

Check It Out!

Welcome, Hilary Verheggen! Our New Children's Librarian

We immediately gave her more work to do by asking that she tell us about herself. Here's her story.

BEFORE I KNEW I wanted to work with children, or be a librarian, I knew I wanted to live in Port Townsend. Shortly after I moved to Olympia, Washington, to attend Evergreen State College, my father and I took to the road to explore the Olympic Peninsula and stopped in Port Townsend. We spent only an afternoon in this incredible town, but as we got in the car to leave, I turned to my dad and proclaimed, "This is where I am going to live."

At that time, I had no idea what the future would hold for me, but I knew that I wanted to make a difference. I grew up in Chicago, and while living there for 18 years, I became aware of many disparities between socioeconomic groups. I loved the idea that libraries act as the great equalizer.

Libraries welcome people of all backgrounds to share information, ideas, culture, and entertainment. I enjoy working with children and families to promote literacy and a love of lifelong learning. In our library, I hope to



foster a youth services program that is conscious of the culturally rich local community, and the global community as well. I see youth services as providing resources that are both educational and fun and cultivating forward-thinking members of our ever-changing society.

On my own, I enjoy reading narrative nonfiction, because sometimes truth *is* stranger than fiction. I am a big fan of young-adult and children's literature, and I love picture books about pirates and ninjas. I am always taking reading suggestions!

My master's in library science came from the University of Washington, and I worked several years at libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Now, after spending the last two years in northeastern Tennessee, I truly feel that I've come home. I am so lucky to be part of a community deeply invested in its library. I look forward to getting to know Port Townsend and its wonderful residents.

—Hilary Verheggen



Kudos to librarian Jeanne Simmons for planning the 2017 Summer Reading Program, "Build a Better World." From building forts and fairy houses, to creating pollinator gardens, to learning to sew and making iMovies, Jeanne planned programs for all ages to promote the joy of reading over the summer and to spark creativity, imagination, and ways to truly build a better world. Her colleagues at the Port Townsend Library all pitched in with incredible help and support, too. Special thanks to all of our patrons who participated in Summer Reading, earned T-shirts, and attended other programs. Cheers to another successful summer of reading!

—Melody Sky Eisler, Library Director



Friends Have Fun

THE FRIENDS of the Port Townsend Library and the Port Townsend Public Library Foundation—sister organizations that help the library fund more than it can on its city budget—had fun marching in two parades this year, the Rhody Grand Parade and Uptown's Grandly Local Parade, both iconic annual Port Townsend events. We were proud to wear shirts with our new logo and to have a banner and signs featuring some of the programs we support at the library.

What's more, we received an award from the Uptown parade—Best Hope for the Future. We couldn't be happier with that designation: Libraries have always been a community's best hope for its future! ∞



Friends at the Rhody Parade. From left to right: Melody Sky Eisler, Macy Mullarky, and Ellen Dustman



BOOK SALE

Saturday ★ October 7

9 AM to 3 PM

Open to Friends' members at 8 AM

Port Townsend Community Center

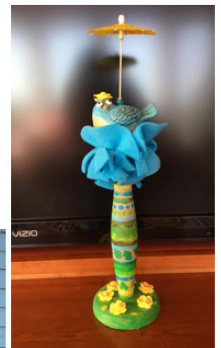
Corner of Lawrence & Tyler

Abundant, wide-ranging collection
100s of popular fiction hardbacks
100s of classical CDs and DVDs

1 to 3 PM

Big bag of books \$4 (\$3 for members)

Right: Best Hope for the Future; created by Jeanne Moore



After the Uptown parade. Clockwise from left: Richard Rackowski, Geralynn Rackowski, Susan Hargleroad, Shelley Randall, and Ellen Dustman

The Book Club (Kit) Effect

EVERYBODY WANTS to live as long as possible, right? Well, it turns out that joining a book club could well help you live longer, especially if you're retired.

According to a [2016 study](#) by researchers at the University of Queensland in Australia and reported in [Britain's Guardian](#) newspaper, new retirees who continue with social groups they belonged to before retirement, and retirees who join groups afterward, enjoy a significantly lower risk of death than similar peers in the first six months after retirement. The effect, the researchers said, is comparable to the salutary effects of exercise. Who knew that bonding over books was as good for our health as the Rhody Run?

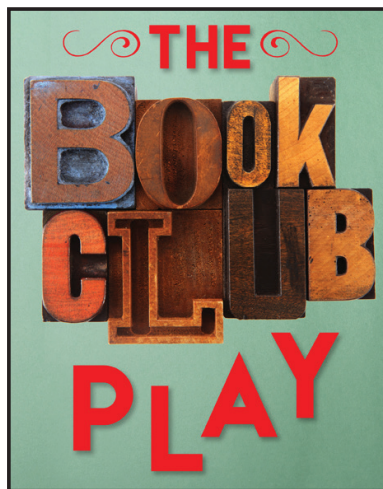
Our Port Townsend Public Library makes it easy—and fun—to join a book club or keep the one you're in supplied with great books for discussion. The library sponsors its own book club, the **Book Lovers' Café**, which is open to everyone and meets on the first Monday of each month. The readings alternate between fiction and nonfiction and typically include one classic and one biography per year. Members read the Community Read selection together, and sometimes they take field trips that tie into their reading. This month, for example, members plan to see Key City Public Theatre's *The Book Club Play* together. A few other book clubs also hold their meetings at the library.

In addition, the library stocks sturdy plastic totes filled with ten copies of titles that Library Director Melody Sky Eisler and her staff have chosen or titles others have suggested. No more scrambling to get enough copies for your whole club. You'll no doubt find unfamiliar titles that foster terrific discussion, such as *Rosalie Edge*, *Hawk of Mercy*, by Dyana Furmansky (reviewed in our fall 2016 newsletter) or *Tale for the Time Being*, by Ruth Ozeki (reviewed spring 2015). You'll also find classics like *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Brontë, and well-known works like *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman (another of his novels reviewed this issue).

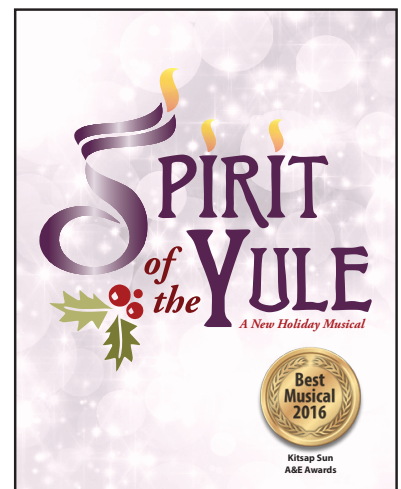
These **Book Club Kits** circulate through both the Jefferson County and Port Townsend libraries, and you check them out just as you would a single book—but for two whole months. The libraries stock more than 110

different titles as kits, including a few young adult and children's books; at last count, 34 kits were checked out. Each library's website not only explains how the system works, but also has plenty of resources for book clubs and anyone seeking ideas on what to read and more. Check out www.ptpubliclibrary.org/ResearchTools/BooksAndReaders.html.

Director Melody dreams of compiling a list of all the book clubs in Port Townsend; they "build cultural capital," she says. One day, she hopes, each book club kit will include discussion guides and facilitators' guides for how to start, lead, and sustain a club. "The beauty of book clubs is that they push you out of your own reading comfort zone and bring people together from all walks of life to talk about reading." With Port Townsend's dozens, maybe scores, of book clubs, another benefit might be that we'll all live longer, too! ☞



Oct 4-21



Nov 30-Dec 23

Live theatre...
Such a NOVEL idea!



www.keycitypublictheatre.org

What Friends Are Reading

◆ *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry*

Fredrik Backman (2016)

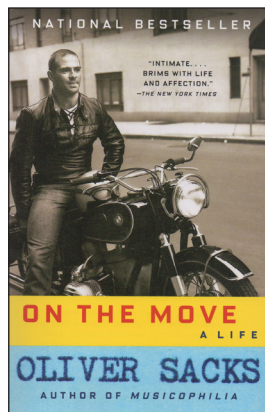
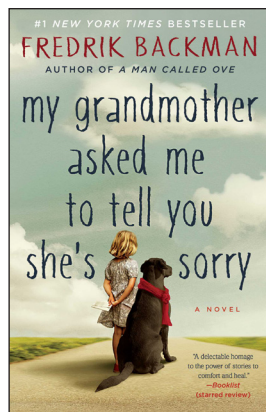
With its charming title and equally endearing cover, I couldn't pass up this book by an author whom I love. I feel as if Backman takes me to live with all his quirky, unique characters. First there was the depressed old curmudgeon in *A Man Called Ove*, and then the obsessive-compulsive estranged wife in *Britt-Marie Was Here*. In this new story, precocious Elsa ("seven going on eight") has no friends except for her aging and cantankerous grandmother, who serves as her guide to the Land-of-Almost-Awake, creating a dreamscape of fairy tales, magic, and adventure that comforts them both when life is difficult.

Granny knows her death will shatter Elsa's life. So before she dies, she leaves a series of letters, apologizing to all those she felt she had offended or hurt somehow, and tasks Elsa with delivering the letters. Once Elsa takes on this journey, she learns about Granny's hidden past, the surprising connections among the people who lived next door to one another, true friendship, and how to deal with grief and death.

Granny passed on so many words of wisdom, but this passage was my favorite: "Sorrow and loss are constant, but if we all had to go through our whole lives carrying them the whole time, we wouldn't be able to stand it. The sadness would paralyze us. So in the end we just pack it into bags and find somewhere to leave it."

Backman exquisitely weaves together the seemingly ordinary group of neighbors with the extraordinary and imaginary worlds and characters in the fairytales as told by Granny. In the end, it all comes together in a way I never anticipated.

Our library has five of Backman's books available to check out. —Ellen Dustman



◆ *Gratitude*

Oliver Sacks (2015)

◆ *On the Move: A Life*

Oliver Sacks (2015)

Some thirty years ago, a fellow professor suggested that Oliver Sacks's *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* offered outstanding examples for us to use in our courses on the scientific essay. Sadly, I did not heed her advice.

Then suddenly, in 2015, an op-ed—one of four essays later collected in *Gratitude*—appeared in the *New York Times*: "[M]y luck has run out," it read. I was shocked to see Oliver Sacks's byline. "[A] few weeks ago," he went on, "I learned that I have multiple metastases in the liver. ... This does not mean I am finished with life. On the contrary ... [but] I shall no longer look at the *NewsHour* every night. I shall no longer pay any attention to politics or arguments about global warming." That he so matter-of-factly disengaged from these everyday activities, much a part of my own life, left me in tears.

By his own characterization, Sacks was "a man of vehement disposition, with violent enthusiasms, and extreme immoderation in all [his] passions." His memoir, *On the Move*, which was completed just before his terminal cancer diagnosis, resonates with all these traits.

In place of the skinny, bespectacled, writerly neuroscientist I had pictured three decades ago, I discovered a record-setting weightlifter with immoderate passions for motorcycles, people, swimming, music, his patients, and writing. He wrote all the time and in any place—on the roof of his car, atop Machu Picchu, in a train, in his study, and on his deathbed. He leaves behind an opus of more than a dozen major books. And none of them can ever be mistaken for or tossed aside like a hat. —Ellen W. Chu



TERRAPIN ARCHITECTURE^{PC}

Richard Berg, Principal Architect
Amy I. Dahlberg and Tamara Halligan, Associates

◆ ***Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*
And Other Lessons from the Crematory**

Caitlin Doughty (2015)

◆ ***The End of Your Life Book Club***

Will Schwalbe (2013)

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes is a narrative about the crematory business, written by a young woman who initially takes a job at one because she has an idea for a fancy funeral boutique. Her thoughts about her life's work change, however, as she begins to understand the many ways our culture has distorted the phenomena of death and dying. While the author's descriptions from the crematory are graphic at times and more detailed than our culture is used to, I nevertheless discovered the stories to be not just informative but entertaining: I found myself actually laughing out loud throughout the book. Doughty brings a clear and irreverent eye to the funeral industry, speaking thoughtfully, knowledgeably, and candidly about this last transition facing us all.

Just before I finished *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, the e-book version of *The End of Your Life Book Club*, which I'd put on hold earlier, became available. Schwalbe tells the true story of his mother's last few months of life, reporting on books they read and conversations they had, often while his mother was undergoing chemotherapy.

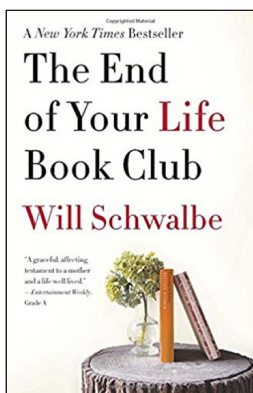
A list of all the books Will

and his mother discussed appears at the end.

Initially, the book seems to be a loving expression of the relationship between a mother and son and the lifetime of experiences they shared. But as Mary Ann Schwalbe's story unfolds, the reader quickly learns what a remarkable woman she was throughout her life. As a career woman, she was a highly respected academic administrator; later she became a very well thought of and resourceful humanitarian, who left behind a legacy of important accomplishments. Will Schwalbe is a gifted writer who brings the reader into his mother's story and makes me regret not knowing about her while she was alive. She was a kind and caring woman, truly interested in the world and everyone she met.

As it turns out, reading these titles back-to-back was a most interesting and compelling juxtaposition. Many of the books Will and his mother read together are now on my own reading wish list. And I highly recommend both titles.

—Fran Post



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Proclamation

Whereas, Friends of the Port Townsend Library raise money that enables our library to offer programs and events beyond what the City budget can do, including Community Read, author talks, teen activities, summer reading programs, the Book Lovers' Café book club, Books for Babies, and children's storytimes; and

Whereas, the work of the Friends continually highlights the fact that our City's Public Library is the cornerstone of our community, providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of lifelong learning and to connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from past to present; and

Whereas, the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our citizens are aware of the wide variety of services available to all ages, including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers' advisory, and children's services; and

Whereas, the Friends' gift of time and commitment to the City's Public Library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community; and

Whereas, October 15–21 is designated as National Friends of Libraries week by the American Library Association;

Now, therefore, I, Deborah Stinson, Mayor of the City of Port Townsend, do hereby proclaim **October 15–21, 2017**, as

Friends of the Library Week

and urge everyone to visit the City's Public Library, stop by the Friends' table to learn more, and thank them for all they do to make our library and community the best they can be. ∞

We Can Always Welcome More Friends!

Name _____

☐ New member

☐ Renewing

Address _____

Member donation

☐ \$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.

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. Member donations 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

Thanks, New and Renewing Friends

We so appreciate all our members of the Friends of the Port Townsend Library who renew each year. We could provide neither the quality nor the quantity of our library programming without you. Please welcome our new members listed below, who have joined since May 2017.

If you aren't yet a member, all the information you need to sign up is right on this page. Or sign up right at the book sale on Saturday, October 7. Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. We look forward to welcoming you!

Patricia Barrett	Lynn Marlow
Luan & Chuck	Patrick Muckleroy
Borgeson	Betsy Pendergast
Debbie Burk	Barbara Sjolholm
John Delaney	Maryann Tapire
Susan Hall	Deborah Vanderbilt
Paul Jacobson	Barbara Yocom
Russell Lewis	Paula Zimmerman
Cherri Mann	

Much Gratitude to Our Business Sponsors

So many worthwhile local organizations rely on our merchants for support. So when anyone of them becomes a business sponsor of the Friends, we are very grateful. Please visit their websites, and support them by sending your business their way. And join us in thanking them for being library supporters!

Key City Public Theatre,

keycitypublictheatre.org

Ranie Keithahn, ranie@olympus.net

Sound Storage, sound-storage.com/port-townsend

Terrapin Architecture, Richard Berg,

terrapinarchitecture.com

Wallyworks Enterprises, Malcom Dorn,

wallyworks.net

Waterbirth Solutions, waterbirthsolutions.com

Yoga Port Townsend, Heather Sky,

yogaporttownsend.com

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FRIENDS OF THE PORT TOWNSEND LIBRARY
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

BOOK SALE
Uptown Community Center
October 7, 2017
Last sale of the year!



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 to join the board, please e-mail us at friendsofptlibrary@gmail.com.

Board Members

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