



THE LIBRARY PAGE

The “mostly monthly” newsletter by The Friends of the Blue Hill Public Library

WHO WE ARE

The Friends of the Blue Hill Library is a volunteer group that raises funds for a variety of library purposes not covered by the library's operating budget.

WHAT WE DO

We fund: New York Times subscriptions, Must See Movie Series, Play Readings, Opera Previews, Great Decisions Series, Children's Programs, Literacy Programs, purchases of digital media, furniture, a/v equipment, staff appreciation gifts, scholarships for staff and volunteer development, and more!

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From the Director's Desk

Rich Boulet, Library Director: rboulet@bhpl.net

The Blue Hill Library's role in and impact on the local economy...and town funding

Among all peer libraries in New England with a budget of \$450,000 to \$550,000, the Blue Hill Public Library is appropriated the third LEAST percentage of its funding from local government sources. In other words, there are only 2 other comparable libraries in New England that ask for a smaller portion of their budget from local taxpayers. Furthermore, among all 1,200 New England public libraries, of all sizes and budgets, BHPL receives the 65th LEAST portion of its budget from its municipality. This is based on 2014 data, the most recent available from the Maine State Library. Blue Hill enjoys a pretty great library with a minimal tax burden, adding considerable value to the economy.

I have lost count of how many people have told me that the library was a considerable factor in their choosing to move to Blue Hill. I've heard that from younger individuals, families, and retirees. One person who recently invested considerably into our economy told me he was just passing through town, en route to Stonington, when he stopped at the library to use the bathroom facilities. As he later put it to me, “we quickly found out that this place [the library] was so much more than a bathroom.” One thing led to another and he and his family have since put down roots here in town. The library, and more than just our bathrooms, was instrumental in demonstrating to him that this is a community that values arts and culture, something he cited as being very important to him.

In addition to providing excellent services and value to the community, the library makes a significant contribution to the local economy. Whenever feasible, we spend our budget dollars locally. Of our \$550,000 annual budget, more than \$400,000 is spent within 50 miles, most of it right here on the Blue Hill Peninsula in the form of wages, patronage to local businesses, and professional services. There are always going to be some things like e-books, technology hardware and software, health insurance, etc. that we can't cost-effectively buy nearby. But, as a for instance, before I

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Book Nook Book Sales

Saturday, April 1st

9:00 – 2:00

In the Book Nook
Blue Hill Public Library

NO FOOLIN' !!

Quality used books
most just \$1 or \$2

Come check out our new titles!

*And all children may choose
a free book*

April Specials:

Misc. Non-fiction **1/2 price**

Spiral bound cookbooks **25¢**

Still some Classical LP vinyl

now just \$1

More “like new” paperbacks

50¢

Donations of books of all
genera and for all ages are
welcomed and NEEDED!!

We can offer the quality
books in our sale only
because of the generosity of
our donors!

The Friends are very proud
of the vitality of the Blue
Hill Public Library and are
pleased to play a part in it
through volunteerism and
the proceeds from our book
sales. We thank our book
donors and patrons—regular
and drop-in—or the ongoing
success of the book sales.

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place my monthly book orders with a national distributor, I go over my list with our bookstore to see what titles can first be sourced in town. Our printing, which could be easily purchased from any web-based vendor, instead goes to a printer in Ellsworth. Decisions like that don't necessarily hold up to close scrutiny on a spreadsheet, but they do bring vitality to our community.

This year, due to many factors—rising health care costs, a new internet service fee, increased utilities costs, a reasonable wage adjustment for our staff, etc.—BHPL's annual operating budget has increased 3.5%. Comparatively our request from the Town of Blue Hill is up just 2.8%. Over the last five years, the portion of our operating budget that comes from the town has decreased from 17% to 15%. During that period, BHPL has increased our in-house fundraising efforts, from raising \$152,000 in 2013 to \$209,000 in the current year, a 37% increase.

On the 2017 warrant posted on the town's web site, out of 71 funding articles totaling \$8,000,000, only 4 are being recommended by the Budget Committee and Selectboard for lower amounts than the agency's request: Hancock County Hospice and Home Care, Washington Hancock Community Agency, and the public libraries in East Blue Hill and Blue Hill. For BHPL they are recommending a rollback to 2015 funding levels, \$76,000 instead of the \$82,250 requested.

On April 8th, the library could use your support at town meeting. Thank you in advance.

— Rich Boulet

Letter From the President

Happy spring! I've just returned from a beautiful week in my home state of CA, where it was 90+ degrees and the desert flowers were in full bloom, much greener this year than usual with all the rain in recent months. It is a treat to have a change of scenery and a blast of warm air in the winter. I'm always happy to be back home again also, even to snow on the ground.

The snow will finally melt here and it will be time to get our hands back in the dirt. The library's plant sale is a great place to stock up on new beauties for the garden. Please put Saturday, May 27 on your calendar and plan to join us. As always, there will be loads of lovely locally grown ornamentals and edibles, gardening experts to advise you, used books about gardening, fun silent auctions items, and tasty refreshments to fortify you. If you'd like to help with the event by digging or donating plants this month, or with set up and sales during the event, please contact the library.

My trip to trendy CA also reminded me how old school I am, in many ways, beginning on the plane ride. Packed in with people attached to electronic devices, I was reading a book (purchased at the library's used book sale). I understand the convenience of e-readers and the vast array of options electronics offer, but

to me, there is nothing as satisfying as reading the printed word on paper, holding a book, and passing it on to another reader when I'm finished.

This winter, the library enabled me to do a deep dive into old school. My book group selected a Jane Austen novel as our selection one month last fall. I'm embarrassed to admit that I hadn't read *Persuasion* previously. Of course, I loved it. It got me thinking about the many classics I've missed and inspired me to keep going. What a great trip without leaving

home it has been. I'd encourage you to comb the shelves for old treasures. I'm grateful that the library offers the latest best-sellers and that I can put a hold on new items (from the convenience of my home computer at any time of day). That said, there's something even more wonderful about finding old friends on the shelves, especially ones new to me. Thanks to the library for helping us stay current and connected to our pasts.

— Leslie Goode

Choices That Matter: Optimizing Healthcare Choices for Difficult Times

Retired local M.D. Susan Ostertag, and retired clinical psychologist Barbara Sinclair will facilitate a discussion exploring people's goals, values and options for future healthcare decisions at the Blue Hill Public Library on two Wednesdays, April 12th and 19th from 3:00 to 4:30 PM. The program is free but space is limited to 15 participants so registration is required and can be done on the library's website at www.bhpl.net or by calling the library at 374-5515.

As people age, health changes occur and they are presented with increasingly complex healthcare decisions. 'Choices That Matter' is an opportunity to explore how to sustain the best possible quality of life while maintaining control over healthcare decisions which safeguard patients' values. Participants in the Choices That Matter Program will explore views, attitudes and options for medical and comfort care during the latter part of life or when confronted with a serious illness, and discuss advanced care planning.

Real-life scenarios will be used to generate lively, and interesting discussions. This workshop is appropriate for individuals thinking about their own healthcare future as well as that of loved ones they may be assisting. This event is sponsored by the library, and free of charge. For more information, call the library at 374-5515.

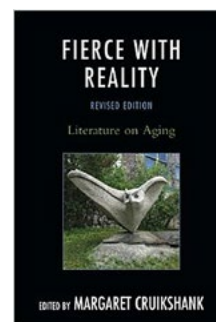
Author Event: Fierce With Reality

Maine author and retired University of Maine professor Margaret Cruikshank will discuss and read from her new anthology *Fierce with Reality*, at the Blue Hill Public Library on Thursday, April 6th at 7:00 PM. A culturally diverse literary collection on aging, ranging from ancient Chinese poetry to Mary Oliver, Alice Walker, and Willie Nelson, the anthology includes fiction, philosophical essays, personal essays, humor, analyses of ageism, and folktales from Asia and Iraq.

Fierce with Reality highlights writings by women from late 19th century American literature to the present. Many facets of aging and are explored, revealing the challenges and complexities of late-life experiences.

Margaret Cruikshank retired from the women's studies faculty at the University of Maine, where she is currently an associate of the university's Center on Aging. She is also the author of *Learning to be Old: Gender, Culture and Aging*.

Books will be available for sale and signing. This event is sponsored by the library and Blue Hill Books. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome. For more information, call the library at 374-5515.



Town Meeting Reminders

Blue Hill – April 8, 9:00 AM at BHCS
Surry – April 24, 7:00PM at the Surry School

New on the Shelves

Nonfiction:

Michael Engelhard, *American Wild: Explorations from the Grand Canyon to the Arctic Ocean*

Laura Leigh Abby & Trish Bendix, *2brides 2be: A Same-Sex Guide for the Modern Bride*

Lin Pardey, *Taleisin's Tales: Sailing Towards the Southern Cross*

Huw Lewis-Jones & Kari Herbert, *Explorers' Sketchbooks: The Art of Discovery & Adventure*

Lisa Feldman Barrett, *How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain*

Melanie Greenberg, *Stress-Proof Brain: Master Your Emotional Response to Stress Using Mindfulness and Neuroplasticity*

Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu & Douglas Carlton Abrams, *Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*

Adam Alter, *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked*

Jessa Crispin, *Why I Am Not a Feminist: A Feminist Manifesto*

Jonathan White & Peter Matthiessen, *Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean*

Ted Elliman & New England Wild Flower Society, *Wildflowers of New England*

Joel Sartore, Harrison Ford & Douglas H Chadwick, *National Geographic the Photo Ark: One Man's Quest to Document the World's Animals*

Mike Unwin, David Tipling & Tony Angell, *Enigma of the Owl: An Illustrated Natural History*

Henry Fersko-Weiss, *Caring for the Dying: The Doula Approach to a Meaningful Death*

Benjamin Reiss, *Wild Nights: How Taming Sleep Created Our Restless World*

Gene Logsdon & Wendell Berry, *Letter to a Young Farmer: How to Live Richly Without Wealth on the New Garden Farm*

Deborah Madison, *In My Kitchen: A Collection of New and Favorite Vegetarian Recipes*

Kim Scott, *Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity*

Karen Libecap, *Big Book of Tiny Art: A Modern, Inspirational Guide to the Art of the Miniature*

Paul Watson, *Ice Ghosts: The Epic Hunt for the Lost Franklin Expedition*

John Romer, *History of Ancient Egypt Volume 2: From the Great Pyramid to the Fall of the Middle Kingdom*

Mark Kurlansky, *Havana: A Subtropical Delirium*

Kenneth T Andrews, *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: The Mississippi Civil Rights Movement and Its Legacy*

Christina Snyder, *Great Crossings: Indians, Settlers, and Slaves in the Age of Jackson*

Leah Carroll, *Down City: A Daughter's Story of Love, Memory, and Murder*

Sandrine Revel, *Glenn Gould: A Life Off Tempo*

Thi Bui, *Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir*

Per J Andersson & Anna Holmwood, *Amazing Story of the Man Who Cycled from India to Europe for Love*

Melissa Febos, *Abandon Me: Memoirs*

Joe Ollmann, *Abominable Mr. Seabrook*

John A Farrell, *Richard Nixon: The Life*

Fiction:

Clive Cussler & Justin Scott, *Cutthroat*

Dan Chaon, *Ill Will*

C J Box, *Vicious Circle*

Debbie Macomber, *If Not for You*

Mohsin Hamid, *Exit West*

Doug Allyn, *Jukebox Kings*

Paul La Farge, *Night Ocean*

Brad Parks, *Say Nothing*

Hannah Tinti, *Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley*

Melissa Scrivner, *Love Lola*

David Joy, *Weight of This World*

Sarah Dunant, *In the Name of the Family*

Hari Kunzru, *White Tears*

Bernhard Schlink, Joyce Hackett, & Bradley

Schmidt, *Woman on the Stairs*

Domenico Starnone & Jhumpa Lahiri, *Ties*

Emily Bitto, *Strays*

Alastair Reynolds, *Revenger*

Chevy Stevens, *Never Let You Go*

Christobel Kent, *Loving Husband*

Katie Kitamura, *Separation*

Faye Kellerman, *Bone Box*

Mary Sojourner, *Talker: Stories*

Jaroslav Kalfar, *Spaceman of Bohemia*

Bill Pronzini, *Violated*

Sophie Kinsella, *My Not So Perfect Life*
 Eliot Pattison, *Skeleton God*
 Lauren Grodstein, *Our Short History*
 Nicolaas Obregaon, *Blue Light*
 Yokohama Charles Cumming, *Divided Spy*
 J S Monroe, *Find Me*
 Marcus Sedgwick, *Mister Memory*
 Jacqueline Winspear, *In This Grave Hour*
 Daniel Magariel, *One of the Boys*
 Nickolas Butler, *Hearts of Men*
 Charlie Lovett, *Lost Book of the Grail*
 Sarah Cain, *One by One*
 Jess Kidd, *Himself*
 Rachel Ingalls & Daniel Handler, *Three Masquerades*
 Greg Iles, *Mississippi Blood*
 Julia Dahl, *Conviction*
 Rhys Bowen, *In Farleigh Field: A Novel of World War II*
 Sarah Dunn, *Arrangement*

Kevin Egan, *Shattered Circle*
 Catriona Ward, *Girl from Rawblood*
 Annie Hartnett, *Rabbit Cake*
 Christina Kovac, *Cutaway: A Thriller*
 Lisa See, *Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*
 Michael Knight, *Eveningland: Stories*
 Kevin Canty, *Underworld*
 Howard A Norman, *My Darling Detective*
 M J Carter, *Devil's Feast*

Audiobooks:

Michael Finkel, *The Stranger in the Woods*
 J P Delaney, *The Girl Before*
 Chris Bohjalian, *The Sleepwalker*
 Marie Benedict, *The Other Einstein*
 Peter Heller, *Celine*
 Elan Mastai, *All Our Wrong Today's*
 Louise Penny, *A Trick of the Light*
 Louise Penny, *Still Life*
 Louise Penny, *The Cruellest Month*

Stack Diving

Mark Baldwin likes to mine the library shelves for films that are hard, or impossible, to find in Netflix, etc.

LA STRADA

Is writing a review of Federico Fellini's LA STRADA as dumb as a new review of the Gettysburg Address? Maybe, so here is a review 48 words shorter than the Gettysburg Address.

Watch LA STRADA (released 1954) because it's Famous, because it has been called one of the Greatest Films, and because not many movies have as fascinating a backstory, or have caused as many fistfights among Italian film aficionados. For that story see an excellent Wikipedia entry under La Strada.

"Fellinian" and "Fellinesque" have become synonyms for fanciful, or fantastical. LA STRADA may be a deep psychological insight into relationships, but it is a simple tale. The Italian scene itself may seem bizarre, but it was reportage in the early fifties.

The story: a desperate mother sells her simple daughter Gelsomina (Giulietta Masina) to Zampanò (Anthony Quinn) a travelling strongman who plays to small village crowds for a few lira. That story easily could have been plausible at the time.

The backstory, with an interactive twist: Fellini and Masina were married fifty years. He died in 1993, and she five months later. Watching LA STRADA, think of that married couple: Fellini so complex, Masina so complex as to be called the Italian Charlie Chaplin. Then read about LA STRADA and see if you don't recommend it to somebody.

Family note: not a comedy.





Annual Student Art Show at the Blue Hill Public Library

The Blue Hill Public Library will be hosting the annual Student Art Show during the month of April. Schools and homeschoolers from surrounding areas have been invited to share the talent and creativity of local students with the community--expressed in watercolors, pen and ink, ceramics, sculpture, collages, yarn and woven items, and much more. Creative work will be exhibited throughout the entire library, on almost every wall and counter, upstairs and down. This show is a favorite with the public every year.

Everyone is invited to a reception to celebrate the artists and their teachers on Friday, April 7th, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Supported by the Friends of the Library, this reception is a good time to view the artwork, meet some of the artists, and enjoy some refreshments. For more information, please call Libby at 374-5515.

Open Draw

Local artist and gallery-owner Margret Baldwin will host an "open draw" series on Fridays in April from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Blue Hill Public Library. (Note that the first session on April 7th starts at 7:00PM.) While not a formal drawing class, these sessions are open to artists of all levels of experience to come, draw together, and receive feedback and guidance from Margret in a friendly and supportive environment.

This program is sponsored by the Library, free of charge, but participants are asked to



register for one or more classes individually in advance and to bring their own drawing materials. Anyone interested can register on the library's web calendar found at www.bhhpl.net or call 374-5515.

Darn It All!

Got holes in your socks and sweaters after a long winter? Consider repairing instead of replacing! Gayle Durnbaugh will teach a 1-hour workshop at the Blue Hill Public Library on Saturday April 1st at 10:00 AM, on how to darn



clothing to fill in those holes (not an April Fool's joke—some people still do darn!).

No experience is necessary, but participants are asked to bring a wooden egg, an incandescent light bulb, a tennis ball, or some other hard, round object to use for darning. And they should bring whatever sock or other knitted piece of clothing they want to darn! Gayle will bring a selection of yarns and darning cotton but participants might want to bring yarn or cotton that closely matches items they want to darn. For more information call the library at 374-5515.

How-To Workshop on Organic Gardening

Are you interested in learning how to grow your own vegetables in a sustainable manner? Blue Hill Public Library will host an evening-long workshop on how to grow your own

organic garden Wednesday, April 5th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

Topics that will be covered include basics of soil science, how to enrich your soil to produce healthy, high-yielding plants, the fundamentals of making and using compost, the principles of crop rotation, and how to incorporate green manures and manage nutrients in the garden. Other topics will include basic weed control strategies, common insect pests and methods of natural insect control.

The workshop is sponsored by the library, Maine's Adult and Community Education Program, and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) which will be offering the workshop at over 30 locations in Maine all on the same evening.

Brooksville farmer Dan Huisjen will lead the workshop. All levels of gardeners are welcome, from first-timers to experienced gardeners who want to experiment with new

techniques. The workshop is free, but space is limited, so participants are asked to register using the library's interactive calendar at www.bhpl.net or by calling the library at 374-5515.



How to Divide Your Perennials
Workshop with Clifton Page
on Saturday, April 29 at 9:00 AM.

Must See Movies



Amazing Grace (2006)

Thursday, April 13, 2017, 7 pm, Howard Room

Starring: Ioan Gruffudd, Albert Finney, Michael Gambon.

Director: Michael Apted.

Story Line: A British-American biographical drama film directed by Michael Apted, about the campaign against slave trade in the British Empire, led by William Wilberforce (Ioan Gruffudd). The film also recounts the experiences of John Newton (Allbert Finney), as a crewman on a slave ship and subsequent religious conversion, which inspired his writing of the poem later used in the hymn "Amazing Grace."

Play Reading

No Time For Comedy

Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 6:30 pm



Playwright: S.N. Behrman

Story Line: A success in New York where it opened with Katherine Cornell and Laurence Olivier and on tour, *No Time for Comedy* delights audiences and critics. Gaylord Easterbrook is a clever young playwright whose comedies are highly successful but he finds himself to be discontented and restless. He feels that this is no time for comedy. The modern tempo and constant change demand reality and a serious approach. As a result he manages to write a serious play about death and the Spanish Loyalists. Should be on reader's list for every serious theatre enthusiast.

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April 2017

No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep, and we know it.

– Hal Borland

IN THIS EDITION

Lots going on! Ahead of town meeting, Rich Boulet offers some thoughts on town funding. There is a lecture on **health care choices** and an author event featuring **Margaret Cruikshank**. Workshops on **darning** and **organic gardening**. The annual **student art show** and **drawing classes** conducted by **Margret Baldwin**. A review of **La Strada** by **Mark Baldwin**. And, as always, a listing of **new titles**. This month's movie screening is **Amazing Grace** and the play reading is **No Time For Comedy** by S.N. Behrman.

Friends of the Blue Hill Library
5 Parker Point Road
Blue Hill, Maine 04614



HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday: 9am – 6pm
Thursday: 9am – 8pm
Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Book Nook Book Sales:
First Saturday of the month,
9am – 2pm



Blue Hill Library