



The Cornwall Library Newsletter • October 2008

Changing of the Guard

On September 12, the Board of Trustees gave a fond farewell to five of its members. Louise Dunn was president of the board, Ann Schillinger was vice-president and Walter Malone treasurer. Roxana Laughlin, Julie Schieffelin and Ann Schillinger each served six year terms.

Four new trustees were welcomed: Mary Ellen Geisser, Ed Greene. Ania Hubbard, and Franny Taliaferro. New officers of the Board are: Barton Jones, president, Jim Sheffield, vice-president, Ed Greene, treasurer. Pam Jones remains as secretary.

Columbus Day Book Sale

The Library's Columbus Weekend Book Sale begins on Saturday, October 11 (see next page for schedule). Anyone wanting to help with book sorting is welcome October 6-9 from 1-4 pm at the Library. Books can be dropped off through October 9. Please, no magazines, *Readers Digest* condensed books, textbooks or encyclopedias.

Ghastly Ghouls and Goblins

Kids! Doooo yooooo remember what house you trick-or-treated last Halloween? Come to the Library between 10/10-11/15 to view Virginia Pierrepont's show, *Behind the Scene on Hallowe'en*: strobe photographs of all the monster activity around No. 10 Pine Street. There will be a fun-filled grand reception at the Library on October 31

from 5-7 pm.

— E. M.

Notes from the Book Selection Committee

We live in the Era of Book Groups. Most of them seem to be peopled by women, but men have been known to form them and to take appropriate manly pleasure in them. The premise, of course, is that everyone has to be willing to read the same thing and then talk about it; opinion is divided as to whether the experience is literary or social.

Some dedicated readers respond to the literary aspect but can't be bothered with the conversational part: two hours of book chat is just too big a chunk out of life. For these readers, a short, spontaneous burst of literary conversation is just the thing: it can happen pretty much anywhere and it's appealingly charged with enthusiasm, as when your friend rushes up and says, "You've got to read —" The only caution is that you have to trust the friend's literary judgment.

Here are three new books that have been recommended to the Book Selection Committee by Unimpeachable Sources. — *Old Masters, New World: America's Raid on Europe's Great Paintings* by Cynthia Saltzman. This fascinating history traces the pursuit of great art by such Gilded Age collectors as Henry Clay Frick, Pierpont Morgan and Isabella Stewart Gardner, and the development of the great museums that were their

beneficiaries. The cast of characters is just as colorful as the provenance of their acquisitions.

– *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. “Delightful” is the adjective most often used to describe this short novel about the German occupation of Guernsey during WWII. Library Journal called it “a warm, funny, tender, and thoroughly entertaining celebration of the power of the written word.”

– *Atmospheric Disturbances* by Rivka Galchen. The plot of this novel is hard to summarize: it begins with a psychiatrist’s conviction that his real wife has been replaced by a “simulacrum.” The friend who recommended it agrees with the reviewers that it’s not only a little weird but also “dazzling” and “enthraling.”
– F. T.

Annual Appeal Letter

Libraries everywhere are finding it difficult to stay open. How disturbing! Libraries are where Americans go to exercise their freedom to read and think without censorship or constraint; they

provide information, enlightenment and

EXHIBITS, PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Columbus Day Weekend Book Sale

Saturday, October 11: Early Bird 9–10 am with \$10 entrance fee; full-price regular sale from 10 am to 4 pm. *Sunday, October 12:* half-price day, 10 am - 3 pm. *Monday, October 13:* Bag sale 10 am - 2 pm.

Reading and Book Signing

Saturday, October 25 at 4 pm: Chris Webber will read from his new book,

even entertainment. The Cornwall Library, one of 123,291 public, academic and school libraries in the United States, is dependent upon the generosity of those who believe that libraries everywhere are places to explore opportunities, enrich your life, access knowledge and represent the future of freedom.

So, please give as generously as you are able. Thank you. – A.W-C.

Cornwall Greeting Cards on Sale

In response to the overwhelmingly positive reaction to last year’s exhibit of local photographers’ favorite spots in town, the library has made greeting cards of six images which will be offered for sale starting with the Columbus Day Weekend Book Sale. The cards feature photographs by M. L. Dahl, Art Gingert, Wendy Kennedy, Martha Loutfi, Ray Olsen, and Tim Prentice, who have generously donated the use of their work. Sites depicted include the North Cornwall Church, the Covered Bridge, farm buildings, and scenes of nature and the Housatonic River. The set of six cards costs \$14, with individual cards \$3 each. All sales benefit the Library. – P.D.A.

An American Prayer Book.

Hallowe’en Festivities

Friday, October 31: Grand reception for *Behind the Scene on Hallowe’en.* 5–7 pm. Neighborhood Trick or Treating at the Library from 5 – 8 pm.

Meeting Schedule

The Board of Trustees will meet at 3 pm on October 10.

The Cornwall Library

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