

# FOSL

## News



Winter 2019

*Hibernating hedgehog*

## Planning ahead

These six events provide an exciting array for the residents of Shepherdstown and surrounding areas. Poetry, Music, Books, Community Gatherings and Refreshments, Golf, Skits, Political Satire and Sacajawea! These events provide many ways to show your support for the Shepherdstown Public Library, the community and arts and entertainment. They also provide a way to get involved, make new friends, and meet your neighbors as they each provide a wealth of opportunities to volunteer! Let us know if you are interested in assisting with any of these events. Points of contact and contact information provided below. Proceeds from the four fundraisers below fund programs and materials for the Shepherdstown Public Library.

- **February 15, 2020** -- First FOSL Community Gathering to be held at the War Memorial Building 102 E. German Street. This new event will provide an opportunity to meet the community and the Shepherdstown Public Library staff, get the latest on the new Library and support our Membership Drive! We will provide more details as they develop. Stay Tuned!
- **April 2020** -- Left of the Bank returns! Our first fundraiser of the year is a magical evening of poetry and music. Guests will enjoy tantalizing appetizers, delectable desserts, and beer and wine. Featured will be a selection of poetic talent, interspersed with music, all tied together by our MC Ed Zahniser. Poets will be announced at a later date. The venue returns to Casa Carlos e Isabel at 202 S. Princess Street. For additional information, or to volunteer with publicity, set-up, providing food, serving and clean up, contact Ray Sibley at [risibley@yahoo.com](mailto:risibley@yahoo.com).
- **May 4 - 10, 2020** -- Annual FOSL Booksale. Our second fundraiser of the year.
  - Monday - Friday, May 4 thru 8 -- Set Up at the War Memorial Building, 102 E German Street.
  - Friday May 8 -- Preview and Reception (\$10),
  - Saturday 5/9 and Sunday 5/10 -- Book Sale and Cleanup.
  - FOSL is already collecting books in preparation for this event. Contact Ross Patterson at [ross.patterson@gmail.com](mailto:ross.patterson@gmail.com) or Agnes Freund at [afreund@comcast.net](mailto:afreund@comcast.net) if you have books to donate. Let Ross know if you are interested in helping with set-up, the reception, the sale dates or clean-up.
- **Late September 2020** -- Golf Scramble. The Golf Scramble, our third fundraiser of the year, is a fun event for golfers of any skill level to enjoy lunch, dinner and an afternoon on the Cress Creek Golf Course while supporting the Shepherdstown Public Library! Lots of sponsorship and volunteer

opportunities for FOSL members who would like to get involved. Contact the Library Development Specialist, Lee Ann Warner at [leeann.warner@martin.lib.wv.us](mailto:leeann.warner@martin.lib.wv.us) or Scramble Coordinator Marty Amerikaner at [amerikan@marshall.edu](mailto:amerikan@marshall.edu).

- **October 20** -- History Alive! In conjunction with the History Alive! program of the West Virginia Humanities Council, FOSL is proud to present Sacajawea as portrayed by actress Mary Dailey. Sacajawea traveled with Lewis and Clark and helped lead these explorers across the country to the Pacific coast in 1804 (an expedition of discovery of the lands between the Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean) with a baby on her back! For more information or to volunteer with publicity, set-up, providing snacks or beverages, or assisting with clean up, please contact Pat DiDonato at [patadidonato@gmail.com](mailto:patadidonato@gmail.com). The program is free and open to the public.
- **Rumsey Radio Hour** -- A perennial favorite, this is Shepherdstown's version of National Public Radio's *Prairie Home Companion* and is our fourth and final fundraiser of the year. It features comedy, political satire and even more music this year with a full array of old-time radio sound effects. There will be a star-studded cast with many of this area's most well-known artists and performers. If interested in supporting this year's show with publicity, ushering, providing food for the performers or wine and snacks for the Saturday evening talk back with the cast, contact Ray Sibley at [risibley@yahoo.com](mailto:risibley@yahoo.com) or Sandy Brown at [sandy.brown@teachforamerica.org](mailto:sandy.brown@teachforamerica.org). Date - TBD.



## December 2019 at the Shepherdstown Library

**Dec. 1 through 23:** Children's books in celebration of the Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa may be borrowed in the Library's Children's Department through Monday, December 23.

**Dec. 1 through 27:** Support the Shepherdstown Library's New Library Project by buying one or more raffle tickets (for your chance to win a 20-year-old bottle of bourbon) at Shepherdstown Liquors (202 E. Washington St.) where the winning ticket will be drawn on December 27. Must be 21 or older.

**Dec. 3 and 4:** The Library's popular children's programs continue weekly through December 4 and resume in January; no registration is required. "Lap Babies" for children birth through 18 months will be on Tuesday, December 4 from 10:15 to 11 a.m. "Time for Twos" (19 months to 3 years) meets from 11:15 to noon on Tuesday, December 4. The "Three to Fives" program will be on Wednesday, December 4 from 11:15 to noon. For more information call (304) 876-2783, or email [fish.wiggs@martin.lib.wv.us](mailto:fish.wiggs@martin.lib.wv.us).

**Thurs. Dec. 5:** A LEGO Club for local homeschoolers ages four and older will be held in the Shepherdstown Library's Children's Department at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 5, followed by a LEGO Club at 4:30 p.m. that day for non-homeschoolers, four and older. No registration is needed. For details, email [splchild@martin.lib.wv.us](mailto:splchild@martin.lib.wv.us) or call the Library at (304) 876-2783.

**Fri. Dec. 6:** The FOSL Book Club will meet at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 6 in the Shepherdstown Library to discuss The Memory of Old Jack by Wendell Berry, reviewed as "a slab of rich Americana."

**Sat. Dec. 7:** Families participate in the town's annual Christmas parade on Saturday, December 7: Shepherdstown Library supporters are asked to meet the librarian on Church Street at 9:45 a.m. Feel free to dress in festive clothes and decorate your strollers, wagons, and bikes; the parade begins at 10 a.m.

**Wed. Dec. 11:** The Board of the Shepherdstown Library will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 11 starting at 7 p.m. in the Library. This meeting is open to the public.

**Sat. Dec. 14:** Children of all ages are invited to a story time with activities at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 14 in the Shepherdstown Library's Children's Department. For more information, call or visit the Library, or email [tish.wiggs@martin.lib.wv.us](mailto:tish.wiggs@martin.lib.wv.us). No registration is needed.

**Thurs. Dec. 19:** There will be a homeschool story time with a craft for ages five and older on Thursday, December 19 at 1 p.m. in the Shepherdstown Library's Children's Department. No registration is needed; email [tish.wiggs@martin.lib.wv.us](mailto:tish.wiggs@martin.lib.wv.us) or call (304) 876-2783 for details.

**Thurs. Dec. 19:** The film *Brave* (93 min., PG) will be shown at 5 p.m. in the Shepherdstown Library's Children's Department on Thursday, December 19: feel free to bring allergen-free snacks and wear pajamas. Email [tish.wiggs@martin.lib.wv.us](mailto:tish.wiggs@martin.lib.wv.us) or call (304) 876-2783 for more information.

**Sat. Dec. 21:** A LEGO Club for ages four and older will be held in the Shepherdstown Library's Children's Department at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 21. For more information call (304) 876-2783, email [splchild@martin.lib.wv.us](mailto:splchild@martin.lib.wv.us) or visit the Library at 100 E. German St.; no registration is required.

by Anne Eden



## NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

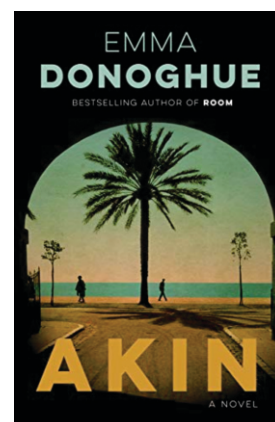
### WINTER 2019

The Shepherdstown Public Library has ordered some more new books for you. Some of those listed here may not have arrived yet. We are not always able to include all the new books, so be sure and check out the New Book Cart in the Library.

Fiction titles are listed first, followed by non-fiction. Titles in both categories are listed alphabetically except when two books by the same author are placed together.

#### FICTION

*Akin*, by Emma Donoghue. The author of the best seller *Room* tells another story of a child and an adult thrown together in difficult circumstances. Retired chemistry professor Noah is about to embark on his first trip back to France, where he hopes to find some answers about his family and childhood. Then he is informed that his 11-year-old great-nephew Michael, whom he has never met, is in dire need of a guardian. He agrees to take Michael on the trip to France, with considerable misgiving on both parts.



*Clockwork Man*, by E.V. Odle. Originally published in 1923, this book features possibly the first Cyborg, a fusion of man and clockwork. The Cyborg accidentally returns to the early 20th century from 8000 years in the future. This short book is amusing and disturbing and intended to be a cautionary tale about the impact of machines on humankind.

The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett. This rich, warm-hearted, though dark, novel explores the relationship between a brother and sister. The two are brought up in the lavish "Dutch House" with expectations of wealth from their very successful father. In the years after their stepmother expels them from the house after their father's death they can never quite leave behind the life they lost.

Girl, Woman, Other, by Bernadine Evaristo. Evaristo's novel "received half a Booker Prize, but it deserves all the glory . . . A breathtaking symphony of black women's voices, a clear-eyed survey of contemporary challenges that's nevertheless wonderfully life-affirming . . . Together, all these women present a cross-section of Britain that feels godlike in its scope and insight." Ron Charles, Washington Post.

The Grammarians, by Cathleen Schine. Identical twins are born with a love of language. They start creating a secret language as toddlers and are passionate about dictionaries. Their common interests make them inseparable. However, in adulthood, they begin to see their beloved words differently. One works to preserve the dignity of standard English; the other becomes fascinated with the changing nature of words. Their relationship begins to change. It's a captivating, wry and very funny novel.

Imaginary Friend, by Stephen Chbosky. Described as a haunting and creepy horror story, this long-awaited book demonstrates Chbosky's mastery of literary horror. A small boy goes missing and comes back with a strange and compelling voice in his head. He is instructed to build a tree house or else his mother and the other townspeople will suffer. A reviewer calls this book a "page-turning meditation on human suffering." (Washington Post)

The Quaker, by Liam McIlvanney. A serial killer is stalking Glasgow in the midst of a frigid winter. Detective Inspector Duncan McCormack, a non-Glaswegian who is new to the force, finds himself at odds with his colleagues as they pursue what he thinks is a false trail. The Toronto Star says this is "gorgeously written."

## NON-FICTION

Accusation: Blood Libel in an American Town, by Edward Berenson. When a little girl disappeared in the small town of Massena, New York in 1928, false allegations of "blood libel"—ritual murder by Jews—arose among the locals. Blood libel was unheard of in most of the United States, but both Christians and Jews had emigrated to Massena from Eastern and Central Europe. In those areas, such allegations were, unfortunately, common. Historian Berenson, a native of Massena, connects the sad story to today.

Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth, by Rachel Maddow. The Washington Post says: "At its heart, this book is a tale of two countries, the United States and Russia, and how, as Maddow sees it—individually and together—they have been warped by a rapacious fossil fuel industry. . . . Fulminating comes easy to Rachel Maddow. What sets her apart from other serial fulminators is that she does it with facts—and sardonic wit."

Breathe: A Letter to My Sons, by Imani Perry. The author reflects on her own youth as an African American girl, on trauma and resourcefulness, but also on everyday family activities. In the process, she makes a case for compassion for both parents and children navigating a difficult world and calls for action to protect and defend children, especially the most vulnerable ones.



Gods of the Upper Air: How a Circle of Renegade Anthropologists Reinvented Race, Sex, and Gender in the Twentieth Century, by Charles King. Historian King tells the story of the development of cultural anthropology and the people who created it. Led by Columbia University professor Franz Boas, the revolutionary group included Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict, Ella Deloria, and Zora Neale Hurston. Together they changed the way people look at identity.

A Guest of the Reich: The Story of American Heiress Gertrude Legendre's Dramatic Captivity and Escape from Nazi Germany, by Peter Finn. Legendre was a larger-than-life heiress from South Carolina, a big game hunter, and adventurer. After Pearl Harbor, she volunteered for the OSS, predecessor to the CIA, serving in Washington and London. In 1944, she visited liberated Paris, but was captured by the Germans. She responded to her many interrogations with a tangle of lies. She also ended up with a first-hand view of the crumbling of Nazi Germany. And then she escaped. A dramatic story!

The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution, by Eric Foner. The preeminent historian of Reconstruction explores the history of the constitutional amendments approved after the Civil War and their erosion over the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The amendments abolished slavery, gave black men the right to vote, and established due process and equal protection under the law for all. Foner calls these amendments and related legislation the "second founding" of the United States. After Reconstruction, in his view, the Supreme Court and southern state governments, having decided that the amendments were ill-judged and destructive, felt justified in vitiating them.

Syria's Secret Library: Reading and Redemption In a Town Under Siege, by Mike Thomson. BBC reporter Thomson reveals the remarkable story of a small town on the outskirts of Damascus during 4 years of siege. Below the rubble and explosions of their besieged city, a group of citizens created a library with books salvaged from the rubble at considerable risk. It's the story of people who found hope in preserving a haven of culture, but it also illuminates the horrors of the Syrian Civil War.

So this year is fading into history and hope is rising for a better more peaceful one to come. What has not changed, if not grown with the imminent birth of our new Library is the need for our continued support.

Please remember that FOSL's fiscal year ends December 31 and membership renewals are therefore due starting January 1. We know that causes are many, on-going and urgent. Perhaps none is more so where our community is concerned than providing the services of a modern Library to the many whose access to real information is limited. Please help us give this gift to our area by renewing your membership (tax deductible) at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

*Hear ye, hear ye...*

**Shepherdstown Public Library and  
Shepherdstown Liquors Announce Another  
Fantastic Raffle of Pappy Van Winkle's 20-Year  
Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey**

Shepherdstown Public Library and Shepherdstown Liquors are teaming up again this year to give bourbon enthusiasts an exclusive opportunity to obtain a rare bottle of Pappy Van Winkle 20-year Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey valued at over \$2,000. This raffle, unlike any other, is an incredible opportunity to obtain what is arguably the most sought-after bourbon on the planet. A raffle ticket (or more) for that special someone is the ideal holiday gift!

Raffle tickets are \$10 each and available for purchase now at Shepherdstown Liquors located at 202 East Washington Street in Shepherdstown. The raffle will continue until the winning ticket is drawn on Friday, December 27, 2019.

Proceeds will support the new Shepherdstown Public Library project. All ticket purchasers must certify they are at least 21 years of age.





*Whatever you  
celebrate this season,  
may it be with joy  
and may the new year  
bring us all health,  
peace and  
understanding.*





December 2019

[www.foslwv.org](http://www.foslwv.org)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Name: (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mails for newsletter: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Level

- ☐ Nobel level: \$150 and up
- ☐ Pulitzer level: \$100 to \$149
- ☐ PEN/Faulkner Level: \$50 to \$99
- ☐ Hugo Level: \$15 to \$49
- ☐ Newbery Level: \$10 (student rate)

#### Help at FOSL events

FOSL sponsors a number of fundraising and literary events throughout the year. Volunteers are needed at all of them for a variety of tasks.

- ☐ DONATE SPECIFIC SKILLS – Whether it's computers or graphics or something else, whatever the skill, let us know if you are willing to lend it to help FOSL
- ☐ PROVIDE BAKED GOODS OR REFRESHMENTS for FOSL events
- ☐ LIBRARY VOLUNTEER – Due to the scope and size of library activities, the library positions are limited at this time. Please contact the library for information regarding volunteer opportunities.
- ☐ FINANCIAL SUPPORTER EXCLUSIVELY - You will still receive the newsletter, but are not interested in being an active volunteer.

**Please fill out Membership and Renewal Form, include check and return to the library or mail to  
FOSL, P. O. Box 278, Shepherdstown WV 25443**



