



FOSL News

June 2019

You did it! *by Ross Patterson*

The 2019 Friends of Shepherdstown Library (FOSL) Spectacular Book Sale is complete! The financials were reported to the FOSL Board at its last meeting. The Friday night reception was about as busy as usual. 20 book dealers paid the admission fee and spent the entire 2 hours examining the books we had for sale, looking for good deals. There were also a few local residents who paid the fee and took advantage of the early access to the book sale. As usual, we took in about a third of the book sale revenue that night. Saturday was a good day. There were typically 25 to 35 people poring through the tables of books at any one time, for the full day. We raised even more on Saturday than on Friday evening, albeit spread over a longer time. Sunday was a bit of a disappointment. The morning rain kept attendance down at the book sale, and at the Shepherdstown Farmers Market, which we usually expect to bring people to the sale. Altogether, about 30 people worked on planning, publicizing, setting up, running, and tearing down the sale. Several young men with strong backs earned some spending money helping move all the cartons of books in and out of the War Memorial Building. The Shepherdstown Community Club was very helpful, both in terms of the facility and of some of their team volunteering at the book sale. FOSL also donated approximately 15 cartons of children's books through the Library to the Shepherdstown Day Care center and several local schools. Good people!

Take away from the Book Sale.

Shepherdstown still READS books. There was a flood of donations and a lesser but still gratifying flow of buyers, including this guilty party who had firmly resolved NOT to succumb. So only 15 volumes (including two children's books for great grandson, one cook book, some classic sci-fi, fiction and non-fiction) proved irresistible.

We were wondering whether our annual sale was worth doing any more, given the advent of the Internet and the scarcity of willing hands to haul, sort, and set up the books. The answer, clearly is a resounding "yes". The event raised a meaningful amount of funds for our Library, recirculated wonderful sources of info and entertainment, and provided another fun community event for all to enjoy. Finally, some of the books we did not sell found a happy way to usefulness. See below.

Ed.

Proof of the above, submitted by Donna Northhouse of Wildwood Middle School.

"Here's a photo taken by Mary Weyant, the librarian at Wildwood Middle School. She is very photo shy and couldn't be talked into switching places with me. Mary put out all the books (20 bags worth) on the library tables for teachers to pick. The art teacher took all the art books! In the photo is the head of the Language Arts Dept, Stephanie Cotterill. (from left to right) Stephanie Cotterill, Carlena Castro, Julius Bonner, and myself. The two students who helped carry in the books are eighth-graders, chosen because of their love of reading. They lead their class in the number of books read! Future FOSL's, I'd say!

Donna Northhouse



June 2019 at the Shepherdstown Library: “A Universe of Stories”

by Anne Eden

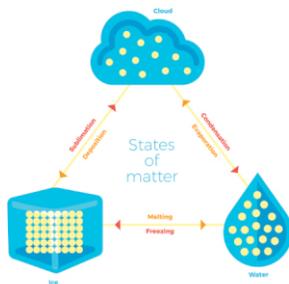
Thurs. Jun. 6: A LEGO Club for ages four and older will meet in the Shepherdstown Library's Children's Department (100 E. German St.) at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 6. No registration is needed. For details, email splchild@martin.lib.wv.us, tara.carlisle@martin.lib.wv.us, or call the Library at (304) 876-2783.



Fri., Jun. 7: The FOSL Book Club will meet at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 7 (rescheduled from May 31) in the Library to discuss Anne Tyler's A Spool of Blue Thread, which was nominated for the Booker Prize.

Sat., Jun. 8: Children of all ages are encouraged to join Miss Tara in the Children's Department for an 'out of this world' program at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 8: to listen to “A Universe of Stories,” sing songs, and enjoy an indoor scavenger hunt. No registration is needed.

There will also be a “Summer Reading Kickoff Carnival” on June 8 from 12 to 2 p.m. behind the Shepherdstown Library: enjoy face painting, activities, and popcorn. There will be free tote bags for the first 100 adults, and for the first 250 children and teens! Sign up, read (or be read to) and ages one through eighteen will earn weekly prizes from June 17 through August 3, plus a packet of prize coupons for their completed reading log. In addition to their weekly prizes, ages ten through eighteen will also receive one raffle ticket per week, for a chance to win a gift certificate from River Riders. Adults are invited to join our Facebook Reading Club group. Many thanks to FOSL for supporting our summer programs!



Tues., Jun. 11: The Maryland Science Center will offer experiments and demonstrations for children (ages five and older) to learn about the states of matter in the War Memorial Building (102 E. German St.) at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11. No registration is needed; doors open at 10:30

a.m.

Wed. Jun. 12: The Board of the Shepherdstown Library will meet on Wednesday, June 12 starting at 7 p.m. in the Library. This meeting is open to the public.

Mon., Jun. 17: A LEGO Club for ages four and older will meet in the Library's Children's Department (100 E. German St.) at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 17. No registration is needed.

Tues., Jun. 18: All ages are invited to 'rock out for summer reading' during “Music with Tony M.” on Tuesday, June 18 at 11 a.m. in the War Memorial Building (102 E. German St.; doors open at 10:30). No registration is needed. Visit <https://www.tonymusic.com> for a preview.

Thurs., Jun. 20: Infants through age three are invited to “Little Astronauts Story Time” in the Library's Children's Department on Thursday, June 20 at 11:15 a.m. For more information call (304) 876-2783; no registration is required.



Sat. June 22: Harry Potter fans ages ten through fourteen are encouraged to sign up for a 'Hogwarts at the Library' club: the sixth book in the series will be discussed from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 22 in the Library's Children's Department. Each month there will be a craft/activity, trivia questions and much more. Space is limited so pre-registration is required: call (304) 876-2783, email tara.carlisle@martin.lib.wv.us or visit 100 E. German St.

Mon., Jun. 24: A LEGO Club for ages four and older will meet in the Library's Children's Department at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 24. No registration is required.

Tues., June 25: "Critters and Conservation" is a live animal show for ages three and older at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25 in the War Memorial Building (102 E. German St.). Meet a European legless lizard, a Colombian tegu, a gray rat snake, a green Aracari Toucan, and a South American horned frog! No registration is needed; doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Thurs., Jun. 27: Infants through age three are invited to "Little Astronauts Story Time" in the Library's Children's Department on Thursday, June 27 at 11:15 a.m. No registration is needed.

Sat., Jun. 29: A LEGO Club for ages four and older will meet in the Library's Children's Department at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 29. No registration is required.

by Anne Eden

It is past due time to call our one of our unsung heroes.

This newsletter, like FOSL itself, is the product of a lot of dedicated volunteers who see the value of sharing all that is good in our community. One such is Vicki Smith who first served on the Board and then went on, for more years than I can accurately recall, to annotate the list of books recently acquired by the Library. We all owe her a huge debt of thanks. Ed.

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY SPRING 2019

The Shepherdstown Public Library has ordered some more new books. 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

The Age of Light, by Whitney Scharer. In her debut novel, Scharer tells a fictional story, based on fact, of Lee Miller, whose relationship with famed photographer Man Ray includes apprenticeship, partnership and a love affair. Lee has her own talent and drive, but she is also troubled by self-doubt. Miller pays a high price, but eventually finds her own way as an artist.

American Spy, by Lauren Wilkinson. A page-turner of an espionage novel, this breaks some new ground in terms of its focus on character and particularly thorny themes. It is set in Burkina Faso in the 1980's and involves the complicated, real character of Thomas Sankara, known as Africa's Che Guevara.

As Long as We Both Shall Live, by JoAnn Chaney. When Matt's wife Marie falls off a cliff, it seems to be a tragic accident. But his first wife died under suspicious circumstances, and the detectives start wondering if he is really a grieving husband. The twists and turns in the plot make this book very hard to put down.

The Atlas of Reds and Blues, by Devi S. Laskar. An American-born daughter of Bengali immigrants, only known as The Mother, faces discrimination at every turn. The author, a published poet, wrestles with the difficulties of being a second-generation immigrant in exquisite, lyrical prose.

Bangkok Wakes to Rain, by Pitchaya Sudbanthad. The author, who grew up in Thailand, Saudi Arabia, and the American South, tells the story of a rapidly evolving Thailand. The story starts in the 19th century, moves through the 20th, the 21st, and into the future. The sweeping tale provides a memorable reading experience.

The Bird King, by G. Willow Wilson. Set in the last days of Muslim rule in southern Spain, this is a historical fantasy about a young concubine and her friend who has fantastical powers. They get caught up in the drama of their turbulent time. Multiple reviewers said this book was a pleasure to read, beautifully written and well paced.

Bowlaway, by Elizabeth McCracken. This 20th century multi-generational story revolves around a Massachusetts candlepin bowling alley. (Candlepin is played mainly in Eastern Canada and New England and involves narrower pins.) It is a thoroughly oddball all-American novel with an epic cast of characters—joyful, sad, and very funny.

Careless Love, by Peter Robinson. The award-winning author has produced the 25th in his much-acclaimed police procedural series set in Yorkshire. Two suspicious deaths and the unforeseen return of an enemy challenge Detective Chief Inspector Banks and his team. This smart, civilized mystery about a fascinating man is a classic of its kind.

The Current, by Tim Johnston. In his second novel, the author of the much-praised *Descent* provides an even more compelling mystery. Two young women are found in a car in a frozen lake in Minnesota, one dead, one barely alive. It was not an accident. The survivor begins to find connections with an earlier event and eventually comes to realize that her hometown is not necessarily a safe place to be. Johnston combines a riveting story with a many-layered depiction of character and place.

The Dreamers, by Karen Thompson Walker. On a college campus in Southern California, a student falls

asleep and can't be awakened. So does another student, then another. Panic ensues. Doctors discover that the sleepers have higher levels of brain activity than have ever been recorded. The spellbinding narrative asks provocative questions about the line between dreams and reality.

Gingerbread, by Helen Oyeyemi. According to NPR, this novel "is an enchanting masterpiece by an author who's refreshingly unafraid to be joyful, and it proves that Oyeyemi is one of the best English-language authors in the world today."

The Last Romantics, by Tara Conklin. This tale of an American family is both broad and intimate, exploring many aspects of family bonds, from the joys to the duties we would rather skip to the inevitable conflicts. It is a graceful rendering of often-explored topics, approaching them with originality that makes the novel engrossing.

Lost Children Archive, by Valeria Luiselli. A family takes a road trip from New York to Arizona one hot summer, in the midst of today's roiling immigration issues. Told in different voices, the story is particularly effective in portraying the children. As the country is split over immigration, so the family appears to be splitting. It's a twist on the American road trip novel, spinning a fascinating and demanding tale.

The Lost Girls of Paris, by Pam Jenoff. Inspired by true events, this novel tells the stories of a group of women who served in dangerous roles as secret agents in Europe in WW II.

The Lost Man, by Jane Harper. Harper's latest thriller is set in Australia's outback, an appropriate setting for a tough family story. One of three brothers is found dead in an isolated part of their adjoining ranches. Brother Nathan delves into the family's brutal history to find out what happened. Threatening atmosphere, mysterious folklore, and family secrets make for a riveting page-turner.

The Obelisk Gate, by N.K. Jemisin. Second in the Broken Earth series, this novel is also a Hugo Award winner. NPR's reviewer says, "her [the author's] accomplishment in this series is tremendous. It pole-vaults over the expectations I had for what epic fantasy should be and stands in magnificent testimony to what it *could* be."

The Silent Patient, by Alex Michaelides. This debut novel is one of the great thrillers of the year, according to multiple reviewers. An artist wife and her fashion photographer husband apparently live the perfect life, except that one night, when he comes home late, she shoots him in the face five times. After that, she does not speak at all. She ends up in a secure facility where a criminal psychiatrist who is determined to find out why she shot her husband. In his obsession, he begins to discover his own demons. It's a spellbinding story full of grim complications.

Slave Old Man, by Patrick Chamoiseau and Linda Coverdale (translator). This story of an elderly slave who escapes into the wilds of Martinique and is relentlessly pursued by his master and his hound conveys the unique history of this French Caribbean island. Publisher's Weekly says "Chamoiseau's prose is astounding in its beauty. . . and he ups the stakes by making this novel a breathtaking thriller, as well."

Stalker, by Lars Kepler. Book 5 of the Swedish Joona Linna series begins with a young woman being videoed without her knowledge. Shortly thereafter, she is brutally murdered. And then another recording arrives. Reviewers compare Kepler favorably with Stieg Larsen.

The Stranger Inside, by Laura Benedict. A woman arrives home to find a stranger who has no connection

to her living in her house. Unfortunately, the stranger knows a secret that could upend her life. Full of haunting suspense, this thriller is also moving and elegant.

We Cast a Shadow, by Maurice Carlos Ruffin. This book "is like a dispatch from the frontlines of the African-American psyche. Written with ruthless intelligence, it's the story of a father's love and how he tries to protect his son in a country that devours black lives through violence, incarceration, and poverty. ." according to Renée Graham in *The Boston Globe*.

NON-FICTION

The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power, by Shoshana Zuboff. The author examines the challenges and dangers of the digital present and future. She specifically explores the efforts of large companies to collect personal information and their use of it to control human behavior.

American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic, by Victoria Johnson. This is the mostly unknown story of the doctor who accompanied Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr to their fateful duel. He was a mentor and teacher to many aspiring doctors, but his passions were botany and pharmacology. He created the first botanical garden in the new United States on the site of current-day Rockefeller Center and developed an astonishingly diverse collection of plants.

The Beekeeper of Sinjar, by Dunya Mikhail and Max Weiss (translator). Iraqi-American poet Mikhail reports the stories of Yazidi women abducted and abused by the Islamic State and of the women's heroic rescuers. This is a horrific saga, hard to read, but worth the effort.

Brothers of the Gun: A Memoir of the Syrian War, by Marwan Hisham and Molly Crabapple (illustrator). Hisham joined the opposition to Syria's Assad regime in the heady days of the Arab Spring only to see the rebellion become a destructive war. That war turned his friends and neighbors into refugees and his country into rubble. He became a journalist to report on what happened. His words are accompanied by evocative drawings by Molly Crabapple.

How to Love a Country: Poems, by Richard Blanco. Blanco's poems invite a conversation among Americans, tackling all the controversy, divisions, and contradictions, and struggling with the question for all Americans: how to love this country.

The Indian World of George Washington: The First President, the First Americans, and the Birth of the Nation, by Colin G. Calloway. The author examines the relationships between George Washington, the most prominent colonial and national leader of what became the United States, and most of the pivotal Native American leaders of the time. Calloway's lively prose and his expertise illuminate long-disregarded issues and relationships.

Is It Still Good to Ya?: Fifty Years of Rock Criticism, 1967-2017, by Robert Christgau. For 50 years, the rock critic of the *Village Voice* wrote reviews that were both admired and reviled. This collection reflects his omnivorous taste, strong views, and authoritative, if controversial, perspective.

Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland, by Patrick Radden Keefe. NY Times writer Keefe has created a thorough and absorbing portrait of Northern Ireland's difficult past. Using personal stories, he focuses on the profound human and political costs and the unresolved issues.

The Threat: How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump, by Andrew G. McCabe. In March 2018, President Trump fired Andrew McCabe, Deputy Director of the FBI, after a more than 20-year career, only 26 hours before McCabe's scheduled retirement. In this book, McCabe tells the story of his career in the FBI, and in particular detail, what happened between the November 2016 election and his removal.

Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring, by Richard Gergel. In 1946, Issac Woodard, a returning African American WW II veteran was taken off a Greyhound bus in South Carolina, arrested by local authorities, beaten and blinded. President Truman was so appalled that he formed the first presidential Civil Rights Commission and then implemented their recommendation to end segregation in the U.S. armed forces. His Justice Department filed charges against the local sheriff, but a white South Carolina jury acquitted him. The presiding judge, J. Waties Waring, having experienced a "baptism of fire" while hearing the case, began issuing major civil rights decisions that ultimately influenced the Supreme Court in *Brown v Board of Education*.

Utopia for Realists: How We Can Build the Ideal World, by Rutger Bregman. The author makes the case that the future can hold 15-hour workweeks, universal basic income and open borders. Then he lays out his views on how to make that happen. He manages to make the apparently unachievable seem achievable and does it in an entertaining fashion.

Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval, by Saidya Hartman. An NY Times reviewer says "Exhilarating....A rich resurrection of a forgotten history....[Hartman's] rigor and restraint give her writing its distinctive electricity and tension....This kind of beautiful, immersive narration exists for its own sake but it also counteracts the most common depictions of black urban life from this time."

The Woman's Hour, by Elaine Weiss. Many people, famous and not so famous, fought for approval of the 20th amendment—women's suffrage—when it reached Tennessee, the last state needed for ratification. Weiss documents the roles of those involved in this momentous event.

Well, the thermometer has jumped over 90F a couple of times so the year is truly near half over. So if you have not yet renewed your membership in FOSL now would be a good time.

The application form is attached. And we still pick up mail at

P.O.Box 278

Shepherdstown WV 25443.

Alternatively, you can get it done on our web page,
www.foslwv.org/membership.

Thank you!



June 2019

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