



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.

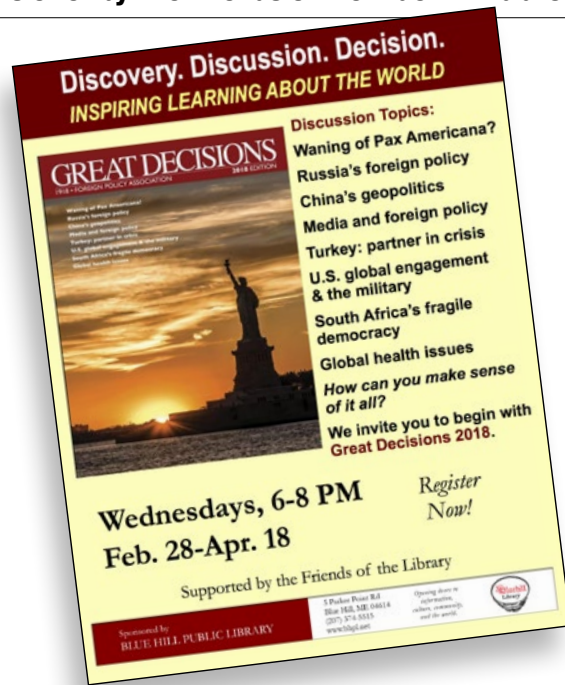
WHAT WE DO

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.



Great Decisions Foreign Policy Series

The Great Decisions foreign policy discussion series continues at the Blue Hill Public Library on Wednesdays, through April 18th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Each meeting begins with a short topical documentary featuring international experts, followed by a lively group discussion. Participants receive a briefing book with background information and thought-provoking topical questions.

Sponsored by Friends of the Blue Hill Library, Great Decisions is a nation-wide discussion series created by the Foreign Policy Association (<http://www.fpa.org>). This year’s topics are: The waning of Pax Americana?, Russia’s foreign policy, China and America: the new geopolitical equation, Media and foreign policy, Turkey: a partner in crisis, U.S. global engagement and the military, South Africa’s fragile democracy, Global health: progress and challenges.

Eight sessions will be held Wednesday evenings, February through April. Registration is for all 8 sessions. Guidebooks will be provided to all registrants. The series is free but space is limited, so registration is required. Anyone may register using the interactive calendar on the library’s website, or by calling the library at 374-5515.

Book Nook Book Sales

Saturday,
March 3rd

9:00 – 2:00

In the Book Nook
Blue Hill Public Library

With Spring right around the corner, it's a great time to get out of that cooking rut by checking out all of the

COOKBOOKS

we will be featuring at the March sale. Choose from vegetarian, BBQ, Italian, desserts, bread making and many, many more!!

The Friends wish to thank the many donors who keep the sale supplied with quality books, and welcome contributions - big or small. Book sale proceeds enable the Friends to sponsor many of the special programs offered at the library, and to make special purchases of books, DVDs, and equipment for the library. To donate books that are in good condition (please no moldy or soiled books!) or for more information about how to volunteer, contact the library at 374-5515.

From the Director's Desk

Rich Boulet, Library Director: rboulet@bhpl.net

Town meeting reminders:

It's that time of year again, when your library requests support from taxpayers. BHPL requests money from Blue Hill and other nearby municipalities that do not have a full-service public library, as defined by the Maine State Library.

For our purposes a full-service library is a year-round facility that employs a library director, has at least 2 people on duty at all times, is open to the public a minimum of 12 hours weekly, meets fire, safety and sanitation standards (has plumbing and a rest room) and has an organized collection of materials for loan.

This means we request funding from Blue Hill, Surry, Sedgwick and Penobscot. Although we have patrons from all nearby municipalities, Brooklin, Brooksville, Castine, Deer Isle and Stonington are not solicited because we feel we have a productive, reciprocal relationship with those local libraries and prefer not to compete with, or undermine those libraries' funding streams.

Town meetings 2018:

Sedgwick – March 3rd, 9AM, Sedgwick Elementary School

Penobscot – March 6th, 7PM, Penobscot School

Blue Hill – April 7th, 9AM, Blue Hill Consolidated School

Surry – April 23rd, 7PM, Surry School

The amounts requested from each nearby town are modest, currently based on just \$6 per cardholder. The cost of providing services far outweighs the funds involved, but we prefer to keep the burden on taxpayers as minimal as possible and hope to make up the balance through annual fundraising efforts. We are also fortunate that an endowment provides about 46% of the current operating needs thanks primarily to a select group of people who are recognized as members of the Adelaide Pearson Society and who have left bequests to the library.

If you are a library user, or even if you just like the idea of BHPL being available to you and your neighbors, please consider showing up to your town meeting to lend your support to our request. Thank you.

Olympic Tech support

Sometimes the simplest ideas become the most complicated. Take, for example, Hannah Cyrus' really nice notion to make the Winter Olympics accessible to the public at the library. After all, we have a good room, an A/V system with cable TV; theoretically all we had to do was turn something on at an appointed time. Good, clean fun, for all, for free. At least that was the plan.

The complications began when we decided that our then current TV tuner was not reliable enough. The "free" cable we enjoy does not come with a cable box, and given that we do not have an actual TV with an actual tuner in the Howard Room, just a screen, projector and sound system, we had used a 3rd party tuner that we purchased at a big box store. Problem was that this tuner kept "forgetting" the



channel lineup periodically, and fixing it was a time-consuming pain in the Library Director.

Let's just get an actual cable box from the actual cable company, I said. We can just pick one up in Bangor and pay a nominal purchase or rental fee. Doing that also meant that we would get more reliable service in HD, but we would need to reintegrate the new cable box into the fancy universal remote that runs the whole system, which in turn meant calling in the excellent professionals we use for A/V support, and fitting them in between the Howard Room's very busy schedule of meeting, events, etc. All should have been very doable with a little planning and cooperation.

We called Spectrum and after a brief mix-up about price we agreed to rent a cable box for a nominal fee. I offered to pick up the box but the rep preferred to ship it and assured me it would ship Monday, well ahead of opening ceremonies. I was skeptical but was dealing with a local rep and even got an "opportunity number" that I could use for follow up should something go wrong. Oh boy, an opportunity number. I felt important.

Monday arrived and I sent an e-mail to the local rep requesting shipping confirmation. I even provided my opportunity number. Crickets.

Wednesday arrived, the day by which the box was supposed to be here, when the A/V pros had agreed to rearrange their schedules around our cable box, to integrate it into the fancy remote, in between Howard Room events. I call the rep that morning and learned that our order was somehow "red flagged" down the line from him and not shipped. Grrrr.

We hastily arranged to pick the box up in Bangor, which sounded like a familiar idea somehow, and the A/V guys showed up the next morning as

requested. Installation went smoothly in the narrow window we had to work in between Howard Room meetings. All seemed to be in order as I handed over a small vacuum to clear up metal shavings from the new holes drilled in the A/V cabinet.

That's when the amp—without which our system can do nothing—just would not turn on. The vacuum apparently fried it. We tested everything: the power supply, unplugging and replugging everything, twice, three times yet the receiver was totally unresponsive. At this point I was thinking that maybe the Howard Room was built above a pet cemetery.

The very next morning—we're at Friday at this point—they had a brand-new warranty replacement amp installed, integrated and reprogrammed and all systems were again a go. Yay, right? Wrong.

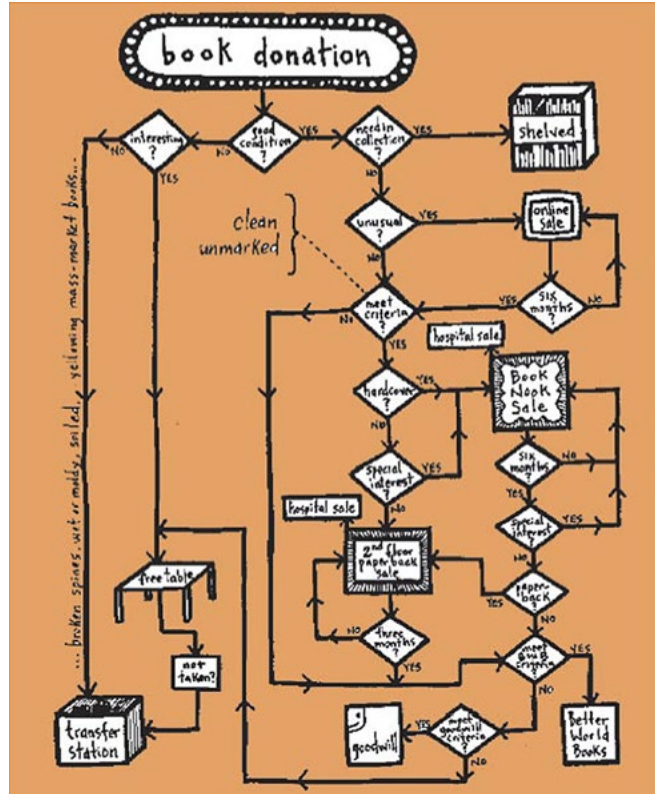
Saturday morning I got a call from the library. The first full day of sharing the Olympics were apparently being stymied by heavy rains infecting our cable service. We called for support. The Cable Guy, we were told, may or may not arrive by 8:00PM that day, if we were willing to stick around and wait past closing time, no promises. We made an appointment for Monday. Again...grrrr.

Monday arrives. It's more than a week after this all started and Cable Guy does indeed show up ... and starts working on our internet connection, the one that we keep as a backup. In other words, he didn't get the memo: fix TV service.

By the end of that day every cable connector in and outside of our building was replaced and weatherproofed and we finally had a good HD signal in the Howard Room, an amp and remote that work and a reliable option for library patrons to watch the Olympics. Simple, really.

-Rich Boulet

The Life of a Donated Book



The Friends of the Library sort through thousands of pounds of donated books each year, and book sales transform those books into money for the library. The receiving area for donations is often heaped with anonymous boxes

and bags, evidence of myriad book lovers who pass on their treasures. The list of topics reflects the collective curiosity of the Blue Hill Peninsula. Small engine repair, poetry, collections of sci-fi, leather-bound classics, boat carpentry, fiber arts, beekeeping, tiny house plans, autobiographies, anime, art, legal history, mystery, French postmodern philosophy, Bibles, sheep-tending, Zen texts, microwave recipes and macrobiotic cookbooks are a testimony to our practical and impractical knowledge.

Donations are taken to the basement Book Nook, where the Friends have a sorting area and hold a sale at least once a month. If you want to know more about your neighbors, then please come to a Saturday morning sale and see what came off their shelves. Gone are the coffee stains and hastily stashed receipts and sticky-notes; a

The Friends do an exceptional job of turning your old books into valuable library programming and materials, so keep the clean, sellable donations coming! Proceeds from book sales fund children's programming, newspaper subscriptions, movies, opera previews, the Great Decisions discussion series, lectures, staff appreciation gifts, and various items not covered in the library's operating budget.

book-loving volunteer has carefully cleaned, sorted and stacked each tome. Moving endless boxes of books is work, but come heck or high water the Friends try to find the right home for every donation. Most are sold in the basement Book Nook, and some valuable or unusual items are listed online. Volumes that have not sold in the Nook are shipped to Better World Books, and even fewer are re-donated to the Goodwill in Ellsworth. Unsalable but interesting books are saved for the library's free "Last Chance" table, and finally, those that are truly in tatters are reluctantly discarded.

Proceeds from book sales provide support for children's programming, newspaper subscriptions, movies, opera previews, the *Great Discussion* series, lectures, staff appreciation gifts, and various items not covered in the library's operating budget. The value of each donated book is threefold: you read the book, somebody else gets to enjoy the book, and the library can provide better services to the community.

Readings on Race Book Discussion Group

A book group dedicated to reading and discussing issues of race will be meeting on the second Saturday of the month at the Blue Hill Public Library from 2:00 to 4:00 PM until the summer. At the first meeting on March 10th, the group will discuss the book, "Raising White Kids: Bringing up Children in a Racially Unjust America" by Jennifer Harvey.

According to the publisher, "'Raising White Kids' is for families, churches, educators, and communities who want to equip their children to be active and able participants in a society that is becoming one of the most racially diverse in the world while remaining full of racial tensions. For white people who are committed to equity and justice, living in a nation that remains racially unjust and deeply segregated creates unique conundrums."

Surry resident Kate Mrozicki will facilitate the group. Kate is a mom and a farmer, and sits on the board of Healthy Peninsula. For more information call the library at 374-5515. This event is free and everyone is welcome.



Lotions, Potions & Notions

The Maine Discovery Museum brings this exciting workshop to BHPL!

While making their own mixtures, kids will explore the principle of molecules! In addition, kids will learn about olfactory perception and the structures and purposes of medicinal herbs and plants. Each program participant will take home a lotion or potion they have made – so cool!



Author Event: Emily Bracale

Author Emily Bracale will come and share from her new book, "Our Last Six Months."

When independent single-dad Aubrey reveals that he has stage 4 cancer, "normal life" goes out the window for his ex-wife and their thirteen year old son. They and others witness his brave efforts to heal himself in his final months of life as he struggles to come to terms with his mortality. The family learns on their feet as they encounter each new situation. The narrative shares an unsentimental description of the patient's experiences with hospitals and nursing care, the end-of-life decisions he encounters, the activities of his caregivers, the responsibilities of his health-care advocates, and the role of professional helpers such as Social Workers and Hospice.

This real-life story showcases what millions of people in the USA go through when dealing with end-of-life choices and healthcare, the governmental and health insurance bureaucracies, and the profound effects of poverty on health. In the face of all these challenges, it is the generosity of Aubrey's family, friends, and community that makes all the difference.

This unusual hybrid book conveys half of its story visually, through hundreds of cartoons, comics, and painted illustrations integrated with the text. There is a tremendous depth of tenderness in the telling, even a dose of humor. Ultimately, this book is a heart-warming celebration of life and love.

Emily Bracale is a lifelong artist and educator. She is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and College of the Atlantic. Her professional experience includes classroom teaching at public and private schools, art education for children and adults, graphic design, landscape design, watercolor landscape painting, and nonfiction writing. She is the author and illustrator of "In the Lyme-Light: Portraits of Illness and Healing" (2010) and the revised edition, "In the Lyme-Light II: Portraits of Illness and Healing" (2014).

This event is sponsored by the library. It is free and everyone is welcome. Books will be available for sale and signing.



Needle Felting & More

A new exhibit, “Needle Felting and More”, by local artists Lyn Mayewski, Emily Blair Stribling and Lindsay Goodale will be on display in the Blue Hill Public Library’s Howard Room glass cases during the month of March.

The three friends discovered the fun of needle felting three dimensional forms a year ago and have been at it ever since. Lindsay Goodale has worked in all sorts of fiber art, but this is her first time at needle felting. Lyn Mayewski is an artist who works in silver work, painting and fiber arts. Emily Blair Stribling is a writer who believes felting can in fact be narrative! In addition to the needle felted animals and mushrooms, there will be examples of other ways of felting, including “wet-on-wet” and “nuno felting.”

Needle felting is the art of sculpting wool roving or batting with barbed needles that pull the fibers together to create a firm, textile object. It originated in the 1950’s for industrial purposes. Large plates, filled with barbed needles, were mechanically moved up and down to felt wool for such uses as dampers for instruments and to soften vibrations between car parts. In the 1980’s, artists adapted the technique into a smaller, hand-held form of needle felting.

The exhibit will be available for viewing during library hours subject to the Howard Meeting Room schedule. For more information call the library at 374-5515.



Pig Party: Meet Wilbur the Pig!

Meet a real live piglet named Wilbur!

Wilbur was the runt of his litter and he has surprised everyone by getting bigger and stronger every single day. Clara Rutenbeck, from Stoneset Farms, will bring him to the library so everyone can meet him and hear his story. We will also read a book about another pig who is quite clever, have pig books available for checkout, and everyone who comes will get to take home their very own piglet that we make at craft time.

Opera Preview: Semiramide

The Bagaduce Music Lending Library and Friends of the Blue Hill Public Library will present a preview of Gioachino



Rossini’s opera, Semiramide, at the Blue Hill Public Library. A live performance of the opera will be simulcast at the Grand in Ellsworth the following day, Saturday, March 10th, from the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

According to the Met website, “This

masterpiece of dazzling vocal fireworks makes a rare Met appearance—its first in nearly 25 years—with Maurizio Benini on the podium. The all-star bel canto cast features Angela Meade in the title role of the murderous Queen of Babylon, who squares off in breathtaking duets with Arsace, a trouser role sung by Elizabeth DeShong. Javier Camarena, Ildar Abdrazakov, and Ryan Speedo Green complete the stellar cast.”

Local opera enthusiasts Linda Lesko and David Porter will summarize the plot, introduce the music and offer some ideas of special ways to enjoy the Saturday simulcast. All are welcome, no previous opera knowledge is needed, and admission is free. For more information, call the library at 374-5515.

Must See Movies

Strangers On A Train (1951)

Thursday, March 8, 2018, 7 pm,

Howard Room

Starring: Percy Granger, Ruth Roman and Robert Walker.

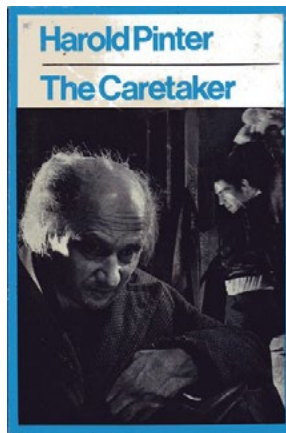
Story Line: One of Hitchcock’s best murder-swap films featuring the theme that human beings have a murderous side to their nature. A psychotic socialite confronts a pro tennis star with a theory on

how two complete strangers can get away with murder - a theory that he plans to implement. Bruno Anthony thinks he has the perfect plot to rid himself of his hated father and when he meets tennis player Guy Haines on a train, he thinks he’s found the partner he needs to pull it off. His plan is relatively simple. Two strangers each agree to kill someone the other person wants disposed of. Which side of human nature “wins?”

Discussion opportunity following viewing.



Play Reading



The Caretaker

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 6:30 pm

Playwright: Harold Pinter

Story Line: The Caretaker is a play in three acts by Harold Pinter. Although it was the sixth of his major works for stage and television, this

psychological study of the confluence of power, allegiance, innocence, and corruption among two brothers and a tramp, became Pinter’s first significant commercial success. Join us to read or listen. Discussion opportunity following reading. (ref: Wikipedia.com)

Stack Diving

Mark Baldwin, who works at Borealis Press, likes to root about in the library’s movie shelves.
INCH’ALLAH

Most of the reviews of INCH’ALLAH, that I have seen, are critical: they sound like the reviewers are struggling to justify their expectations of dramatic acting.

The movie is about Israel and Palestine, Arabs, Jews, garbage, love, waste, a child’s seemingly futile quest. Utter waste. Together with the child (Omri Ilan), the story line is a young Canadian doctor’s involved, stunned response to all of it. An oft-mentioned criticism: the face of the actress (Evelyne Brochu) does not emote enough.

For a movie like this, the red line in the sand is where a subject is so poignant that the film falls into sentimentality. That’s fatal. INCH’ALLAH does not do that. This is hardly a review, but I can’t ignore the film in this column if that means you will not see it.

Inch’Allah is one way to say it. Utter waste is another. If only it were just a movie.

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March 2018

March is women's history month. In celebration, here is a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt: "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness."

IN THIS EDITION

Library Director **Rich Boulet** reminds us that it's time to support your library at your local town meetings and illustrates how a simple idea can become very complicated. **LOTS** of events scheduled for March: author readings, book discussion groups, a **pig party**, a **felting exhibit**, a **lotion and potion workshop**, to name a few. **Mark Baldwin** reviews the film INCH'ALLAH. This month's movie screening is **Strangers On A Train** and the play reading is **The Caretaker** by Harold Pinter.

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