

Check It Out!

Find your voice this summer at the library

How will you spend your summer?

by Lynn Nowak

WHETHER IT'S dabbling in a new form of self-expression, re-establishing a core belief, or even mustering the courage of your convictions, the Port Townsend Public Library might help rev you up. Readers of all ages can discover their unique selves with the library's Summer Reading Program, whose theme this year is Find Your Voice.

"We could have gone in any direction with this theme," said Paige Wynkoop, associate librarian. Its meanings are broad, their significance wide-ranging. For some, finding your voice might be realizing a passion or unveiling a hidden talent, but it could also mean speaking up for something you believe in or marshaling the bravery to be an authentic person.

"The library is magical in that we have the capability to provide resources to others. Giving the space for voices to be found is one thing that we all love to do," Wynkoop added.

Emily Bufford, library manager for youth and outreach services, agreed. "The library has something for everyone, and summertime is a wonderful time to explore the theme and find

what individually resonates with each person." She waxed nostalgic about her own association with the Summer Reading Program.

"It's one of my favorite times of the year at the library. When I was a kid, I loved it," Bufford continued. "Some of my favorite memories involve long summer days reading in a hammock, tracking my hours, and participating in fun challenges and activities."

This year, Summer Reading runs from June 1 through August 31, with the first event launching on June 24 with live music, cupcakes, lawn games, and more. Using the Beanstack app or a paper tracker, everyone can track their reading. Kids and teens earn a free book after 10 hours and a Summer Reading T-shirt at 50 hours; adults can pick up a shirt after reading 100 hours. Another perk: If teens ages 13–18 wear their Summer Reading T-shirt to the Nest (corner of Lawrence and Polk Streets), they can receive a free drink (limit, one by September 8).

Bufford said she looks forward to watching kids connect with a host of scheduled presenters offering programs such as a cookie decorating class

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Library staff model the 2023 Summer Reading T-shirt while displaying some of the prize books for kids and teens who read at least 10 hours this summer. Clockwise from top: Paige Wynkoop, associate librarian and shirt designer; Melody Sky Weaver, library director; Shilah Gould, library assistant; Emily Bufford, library manager for youth and outreach services; and Nancy Grant, library assistant.

A summer full of library events

For a complete schedule, pick up a Summer Reading flyer at the library, or visit ptpubliclibrary.org. Except where noted, events take place inside the Library Learning Center (Charles Pink House) or outside on the lawn.

SUMMER READING KICKOFF

Saturday, June 24, 1–3 PM. All ages.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS AND PERFORMANCES

Mug Painting

Wednesday, June 28, 1 PM. Ages 13–18.

Stop-motion and Claymation Studio

Thursday, June 29, 1 pm. Ages 0–12.

Third Occasional Surfing, Art, and Culture of the Salish Sea

Friday, June 30, 6 PM, Carnegie Room. All ages.

Collage Art Extravaganza

Wednesday, July 5, 1 PM. Ages 13–18.

Cookie Decorating, with Sarah Harrington from Cookie Daughters

Thursday, July 6, 1 PM. Ages 0–12.

D&D Camp, with Charles Reeder

Wednesdays, July 12, 19, 26, 1 PM. Ages 13–18.

Find Your Sound, with Global Heat

Thursday, July 13, 1 PM. All ages.

Voice Your Story, with Heather Dudley-Nollette

Thursday, July 20, 1 PM. Ages 0–12.

Moana Sing-Along

Thursday, July 27, 1 PM. Ages 0–12.

Teen Game Night

Monday, July 31, 5–7 PM, Carnegie Room.
Ages 13–18.

Shadow Puppets

Thursday, Aug. 3, 1 PM. Ages 0–12.

Sing Your Song, with Keeth Apgar

Thursday, Aug. 10, 1 PM. Ages 0–12.

SUMMER STORYTIMES

Storytime in the Park

Tuesdays, June 6–August 29, 10:30–11 AM,
Chetzemoka Park.

Yoga Storytime, with Dani Dent

Tuesday, June 27, 10:30–11 AM, Chetzemoka Park.

Storytime at the Port Townsend Farmers Market

Saturdays, June 3, July 1, August 5.

READ TO ROVER

Tuesdays, June 6–August 29, 1–2 PM, Children's Room. Ages 5–11.

showcasing new techniques for making one-of-a-kind cookies, a yoga storytime, a how-to on making stop-motion films, and a program on shadow puppetry.

And in a literal interpretation of the summer theme, kids might find their voices through soul music; use their voices in an improv and acting workshop; warm up their voices in a special *Moana* sing-along; or raise their voices at a music activity for families, where they could sing songs about trees, bugs, counting, or being itchy!

Teens can get into the action with their own lineup of activities, including mug painting, collage art, a D&D camp, game night, and a surf-art gallery opening.

T-shirt design

This year's T-shirt was designed completely in-house by Wynkoop. Her take on Find Your Voice gave rise to artwork highlighting the word *welcome* in different languages: "Welcome to all the people at the library, welcome to all the people in Port Townsend, welcome to all the people we meet along the way," she said. "As someone who wants to create a space where everyone feels seen and heard, it was very important to me to have pieces related to languages other than English."

Wynkoop said she wanted something circular, to feature the Japanese concept of *ensō*, of movement and development. She also hoped to create a feeling of vibrancy, which led to a sunlike image. And the black-and-white motif was born from a desire to create a classic design that readers would love to wear again and again, she said.

"Personally, finding your voice does not only mean being an activist or learning to sing, but also means finding the confidence in yourself and what matters most to you. That, to me, is when we know we have done our job," Wynkoop said.

Bufford summed up her goal for Summer Reading: "My hope is that we can create an atmosphere that supports the individual interests of each child and cultivates a lifelong love of learning." 



Are children from one generation raised to have a voice? Are children of another, speak-

To find your voice means to discover what makes you *you*. Our public library strives to be a place where you find your voice—your interests, identity, culture, whatever you want to explore and understand—represented in the collection. Libraries, life’s microcosm, can help us winnow through the infinite chorus and find what is in our hearts. 

— to —



◆ *From the Soil*

Fei Xiaotong (1992)

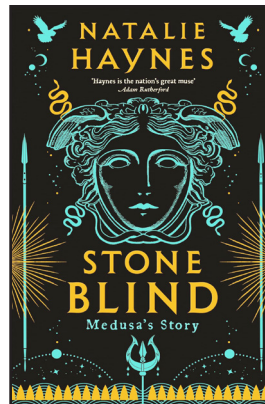
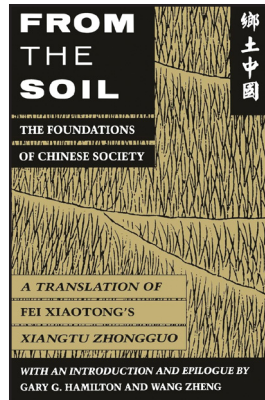
In the mid-1940s, Chinese society underwent wrenching change as the brutal Japanese invasion gave way to a bloody civil war. It was during this chaos that sociology professor Fei Xiaotong delivered a series of lectures on traditional rural Chinese culture. Collected in 1947 and written from a Chinese point of view for a Chinese audience, the pieces are published in this 1992 translation, by Gary G. Hamilton and Wang Zheng, as *From the Soil: The Foundations of Chinese Society*.

Fei describes in detail the traditional, hierarchical society predominant in rural China, but the lectures also serve as a warning. Although Fei generally avoids mentioning communism or liberal democracy by name, his lectures make clear that he thinks rural Chinese would reject both of these Western imports as fundamentally incompatible with their understanding of how the world works. Because rural China was neither as collectivist as the communists posited, nor as individualized as liberal democrats supposed, neither theory was fit for the purpose of modernizing China.

Fei is less clear on what the right answer is. He focuses mainly on the importance of educating the largely illiterate rural populace, perhaps with a view to helping them decide their own nonrevolutionary way forward. In this sense, Fei is a recognizable type: the conservative reformer who admits societal sclerosis but seeks to address it without excessive and dangerous disruption.

Fei writes in short, declarative sentences typically light on jargon, which, as the excellent contextual introduction points out, was no accident. Fei wrote not for an academic audience but for the policymakers he imagined would take control of China in the near future. As it happens, of course, the communists prevailed on the mainland, and Fei's book quickly went underground.

Gone officially, but not forgotten. With Deng Xiaoping's accession to power, Fei's ideas resurfaced and helped mold modern Chinese society. For readers seeking to understand the development of modern China, and why hectoring Chinese leaders about their failure to conform to Western values is bound to backfire, this book is an excellent start. —Rich Johnson



◆ *Stone Blind*

Natalie Haynes (2022)

Myth, like its stepsister history, is most often told by the victor, or at least by those who claim to be victorious, leaving us with a lopsided view of heroes and monsters, gods and mortals. But in an ever-growing library from writers such as Madeline Miller (*Circe*), Jennifer Saint (*Ariadne*), and Claire North (*Ithaca*), we hear voices left silent in classical myths—voices mostly of women. My favorite author in this new subgenre is classicist and comedian(!) Natalie Haynes, whose latest book, *Stone Blind*, recasts the story of Medusa and Perseus in a whole new light.

Born mortal into a family of gods, Medusa is abandoned by her immortal parents on the island of Seriphos, home of her two sisters, the Gorgons Sthenno and Euryale. Despite their fearsome reputation, the three sisters grow together as a loving family, safe and isolated until the day that Medusa's beauty draws the lecherous attentions of Poseidon in a temple dedicated to Athene. In typical Olympian fashion, Athene punishes Medusa rather than the sea god for violating her temple and changes Medusa into the visage we know best—a woman-monster whose head is wreathed in snakes and whose very gaze turns mortals to stone. Meanwhile, Perseus, whom we have always known as a shining youthful hero, slayer of Medusa, impulsively decides to retrieve a Gorgon's head to save his mother, Danaë, from an unwanted marriage. A mortal son of Zeus, Perseus is aided by the gods but, according to Haynes, can still barely manage to fulfill his quest. He is by turns petulant and boastful, naive and deceitful, not all that bright, and perhaps a little too sheltered. *Stone Blind* reminds us that those we know as monsters have their own stories to tell, and heroes often have feet of clay.

Haynes's previous books include her brilliant 2019 novel *A Thousand Ships*, which brought the Trojan War to life through the voices of the women—mortal, immortal, Greek, and Trojan alike—who were caught up in that epic struggle. She is also the creator of the (easily downloaded) BBC radio program called *Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics*, which is enlightening, refreshing, and often very funny.

—Kristine Kaufman

◆ *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk*

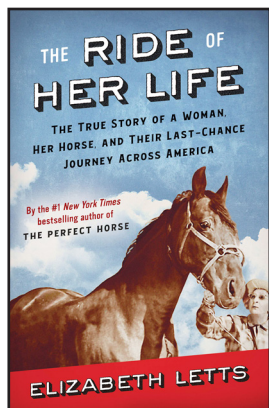
Kelli Estes (2015)

Late nineteenth-century Puget Sound was raucous with energy and opportunity. Resource exploitation enticed transplants seeking success; with fortunes seemingly within grasp, these newcomers built communities, established values, and gave their all to promote their own interests. Typically, we venerate the winners—the white Americans who launched towns, built intricate Victorian homes, or left an industrial legacy. *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* uncovers a willfully ignored story of some of the many who were trampled in this race to succeed. Weaving together two narratives roughly 130 years apart, this historical novel with local ties to Port Townsend, Seattle, and Orcas Island exposes sides of human nature we rarely acknowledge.

Portraying the lives of two young women, and blending history with mystery plus a touch of romance, the book explores the dynamics of survival and sacrifice, especially in relation to family ties and the loss of parents at a young age. Though the two women are separated by race, circumstances, and era, the author draws compelling parallels that left me rooting for both to the very last page. Even now, I think of the characters not as fiction, but as real-life “sheroes” whose lives I’m completely vested in. True to its era and location, the book is historically accurate, as well as in its references to local geography, flora, and fauna. I could picture the locations and even smell the scents. For these alone, I urge those who live in or around the present-day Salish Sea to pick up this book and dive in.

The Girl Who Wrote in Silk gave me that delicious reader’s feeling of wanting a book to last for ages even while inhaling the story as quickly as possible. One of my personal measures for a great book is the degree to which it provokes thought after it ends. This is a book whose characters and stories will resonate with me for a long time. In fact, I’m sure it will come to mind every time I visit the water’s edge at dusk. It is that powerful.

—Margaret Peterson is the Friends’ newest board member, a former teacher and secondary school principal, who hails from a family whose love of reading is a given



◆ *The Ride of Her Life*

Elizabeth Letts (2021)

My brother had few words when he lent me this book—a great read, interesting story about a woman from our mother’s home state of Maine—and that was enough. Once I started reading, I was glad I had.

The Ride of Her Life is a biographical retelling of 63-year-old Annie Wilkins’s solitary horseback ride across the United States from rural Maine to the southern California coast—in the mid-1950s, long after pioneers and wagon trains, just as cars and highways were beginning their takeover. Annie was a hardworking family farmer, whose bad luck and ill health had put her in dire circumstances. With limited education, no relatives, on the brink of losing her farm, and told by her doctor that she had little time left to live, she made an exceptional decision. She resolved to buy a horse and ride it across the country, without support, guidance, or even maps. She kept journals, though, and her trek was well documented by local newspapers. Towns, cities, and communities wanted to link themselves to her adventure, so she was often featured and feted. Using these resources, as well as research for historical context, Letts brings Annie’s story and the 1950s to life for those of us living sixty-plus years later.

I struggled in my reactions to Annie. On the one hand, she embodied attributes I admire: calm, rationality, courage; authenticity, honesty, kindness; love for her animals; great faith in her ability to succeed. Yet I could not get over that she took off in utter ignorance about terrain, geography, challenges, or necessary resources. And even as she added miles to her journey and encountered obstacles, she never made an effort to gain solid information about upcoming routes. Had this been a novel, I would have scoffed at its implausibility. And yet Annie and her journey were real, an unorthodox heroine Letts shines a light on. Annie lacked wealth, youth, beauty, connections, children, a professional career, yoga instructor, or therapist, but she had voice, self-identity, and autonomy.

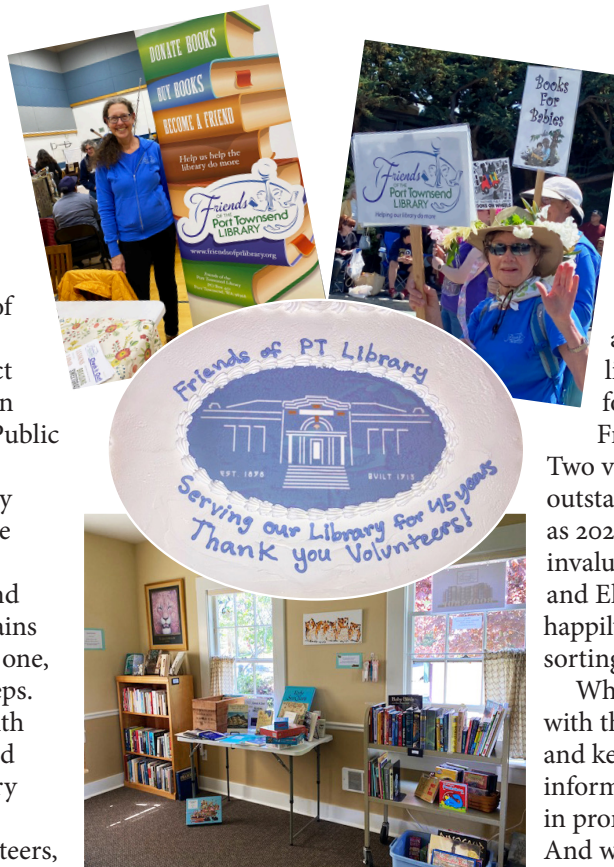
For me, *The Ride of Her Life* wins on three counts: it’s a fascinating story about an amazing woman, a pertinent historical backdrop, and an invitation to ponder the line between foolhardy and visionary. I enjoyed this book immensely; my brother was right, it is a great read. —MP

Friendly News

LAST DECEMBER, when the Friends sent our annual greeting card and donation appeal, the theme was Expand Your Horizons—the way libraries do. But since then, our small all-volunteer organization has been expanding its own horizons. Board members and dedicated volunteers alike have grown, often stepping out of our comfort zones.

Perhaps the most significant project in the past year has been consideration of a merger with the Port Townsend Public Library Foundation. The Friends' and Foundation's boards believe the library and community are best served by one nonprofit organization raising funds for library improvements, supplies, and programs. Although much work remains before two organizations can become one, we are looking forward to the next steps.

In February, during Fall in Love with Your Library week, the Friends opened its new Bookshop (*right*) in the Library Learning Center. A labor of love—organized and managed by two volunteers, Jody Glaubman and Lauretta Frost—the shop has been a great success so far. If you're not already a regular, please stop by!



We also participated in Port Townsend's Connectivity Fair in April (*far left*), enjoying the opportunity to engage with the public and other local nonprofits. And just a week later, we threw a party for all volunteers connected with the library—Friends, Foundation, Bookworms, and volunteers working in the library itself. There were prizes and food, with a cake celebrating the Friends' forty-fifth anniversary.

Two volunteers were honored for their outstanding contributions: Lynn Nowak as 2023 Volunteer of the Year, for her invaluable stories in this newsletter, and Ellen Dustman as Multitasker, for happily taking on tasks ranging from book sorting to reviews of our bookkeeping.

What's next? We will continue working with the Foundation on the merger and keep Friends and the community informed. We are energized and engaged in promoting and serving the city's library. And we're always on the lookout for new board members, especially someone with

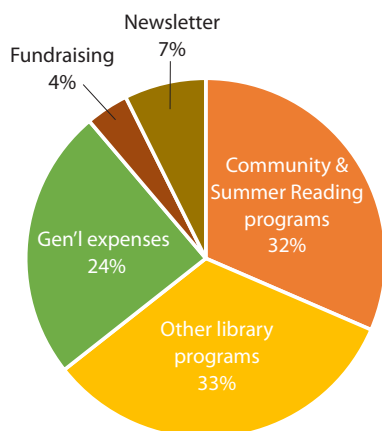
web development or graphic design skills. If you believe in the power of volunteers and libraries, expand *your* horizons, and consider joining our team!

—Cindy Johnson

P.S. Did you see us (*top right*) at the 2023 Rhody Parade?

We're more than a little grateful for our Friends' support

AS WE EMERGE from a third year of the pandemic, the library is holding more programs, the Friends has opened a well-received new Bookshop in the Library Learning Center, and you continue to support us—by donating books and money and volunteering your time and hard work. Your 2022 donations supplied 50% of our income, and revenue from pop-up and our main book sales also came to 50%. The expense pie looked like this for 2022:



TWICE A YEAR, we ask you to **renew your support** of the Friends—once in the summer and once toward year's end—and now's the first time **for 2023**. As always, we rely on you to help us help the library. Thank you!

FRIENDS' SUPPORTERS ARE ALSO INVITED to our 2023 annual meeting, to be held at the peerless Lighthouse Café on Water St., Wednesday, **July 12, 5:30–7:00 PM**. Vote for Friends' officers, and enjoy food, beverages, fun, and games!

AND NOW, JOIN US IN THANKING our newest Friends!

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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

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Would you like to volunteer?

Please indicate your area(s) of interest

☐ Book sales

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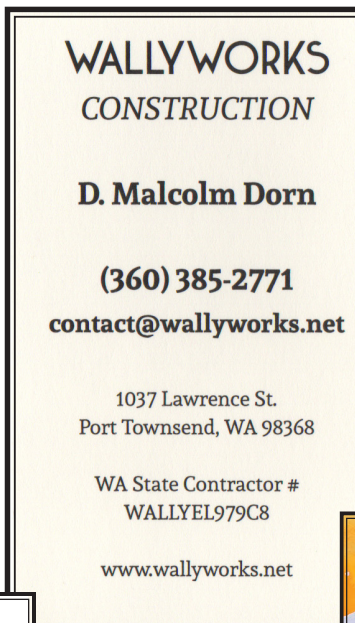
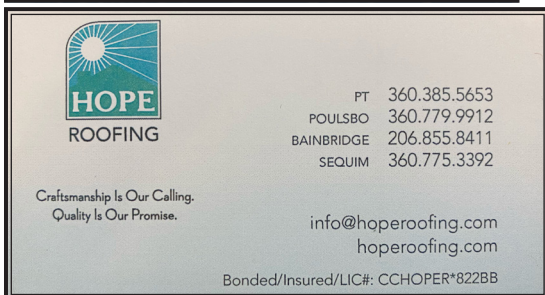
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Don't forget!
Book Sale
June 17, 2023
Uptown Community Center



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, usually at 4:00 PM, 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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