

Check It Out!

Summer Reading Brings Fun for All Ages

by Melody Sky Eisler,* Library Director

WHEN I WAS A KID, I loved the Book It! reading program. After reading a certain number of books (a star stuck to a pin marked each book I read), I earned a personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. The thrill of being rewarded for reading still fills me with joyful memories. I did not participate in sports, so for this little bookworm, getting a reward for reading was the best gift ever. I know many who think reading is its own reward, and of course it is. Yet even as an adult, I still get excited about earning prizes for something I love to do.

As librarians, we want you to spend the summer reading for pleasure and reading what you love. After all, the joy of reading whatever you want is part of what makes summer reading special. And for kids and teens, we know that reading for as little as 10 hours in the summer helps prevent the dreaded “summer slide.”

Last summer, the library expanded our Summer Reading program: We included adults who, just like kids and teens, kept track of the number of hours they spent reading. We set an ambitious Summer Reading 2016 goal to see if participants

could read at least 10,000 hours. Our community triumphantly surpassed that goal by reading more than 13,000 hours! What enchanted me the most was the delight I saw from our adult participants—some of whom read more than 200 hours.

So we are planning an exciting 2017 Summer Reading program, structured around the theme Build

a Better World, with fun activities for the whole family and patrons of all ages. We are again setting a 10,000-hour goal, and we urge everyone to sign up for the fun.

This summer, just like last summer, kids and teens who read 10 hours will receive a free book; after 50 hours, they will get a T-shirt designed by local artist Annalisa Barelli. Adults who read 100 hours will get that T-shirt too.

What could be better than reading for pleasure and earning a beautiful T-shirt—which will last a lot longer than a personal pan pizza? I smile every time I see a patron wearing last summer’s T-shirt because it is an emblem of the love of reading.

This year, Summer Reading runs from June 20 through August 11, 2017.

Have fun! ∞



* Fun fact (see page 8 for more fun facts): Frank Sinatra used to sing lullabies to her.

June Is Membership Month!

Your membership dues make a difference in what Friends of the Port Townsend Library can do—for the library, for the community, and for you. Forty percent of the Friends' budget comes from tax-deductible donations made by members like you, and now's the time to renew.

Be assured that your money is spent wisely to support many programs at the library, including Community Read, the Summer Reading Program, Books for Babies, teen programs, Book Lovers Café book club, and special events like this spring's Author! Author! event with Jim Lynch and Erica Bauermeister.

Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. For more details on how to join, including a membership form, see page 7. Or sign up right at the book sale on Saturday, June 3.

We look forward to welcoming you! ∞

Welcome, New Members Thanks, Business Sponsors

We love every one of our Friends of the Port Townsend Library, and we're especially delighted to introduce these new members, who have joined since our March newsletter.

Pam & J. M. Clise	Richard Moore
Sharon DeWees	Ellen Ostern
Wendy Feltham	Marcia Perlstein &
& Larry Fisher	Nyla Dartt
Sam Gibboney	Mike Phimister
Rita Hubbard	Peter Powell
Wendy Houlton-	Rich & Debbie Seller
Madinger &	Jan Sprague
Duane Madinger	Robin Stemen
Sherry Modrow &	Peter West
Brian Rogers	

We want to thank the following organizations that generously support the Friends as Business Sponsors. We know there are many other wonderful groups they could support, and we are grateful that they chose to support us. Please help us thank them by visiting their websites and sending your business their way.

David Chuljian, DDS, PS, www.chuljiandds.com

NW Discovery Lab, nwdiscoverylab.org

Terrapin Architecture, Richard Berg,
terrarinarchitecture.com

Wallyworks Enterprises, Malcom Dorn,
wallyworks.net

Waterbirth Solutions, waterbirthsolutions.com

Yoga Port Townsend, Heather Sky,
yogaporttownsend.com

BOOK SALE

Gently used books and media

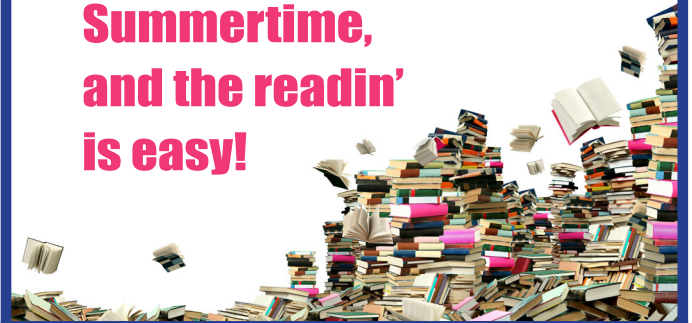
Saturday • June 3

9 AM to 3 PM

Open to Friends' members at 8 AM

Port Townsend Community Center
Corner of Lawrence & Tyler

**Summertime,
and the readin'
is easy!**



Friends of the Port Townsend Library

invites you to its

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, at 6:00 PM

Alchemy Bistro (back room)
842 Washington Street

Food and drinks may be purchased
We will vote for new officers and report on our
fundraising activities and the programs
your donations supported last year

Port Townsend Library's Newest Hidden Gem

REGULAR PATRONS of public libraries know how precious libraries and librarians are. Researchers can find information, plus leads to more; bookworms can find good reads new and old, as well as magazines, newspapers, and nonprint media; preschoolers can find a wonderful storybook along with someone to read it to them. Here in Port Townsend, you can even find a telescope. Libraries are full of hidden gems for everyone. But did you know that your Port Townsend Public Library also has a hidden gem specifically for the many nonprofit organizations in town?

Foundation Center, a New York-based nonprofit organization established in 1956 by and for philanthropic foundations, maintains a comprehensive database of grant makers, which is available at a variety of institutions—including our Carnegie library—for anyone to use. To date, this resource, which the library subscribes to, has not served our community as well as it might, in large part because the library has not had enough staff to help those seeking to use it.

To fill this gap, the Port Townsend Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Port Townsend Library—sister organizations that help the library do more than its tight city budget allows—joined forces to extend the library's subscription to the Foundation Center's database for at least another year. They have also begun to train volunteers as docents, who will, in turn, teach grant seekers how best to use the database. The first training session took place on April 19, 2017.

A similar program has been in place since 2013 at the Kitsap Regional Library, which has seen more than 300 nonprofits and startups benefit from the service. Success stories include firemen and others who have helped local nonprofits, as well as schoolteachers and church members who have sought project money.

Don't think for a moment, though, that you're too late to participate if you missed the first training. Working with library staff, Foundation and Friends board



Library staff and volunteers train at the Library Learning Center, as the Library Foundation and Friends prepare to relaunch the Foundation Center's grant makers database

members—in particular, Jean Baldwin, Susan Hargleroad, and Phyllis Marckworth—have plenty more to do and would welcome more volunteers. They will be letting the community know about the program to train docents and about the fully supported opportunity for nonprofits to begin using the database to seek grant funding. If you have any grant-writing experience, or just want to learn and teach others about this resource, please contact Lynn Ring, library volunteer coordinator, at lring@cityofpt.us. And please alert folks you know who are active in Port Townsend's nonprofit organizations.

Help the library help the Port Townsend community even more! ☺

What Friends Are Reading

◆ *The Accusation: Forbidden Stories from Inside North Korea* Bandi (2017)

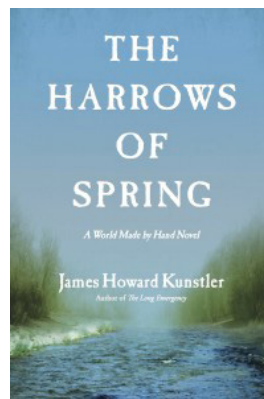
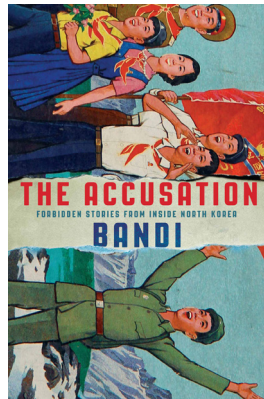
These *Forbidden Stories* were written in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the last years of North Korea's founder, Kim Il-sung. They depict a nation where a small circle wields immense power and privilege while the great majority suffers bitter hardship—their loyalty enforced by means of delusory propaganda, pervasive surveillance, and state murder. Any time a character dares display the faintest inkling of conscience or charity, it is smothered out, often along with his life.

These days in the United States, dystopian fiction walks a fine line between entertainment and provocation. Certainly it's thrilling to pretend that *we* would be the ones bold enough to resist were anything so dire to happen here, which of course it never could. But *The Accusation* is dystopian fiction that comes from a real, existing dystopia. The names and situations may be invented, but there can be no doubt that real people are dying so the regime may live on.

Lives are destroyed for the most banal of reasons—a missing travel permit, an inopportune joke, curtains closed at the wrong time. In a way, this is the subtlest sign of the regime's oppressive grip: the stories cling to the heavy symbolism and moralistic structures of fiction from a century ago. There is no room for postmodern ambivalence or ambiguity in North Korea, not even in fictions of doomed defiance.

The author behind the pseudonym Bandi still lives in North Korea; his stories could be safely smuggled out only many years after he wrote them. We owe it to Bandi and the people of North Korea to learn from their experience and to ensure that such regimes are exposed and overthrown, wherever in the world they exist.

—Owen Rowe



◆ *The Harrows of Spring* James Howard Kunstler (2016)

I am a very slow reader—so slow that it is hard for me to keep up with monthly book club assignments. *The Harrows of Spring*, however, made me a very slow reader for a totally different reason: I didn't want it to end.

This novel is the outstanding finale to a 1,300-page odyssey, often considered speculative fiction. It is the fourth of four books in the *World Made by Hand* series, each one set in its own season in a year in the life of Union Grove, a small town in upstate New York. The series includes three previous books: *World Made by Hand* (2008, set in the summer), *The Witch of Hebron* (2010, set in the fall), and *A History of the Future* (2014, set in the winter). Author and social critic James Howard Kunstler has written compelling “cautionary tales with an optimistic heart,” where twenty-first-century catastrophes have altered American life in general, causing people to do whatever they can to get by and pursue a simpler and sometimes happier existence.

Imagine how well any of us would do in the midst of drastic change: loss of electricity and oil and gas production; loss of vaccines, medications, and health care in general; no automobiles; and a more restricted food supply. What would people do to feed their families and hold together what's left of their communities? How well could we function if we were forced to use eighteenth-century tools (in medicine, agriculture, and transportation) with twenty-first-century skills, education, and expectations?

Despite the profound effects of this “retro” yet future world, Kunstler has created an island of positive humanity, with vibrant characters who grab and hold your attention and heart throughout the entire four-book series. Their happiness, successes, and struggles propel the story forward and pull their series year together in a very satisfying way.

I only hope there's a film miniseries in the book series' future.

—Kathleen Hawn

◆ *The Pigeon Tunnel: Stories from My Life*

John Le Carré (2016)

John Le Carré (a.k.a., David Cornwell) begins his highly anticipated memoir with the words, “There is scarcely a book of mine that didn’t have *The Pigeon Tunnel* at some time or another as its working title.” On reading Le Carré’s explanation, longtime followers of his spy novels may understand why (sorry; no spoilers here). But although I’m a baby boomer who grew up in the shadow of the Cold War that Le Carré so vividly evokes, I come late to the work of this former MI6 agent, and I’m only beginning to see the aptness of that title. What’s easy to see is Le Carré’s mastery of plot, character, and the English language.

With the exception of one chapter, plus a few bits and pieces, *The Pigeon Tunnel* is not so much a memoir of Le Carré’s personal life as a collection of sometimes inscrutable “true stories told from memory.” Most of them detail how he came across the real men and women who put flesh and soul into the imagined characters of his novels.

We accompany Le Carré around the world as he researches his books, meeting the taciturn “stocky man in his forties” who would become Alec Leamas in *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*; dancing with Yassar



Arafat on New Year’s Eve 1982; accompanying the fearless aid worker and protector of children in Cambodia who is the heartbeat of *The Constant Gardener*; learning what it feels like to be needed by Richard Burton and to “share a mile or two of Alec [Guinness]’s long life” (Leamas and George Smiley, respectively, in film and BBC versions of *Spy* and the *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* books). We laugh aloud; we suffer; and always, we admire the grace and incisiveness of the writer’s prose.

A latecomer I may be, but now I am hooked—deeply immersed in the world of inescapable moral ambiguity and betrayal embodied by the real pigeon tunnel. If you know Le Carré’s books, you will find this one enlightening. For me, some of that light illuminates a world of cover-ups and conspiracies that has again become all too real here at home.

—Ellen W. Chu

◆ *Our Souls at Night and Eventide*

Kent Haruf (2015 and 2005)

“What a *nice* book,” I sighed to myself many times as I read this short but moving book—a story of growing intimacy born of the loneliness that can come with growing older alone. Addie Moore, an elderly widow living in the small town of Holt, Colorado, has decided she is tired of spending her nights alone after her husband dies. So she visits her longtime neighbor Louis Waters, an elderly widower, and asks if he would please come over and spend the night with her.

So begins their evolving friendship. Now each of them has not only a partner with whom to share fond memories, but also someone with whom to share responsibilities, which they do when Addie’s young grandson comes to live with her while his father tries to rebuild his life after a separation. Haruf’s simple yet compassionate writing—often just dialogue not encumbered by “he said,” “she said,” or even

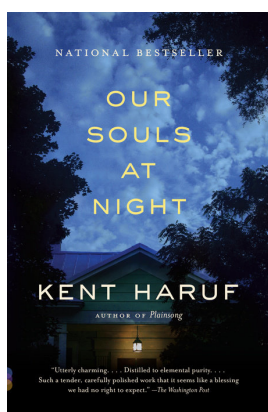
quotation marks—brought me into Addie and Louis’s life in a very real way.

Published posthumously, this is Haruf’s last book: he died of cancer the night he finished writing it. Perhaps he felt a sense of completion, having connected these two lonely people with each other for at least a while in the last decades of their lives.

Once I discovered the beautiful, stark simplicity of Haruf’s writing, I turned to another of his books, *Eventide*. Halfway through, I realized I should have read *Plainsong* first, because the story of many *Eventide* characters begins there. But *Eventide* easily stands by itself.

In his same spare style, Haruf tells the stories of several individuals, couples, and families, also living in his fictional town of Holt. Everyone has different challenges and

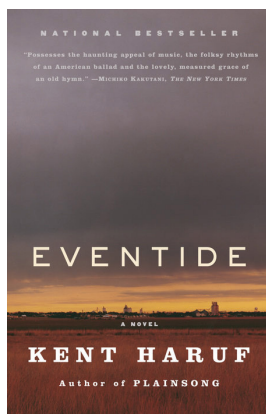
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(Eventide, continued from page 5)

coping mechanisms, all of which are easy to relate to. There are heartbreak and happiness, resolution and dissolution, birth and death—real-life stories of young people and adults trying to make their lives work and also to give others a helping hand.

I grew up in a small town in Iowa and appreciated the sense of togetherness inherent in these people's lives. Similarly, I could relate to the small-town gossip and criticism that arose for Addie and Louis when word got around that they were "sleeping together." It's the typical stuff of small towns that Haruf presents so simply and leads me to hunt out his other books. —Ellen Dustman



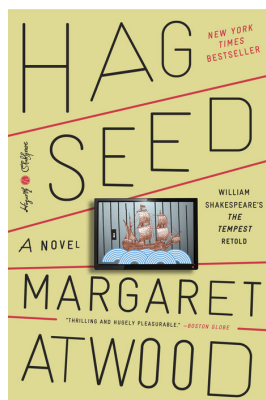
◆ Hag-Seed: William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* Retold

Margaret Atwood (2016)

Founded in 1917 by Virginia and Leonard Woolf, Hogarth Press was resurrected in 2012 by Random House as "an adventurous fiction imprint." In 2015 the press launched a new series coinciding with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death: the retelling of the playwright's works by acclaimed novelists of the twenty-first century.

Shakespeare is often a puzzle for me—this is not a bad thing; I like puzzles—so Hogarth's series intrigued me. After my first book, I discovered that, even more than rereading the plays themselves or seeing them performed, engaging in Margaret Atwood's retelling helped me understand *The Tempest*. When I finished the novel, I immediately wanted to reread Shakespeare's original.

After a brief prologue, the novel opens as Felix Phillips (Prospero), discovers that his assistant, Toni (evil brother Antonio), has usurped his position as director of a renowned theater festival. In response, Felix isolates himself for nine years from the theater world, his urban community, and all his colleagues and friends. (Prospero is



marooned on an island.) At this point in the novel, I wasn't so sure I wanted to continue reading. Felix is a bit bizarre, and the whole situation didn't seem terribly believable. *The Tempest* is, in some ways, a fairy tale.

But after nine years, Felix decides to reengage with life. He obtains a position in a local prison, teaching a course titled Literacy through Literature at the high school level. He surprises the authorities by centering his course entirely on presentation each year of one Shakespeare play. As a teacher myself, I was now riveted.

Felix's first assignment to his students—medium-security prisoners—is to find all the curse words or phrases in the play for that year and to then confine all cursing during class to these and these alone. For three years, he successfully develops his program, putting on *Julius Caesar*, *Richard III*, and *Macbeth*.

Finally, in year 4, Felix—now a beloved prison teacher and director—learns that usurper Toni, in a new, powerful political position, will arrive at the end of the session to view the year's performance and evaluate the prison's literacy program. Felix sees an opportunity for revenge—perform *The Tempest*.

The plot thickens, the novel becomes a page-turner, and I become deeply immersed in the novel's story and *The Tempest*'s story: a play within a play within a novel. How will the prisoners help Felix find his revenge? Will anyone be hurt? Will anyone get in trouble? Is *The Tempest* a tragedy or a comedy?

This is not the best novel I have read by Margaret Atwood, but it did a great job of revisiting *The Tempest*. I am looking forward to reading Hogarth's other retold Shakespearean works: *The Gap of Time* (*The Winter's Tale*) by Jeanette Winterson, *Shylock Is My Name* (*The Merchant of Venice*) by Howard Jacobson, *Vinegar Girl* (*The Taming of the Shrew*) by Anne Tyler, and *New Boy* (*Othello*) by Tracy Chevalier. Several others are due in 2018 and 2021.

Happy reading, and happy puzzling!

—Phyllis Marckworth

We Can Always Use More Friends!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ New member

☐ Renewing

Donation amount

☐ \$10

☐ \$25

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

☐ \$200

☐ \$250

☐ \$ _____

☐ \$100 Business

As a business member, you will have your business card displayed in each newsletter while your membership is current.

Friends of the Port Townsend Library qualifies for tax exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. Dues may be paid at the library, by credit card on the [Friends' section of the library's website \(www.ptpubliclibrary.org/SupportYourLibrary/FriendsOfTheLibrary\)](http://www.ptpubliclibrary.org/SupportYourLibrary/FriendsOfTheLibrary), or by mailing this form with your check made out to Friends of the Port Townsend Library (FOPTL) to

Friends of the Port Townsend Library
1220 Lawrence St., Port Townsend, WA 98368

Would you like to volunteer?

Please indicate your area(s) of interest:

☐ Book sales

☐ Processing book donations

☐ Computer/technical support

☐ Landscaping/gardening

☐ Publicity

☐ Special events



FRIENDS OF THE PORT TOWNSEND LIBRARY
1220 LAWRENCE STREET
PORT TOWNSEND, WA 98368

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Don't forget the Friends'
BOOK SALES
Uptown Community Center
June 3 & October 7, 2017

Who We Are

FRRIENDS of the Port Townsend Library helps fund services and materials beyond what the library can offer through its city budget. We raise money primarily through memberships, donations, and book sales and support diverse reading programs to enhance our community's cultural and educational wealth. Every year, we support activities for all ages, including Community Read, children's storytimes, author talks, and more. We also publish three newsletters a year—spring, summer, and fall—in print and online. Current issues are available in the library or at ptpubliclibrary.org/SupportYourLibrary/FriendsoftheLibrary.

Board meetings of the Friends of the Port Townsend Library take place on the second Wednesday of each month, 3:30 PM, at the Library Learning Center (corner of Lawrence and Harrison) and are open to everyone. To volunteer or join the board, please e-mail us at friendsofptlibrary@gmail.com.

Board Members

President	Ellen Dustman
Vice President	Phyllis Marckworth
Secretary	Paula Zimmerman
Treasurer	Cindy Johnson
Membership	Fran Post
Newsletter	Ellen W Chu
Book Donations	Linda Martin
Book Sales	Cheryl Bentley
Programs	Owen Rowe
At Large	Kathleen Hawn
	Geralynn Rackowski

And now ... a Few Fun Facts

Ellen Dustman had a private pilot's license.

Paula Zimmerman (a very petite board member) bench-pressed the most weight of all the girls in her eighth-grade class.

Fran Post lived "off the grid" on the Big Island of Hawaii for 11 years, part of the time in a house she helped build.

Ellen Chu has a French master's degree in *biologie animale* from the University of Paris.

Linda Martin ran against Daniel Inouye for U.S. Senator from Hawaii.

Geralynn Rackowski built houses in Eastern Europe and South America with Habitat Global Village.

And, with green eyes and O-negative blood, Kathleen Hawn is one of those alleged most likely to be abducted by aliens!