 P.M.

This class is taught by James W. Kershner of Cummaquid. It will cover the history, theory, and practice of Buddhism and will include a slide show based on his recent tour of major sites in the life of the Buddha in India. James is an ordained Buddhist leader and founder of the Cape Sangha. He first began studying Buddhism and practicing meditation in the 1960s. In 1997 he founded the Cape Sangha, a Buddhist meditation group on Cape Cod. In 2002 he was ordained by Thich Nhat Hanh as a member of the Order of Interbeing. He is also a writer, a former newspaper editor, and a retired professor at Cape Cod Community College. Registration is requested.

CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

WEDNESDAYS APRIL 3, 10, 17, 24 FROM 3-4 P.M.

This class is taught by Tom Gotsill of West Harwich. Tom is a retired teacher of American literature, philosophy, and humanities. He is also an active playwright and columnist for the Cape Cod Times. In this course we will explore some essential ideas in philosophy and ethics, ideas that might help us answer the big questions such as “What is a good life?” and “How should I live?” We will view two classic American films that illustrate the ideas we explore, Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989) and High Noon (1952). On weeks 1 & 2, we will have a 90-minute lecture to introduce the upcoming film. On weeks 3 & 4, class will meet for 3 hours to include viewing of the film, and then a discussion. Registration is requested.

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For the second time, famed historian Nathaniel Philbrick has donated books to the Falmouth Public Library. On January 12, 2019, Mr. Philbrick and his wife Melissa transported 64 boxes of books from their home on Nantucket Island to the main library where members of the Friends helped them unload the books that Mr. Philbrick had recently used as research materials. After the books are sorted and priced, they will be featured at this summer’s annual book sale in July. Nathaniel Philbrick won the 2000 National Book Award for Nonfiction for his maritime history *In the Heart of the Sea*. In 2007, he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his narrative *Mayflower* which chronicles the early history of the Pilgrims and their arrival on Cape Cod.

Lenny Miele, Friends VP

Jennifer Woodward became the assistant director of the Falmouth Public Library in September, 2017. She replaced Linda Collins, who became the director of the library when Leslie Morrissey retired from that position. Jennifer is an energetic member of the library staff who has been totally supportive of our Friends activities. As a child, Jennifer lived in Winthrop, MA through the first grade, moving to the Manomet section of Plymouth where she attended school through the sixth grade. When the family relocated to West Plymouth, Jennifer went to the 10th and 11th grades at Sacred Heart High School in Kingston and Plymouth-Carver High School. Just before her senior year, the family moved again to Sandwich where she graduated from Sandwich High School.

Jennifer attended Framingham State College, receiving her degree as an English major. Following graduation, she worked in retail sales at CVS for four years before getting her first library job at the Wellesley Free Library. When she had her daughter Abigail, who is now 25 and a graduate student at Simmons, she was hired by the Shrewsbury Free Library, where she worked for seven years. With an offer of more money, Jennifer took a contract job with Infotrieve in Cambridge, a document delivery company. Two years later she accepted a job with the Genzyme Library in Cambridge, a global library where, for nine years, she digitized science articles that she would distribute to different departments all over the world. During her employment at Genzyme, Jennifer obtained her graduate degree in library science.

The mill town of Northbridge, MA hired Jennifer as the library director of the Whitinsville Social Library where she worked as the only full-time employee for five years. While working in the western part of the state, she served as vice president and president of the CWMARS, the central western Massachusetts library network. It was from this position that Jennifer initially applied for the position of library director in Falmouth when Leslie Morrissey retired. As fate would have it, Linda Collins became the director, but Jennifer was eventually offered the position of assistant director.

Jennifer has moved to Bourne with her husband Brian. She says she is passionate about cooking and loves to read cozy, small-town mysteries and graphic novels. She is pleased to be near her parents, who also live in Bourne, and she is especially proud of her daughter Abigail who will receive a dual degree in children’s literature and library science in May.

Lenny Miele, Friends VP

Renew, refresh, innovate... At the branch library you will find the interior walls freshly painted by the town custodians and a new circulation desk has been ordered courtesy of the Friends. Library materials and furniture have been rearranged to ease customer access. One innovation that we launched in the fall is Curbside Pick-up/Drop off service. There is still time to try this service before we discontinue it for the summer.

Fact and Fiction Book Discussion group continues to meet the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am. The attendance at this drop-in group has really blossomed recently.

The main library children’s librarians have been providing lively programs for children at the branches. We are looking forward to participating in the Summer Eats program again. Project Bread Child Nutrition Outreach, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Cape Cod YMCA sponsor Summer Eats. The Friends provide funds for engaging entertainment at our site.

Meg Borden, Branch Librarian