



# 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!

## FOL OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Ellie Andy	President
Donna Scheutzow	Vice President
Nina Fleming	Secretary
Marjorie Yesley	Treasurer
Rich Boulet	Library Director

Meredith Amado, Bonnie Copper, Michael Donahue, Nina Fleming, Jane Garfield, Kay Grover, Susan Hudson, Fran Jennings, Tim Laflam, Ken Schweikert, Donna Scheutzow, Norm Scheutzow, Phil Schirmer, Linda Slaven, and Anne Smallidge.



## FOL Holiday Party

The public is invited to the annual Blue Hill Library Holiday Party on Saturday, December 16th, from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. This year's event will offer something for everyone!

Partygoers are asked to consider bringing a wrapped gift for a child, labeled with age and gender appropriateness. Gifts can be dropped off at the library anytime through the day of the party. The gifts will be donated to the Tree of Life and The Emmaus Center where they will be distributed to families in need.

There will be the usual array of refreshments, cookies and more cookies. Anyone who would like to donate extra snacks or goodies- it would be much appreciated. The party is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information call the Library at 374-5515.

# *Book Nook Book Sales*

Saturday,  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*and*

Saturday,  
December 16<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 – 2:00

In the Book Nook  
Blue Hill Public Library

## **2 BOOK SALES**

in December, both highlighting books for and about the holidays. Books make great gifts and there are quality selections for everyone in the family. Please also note that gift certificates to the Book Nook are available!!!

Also, don't forget the ongoing paperback sale on the Library's second floor, accessible anytime the Library is open!

The monthly book sales are organized by Blue Hill Library's dedicated Friends of the Library volunteers and supported by very welcome donations from the community. Sale proceeds provide special programming and materials for the library and its patrons. Monthly sales are held the first Saturday of the month.

## **From the Director's Desk**

Rich Boulet, Library Director: rboulet@bhpl.net

### **See you around, Shelley**

In 2013 we decided to try a new (to us) approach to raising the increasing amounts of money needed to run the library annually. Stop me if you've heard this before, but BHPL, as an independent 501-c-3, must annually raise a significant portion of its operating budget through general donations and fundraising events. While the library board working as volunteers had been doing admirable work up until that point in meeting the ever-increasing annual fundraising goals, by 2013 we decided it was time to try something different. The board decided to create a part-time development position that would be responsible for aiding in the many tasks associated with fundraising success.

Enter Shelley Latham, whom we hired to take on the challenge of herding all of us, the board and myself, in a straight line towards meeting budget goals. Shelley had earned a reputation around town as a mover and shaker in and around the schools, and had recently taken on the cat-herding task of directing the BHCS spring play (an original and hilarious play that she wrote called "The Cookie Court").

The results speak for themselves. From 2012, the year prior to hiring Shelley, to 2016, overall library fundraising towards operations increased from \$159,000 to \$207,000. In addition, Shelley secured numerous grants that were targeted to a specific project or part of the facility, such as the generator, HVAC improvements, plus many smaller grants towards library programming.

I read somewhere that development positions have a typical lifespan of about three years, so we are lucky to have had Shelley on board for four and a half. However, all good things come to an end and Shelley is moving on from BHPL. She has accepted another position running a website and marketing efforts for a national organization, allowing her to work from home in her pajamas, or elsewhere (we hope not in her pajamas). Speaking on behalf of the library board, the staff, and even on behalf of the many library patrons who have benefitted from her work, we will miss her great work, fun-loving nature and myriad of great ideas, and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

### **Annual Appeal**

Speaking of fundraising, it's prime time at BHPL for the Annual Appeal. As of this writing we are close to being on track for the year. However, December is always the "make or break" month that determines whether we will close the year in the black or not. Many of you have already given to the library this year, and for that I once again thank you for your support



and generosity. If, on the other hand you are someone who is still sitting on the fence about a contribution, please consider mailing in a gift TODAY, or logging on to [www.bhpl.net](http://www.bhpl.net) and clicking on the DONATE button. Fundraising accounts for 33% of our annual operating budget and we simply would not provide nearly the same library without generous community support. Thank you.

## Giving Thanks

It's the holidays again, my own 15<sup>th</sup> turn to enjoy the season in Blue Hill. Lately I have been thinking about what I like about living here so much (besides having a bunch of pond hockey accomplices when the world freezes—something I really love) and I think the FOL Holiday Party is a pretty great emblem of what sets this

community apart from so many others. I can hardly imagine another town where the whole community is invited to an entertaining and free gathering at the public library and, for me anyway, somehow it feels like family coming to visit. Maybe that's just the privilege of being in my job, but knowing that I can count on Michael and his troupe to put on a rousing rendition of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, that there will be great kids entertainment (a magician, juggler, or who knows what!), that we can always count on Nina and many other Friends to get the word out, on Norm and Donna to staff the cider bar, that we're often lucky to have the endlessly talented Noel Paul Stookey to kick off the event, followed up by the always impressive GSA jazz combo, that the event will be capped off by a core group singing carols around the piano

## Become A Friend!

The Friends Membership Drive is in full gear!! Thanks to those who have recently mailed in your membership form or diligently made your way to the library to renew your membership for 2018. For those of you who have recently become new members, welcome!

Library Friends are industrious year round, working on fundraisers and various activities that help serve to keep the offerings in the library at a level we have come to count on and appreciate. And your support is instrumental in making that happen! For those with membership renewal still on the "to do" list, please try to get your form

(included here in the newsletter) in by years end.

And you may notice that there is no longer a fee required for becoming a member. Of course, we encourage you to make a donation when you become a Friend or renew, but the amount is entirely up to your choosing. We only ask that those who receive a hard copy of the monthly Friends newsletter include \$10 to help cover the cost of printing and mailing.

So thanks— for your interest, your support and for your presence in the library, all of which contribute to the the Blue Hill Library's success in serving the greater Blue Hill peninsula community. See you at the library!

# New on the Shelves

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## Nonfiction:

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Segal, Lynne, *Radical Happiness: Moments of Collective Joy*

Torrey, E. Fuller, *Evolving Brains, Emerging Gods: Early Humans and the Origins of Religion*

Crane, Tim, *The Meaning of Belief: Religion from an Atheist's Point of View*

Korda, Josh, *Unsubscribe: Opt Out of Delusion, Tune in to Truth*

Wills, Garry, *What the Qur'an Meant: And Why It Matters*

Bianchi, Anna, *Becoming an Ally to the Gender-Expansive Child: A Guide for Parents and Carers*

Jacobs, Jennifer, *Do You Really Need That Pill?: How to Avoid Side Effects, Interactions, and Other Dangers of Overmedication*

Lieberman, Hallie, *Buzz: The Stimulating History of the Sex Toy*

Przybylo, Henry Jay, *Counting Backwards: A Doctor's Notes on Anesthesia*

McKee, Annie, *How to Be Happy at Work: The Power of Purpose, Hope, and Friendship*

The University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff, *The Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition*

Gardner, Erle Stanley, *Turn on the Heat*

Galeano, Eduardo, *Hunter of Stories*

DeFelice, Jim, *West Like Lightning: The Brief, Legendary Ride of the Pony Express*

APA Publications, Berlitz Cruising & Cruise Ships 2018

Andersen, Kurt, *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History*

## Biography

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Aldous, Richard, *Schlesinger: The Imperial Historian*

Souza, Pete, *Obama: An Intimate Portrait*

Yaffe, David, *Reckless Daughter: A Portrait of Joni Mitchell*

## Fiction

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Baker, Mishell, *Phantom Pains*

Baldacci, David, *End Game*

Berg, Elizabeth, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*

Bodard, Alette De, *The House of Binding Thorns*

Bruen, Ken, *The Ghosts of Galway*

Child, Lee, *The Midnight Line: A Jack Reacher Novel*

Connelly, Michael, *Two Kinds of Truth*

Crais, Robert, *The Wanted*

Early, Hank, *Heaven's Crooked Finger: An Earl Marcus Mystery*

Erdrich, Louise, *Future Home of the Living God*

Grisham, John, *The Rooster Bar*

Hayes-McCoy, Felicity, *The Library at the Edge of the World*

Hoag, Tami, *The Boy*

Hunter, Megan, *The End We Start from*

Indridason, Arnaldur, *The Shadow District: A Thriller*

Ingalls, Rachel, *Mrs. Caliban*

Jance, J. a., *Proof of Life*

Keneally, Thomas, *Crimes of the Father*

Keyse-Walker, John, *Beach, Breeze, Bloodshed: A Teddy Creque Mystery*

King, Stephen, *Salem's Lot*

Koryta, Michael, *How It Happened*

Lawlor, Andrea, *Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl*

Locke, Attica, *Bluebird, Bluebird*

Mayor, Archer, *Trace: A Joe Gunther Novel*

Patterson, James, *The People vs. Alex Cross*

Pochoda, Ivy, *Wonder Valley*

Sandford, John, *Deep Freeze*

Silber, Joan, *Improvement*

Swanwick, Michael, *Not So Much, Said the Cat*

Thien, Madeleine, *Dogs at the Perimeter*

Tregillis, Ian, *The Liberation*

Upson, Nicola, *Nine Lessons: A Josephine Tey Mystery*

Valente, Catherynne M., *The Refrigerator Monologues*

Walker, Adrian J., *The End of the World Running Club*

Weir, Andy, *Artemis*

Wheeler, Shannon, *Too Much Coffee Man Omnibus Plus*

Whittall, Zoe, *The Best Kind of People*

# Stack Diving

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

## POSTMEN IN THE MOUNTAINS

Long ago, in the children's room of a library far away, I found a book of Chinese fairy tales, so strange. There was no magic, no spells or seven-league boots. The heroes had only good character, loyalty, simplicity, industriousness, and family fealty.

POSTMEN IN THE MOUNTAINS would be such a story if it were a fairy tale, which it is not, I think. It is a beautiful movie, poignant without sentimentality, deeply simple, not a bit simplistic. It's about father-son road trip, except the "roads" make the Blue Hill mountain trail look like I-95.

The Chinese name for the film is *The Mountain, The Man, The Dog*. It is set in the 1980s. The Chinese "economic miracle" is in gear, but not in the remote villages of these gorgeous green mountains, where the most exciting connection to the outer world comes in the postman's backpack, and even more in the old postman himself – though neither his family nor his boss have a clue about what this quiet man has forged. Only the villagers know his travail, and loyalty.

He began his roughly 80-mile route in the 1950s. Now, after carefully packing and delivering the letters as an almost holy mission, the postman (played by Teng Lujan) has been passed over for an office job and is forced to retire: the walking and climbing and fording icy streams has made his knees so bad that he can't carry on.

We don't know the postman's given name. His educated son, (played by Liu Ye), will take over the job, but when the young man sets out on his first trip the faithful dog Lao Er, who knows the route better than anyone, will not go along until the old postman decides to accompany his son on one last trip.

Because the old man has spent most of his

life on the road, these three days together are a longer time than father and son have ever had. Father and Mother seem to have an intense affection, but the son mostly has seen his mother alone, waiting for her husband and wistful about the mountain village that she left years before, with the postman.

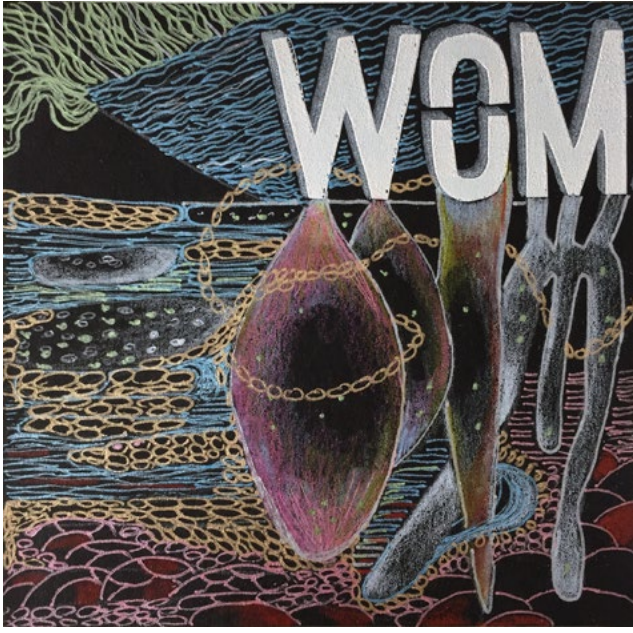
Father and son learn about each other, but slowly and without ponderous new age wisdom. Shyly and at a distance the son meets the villagers. He sees them call their old postman "grandfather." The son, who narrates the movie, watches his father invent a letter to read to an ancient blind grandmother, whose successful son sends money, but never a word. The old woman puts the blank sheet near her heart and sightlessly waves goodbye. The young Postman, too, will have to invent letters for grandmother. Then he meets a beautiful Dong girl who likes him, but he says that he would not marry a mountain girl because she would be sad without her village.

The point is, it is a powerful movie, and spare. There are few, if any, adjectives in the text, and where a simple action will do there is no text at all. Lao Er is known his job and does it with no Lassie histrionics. The scenery speaks. Even the digital print, which looks like a faded, much-copied film, could be an intentional effect in this documentary-like piece, directed by Huo Jianguo and based on a short story by Peng Jianming.

The subtitles almost certainly are not intentional art. They are clearly a Mandarin-speaker's translation of the strange and similar toneless sounds of English. Somebody *used* to do something comes out *sued*, but *passersby* is correctly used, which you don't always hear here. Unintentionally, this subtitle writer enhances the trip that we are taking into a foreign world.

POSTMAN IN THE MOUNTAINS, which won the Montreal World Film Festival and other awards, is a fine family film. (And, incidentally, POSTMEN has the plainest cover in the library—a classic case of telling a book by its cover, or not.)





## Art opening - Persist

A new exhibit, *Persist: A Celebration of Art by Women*, opens at the Blue Hill Public Library with a reception on Saturday, December 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. There will be a talk by the artists that will take place from 3:00 to 3:30.

This show features recent art by women who range in age from their twenties to their nineties and work in a variety of media, including textiles, drawing, painting, printing, photography, writing, sculpture, and video. Their art addresses the concerns of many of today's women both directly and indirectly.

Artists include: Lydia Cassatt, Susan Chase, Shane Crabtree, Nancy Hodermarsky, Mary Ann McKellar, Katama Murray, Marcia Stremmlau, Bessie Turner, Phoebe Turner, Carol Wainright, and Susan Webster.

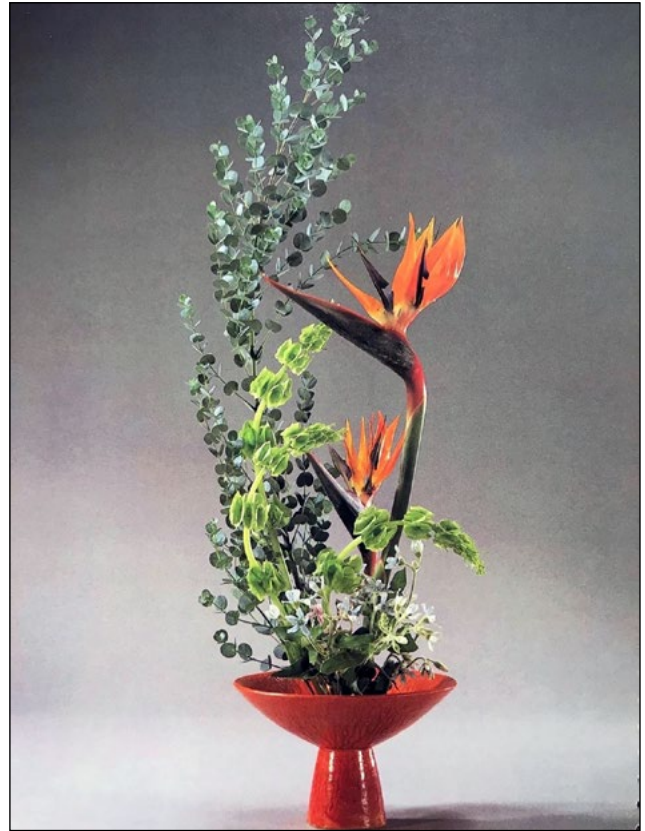
The show will be open for viewing in the Britton Gallery and Roland Howard Room, Monday through Saturday for the month of December during library hours. For more information call the library at 374-5515.

## Reception for the Howard Cases Show: "Wunderkammer"

An exhibit by the Cynthia Winings Gallery, "Wunderkammer (Cabinet of Curiosities)" will

be on display in the Blue Hill Public Library's Howard Room glass cases from November 30th to January 30th. According to Cynthia Winings, "This show is a collection of whimsical, seasonally-inspired, small works, available for purchase as a holiday sale by local artists represented by the Cynthia Winings Gallery." The works will include a variety of media. Artists will include Jenny Brillhart, Avy Claire, Bill Mayher, Buzz Masters, Lari Washburn, and Cynthia herself, among others.

The public is invited to the opening reception on Friday December 15th from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The exhibit will be available for viewing during library hours subject to the meeting room schedule. For more information call the Library at 374-5515.



## Ikebana Workshop with Frederica Marshall

Frederica Marshall of Deer Isle will teach a workshop in Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower-arranging. The beautiful art form of Ikebana was

developed for the altars of Buddhist temples in China and Japan. Frederica studied Ikenobo Ikebana in Japan. This is the oldest school of flower arranging.

Basic rules and philosophies will be taught, and everyone will take home a graceful composition to enjoy! This program is free and open to the public, but space is limited to 15 attendees, and advance registration is required. Attendees are requested to bring a container for their creation (ceramic, glass, or basket with glass jar in side), and small gardening scissors if you have them. Flowers will be provided.

## English Country Dance

In honor of the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, come to the library December 6th and learn to dance like it's 1817.

English Country Dance instructors Nancy Rosalie and John McIntire, who have organized English Country Dancing in this area for 20 or so years, will teach a brief lesson at 7:00, followed by dancing with music by the North Star Sisters.

English Country Dance is similar to the American tradition of Contra Dance, in which couples dance together in a figure or "set" while a "caller" leads the dance by announcing the steps. While this traditional form of dance has been around for hundreds of years, it's still popular today, and is easy for anyone to learn.

Jane Austen costumes are not required, but prizes will be awarded for the best ones!

## Crafts for Kids

Please join us for our 3rd CRAFTS FOR KIDS, sponsored by the Friends of the Blue Hill Public Library. All of the money raised from the sale of your fine crafts is used to buy holiday gifts for children in need in our area and for children's programming at the library.

You may drop off your items upstairs at the library during regular library hours. Please mark all of your work with your name, town, and contact information, material used, and suggested price (\$10, \$25, \$50, or \$75).

Crafts will be on display and on sale on the first floor of the library through December 16 (at the Holiday Party). Unsold items may be picked up after that time. And since we will add continuously to what is available, we will gratefully accept your work until December 13.

So—please craft early and craft often!

THANK YOU!!!

## Must See Movies

### *It Happened on Fifth Avenue* (1947)

Thursday, December 14, 2017, 7 pm,  
Howard Room

**Starring:** Don DeFore, Ann Harding, and Charles Ruggles.

**Story Line:** Every winter, Michael J. O'Connor, the second richest man in the world, leaves his 5th Avenue mansion for warmer climes. Every winter, Aloysius T. McKeever, homeless man, moves into the O'Connor's 5th Avenue mansion. This particular winter, McKeever find himself helping a few more guests, finally finding the family he has never had. This charming and heartwarming tale is a perfect Christmas gift for the whole family.



## Play Reading

### *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 6:30 pm

**Playwright:** Jay Presson Allen

**Story Line:** Miss Jean Brodie is a teacher, a formidable figure who molds young minds to her form. And what is more, she is so intensely interesting that the girls admire her above all else. But Miss Brodie is not honest. She prevaricates and then tells the girls to do as she tells them, not as she does herself. "Fascinating in its insights into a marvelously portrayed eccentric human being."

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## December 2017

Now the seasons are closing their files on each of us, the heavy drawers full of certificates rolling back into the tree trunks, a few old papers flocking away. Someone we loved has fallen from our thoughts, making a little, glittering splash like a bicycle pushed by a breeze. Otherwise, not much has happened; we fell in love again, finding that one red feather on the wind.

– Ted Kooser, *Year's End*

## IN THIS EDITION

It's time for the annual Friends of the Library Holiday Party. Library

Director Rich Boulet thanks **Shelley Latham** for her fundraising efforts. A **Celebration of Women Artists**, An **Ikebana Workshop** conducted by **Frederica Marshall**, a reminder of the **Crafts for Kids** show, and, as always, a listing of **new titles**. This month's movie screening is **It Happened on Fifth Avenue** and the play reading is **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie** by Jay Presson Allen.

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  
First Saturday of the month,  
9am – 2pm

## Book Nook Book Sales:



Blue Hill Library