

## **Priscilla Gilman Speaks about The Anti-Romantic Child**

On Saturday, January 14th at 4 pm, Priscilla Gilman will discuss her book *The Anti-Romantic Child: A Story of Unexpected Joy*. It's a memoir about her experience raising her son Benj, who was diagnosed with a variety of special needs – including a rare disorder called hyperlexia – when he was about three. Ms. Gilman, herself the daughter of literary parents, is a former academic, a Wordsworth scholar with Romantic expectations for her son's childhood. Her memoir is both inspiring and practical; her talk will be of interest to parents – especially parents of “special needs” children – but also to teachers and to anyone who is interested in the balance between heart and brain. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Note: this event was originally scheduled for last September and had to be postponed.

## **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jazz in January and Dinner**

Hibernation is for bears, not people. Join us on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Jazz in January and Dinner. This year's music performers will be Bob Parker and his Jive by Five Band playing New Orleans jazz. A fabulous dinner prepared for you by the G.R.I.T.S (Girls Raised in the South) and the Friends of the Library will feature southern favorites such as shrimp gumbo and pecan pie.

Tickets are \$20 per person. A cash bar is available with wine at \$4 per glass and beer at \$3 per glass. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Library or by calling 860-672-6874. Proceeds will benefit the Library's programs for children. Don't miss this sumptuous evening for the palate and the soul!

## **A New Year, A New Look: Website and Newsletter**

The Cornwall Library is launching a new website to bring in 2012. With significant streamlining and updating of the former website, the site now boasts a more logical organization, clean-looking pages with less copy, and a banner of eye-catching photos.

Cara Weigold, graphic artist and web master for the Library, devoted countless hours to designing, editing, and even occasionally writing the copy. Using a periwinkle blue as the background to the white pages, building The Cornwall Library logo with complementary colors, and creating a continuously dissolving selection of photographs for the banner, Weigold has managed to build an extremely user-friendly site. Visitors can check their Library account for due dates, download e-books, read about acquisitions, and see what's new or what's happening at the Library in Cornwall Village.

Cornwall resident Lazlo Gyorsok, a retired housepainter and gifted photographer, contributes to the dazzling look of the new website. His photographs capture the bright, naturally lit Library interior with its soaring ceiling and dynamic cross-beams and convey the warm and contemporary spirit of a building considered by many to be the heart of the town.

Cornwall Library director Amy Cady says, "We have wanted to bring our web site up to date for several years, and now, thanks to Cara and Lazlo, and other Library volunteers and staff members, the site truly expresses what the Library is and what it offers."

If you haven't looked at the Library's website recently, check it out: <http://www.cornwalllibrary.org>. And starting with this issue, the newsletter has been redesigned to echo the website.

### **Art at The Library**

The exhibit featuring large-scale photographs of flowers and birds by the late Harriette Dorsen continues through January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Beginning January 24<sup>th</sup>, Erica Prud'homme will exhibit a selection of her recent paintings.

### **Notes From the Book Selection Committee**

After many, many Decembers the Book Selection Committee has concluded that the unexpressed exasperation of the holiday season will find somewhere to explode in the first few days of the New Year. Scrooge and the Grinch have given the holiday-averse a bad name, but in fact December offers much to be annoyed by: the crowds, the bombardment by rich and naughty food, the impossibility of knowing what day of the week it is when you've had three virtual Sundays in a row.

And the explosion? The Book Selection Committee is likely to lash out viciously against two holiday customs: making New Year's resolutions and making lists of the Ten Best Something of the old year. Faugh! The Book Selection Committee has had it with resolutions. Formed in the commotion of the waning year, they tend to frizzle and shrink in the deflating quiet of early January. As for the Ten Best Something, the Book Selection Committee wonders why people are forever *ranking* things. Can't they just *enjoy* them?

That said, we certainly hope you have had enough good reading experiences to choose your own Ten Best Books of 2011. Now here's an (unranked) list of books new to the Library in the past month for you to consider as we await the next Book Selection Committee meeting, where we resolve to select the first batch of 2012. A hopeful and literate New Year to all.

## FICTION

P. D. James, *Death Comes to Pemberley* A murder at the stately home of the Darcys, Fitzwilliam and Elizabeth, makes it possible for Baroness James to catch up with many old friends from *Pride and Prejudice*.

Stephen King, *11/22/63* Not an alternative history of what would have happened if JFK had not been assassinated, but the gripping story of a man who time-travels in order to try to stop Lee Harvey Oswald.

Helen Oyeyemi, *Mr. Fox* Mr. Fox is a writer who likes to kill women – the women who appear in his fiction. When he and his Muse enter into a story-telling competition, they invent barbed fairy tales with much to say about the relations between men and women.

Amos Oz, *Scenes from Village Life* Linked short stories set in an Israeli village become a kind of Middle Eastern *Winesburg, Ohio*. A dark and beautiful book.

## NON-FICTION

Harry Belafonte, *My Song: A Memoir* From an impoverished childhood in Harlem and Jamaica to the U. S. Navy in World War Two to the world of entertainment, and on to political and social activism – an admirable American life.

Neil MacGregor, *A History of the World in 100 Objects* The objects appear in handsome photographs; the text looks at each one as a window into the time that produced it, from a Stone Age tool to a credit card.

Robert Massie, *Catherine the Great* This empress of all the Russias described her lover Potemkin as “one of the great originals of the age,” a title that easily applies to her. Massie is a spellbinding biographer.

Simon Sebag Montefiore, *Jerusalem: The Biography* A British reviewer called this a “compendious and fleet-footed history” of the glorious golden city.

### **Meetings**

The Friends of the Library will meet on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

The Book Selection Committee will meet Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

The Board of Trustees will meet Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.