

(continued on next page)

Becoming comfortable with the library and getting positive reinforcement for reading habits are big parts of the Summer Reading Program. Verheggen said everyone at the library is encouraged to talk with people about their summer reads. “The entire staff rallies behind Summer Reading,” she said.

Last year, 217 kids, 56 teens, and 165 adults signed up for Summer Reading, and a sizable percentage of all age groups recorded ten hours or more of reading.

especially to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows these students can fall behind, while higher-income children often build their skills steadily over the summer. In effect, summertime can contribute to academic inequality. “If families emphasize conversation, books, and learning with their children over the summer, they will be much better prepared to re-enter school in the fall,” Condran said.

Other remedies for fighting summer achievement losses include taking advantage of all the programs the public library has to offer, seeking out book lists for ideas, encouraging children to read something every day, reading aloud with children, and limiting screen time.

Collaboration and outreach

“Early literacy is the crux of what we do in the library,” said Verheggen, citing services



Retaining achievement

Lisa Condran, principal at Salish Coast Elementary School, said families can help prevent summer slide by reading with their students, taking them on educational outings such as museums, engaging them in conversations about topics that interest them, and going to the public library as a family. “Literacy is the key to academic success,” Condran said. Besides, “reading is fun and a great way for families to connect.”

According to various library and literacy sources, including the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), summer slide is what often happens over the summer months,

Salix Bain is one of several toddlers and their caregivers enjoying weekly storytime with youth services manager Hilary Verheggen.



Photos by Lynn Nowak

Toddler Time at the library means dancing as well as reading for Charlotte Karagas.

such as storytimes for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. To serve older kids, she is intent on collaborating with the schools, including with district librarian Joy Wentzel. She said their partnership is already a huge asset to achieving outreach goals. “We think it’s wise to meet the community where they are—a library without walls, if you will,” Verheggen said.

A monthly lunchtime craft program, which involves about forty students at Blue Heron Middle School and fifteen to twenty at Port Townsend High School, was born of this notion. Another program, started by a student, is a monthly young-adult book club. The Coding Club, offered this summer, encourages young minds to learn to use various



Hilary Verheggen

Liam Ross, then age 4, was a 2018 champion Summer Reader, winning a \$25 gift certificate to Whistle Stop Toys for reading fifty hours.

programming tools to write computer code for applications, games, and robots.

Furthering the library’s extension into the community, this year the Summer Reading Program includes activities at Chetzemoka Park and the Wednesday farmers market at Haines Place Park and Ride. During the school year, Simmons manages a regular outreach program at the YMCA.

Verheggen said, in sum, “Throughout Summer Reading, and looking beyond into fall and winter, we will continue to explore ways that we can strengthen these collaborations and provide programs and services throughout the community, as well as inside the library walls.”

A Universe of 2019 Summer Events

Summer Reading Kickoff: Thursday, June 20, 3–6 PM

Join us for our opening event! Sign up, and choose a free book. Decorate the sidewalk with chalk, have your picture taken with aliens, create your own space-travel gear, enjoy yummy snacks—celebrate summer! All ages.

Bath Bombs for Teens: Tuesday, June 25, 3–4 PM

Teens, come make homemade bath bombs. These fun, fizzy treats are a great way to relax, and they make wonderful gifts. All materials provided. Ages 12–18.

Coding Club: Wednesdays, June 26–July 31, 1:30–3 PM

Learn to use Scratch and other programming tools to write code for apps, games, and robots. Drop in when you can or attend all sessions and build on already-learned skills. First-time programmers and experienced coders welcome! Ages 8–12.

Family Movie Night featuring *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*: Friday, June 28, 7–9 PM

Watch this beloved Spielberg classic on the big screen while munching popcorn! Young Elliot befriends a gentle alien who’s been stranded on Earth. Elliott brings E.T. home, and he and his siblings keep their visitor a secret. But when E.T. falls ill, government scientists intervene, and a dire situation erupts. Common Sense Media recommends this movie for ages 7 and up.

Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue: Thursday, July 11, 2–3 PM

Come meet amazing people and birds! Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue cares for native wild birds that have been orphaned or injured and need rehabilitation before release

back to the wild. Don’t miss this opportunity to see raptors and other bird species, live, at the library. All ages.

Indigo Scarves for Teens: Tuesday, July 16, 2–4 PM

Learn about the ancient tradition of dyeing with indigo, and create your very own starry-night scarf. Ages 12–18.

Unexpected Brass Band Blueberry Buckle Social:

Friday, July 19, 5:30–6:30 PM

Relax on the lawn and enjoy blueberry buckle and ice cream, with music by Port Townsend’s own funky New Orleans–style brass ensemble! All ages.

Magic, Mind Reading, and Collaboration with Phina and Joey Pipia: Thursday, July 25, 2–3 PM

Learn team building and sleight-of-hand to make miracles with your friends in this unforgettable workshop! Led by father-daughter mentalism team Joey and Phina Pipia, you’ll find yourself laughing and inspired. Ages 6 to adult.

Author Visit with Mindy Dwyer: Thursday, August 1, 2–3:30 PM

Local children’s book author and illustrator Mindy Dwyer will talk about her life as an author; read her book *Aurora, Tale of the Northern Lights*; and guide participants in a northern-lights-related art project. All ages.

End-of-Summer Reading Party: Friday, August 9, 2–3:30 PM

Play games, blow giant bubbles, eat summery snacks, create a starry-night chalk drawing, and celebrate your reading accomplishments on the library lawn! All ages.

Visit the [library’s website](#) for a complete list of summer programs

What Friends Are Reading

◆ *The Overstory*

Richard Powers (2018)

Trees are people too. They do all the things we do—breathe, eat, have sex, care for their young—just more slowly. They also create soil, cycle water, build atmosphere. Saving trees means saving ourselves. These facts are real science, and they also make up the lifeblood of Richard Powers's latest novel and 2019 Pulitzer Prize winner—the most powerful book I've ever read about humankind's relationship with life on Earth.

Powers is a master storyteller; he knows that people absorb stories about people, not science-y facts. So *The Overstory* roots itself in the persons of nine quirky humans. It then climbs through time like a centuries-old redwood, through trunk to branching overstory, in a breathtaking and addictive saga.

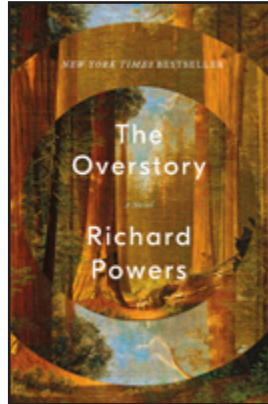
We start with an heir to a family farm, refuge for a solitary American chestnut tree. We sweat with a Vietnam vet, who once fell out of the sky into a banyan tree, as he plants Douglas-fir seedlings on a steep clearcut bank like those so near Port Townsend. We inhabit the mind of a crippled Silicon Valley prodigy who seeks advice from trees in Stanford University's quad and invents a globe-sweeping computer game titled *Mastery*. And we share a shy scientist's astonishment at the

communication network of fungi and chemicals that she discovers in forests from the Appalachians to the Pacific Northwest.

Each of the nine root stories stands alone; indeed, if you are put off by a few hundred pages that still await after early chapters, you might quit. If you aren't a fan of verbal double-takes or rich nuance or interweaving sentences and plot lines that make sense only after reading still more pages, then this might not be the book for you.

But if, like me, you let yourself be taken prisoner by Powers's language and characters, you will ache through pain, love, death, arson, betrayal, electrocution, and unimaginable beauty. And perhaps next time you stand within your favorite Olympic Peninsula forest, you'll discover that you see and feel and hear it differently, that you now comprehend the indispensable living network that binds it together—and to you. Or next time you contemplate the trees in your yard, maybe even lean against one, you'll hear them whisper, "*If your mind were only a slightly greener thing, we'd drown you in meaning. . . . Listen. . . .* it's not the world that needs saving. Only the thing that people call by the same name."

—Ellen W. Chu



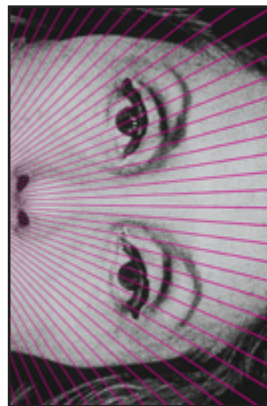
◆ *The Complete Stories*

Clarice Lispector (2015), translated by Katrina Dodson

Translated from the Portuguese by Katrina Dodson, *The Complete Stories* is a rare treat. At 624 pages, the book presents the author's stories in chronological order, allowing the reader to follow her evolving perspective—from teenager to wife and mother, through a troubled marriage, and finally under the influence of health problems and aging. By the end of the book, you are left with a haunting but indelible impression and, in my case, a desire to read it all over again.

If you haven't heard of Clarice Lispector, you are not alone. She is a legend in Brazil, though, with streets, buildings, and plazas named after her and her catlike face on a postage stamp. She is also required reading for Brazilian students.

Lispector's writing style is unusual even in the original Portuguese and unorthodox enough that her writing can appear foreign even to Brazilian readers. But don't let that



put you off; the magic of her stories is due in large part to her unique approach to language. The fact that this quality comes through in the English translation is testament to the devotion and dedication of both the translator and the editor.

The editor, a young man by the name of Benjamin Moser, is largely responsible for introducing Lispector to English speakers. Moser was a student at Brown University when he dropped a class in Chinese and ended up enrolling in Portuguese, because "it was the only class that was still open at the time." The first author they read was Lispector, and Moser never got over it. His missionary zeal to get her the recognition she deserves is what drove him to write her biography, translate a number of her books, and oversee the publication of her collected stories. Lispector inspires that level of devotion.

—Christine Heycke

◆ *Courting Mr. Lincoln*

Louis Bayard (2019)

Abraham Lincoln might seem to you as familiar a figure as the penny in your pocket. Honest Abe. The Great Emancipator. If so, then be prepared to meet a new Abe in *Courting Mr. Lincoln*. With an artful blend of fact and fiction, Bayard introduces us to a young Lincoln, an awkward, if ambitious, country lawyer recently relocated to Illinois from his log cabin upbringing in Kentucky. Mary Todd is an East Coast debutante drifting dangerously close to an unmarriageable age, full of opinions and unafraid to share them. Shortly after arriving in Springfield to stay with her sister, she catches a glimpse of Lincoln, and her initial impression is not positive: he is gangly, rough-mannered, and certainly not handsome. But the more she sees of him, the more she realizes that he is also kind and loyal, possessed of a sly wit and great intelligence.

Alternating between the voices of Mary and Joshua Speed, Lincoln's roommate and best friend, the novel creates a tender portrait of a couple falling in love, with



all its anxieties and disappointments, and of Lincoln's deep reliance on his friendship with Speed. Although I have no idea if this portrait is historically factual, I loved that Bayard convinced me that these two relationships were crucial in molding the man Lincoln was destined to become. Well-researched period details add plenty of texture to the background of Bayard's story, making these familiar characters feel absolutely real and far more complex than the grade school textbook portraits most of us remember. Bayard deftly weaves into the narrative the tumultuous

political life of 1840s America, a period in our history that will certainly resonate with modern readers.

And even though we readers know about the heartache and tragedy, turmoil and war to come, a gentleness infuses this story about how two unlikely people meet, fall in love, and ultimately complete each other. The writing is gorgeous, the subject enthralling—this is one of the best historical novels I've read in ages.

—Kristine Kaufman

◆ *Washington Black*

Esi Edugyan (2018)

Esi Edugyan's third novel is a picaresque piece of historical fiction telling the spellbinding tale of a gifted boy who starts life as a slave on a plantation in Barbados. Edugyan has researched slavery's brutality, and the novel's narrator, George Washington Black, or "Wash," documents its horrors in the 1830s, until slavery is first outlawed in the United Kingdom, if not yet in the United States.

Charming, endearing, honest Wash scrambles from one adventure to another in one exotic locale after another, somehow surviving, while building his talents as an artist and a scientist. Each of the book's characters feels real—Big Kit, the complex slave who treats Wash like her son; Erasmus Wilde, the despicable plantation owner; Christopher "Titch" Wilde, Erasmus's eccentric brother; John Willard, the terrifying hunter of escaped slaves; and many more who propel the story forward.

Titch is an inventor and naturalist from a wealthy and dysfunctional British family, and much of the story tells of his relationship with young Wash. Titch originally chooses Wash as his assistant because of his size and weight—perfect ballast for Titch's hot-air balloon. When

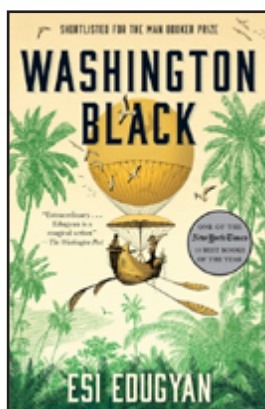
Wash, through no fault of his own, must flee Barbados, Titch orchestrates their miraculous escape.

Racism always shrouds the world around Wash, yet beauty also fills it, and Wash eloquently details its sights, sounds, and scents. *Washington Black* begs to become a blockbuster movie filmed on location—from Barbados to the Arctic to Morocco.

I especially loved the book's last sections, when Wash discovers the wonders of the sea in tidepools on the Nova Scotia coast—anemones, crabs, nudibranchs, octopuses—all of which he accurately draws. As his artistic and scientific skills develop, he falls in love, seeks to understand his identity, and helps create the world's first saltwater aquarium.

Washington Black is beautifully written and deserves its critical praise, including selection as one of the *New York Times*'s "Ten Best Books of 2018." Both this and Edugyan's second novel, *Half-Blood Blues*, were shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and both novels won Canada's prestigious Giller Prize. Edugyan is a first-generation Canadian whose parents emigrated from Ghana, and she is one of only three Canadians to ever win the Giller Prize twice.

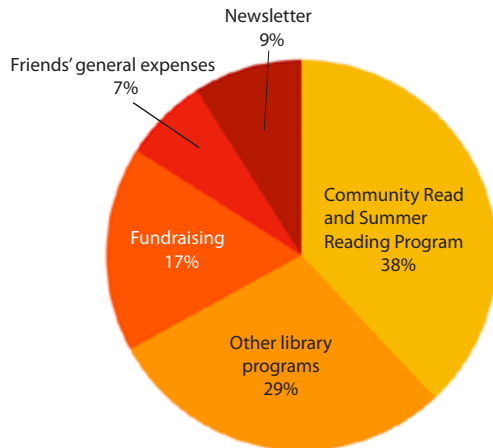
—Wendy Feltham



Updates from Your Friends

WANT TO KNOW where the Friends' money came from and how we spent it in 2018? Three book sales last year brought in 45 percent of our income; your donations, 53 percent; the remaining 2 percent came from other income-producing activities, such as staffing a gate at the Jefferson County Fair.

Here's our 2018 distribution of expenses:



HAVE YOU NOTICED? We have a **brand-new Friends website**, friendsofptlibrary.org. There you'll find who we are, what we do, how you can volunteer and donate books, and past and present newsletters. And you can donate with a click or two. Board members Ellen Chu and Christine Heycke designed and maintain the site.

ARE YOU a newcomer to town looking for volunteer opportunities? A Friend who wants to do more? Then we encourage you to **consider joining the Friends of the Port Townsend Library board**.

We are actively seeking energetic, computer-comfortable new board members enthusiastic about our Carnegie Library. We're most eager to find someone with accounting or bookkeeping skills.

Visit our website at friendsofptlibrary.org, e-mail us at friendsofptlibrary@gmail.com, or attend a monthly board meeting (second Wednesday, 3:30 PM, Library Learning Center). A current board member will be in touch promptly to tell you more. ∞



Helping our library do more

BOOK SALE

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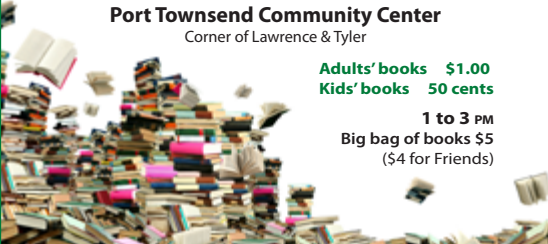
Saturday + June 15

9 AM to 3 PM
Friends may enter at 8 AM

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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.

NEW! As of June 2019, any donation to the Friends **NEW!** 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 sum you can give. Donations may be made at the library or by credit card at the **Friends' new 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
1220 Lawrence St., Port Townsend, WA 98368

☐ New Friend ☐ Renewing Friend

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

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Would you like to volunteer?
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In Praise of Our Business Sponsors

We are grateful to our longtime business sponsors. From among Port Townsend's many excellent nonprofits, they have chosen to support us for years. Please visit their websites, and send customers their way whenever you can. And join us in thanking them: *Namaste*.

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Waterbirth Solutions,
waterbirthsolutions.com

Yoga Port Townsend, Heather Sky,
yogaporttownsend.com

Hurrah for New Friends!

Welcome to all named below, who have become Friends since our March 2019 newsletter:

Ivy Cable
Sara Camfield
Robin Jerman
Sunny Parsons
Tammy Rumpel
Graeme Tait
Gary Weimberg



FRIENDS OF THE PORT TOWNSEND LIBRARY
1220 LAWRENCE STREET
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BOOK SALE
June 15, 2019
Uptown Community Center

FRIENDS' UPDATES



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 three 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 monthly board meetings, which take place on the second Wednesday of each month, 3:30 PM, at the Library Learning Center (corner of Lawrence and Harrison). Please contact us by e-mail at friendsofptlibrary@gmail.com.

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