

Check It Out!

Ready to re-engage? Take a chance? Learn something new? The Port Townsend Public Library challenges our community to “Read Beyond the Beaten Path” for this year’s Summer Reading Program.

The pandemic fog has not completely lifted, but as we cautiously emerge and once more recognize familiar community shapes and contours, perhaps we’ll see the last couple of years not only as time lost, but also as opportunities-in-waiting. The library has plenty of suggestions for how to start participating in life again.

“The pandemic certainly brought losses, but what have we gained from this time?” asks library director Melody Sky Weaver. Maybe a renewed appreciation for the outdoors, where most socialization has taken place since 2020? Maybe simply slowing down, learning flexibility, or boosting self-care? Or perhaps you’ve fortified family ties in unexpected ways or revived a love of reading shortchanged in the frenzied, prepandemic world.

And, quite possibly, a by-product of the forced changes in our lives is to be more intentional with our time, Weaver

said. Maybe we’re ready to expand our horizons, move out of our comfort zones, and be receptive to innovation.

New hires

Although the Carnegie library building was closed for a year, services never quit. Adaptability and connecting with people have been library goals throughout the pandemic. The new youth services and outreach manager, Emily Bufford, personifies those beliefs, Weaver said. She and the rest of the library staff, which now includes two other new hires—associate librarian Paige Wynkoop and storytelling

substitute Judith Bows—are ready with time-honored traditions, plus fresh ideas, for Summer Reading.

Bufford grew up on Marrowstone Island, frequenting both the Jefferson County and the Port Townsend libraries as she was growing up. “Emily’s experience is incredible. She’s truly a pandemic librarian,” Weaver said. Employed for the last two years at Kitsap Regional Library, she quickly adapted when the pandemic affected all operations, whether pivoting to curbside service or

(continued on next page)



by Lynn Nowak



Judith Bows

After fifteen years of living and working overseas (three in China and twelve in Switzerland) as a primary school librarian, I've returned with my husband to our home in Port Townsend. I'll be joining the library team as a storytelling substitute. I used to teach in both the PT and Sequim school districts, and I greatly look forward to reconnecting with the community. My interests include playing traditional folk music with my husband and friends (mostly on mandolin, bass, banjo), gardening, and hanging out with our rescue dogs, Lizzy and Levi. It's great to be back home!



Emily Bufford

I am so excited to be returning to Port Townsend as the new Library Manager–Youth Services and Outreach. Port Townsend has a very special place in my heart, as I grew up in this area and have many happy memories of trips to the library with my family. I am so grateful for the opportunity to return in this new capacity and give back to my local community. Beyond work, I love hiking, biking, and exploring new trails with my family, especially national parks, like this one in Utah.



Paige Wynkoop

I am the new Associate Librarian at the Port Townsend Public Library. I'm from all around the country but have called Port Ludlow home for six years. I left to get my degree and came back at the start of the pandemic. Port Townsend has been a wonderful place to be a librarian, and I'm looking forward to more. When not at work, I'm browsing more books around Jefferson and Kitsap Counties or finding new vegetarian or vegan recipes to try.

encouraging kids, teens, and adults to write letters to those who were isolated, including folks in assisted-living facilities.

Bufford said one of her passions is making intergenerational connections. "I'm from a large family, as one of seven. My grandfather was one of twelve. Family is a part of my life that I'm grateful for."

"She's a ray of sunshine," Weaver said of Bufford, affirming that kids and families need that positive energy. Bufford fondly remembers former children's librarian Martha Ashenfelter from the Jefferson County Library. "I always felt happy and uplifted in her presence." She, in turn, now wants to be that safe

and welcoming person in the children's department in Port Townsend. "One stable person can make a world of difference to kids," Bufford said.

She figures out how to serve her community, Weaver said. It might be supporting grandparents who read aloud to their grandchildren over FaceTime. It could be introducing storytimes at Chetzemoka Park, which are planned for Friday mornings this summer. It might also mean floating ideas for programs such as "kindness kits," containing necessities—or packages of fun—to be distributed to community members who could use a boost.

Log reading hours

Kids, teens, and adults can all start "read[ing] beyond the beaten path" this summer.

They can sign up and start exploring a never-sampled book genre, try their hand at cartooning, make a new craft, or get outside with a fresh StoryWalk® at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park.

"Kids are often more open to exploring new reading genres," Bufford said. Weaver added that the library wants to promote

a lifelong love of reading, so librarians encourage adults to also participate in Summer Reading, so they can read for enjoyment rather than as "work." And of course, adults can model good reading habits for children. Reading to one another counts toward hours read, according to the librarians.

To log their reading, patrons at the Port Townsend and Jefferson County libraries can access a program called Beanstack online or as a free app. If patrons prefer paper, they can track that way, too. Bufford extolled Beanstack as accessible and easy to use. "[Patrons] can log their hours and receive a notification when they've earned a free book (kids and teens) or their T-shirt (everybody)," she said.

Summer Reading logging and programming begins **June 20**; participants track their hours until August 31. Prizes for children and teens are awarded at ten hours of reading. Baseball shirts, designed by local children's author and illustrator Dana Sullivan, are awarded to super-readers after forty-five hours. Adults must read ninety hours to earn a shirt.

Programming planned for this summer includes:

- ♦ A cartooning workshop with Sullivan, "Comics Off the Beaten Path," Library



Learning Center (a.k.a., Pink House),
Thursday, July 7, 1 PM

- ◆ Summer Reading performances, Thursday afternoons, June 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, and 28, 1 PM, including Patrick Jennings and Keeth Apgar
- ◆ Summer Reading Storytime, ages 0–6, Tuesday mornings, Pink House lawn
- ◆ Read to Rover, ages 6 and up, featuring Weaver's own dog, Gryfin, Tuesday afternoons, also on the Pink House lawn
- ◆ Storytime in the Park, Friday mornings at Chetzemoka Park
- ◆ Storytime at the PT Farmers Market, June 4, July 2, and Aug. 6

The library's popular grab-and-go bags are offered this summer, too, including craft kits, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) ideas, and spice packages for inspired cooking.

Weaver expects that some adaptations made during the pandemic likely will remain, such as the grab bags and curbside service, both of which have benefited many, she said. She credits an excellent staff for holding services together over the past two years—a staff now at full strength, offering services seven days a week. The library still follows all Jefferson County Public Health guidelines. Masking is not required at present, but masks are available, and “we accommodate all comfort levels.”

Although the pandemic has not quite passed, Weaver invites all comers to return. “We’re looking forward to seeing more people in the library.” 📖

For a complete schedule of summer programs and offerings, visit the library in person, 1220 Lawrence St., or at ptpubliclibrary.org, or call 360-385-3181.



Dana Sullivan loves sharing his art

Port Townsend children's book author and illustrator Dana Sullivan describes himself as a “seat-of-the-pants” guy. While creating his twenty-some books or when teaching his cartooning craft to kids and adults, he says, “Something always comes up.”

It's an approach that has served him well in his art and his career. He loves sharing his talents with others, relishing a class or workshop's energy. In a group setting, he might start with a one-minute doodling exercise or, together with participants, by drawing a character or suggesting a three-panel comic and asking participants to devise their own fourth and final panel.

“Kids love to draw,” Sullivan said. If they are given a suggestion or prompt, they'll run with it. He likened this method to the ideas that can flourish from within the regimented structure of a sonnet. He loves to invite people to unlock their creativity.

Sullivan is one of the featured presenters for the 2022 Summer Reading Program and the designer of the T-shirt that super-readers can earn (*see main story*).

“I've been drawing my entire life,” Sullivan said, and cartooning since he was a kid. The son of two literature professors, he also loves words and libraries and even worked at a library while in college. “Librarians are the smartest people ever!” he exclaimed.

He didn't choose between a path in art or writing but decided on both, earning a degree in comparative literature at the University of Washington and studying graphic design at Seattle Central College, which has one of the finest graphics programs anywhere, he said. After working as a graphic designer for Costco for many years, Sullivan started writing and illustrating children's books, which now include the award-winning Dead Max Comix graphic novel series and the Digger and Daisy series for early readers. He's hard at work on a new book now.

“I love the conceptual part of creating a book,” Sullivan said. “You can let your imagination run wild; you can do anything. There's no governor. The sky's the limit.” A book that prompts laughter or tears is the best kind of story, he said. The challenge after deciding on a beginning and an ending is determining what kind of obstacles can fill the middle and how the characters can solve those problems. For example, he said, “I can't solve racism or bullying. I don't have those answers, but I can ask questions.” Through his characters, he said, “We can work on it.” —LN

Sullivan leads workshops at the Jefferson County Library on June 27 and 30. He appears at the **Port Townsend Public Library at 1 PM, Thursday, July 7**, at the Library Learning Center. To learn more about Sullivan's art and books, visit danajsullivan.com, or for more Summer Reading programs, see ptpubliclibrary.org.

Two Mother Tongues

◆ *The Mother Tongue*

Bill Bryson (1990)

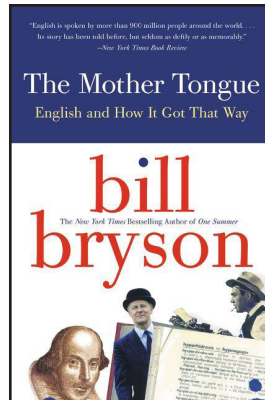
Early in his career, Bill Bryson, an Iowa expat in Britain, worked as chief copy editor for the business page of the London *Times*. He became so frustrated about conflicting “rules” among usage guides that he wrote his own, *Bryson’s Dictionary of Troublesome Words* (1984, 2002, 2009). His research for that book ignited his deep love affair with the English language and led him to write *The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way*. But in this book, unfettered by the need for humorless rule parsing for editors and writers, Bryson lets loose on English’s quirks, eccentricities, and illogic with the irrepressible wit and humor that distinguish his award-winning writing about most every topic under the sun. This volume is nothing less than a love song to the English language.

The Mother Tongue is nonetheless a scholarly book, which begins with the descent of the larynx in the throat, permitting human speech, and continues through English’s Indo-European origins and its improbable later evolution from its start as a “second-rate tongue of peasants.” Among other matters, the book documents Shakespeare as the one who coined the most words (some 2,000) and includes informative and hilarious chapters on spelling, pronunciation, wordplay, dialects, and swearing.

Bryson praises English for its incredible ease and flexibility. Its mixed lingual parentage has given it far more words than any other language. Its phrases are more concise because its nouns are genderless; its verbs have fewer forms (Latin verbs have up to 120); and its words can often serve as different parts of speech (e.g., *hunt* as noun and verb). But, explains Bryson, the price for all this includes English’s abundance of unexplainable oddities and the extraordinary variety of subtle and not-so-subtle meanings for common English words, bewildering to nonnative speakers (e.g., *quail*, to cower, and *quail*, a small chickenlike bird). Consider that the *Oxford English Dictionary* devotes five pages and 15,000 words to explain what *what* means.

Bryson ends his love song with a happy speculation on the future, suggesting that, thanks to the binding effects of modern communication technologies, English will not fracture into sublanguages as Latin did, which, the reader senses, would break his heart.

—Ches Joy retired from a career as a government program analyst because . . . who wouldn’t?



◆ *Kingdom of Characters*

Jing Tsu (2022)

China—中國, or the Middle Kingdom—has always viewed itself as the center of the world. Its language is used by more than 1.3 billion people, and its written form has remained virtually unchanged for more than 2,200 years. Yet after the last imperial dynasty began declining in the mid-1800s, China played second fiddle to outside intruders, most notably Japan and the West.

In her masterful *Kingdom of Characters: The Language Revolution That Made China Modern*, Yale scholar Jing Tsu tells a sweeping story of Chinese written characters and of the human characters devoted to them. Spellbinding and eye opening, *Kingdom* reveals how China was held back for two centuries by its ideographic script—but no longer. The moral of the story is that language has the power to shape not only thinking and politics but even the relative dominance of cultures.

Consider English versus Chinese. Everybody today seems to understand English; it’s flexible and easy to learn, and the Roman alphabet’s twenty-six letters are easy to write, type, and digitize. Consequently, English-speaking politics and culture are fairly transparent to most of the world. Chinese, in contrast, is hard to learn, hard to write, and even harder to codify—Tsu’s story illuminates just how hard—and its culture remains inscrutable. How, then, could China thrive within post-Industrial Revolution commerce, science, and technology?

Aided by clarifying illustrations, Tsu’s book takes us through the unification of Chinese’s spoken dialects into a standard written and spoken Mandarin; the struggles to create a mechanical typewriter small enough for a single person to use when the language demanded hundreds of separate characters just for ordinary communication; adapting Chinese to Morse code by means of Arabic numerals; creating a library card catalog (how do you “alphabetize” ideographs?!); eventual (and still contested) simplification and romanization by Mao’s government (e.g., *Peking* became *Beijing*); and, finally, Unicode digitization, which enables me to type 中國. Now, Tsu says, China has created and continues to develop a “digital Sinosphere,” almost frighteningly opaque to the rest of us.

“Still unfolding,” Tsu concludes, “history will overtake China’s story,” which may or may not be the triumphant narrative the nation seeks.

—Ellen W Chu

Two Luminous Novels

◆ *All the Light We Cannot See*

Anthony Doerr (2014)

This well-written, captivating, and thrilling novel gives us a glimpse into the lives of an adolescent French girl and a German boy before and after Germany's 1944 invasion of France, illuminating the challenges and fears they and their families face during the war.

Motherless and blind from an early age, Marie-Laure Blanc lives with her father, Daniel, principal locksmith for the Museum of Natural History in Paris. A devoted father, Daniel helps Marie-Laure “see” by building miniature models of the places she lives so she can learn and explore the streets independently. When Germany invades Paris, she and her father flee, ultimately landing in the walled citadel of Saint-Malo to live with her great-uncle, Etienne. There, the Germans arrest Daniel and Etienne, and Marie-Laure is alone.

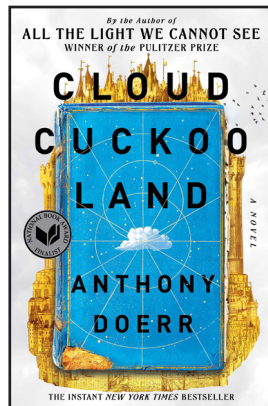
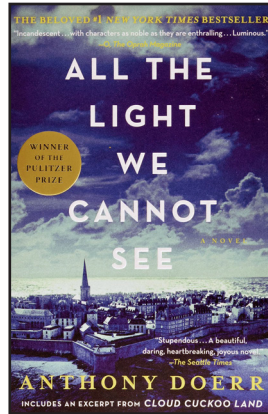
A German boy, Werner Pfennig, grew up near the mining town of Essen, is recruited by the Wehrmacht, and performs his final military mission in Saint-Malo. As a child, Werner had a keen interest in radios and electronic circuitry. The Wehrmacht discovers his extraordinary skills and uses him to locate and eliminate resistance fighters broadcasting throughout Europe and Russia—one of whom, it turns out, is Etienne.

And then there's this 133-carat blue diamond, which the museum has locked behind thirteen doors. It's valuable, and it's cursed: “The keeper of the stone would live forever, but so long as he kept it, misfortunes would fall on all those he loved one after another in unending rain.”

When the Germans begin invading Paris, the museum creates three replicas of the stone and sends all four stones in different directions. One is in Daniel's toolbox. Unbeknownst to Marie-Laure, her father hides the stone (or replica?) in her miniature model of Saint-Malo. A German officer is seeking the real stone, which leads him to Etienne's home, and he finds Marie-Laure. During a cease-fire in the Americans' bombing of Saint-Malo, Marie-Laure and Werner encounter each other and feel love at first sight, only to have to part ways quickly.

You will need to read this delightful novel to discover what happens to Marie-Laure, her father and great-uncle, Werner, and the stone. You will not be disappointed!

—David Bixler spent decades auditing and investigating federal government programs, thus earning the right to golf and read great books



◆ *Cloud Cuckoo Land*

Anthony Doerr (2021)

With his latest book, Anthony Doerr has created a brilliant, interwoven story with many themes. For me, the most forceful were the essential need to protect our beautiful planet and empathy for those who are different. The novel also brings in gay rights, war, technology, and the historic value of books.

Cloud Cuckoo Land presents five impressive protagonists—troubled, struggling, and unique—whose lives span centuries. Anna is an orphan in Constantinople before the fall of the Byzantine Empire; Omeir is a boy with a cleft palate who is leading his beloved oxen into that battle; Zeno is a present-day aged Korean war veteran who remembers someone he loved and is directing a play with children at an Idaho library; Seymour is a disturbed young boy in the same town as Zeno who loves nature; and Konstance is a girl questioning her life on a spaceship. Each discovers an ancient Greek tale by Aethon, whose fantastic adventures arise from his quest to escape his boring life. All, like Aethon, come to realize that the world is precious and beautiful just as it is. Ultimately, *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is the story of our planet—troubled, struggling, and unique.

Doerr researched historical moments and places in depth to bring this fascinating story to life. The book traces technology's development—the 1453 technology of the invading Sultan in Christian Constantinople; Korean War survival; decades of changes in an Idaho town, which ultimately turn a teenager into a terrorist; a futuristic journey on what's built as a life-saving spaceship. Like all Doerr's books, *Cloud* is beautifully written and a delight to read. It's filled with references to natural history—flowers blooming in their specific seasons, the detail of an owl's feathers and eyes, the growth of one tree species, migrating birds overhead.

It does take a commitment to get past the first few chapters as one encounters different times, places, and characters. I read the book with a book club, and most of us loved it, though some preferred the writer's earlier Pulitzer Prize winner, *All the Light We Cannot See*. A few listened to the book's audio version and were confused, especially if they listened only for short periods. Reading it in print, however, I found *Cloud Cuckoo Land* to be yet another tour de force by one of my favorite writers.

—Wendy Feltham

Friends' Books Sales Are Back!

DUST FROM the Rhody Parade has settled, the farmers' markets are up to speed, and Port Townsend residents and visitors alike are looking forward to a season of concerts, festivals, flowers, and fun. One of the first must-do summer events is the Friends of the Port Townsend Library's June book sale at the uptown Community Center.

This year, the Friends' board will miss our long-time book sale coordinator extraordinaire, Cheryl Bentley—a person of many talents who thrives on keeping busy and trying new things. Cheryl moved to Port Townsend in 2005, came to a Friends' annual meeting, and boldly volunteered to organize our book sales, something she did for fourteen years. Besides stellar organizational skills, she was the first to volunteer for nearly any task or event that came up. Several other local organizations have also benefited from her enthusiasm and energy—Centrum, AAUW, Northwind Art, the Community Build project, and Rotary, among others. She also plays the ukulele. In April Cheryl moved to Ashland, Oregon, where she has family. And though she claims she will cut back and take her time to find volunteer activities in Ashland, she says she will look for a ukulele group right away.

One of the activities Cheryl most enjoyed about coordinating the Friends' book sales, she says, was recruiting and managing a small army of volunteers—almost one hundred different people for the March 2022 sale. “I love meeting the volunteers, and I appreciate the commitment they



feel for the book sales, Friends, and the PT Library.” She also feels good knowing that our community of avid readers can put their books into the hands of other readers while earning money for library programs—a true win-win.

Since we realized there was no talking Cheryl out of leaving, we settled on saying farewell, wishing her success and new adventures, and hoping she will visit Port Townsend regularly. Before she left, of course, Cheryl recruited two coordinators to replace her—board member Laretta Frost (*at left, top*) and long-time volunteer Jody Glaubman. The two have known each other for several years, having both worked at the PT Public Library itself; both of them worked at their high school libraries, too. A Friends' board member several years ago, Laretta moved away and then returned, volunteering at the sales. Jody has coordinated transporting books donated to the Friends, including pickups of large donations. They are excited to be working together alongside other book sale volunteers. After shadowing Cheryl in March, Laretta and Jody are ready to take on June's big sale.

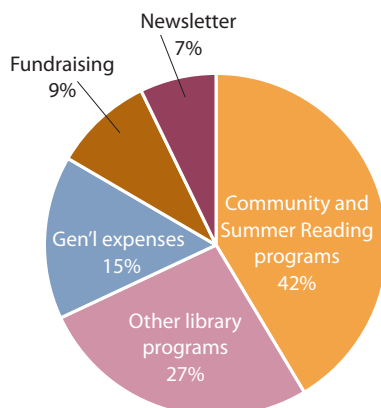
So we invite you to donate gently used books anytime and to browse and shop on **June 18**. And if you're looking for a way to give back to our community, join the Friends of the Port Townsend Library, think about how you can volunteer, and maybe even join the board!

We look forward to welcoming you.

—Cindy Johnson

Money Talk

WE ALWAYS appreciate how our Friends step up to support us—through book donations, monetary donations, and donations of tremendous time and energy. Without that support, we would have struggled to weather two pandemic years. As in 2020, your 2021 donations sustained us, making up 68% of our income. Revenue from 2021 PT Farmers Market pop-ups and other book sales made up the remaining 32%. All told, here's how your money was spent in 2021.



Finally . . .

WE ASK YOU to renew your support of the Friends only twice a year, and now is the first time in 2022. You've shown again and again that you care about the Friends and—most important—about the magic of books and reading. As the library gradually returns to live, in-person programming, we rely on you to help us help the library. Thank you!

AND ONE MORE thing: We have still not found a permanent site for sorting donated books! We need about 300–400 square feet, reasonably priced, with easy access for loading and unloading.

Can you help? All leads welcome!



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☐ New Friend

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Donation amount

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Business supporters are acknowledged in our newsletters for one year

A donation to the Friends will bring you newsletters, early entry to book sales, and other annual benefits for **one year from the date of your gift**. No more due dates! No more renewal reminders! Instead, twice a year we will ask for your support and be grateful for whatever you can give. Donations may be made at the library or by credit card at the **Friends' website**, friendsofptlibrary.org. Or you may mail this form with your check, payable to Friends of the Port Townsend Library (FOPTL), to

Friends of the Port Townsend Library
P. O. Box 452, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Friends of the Port Townsend Library is qualified for tax exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services are provided in return for contributions.

Newsletters are available online, at the library and Food Co-op, and elsewhere

☐ Check here if you want **paper copies mailed** to you

Would you like to volunteer?

Please indicate your area(s) of interest

☐ Book sales

☐ Help with book donations

☐ Publicity and outreach

☐ Occasional jobs

☐ I have an idea; call me!

Thanks, New Friends and Partners!

Roseanna Almaee Diane Urbani
Lily LaMotte

Copper Canyon Press,

coppercanyonpress.org

Corvus Crafts, corvuscrafts.com

Hope Roofing, hoperoofing.com

Olympic Music Festival,

olympicmusicfestival.org

Ranie Keithahn, ranie@olympus.net

Terrapin Architecture, Richard

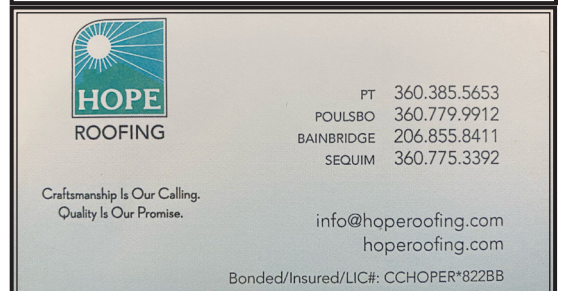
Berg, terrapinarchitecture.com

Wallyworks Enterprises, Malcom

Dorn, wallyworks.net

Yoga Port Townsend, Heather Sky,

yogaporttownsend.com



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We're Back!
Book Sale
June 18, 2022
Uptown Community Center



Who We Are

THE PORT TOWNSEND PUBLIC LIBRARY was founded in 1898 by volunteers and, thanks to continuing community support, has remained an active Carnegie Library since its present doors opened in 1913.

The Friends of the Port Townsend Library, established in 1978, supports programs, services, and materials beyond what the city's library budget covers. Every year we fund reading programs, events, and activities for all ages; we also hold book sales and publish three newsletters. Newsletters are available in the library, around town, and at friendsofptlibrary.org.

Our funding comes primarily from supporters, donations, and book sales. We invite anyone to become a Friend and attend our board meetings, which take place on the second Wednesday of each month, 3:30 PM, usually at the Library Learning Center (corner of Lawrence and Harrison). Please contact us by email at friendsofptlibrary@gmail.com for updates.

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