



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



A tam tam for Blue Hill

You may already know that BHPL has a longstanding tradition of bringing the world to Blue Hill with artifacts collected and gleaned from many past benefactors, chiefly Adelaide Pearson and Roland Howard. We have textiles from Guatemala, pottery from American Indians in the Southwest, an Indonesian bust, sheet music from the Middle Ages, ancient maps and surveys, and now: Blue Hill's own tam tam. A tam tam looks a little like a totem pole and is actually a musical instrument, or a "slit drum," from the South Pacific. Richard Penfold of Deer Isle purchased one from Chief Tavor on the island of Vanuatu when he was volunteering there as a younger man. More recently circumstances required that a new home be found for this unique object, and Richard and his wife, Mary, kindly shipped this 9 foot tall carved log halfway across the world so they could donate it to BHPL. The Met museum in New York has one too, and this description can be found on their website: www.metmuseum.org.

The towering slit gongs of northern Vanuatu are among the largest freestanding musical instruments on earth. Found primarily on Ambrym, Malakula, and neighboring islands, they are carved from the trunks of large breadfruit trees,

Continued on next page

Book Nook Book Sales

Saturday, March 4th

9:00 – 2:00

In the Book Nook
Blue Hill Public Library

While waiting for all that snow to
melt, you could

Escape with a good novel!!

Plan your Spring “clean up,
paint up, fix up” project

Get started on indoor garden
projects

*We have LOTS of
fine quality used books
For the whole family!*

Rolling cart collections include
books about golf
Travelogues to “take you away”
to exotic places
And more!!

Also check out the unique books
And LP records (classical and pop
from yesteryear!)
on the Bass room tables!!

Most books just \$1 or \$2

**Special
DVDs 2 for \$1
CDs 4 for \$1**

Sponsored by the Friends of the
Library, book sales support many
fine programs for adults and
children as well as special projects
and purchases for the library.

The success of our book sales
depends on quality donations and
enthusiastic patrons. We are very,
very fortunate and thankful to
have both!!

Continued from previous page

hollowed out to create a resonating chamber with a narrow slit-shaped aperture. The edges of the slit are struck with clublike wood beaters, producing deep, sonorous tones. A number of gongs, constituting an informal orchestra, stand on the village’s dancing ground. These gong orchestras are played at major social and ceremonial occasions such as initiations, dances, and funerals. Through carefully coordinated actions, the drummers in the gong ensemble produce rhythms of immense variety and complexity. Slit gongs are, or were, also used to communicate between villages. Under proper atmospheric conditions, their sound can carry for miles through the forest and, in rare instances, across the water to neighboring islands. A series of gong “languages” composed of beats and pauses enables highly specific messages to be sent.

Stop by the Blue Hill Room on the main floor anytime to check out this amazing artifact from across the world.

The right side of history?

Before getting to the next part, I want to be abundantly clear that everyone is welcome at the Blue Hill Public Library. Everyone. EVERYONE. That includes you, your friends and neighbors and, well, everyone. The library has no orthodoxy or point of view, apart from a strong support for everyone’s right to free expression and privacy. (For more on that, see the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, Code of Ethics and Freedom to Read Statement, all of which have been endorsed by the BHPL Board of Directors as representing our organization’s values.) Regardless of your age, gender, politics, religion, philosophy or point of view, this library is YOUR library.

But since the election of Donald Trump to President of the United States, I have been thinking a lot about our role as a public institution. As a private citizen I am bothered by a lot of the things that I have seen leading up to the election and afterwards. There have been more and more reports of hate speech; things like swastikas on Jewish temples, and people of color being told to “go home.” We have all read about a Muslim travel ban that either was or was not a MUSLIM travel ban, depending on which of the president’s advisors was doing the talking and to whom. Someone referred to by even the mainstream media as a “white nationalist” is serving as our chief executive’s closest advisor. Our new president, whose advisors provide “alternative facts,” and who himself is routinely given multiple “pinocchios” by fact checkers at many media outlets, has unprecedented contempt for the press. Simply put, we live in a new normal, and it is one that troubles me.

A kind of idealism was one of the primary drivers behind why I chose this profession. I suppose I could have gone into business, but instead I wanted to make an ethical living doing work with meaning, and doing as little harm as possible in the process. This makes me not altogether unique among many of my peers who grew up in the 1990s punk rock scene, a milieu that encouraged a DIY ethic, taking direct action and personal responsibility for

your own actions and impact on the world. That counter-culture, like so many movements before it, rejected the mainstream, professed left-wing values and believed in the power of the individual.

Now, in 2017, after this election, I am thinking about my professional values within the world that seems to be swinging hard to the right, as it has so many times in the past on the seesaw of progress and reaction. I wonder what would I, or we as a library, be doing professionally in the McCarthy era? Would we shy away from communist information, or would we plunge headlong into the controversies of the day? What would we do in the 1940s if there were Japanese families in Blue Hill being rounded up into internment camps? After all, there were at least German POW camps near Houlton, Jackman and in the Forks, Maine. Even if there were nearby

families being rounded up, would there be any comfort that we could provide? What would BHPL do under my leadership during the Vichy government in France? Would I be willing to hide Jews in the BHPL basement and risk the existence of the library as a result, or would we cooperate with the regime?

I've been giving this considerable thought, and, while I do not have any neat and tidy resolutions to these questions, I know where my values and my heart are. One thing I know for sure is that regardless of how welcome anyone is made to feel by changing values in our culture, EVERYONE is welcome at the Blue Hill Library. And if you have a hard time with that, while you too are welcome here, you will not be permitted to make anyone else feel less than welcome.

Agree? Disagree? Your thoughts are welcome anytime at rboulet@bhpl.net.

cloudLibrary: the new e-book service for BHPL

BHPL is a consortial member of the Maine InfoNet (MIN) Download Library, which provides you with e-books and e-audiobooks from Overdrive, a vendor that sells and leases content to libraries. More recently the folks at MIN, after consulting with stakeholders around the state, decided to switch vendors, opting for cloudLibrary (yes: that's irritatingly a lowercase c, uppercase L in their name) to deliver that content to you. As a result of that change, we have decided to follow the herd to that same service.

The good news:

- Decreased wait time for holds
- Easier user interface
- Most Overdrive titles available
- Sync books across devices

The bad news:

- Access to Overdrive account ends Feb 28
- Your holds will (did) NOT transfer*
- Does not work with e-Ink Kindles (Paperwhites)

A reminder that BHPL also offers other digital library services such as: Mango Languages (foreign language learning), OneClickDigital (primarily e-audiobooks), and Freegal (rhymes with "legal," a provider of digital music, whether streamed or downloaded).

Town meeting season!

It's the time of year when we ask Blue Hill and neighboring towns without full service libraries to pitch in to help us run the library. If you are a resident of Blue Hill, Surry, Sedgwick or Penobscot, PLEASE attend your town meeting and vote for the library. The amount we request is a small portion of our operating budget, less than 17% overall, and we could really use your support.

Schedule:

Sedgwick: Saturday, March 4 at 9:00am at Sedgwick Elementary School (NOT Town Hall as before).

Penobscot: Tuesday, March 7, 7:00pm at Penobscot Elementary School

Blue Hill: Saturday, April 8, 9:00am at Blue Hill Consolidated School

Surry: Monday April 24, 7:00pm at Surry Elementary School

Fun Fact: Among 74 peer libraries in New England (with operating budgets between \$450k-\$550k), The Blue Hill Public Library receives the third smallest portion of its overall operating budget from local government revenue. This is according to the most recent data available from the Maine State Library.

New on the Shelves

Nonfiction

Moran, Caitlin, *Moranifesto*
Ryrie, Alec, *Protestants: The Faith That Made the Modern World*
Dennett, Daniel C., *From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds*
Warrach, Haider, *Modern Death: How Medicine Changed the End of Life*
Perry, Christopher W., *The Church Mouse: Leadership Lessons from the Magic Kingdom*
Girard, Rene, *The Scapegoat*
Dyson, Michael Eric, *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*
Haass, Richard, *A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order*
Servon, Lisa, *The Unbanking of America: How the New Middle Class Survives*
Armitage, David, *Civil Wars: A History in Ideas*
Britton, Sarah, *Naturally Nourished: Healthy, Delicious Meals Made with Everyday Ingredients*
Americas Test Kitchen, *Bread Illustrated: A Step-By-Step Guide to Achieving Bakery-Quality Results at Home*
Cory, Steve, *Plumbing*
Josephs, Sheila Achar, *Helping Your Anxious Teen: Positive Parenting Strategies to Help Your Teen Beat Anxiety, Stress, and Worry*
Ferris, Emil, *My Favorite Thing Is Monsters*
Miller, Judith, *Miller's Art Deco: Living with the Art Deco Style*
Gaughan, Norah, *Norah Gaughan's Knitted Cable Sourcebook: A Breakthrough Guide to Knitting with Cables and Designing Your Own*
Pavilion Books, *750 Knitting Stitches: The Ultimate Knit Stitch Bible*
Therley, Kate, *The Beginner's Guide to Writing Knitting Patterns: Learn to Write Patterns Others Can Knit*
Modern Language Association of America, *MLA Handbook*
Lorde, Audre, *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*
Saeed, Mahmoud, *The World Through the Eyes of Angels*
Arendt, Hannah, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*

Rydell, Anders, *The Book Thieves: The Nazi Looting of Europe's Libraries and the Race to Return a Literary Inheritance*
Nixon, John, *Debriefing the President: The Interrogation of Saddam Hussein*
Avlon, John, *Washington's Farewell: The Founding Father's Warning to Future Generations*
Stone, Roger, *The Making of the President 2016: How Donald Trump Orchestrated a Revolution*
Barber II, William J., *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*
Dunbar, Erica Armstrong, *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*
Merkin, Daphne, *This Close to Happy: A Reckoning with Depression*
Mohr, Joshua, *Sirens*
Piotter, Doug, *Fixed: Dope Sacks, Dye Packs and the Long Welcome Back*

Fiction

Attenberg, Jami, *All Grown Up*
Billingham, Mark, *Rush of Blood*
Bouis, Antonina W., *The Year of the Comet*
Brekke, Jrgen, *The Fifth Element*
Chirovici, E. O., *The Book of Mirrors*
Coetzee, J. M., *The Schooldays of Jesus*
Dabney, R. S., *The Soul Mender*
Delaney, Jp, *The Girl Before*
Fuhrman, Paul Thomas, *The Downeaster: Deadly Voyage*
Fuller, Claire, *Swimming Lessons*
Gardner, Lisa, *Right Behind You*
Greaney, Mark, *Gunmetal Gray*
Grippando, James, *Most Dangerous Place*
Grossman, David, *A Horse Walks Into a Bar*
Gundar-Goshen, Ayelet, *Waking Lions*
Herron, Mick, *Spook Street*
Kent, Kathleen, *The Dime*
Kline, Christina Baker, *A Piece of the World*
Lansdale, Joe R., *Rusty Puppy*
Lee, Min Jin, *Pachinko*
Lipman, Elinor, *On Turpentine Lane*
Mackintosh, Clare, *I See You*
McCall Smith, Alexander, *The Bertie Project*

McDonald, Gregory, *Snatch*
Nguyen, Viet Thanh, *The Refugees*
O'Neill, Heather, *The Lonely Hearts Hotel*
Puchner, Eric, *Last Day on Earth: Stories*
Robb, J. D., *Echoes in Death*
Rosson, Keith, *The Mercy of the Tide*
Saunders, George, *Lincoln in the Bardo*
Wuertz, Yoojin Grace, *Everything Belongs to Us*

Stack Diving

Mark Baldwin is a big fan of the Blue Hill Public Library's film selections. He is kindly offering up occasional reviews for gems he has found in the stacks. We hope you enjoy his take on IL POSTO.

IL POSTO

Be careful what you wish for.

I stumbled on IL POSTO while looking for IL POSTINO, that fine 1994 film about Pablo Neruda and a simple Sicilian on the make.

Besides being Italian, IL POSTINO (the postman) and IL POSTO (the position) have elements in common. Both heroes need a job, both movies have a strong dose of social comment, and both end in sadness, though POSTINO is bittersweet and POSTO is, well, like a promise of endless crap to come. Also, there are a lot of smiles in IL POSTINO and, if you can get with the satire, IL POSTO is a comedy.

Grimness was the hallmark of "Italian neorealism," a movement that had enough of glossy studio movies. The neorealists wanted to show the jobless, hopeless, dirty poverty in the post-WWII ruin bequeathed by the fascists, and occasionally they found humor in it. By the fifties, though, people started buying promises of the great "Italian Economic Miracle" put out by the constantly changing Italian governments, and they wanted happy films again.

The PR slogan "Italian economic miracle" was a great target. It was made to be demolished, and in 1961 director Ermanno Olmi's IL POSTO revved up the old neorealism and did a good job of demolishing the miracle.

The story: Domenico is a young man who quits school to help support his family. What job? Any job. So he sees a notice and applies

Audiobooks

Sobel, Dava, *The Glass Universe*
Saunders, George, *Lincoln in the Bardo*
Smith, Zadie, *Swing Time*
Patchett, Ann, *Commonwealth*
Levitin, Daniel J., *A Field Guide to Lies*
Cornwell, Patricia, *Chaos*
Lee, Min Jin, *Pachinko*



at a Big Corporation that Monty Python's Terry Gilliam could have invented. While standing in line he shyly meets Antonietta – a promise of a happy ending. The job interviews are a hoot, with Olmi's constant empathy for life's losers. Antonietta gets a more prestigious

position than Domenico, but he finally lands a desk position, a "job for life." The desk part will be a kicker when you see it.

And maybe the ending really could be happy, since the boy and girl may end up as a unit. But this is a savage satire about the economic miracle, so if you want to get up with a smile, remember that satire is comedy. It really is a good movie.

IL POSTO is Ermanno Olmi's second feature movie. Like the ground-breaking THE BICYCLE THIEF (Italian), and LITTLE FUGITIVE (American), IL POSTO is shot on location without professional actors. POSTO also has camera shots that are held much longer than today's quick takes. Try counting seconds; you'll seldom get to ten before there's a cut.

After filming IL POSTO, Olmi married Loredana Detto, who played Antonietta to Sandro Panseri's Domenico. His latest movie is GREENERY WILL BLOOM AGAIN, set in the trenches of WWI and released in 2014, when Olmi was 84.

Mark Baldwin is director of The Borealis Press in Blue Hill

Exhibit: Americans Who Tell the Truth



Portrait of Bree Newsome by Robert Shetterly.

BLUE HILL – During the month of March at the Blue Hill Public Library, Brooksville artist Robert Shetterly will exhibit recent paintings in his portrait series, *Americans Who Tell the Truth*. The portraits have all been done in the last year or so and include civil rights activist Bayard Rustin; the woman who climbed the flagpole at the state capitol in South Carolina to take down the Confederate flag, Bree Newsome; Indigenous rights activist Sherri Mitchell; and founder of the Bread and Puppet Theater, Peter Schumann.

According to Shetterly, the *Americans Who Tell the Truth* project sprang out of his reactions to 9/11 and the “manipulative use of the attack as a basis for the Iraq war.” “I began painting this series of portraits—finding great Americans who spoke the truth and combining their images with their words—as a way to channel my anger and grief. In the process my respect and love for these people and their courage helped to transform that anger into hope and pride and allowed me to draw strength from this community of truth tellers, finding in them the courage, honesty, tolerance, generosity, wisdom and compassion that have made our country strong.”

His paintings from the series have been traveling around the country since 2003, and they now number over 220. Venues have included everything from university museums and grade school libraries to sandwich shops, the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City, and the Superior Court in San Francisco.

The portraits have also become the basis of the state-wide educational initiative offered by the Maine Association for Middle Level Education, the Samantha Smith Challenge. It is named for a little girl from Maine who initiated a peace making venture to build bridges between the American and Russian peoples and was later killed in a plane crash.

The exhibit will be available for viewing during regular library hours starting March 1st. For more information, call the library at 374-5515, or see www.americanswhotellthetruth.org.

Exhibit: Nature-Inspired Photography



Nayeli Monahan with one of her nature photographs.

BLUE HILL – The Blue Hill Public Library will have a new exhibit in the children’s Larchwood case in March and April: Nature-Inspired Photography by six-year-old Mount Desert Island resident Nayeli Monahan.

Nayeli, a six-year-old student at the Community School of Mount Desert Island, has been taking photographs since she was two years old. According to her mom, Courtney Shusheim, “She loves working on art projects and frequently experiments using different items found in nature to create her works. She also enjoys singing, acting, and volunteering at the SPCA of Hancock County. After school, you might find Nayeli reading to Will at Reader Dog or looking for gnomes and fairies in the woods.”

The exhibit will be available for viewing during regular library hours through the end of April. For more information call Libby at 374-5515.

Book Discussion: *I Am Not Your Negro*

BLUE HILL – Former professors Bernadette and Vivodh Anand invite the public to participate in a book discussion of James Baldwin and Raoul Peck’s *I Am Not Your Negro*, a companion to the recently released documentary of the same name. The Blue Hill Public Library will host the discussion on two Tuesdays, March 14th and 21st from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. There is no charge and everyone is welcome but registration is required and can be done on the library’s calendar at www.bhpl.net. Books are available now for participants to check out.

At the time of writer James Baldwin’s death in 1987, he left behind only thirty completed pages of a book, “a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and successive assassinations of three of his close friends—Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.” In the film, Peck “weaves together James Baldwin’s works and words to present an

examination of the history of race in America.”

The film will be showing locally at Reel Pizza in Bar Harbor on March 7th, 8th, and 9th at 6:00 and 8:15 PM and at the Grand in Ellsworth on Thursday, March 23rd at 7:00 PM.

Both Bernadette and Vivodh Anand are fellows at the Public Science Project in the Graduate Psychology Department of City University of New York. They are former professors and trained SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) facilitators who currently live in Milbridge.

Both sessions will include personal stories, current connections, and engaging conversation emerging from the themes and ideas within the book, as well as possible actions the community can take in working towards social justice. The discussions are sponsored by the Blue Hill Public Library. For more information call 374-5515.



Clay Spring Bunnies

Saturday March 18th, 2:00 pm

Margret Baldwin will instruct kids in making a bunny with clay from Rackliffe Pottery. Sign up online through the library calendar.

Must See Movies



Bad Day At Black Rock (1954)

Thursday, March 9, 2017, 7 pm, Howard Room

Starring: Spencer Tracy, Robert Ryan, Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine and Anne Francis.

Director: John Sturges (The Great Escape, Magnificent Seven, Old Man And The Sea, and Gun Fight At The OK Corral).

Story Line: A one-handed stranger comes to a tiny town possessing a terrible past they want to keep secret, by violent means if necessary. Academy Award winner Spencer Tracy stars as John Macreedy, a World WarII veteran trying to find the father of the man who saved his life in this classic, taut drama about the evils of racial bigotry. Macreedy arrives one hot afternoon in 1945 aboard the first train to stop in Black Rock in three years. His search for a

Japanese American farmer—to whose son he owes his life—leads to this small Western town’s closely guarded secret... a racially motivated murder... and to the local citizens who will kill again to keep their crime hidden.

Play Reading

Outside Mullingar

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 6:30 pm



Playwright: J.P. Shanley

Story Line: Tony Award nominee for Best Play (2014). From the author of Doubt and Moonstruck comes a romantic comedy set in rural Ireland. Anthony and Rosemary are lovelorn farmers who haven’t got a clue when it comes to love. These hopeless singletons will need to overcome a bitter land feud, familial rivalries and their own romantic fears to find happiness. Full of dark humor and poetic prose, John Patrick Shanley’s

tenderhearted portrait reminds us it’s never too late to take a chance on love.

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March 2017

All in the wild March-morning I heard the angels call; It was when the moon was setting, and the dark was over all; The trees began to whisper, and the wind began to roll, And in the wild March-morning I heard them call my soul.

Lord Alfred Tennyson

IN THIS EDITION

Library Director Rich Boulet writes about the library's new **tam tam** and being on **the right side of history**. Exhibits of paintings by **Rob Shetterly** and photographs by **Nayelli Moynahan**. A discussion by Bernadette and Vivodh Anand about the book, **I Am Not Your Negro**. A workshop for children on **making bunnies** out of clay. A review of the movie **Il Postino**. And, as always, a listing of **New Titles**. This month's movie screening is **Bad Day at Black Rock** and the play reading is **Outside Mullingar** by J.P. Shanley.

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