

CHECK IT OUT!

- Vol. 17 No. 1
- January–February 2009
- A publication of the Friends and Foundation of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

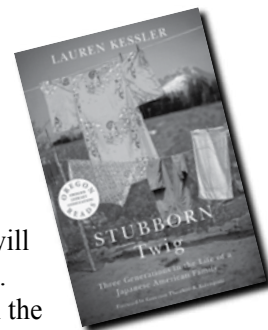
OregonReads 2009

As Oregon celebrates its 150th birthday, libraries are joining in with a community reads program called OregonReads. The book selected for this statewide program is *Stubborn Twig*, by Oregon author Lauren Kessler. It's the true story of three generations of a Japanese-American family, spanning across the 20th century in Hood River, Portland, and Eugene. Our Library has over 30 copies of this book available for check-out. Many special OregonReads events will be happening over the next few months.

We will kick off OregonReads with a special evening on Friday, January 16, at 6:30 p.m. Musician Mitsuki Dazai will perform a selection of solo koto music, from traditional to contemporary. Then, storyteller Alton Chung will transport the audience into the lives of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Of course there are book discussions! Anyone can join a Library-sponsored, facilitated discussion of *Stubborn Twig*. Held in the Corvallis

Inside
Gearing Up for Gardening
★
Pearl's Picks



Library Board Room, the discussions are limited to 15 people. A copy of the book will be loaned to each participant. For dates and to register, call the Reference Desk, 766-6793.

Have you ever wanted to write haiku poetry? On February 28, Suzy Conway will be leading a haiku workshop, in which you can learn about haiku and get a chance to write your own. To register, call the Reference Desk, 766-6793.

A final highlight of OregonReads 2009 will be a reading by *Stubborn Twig*'s author, Lauren Kessler, at OSU Valley Library on Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m.

All OregonReads events are free. Events held at the Corvallis Public Library are sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For information on other OregonReads 2009 programs and events, visit our Web site at www.thebestlibrary.net or call 766-6793.

Message from Library Director Carolyn Rawles-Heiser

The recent controversy over *The Book of Bunny Suicides*, along with a thread on a librarian listserv bemoaning what one poster thought was poor-quality literature on the *New York Times* Best Seller List, got me thinking about the wide variety of material we have at the library. Much of what we have would never qualify as great literature, but it serves an important purpose anyway. Many people want to read the "latest and greatest" not for their literary value but because they are absorbing stories and an important part of our popular culture and collective imagination. Although we do provide the "classics"—which are also a component of our culture, of course—we are mindful of the quote from that famous philosopher Mark Twain: "A classic is something everyone wants to have read but nobody wants to read." Perhaps that is a heretical statement for a librarian to quote...



Beyond the bestseller lists and the "classics," though, are gems of books that people may never stumble across without a personal recommendation. That is why I am so happy that Nancy Pearl, librarian extraordinaire, has developed an online resource called "Pearl's Picks," which is featured in this issue. You can find it on our Web page and even have it sent to you by RSS. It's kind of the online version of seeing just the right book somehow pop out at you from the shelf. Give it a try.

Gearing Up for Gardening 2009

Escape your winter doldrums and start thinking about spring at the annual Gearing Up for Gardening lecture series at the Library. Programs are on Tuesdays, 12:10–1:00 p.m., January 6 through February 24. These popular sessions are jointly sponsored by Benton County Extension Master Gardeners™, the Library, and Linn-Benton Community College. Call the Benton County Extension office at 766-6750 for more information.



Jan. 6—*K.I.S.S. those Veggies (Keep It Simple Sweetie)*. Plan your backyard or container vegetable garden with Gail Langellotto, urban and community horticulture specialist, OSU Department of Horticulture.

Jan. 13—*Know Thy Enemy: Common Plant Diseases and Remedies*. Good solutions to bad problems with Darren Morgan, manager, Shonnard's Nursery & Florist.

Jan. 20—*Everlasting Beauty: Flowering Perennials*. Create year-round color and

texture in the garden with Linda Beutler, instructor and garden writer.

Jan. 27—*Going Native: Landscaping with Native Plants*. Selection and placement of regional plants with Esther McEvoy, Native Plant Society.

Feb. 3—*Fruit Tree Rx: Maintaining Healthy Fruit Trees*. Dr. Anita makes a house call with Anita Azarenko, professor and head, OSU Department of Horticulture.

Feb. 10—*The Buzz on Mason Bees: Beekeeping without the Sting*. Get ready for these early-season pollinators with Morris Ostrofsky, Lane County Beekeepers Association.

Feb. 17—*Maximizing Your Resources: Drought Tolerant Landscaping*. Saving resources with Neil Bell, OSU Extension horticulturist.

Feb. 24—*Between a Rock and a Plant Place: Rock Gardens*. The full story with Loren Russell, Emerald Chapter of North American Rock Garden Society.



Peik-Kuan Lim

Staff Profile

Peik-Kuan Lim, Early Literacy Coordinator

When asked to describe her job, Peik-Kuan Lim laughs and explains that the Early Literacy Coordinator job is still evolving. In this newly created position, Peik-Kuan is focusing on outreach to the community, bringing literacy activities to childcare centers. She visits sites once a month, doing story times and leading activities. She hopes her efforts teach adults the importance of reading to young children and introducing them to the library. This is a challenge in a part-time position, while also learning the ins and outs of the library world.

Peik-Kuan was born in Malaysia and joined her father in California to attend college. She received her degree in Child Development from San Jose State University. Her most recent position was at LBCC's Family Connections for childcare information and referral. She and her husband have three children who keep them busy. Grandma lives with them too. What does Peik-Kuan do in her free time? She's "A MOM!" she says with a smile.



Quest volunteers. Back row, left to right: Ryan, Teresa, Adam, Tina. Front row: Teya, Jeanne, Amber, Crosby.

Volunteer Profile

Quest Volunteers

As you roam the library on Wednesday morning, you will notice extra smiles from a group of Quest volunteers. Quest is a community inclusion program for adults with developmental disabilities. The program emphases are education, socialization, recreation, physical activity, healthy living, and community service. The group of six volunteers is supervised by Teya and Tina. They break into two groups of four and pick up books left on shelves and tables. The group has learned how to share pushing a cart, collect books, speak softly in the library, and work in the public. When asked what they like about volunteering at the library, Crosby said it's fun; Amber likes working around books; and Ryan likes learning where books are and wearing a name tag. Quest members read 40 to 60 books per week!

Book Sales and Random Reviews

by Cheryl Maze, Friends Co-President

The Big Book Sale

**Friday
February 20
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Saturday
February 21
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Sunday
February 22
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Benton County
Fairgrounds**

Happy New Year, library patrons! The Friends of the Library are looking forward to donating \$65,000 in 2009 to the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library to provide support for library services, facilities, and equipment beyond budgeted items.

To accomplish this, the Friends are sponsoring our biggest fund-raising event of the year, The Big Book Sale at the Benton County Fairgrounds on 53rd Street on Friday, February 20 (5 p.m.–9 p.m.); Saturday, February 21 (10 a.m.–5 p.m.); and Sunday, February 22 (11 a.m.–4 p.m.). We will be featuring the largest quantity of quality used books ever assembled by FOL, with thousands of fabulous, affordable books sorted into categories, including collectibles, fiction, mystery, sci-fi, non-fiction, history, cookbooks, gardening, children's books, audio books, CDs, and much more. Your purchases at last year's sale paid for new furniture for the meeting room, the summer reading program, author and cultural events (e.g., Ursula Le Guin reading), the new second-floor quilted wall hanging, and more items that enhance all branches of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. The

sale is open to everyone and is an economical way to pick up some great reading, while supporting The Best Library!

Friends' events in the Library Main meeting room:

January 14, noon, Random Review: *Mediterranean Summer: A Season on France's Cote D'Azur and Italy's Costa Bella* by David Shalleck, 2007 Corvallis First Citizen Jacque Schreck, reviewer

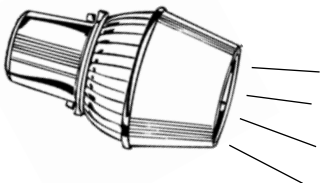
January 16, 6:30 p.m., OregonReads 2009: Japanese-American storyteller Alton Chung and koto performer Mitsuki Dazai recall life during WWII

January 25, 12:30 p.m., William Stafford Birthday Celebration, co-sponsored by Friends of William Stafford and Mary's Peak branch of Oregon Poetry Association

February 11, noon, Random Review: *Mind of the Raven* by Bernd Heinrich. Chris Mathews, reviewer

February 13, 7 p.m., Paulann Peterson poetry reading, co-sponsored by Calyx

February 28, noon, OregonReads 2009: Haiku poetry workshop for adults, Suzy Conway, instructor



Spotlight: Pearl's Picks Online at the Library



"I just want to find something good to read." How often is this your mantra when you arrive at the library or on the library's Web site? While staff is always standing ready to advise you, we also want you to know about a super tool for getting great suggestions. Named "Pearl's Picks" for Nancy Pearl, the super librarian who lists these great reads, this online service offers a brief description of each book to give you an idea of whether it will suit your fancy. The Library offers a quick link from each suggestion into the catalog so that you can check to see if the title is on the shelf.

Since the release of her best-selling *Book Lust* in 2003 and the Librarian Action Figure modeled in her likeness, Nancy Pearl has become a star among readers, and many people turn to her list when deciding what to read next. The *New York Times* calls Nancy Pearl

"the talk of librarian circles," and the *Los Angeles Times* calls her "one lusty librarian."

Pearl's Picks are non-fiction as well as fiction, mostly adult books with a sprinkling of children's, and mostly current books. These monthly reading suggestions are richly diverse to provide great reading experiences.

To use Pearl's Picks, go to the Library's Web site at www.thebestlibrary.net. Click on "Books" in the red horizontal bar just below the banner of Marys Peak. In the gray-blue box on the right side of the Web page you will see the link for Pearl's Picks. You can have Pearl's Picks sent to your e-mail or RSS each month.

For additional information about Pearl's Picks or any other Library resource, call the Library's Reference Desk, 766-6793.



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The Friends of the Library • 645 NW Monroe • Corvallis, OR 97330

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Corvallis, OR 97330
Permit No. 62

Special Happenings — Free — at the Library



Printed with
soy ink on
100% recycled
paper

Library Closed January 1 (New Year's holiday), January 19 (Martin Luther King Jr. holiday), and February 16 (Presidents Day)

Random Reviews – second Wednesday at 12 noon

- January 14 – *Mediterranean Summer: A Season on France's Cote D'Azur and Italy's Costa Bella* by David Shalleck. Reviewed by Jacque Schreck.
- February 11 – *Mind of the Raven* by Bernd Heinrich. Reviewed by Chris Mathews.

Library Book Club – 7 p.m., Library Board Room. Registration and books available four weeks before the meeting from the Adult Services reference desk, 766-6793.

- January 21 – *Stubborn Twig: Three Generations in the Life of a Japanese American Family* by Lauren Kessler
- February 18 – *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer

League of Women Voters programs

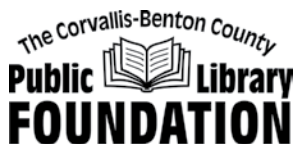
- January 13 – General Meeting – National Popular Vote, 7 p.m.
- February 7 – Legislative Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- February 10 – General Meeting – Water Policy, 7 p.m.

William Stafford Birthday Celebration, January 25, 12:30 p.m.

Oregon Reads 2009 – Programs to celebrate Oregon's 150th birthday. See article on front page.

Gearing Up for Gardening – Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m. beginning January 6. See article on page 2.

CHECK IT OUT! brings information about the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library to patrons, Friends of the Library, and Foundation donors on a bimonthly basis. Copies are available at the Main Library, branches, and outreach locations. Refer questions and input regarding *CHECK IT OUT!* to Carol Klamkin (766-6708). Our World Wide Web address is www.thebestlibrary.net. Special thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation for funding this newsletter.



Library Foundation

by Betty McCauley

As we turn our calendars to another year we wonder at a clean slate. What can we expect in 2009? Our library promises new ways to stimulate our minds. The Foundation has been supportive of books, technology, and also the arts. We are rich in paintings and sculptures, even two quilted wall hangings. Have you treated yourself (or an out-of-town visitor) to an art tour of the library lately? In the lobby you can pick up a list of art treasures in each area, many given in honor or in memory of special friends or relatives.

On the front porch the delightful statue of children reading was given by the sons of for-

mer library director, and one-time children's librarian, Jeanne Larsen. They have been talking to staff about using the remainder of their contribution for another art project. In coming months you may hear of a call to artists for proposals for art on the stair wall to the second floor. Can you imagine a mural, a mosaic, or a tile project there expressing the creative spirit of our library?

The Foundation is grateful for the generous support of our library donors. May 2009 bring you further joy in literature and art. Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Your Library: Bringing People & Information Together • Thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation for funding this newsletter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Main Library Hours Monday—Friday 10 am to 9 pm Saturday 10 am to 6 pm Sunday 12 pm to 6 pm</p>				<p>HOLIDAY— ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED</p>	<p>10 am Wobbler Storytime 1 pm Kids' Book Club Book³</p>	
				1	2	3
4	<p>7 pm Bedtime Storytime</p>	<p>10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Gearing Up for Gardening Lecture Series 4 pm Teen Animanga Book Club³</p>	<p>10 am Infant Storytime 7 pm R.E.A.D. Dogs³ 7:30 pm Library Board Meeting</p>	<p>10 am Preschool Storytime 4 pm Middle School Book Club³</p>	<p>10 am Wobbler Storytime</p>	<p>11 am R.E.A.D. Dogs³</p>
	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	<p>5 pm Teen Game Night³ 7 pm Bedtime Storytime</p>	<p>10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Gearing Up for Gardening Lecture Series 4:30 pm Game night—Alsea² 7 pm League of Women Voters Program</p>	<p>10 am Infant Storytime 12 pm Random Review 5 pm Teen Library Night—Monroe²</p>	<p>10 am Preschool Storytime 4 pm Kids' Book Club³ 5 pm Teen Library Night—Philomath²</p>	<p>10 am Wobbler Storytime 6:30 pm "OregonReads 2009" Special Event</p>	<p>11 am La fiesta de su biblioteca³</p>
	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	<p>HOLIDAY— ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED</p>		<p>10 am Infant Storytime 7:30 pm Book Club¹</p>	<p>10 am Preschool Storytime 3:30 pm R.E.A.D. Dogs³</p>	<p>10 am Wobbler Storytime</p>	
	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>12:30 pm William Stafford Birthday Celebration</p>	<p>3:30 pm Friends of the Library Board Meeting 5 pm Teen Game Night³ 7 pm Bedtime Storytime</p>	<p>10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Gearing Up for Gardening Lecture Series 4:30 pm Game night—Alsea²</p>	<p>10 am Infant Storytime 5 pm Teen Library Night—Monroe² 6:30 pm Bilingual Kids Book Club³</p>	<p>10 am Preschool Storytime 5 pm Teen Library Night—Philomath²</p>	<p>10 am Wobbler Storytime</p>	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

¹Call Adult Svcs. 766-6793 for info/pre-registration ²Call Library indicated for info ³Call Youth Svcs. 766-6794 for info/pre-registration
 For the hearing impaired, a sign language interpreter can be provided with 48 hours notice. Please call 766-6928 to arrange.

www.thebestlibrary.net

ALSEA COMMUNITY CENTER LIBRARY
 541-487-5061
 19192 Alsea Hwy.
 Alsea, OR 97324
 Call for hours

MONROE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
 541-847-5174
 668 Commercial Street
 Monroe, OR 97456
 Call for hours

PHILOMATH COMMUNITY LIBRARY
 541-929-3016
 1050 Applegate, P.O. Box 549
 Philomath, OR 97370
 Call for hours

BOOKMOBILE
 Call 541-766-6458
 for schedule

FEBRUARY

Your Library: Bringing People & Information Together • Thanks to the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation for funding this newsletter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
1	7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Gearing Up for Gardening Lecture Series 4 pm Teen Animanga Book Club ³	4	10 am Infant Storytime 7 pm R.E.A.D. Dogs ³ 7:30 pm Library Board Meeting	5	10 am Wobbler Storytime	7	10 am Legislative Town Hall
8	5 pm Teen Game Night ³ 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	10 am Toddler Storytime 10:30 am Preschool Storytime—Monroe 12:10 pm Gearing Up for Gardening Lecture Series 4:30 pm Game night—Alsea ² 7 pm League of Women Voters Program	11	10 am Infant Storytime 12 pm Random Review 5 pm Teen Library Night—Monroe ²	12	10 am Wobbler Storytime 7 pm CALYX poetry reading	14	11 am R.E.A.D. Dogs ³
15	HOLIDAY— ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED		18	10 am Infant Storytime 7:30 pm Book Club ¹	19	10 am Wobbler Storytime 5 pm Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale—Fairgrounds	21	10 am Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale—Fairgrounds 11 am La fiesta de su biblioteca ³
22	11 am Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale—Fairgrounds	3:30 pm Friends of the Library Board Meeting 5 pm Teen Game Night ³ 7 pm Bedtime Storytime	25	10 am Infant Storytime 5 pm Teen Library Night—Monroe ² 6:30 pm Bilingual Kids Book Club ³	26	10 am Preschool Storytime 3:30 pm R.E.A.D. Dogs ³ 5 pm Teen Library Night—Philomath ²	28	2 pm Haiku poetry workshop for adults ¹

Main Library Hours

Monday—Friday 10 am to 9 pm
 Saturday 10 am to 6 pm
 Sunday 12 pm to 6 pm

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MAIN LIBRARY
 645 NW Monroe
 Corvallis, OR 97330

Director & Administration
 766-6928
 Hours, Accounts, Renewals/Holds
 766-6926

Children's Reference & Programs
 766-6794

Extension Svcs. & DIAL-A-Book
 766-6458

Meeting Room Reservations
 766-6928

Alsea Branch
 487-5061

Monroe Branch
 847-5174

Philomath Branch
 929-3016

www.thebestlibrary.net

Adult Reference & Programs
 766-6793 TTY/TDD 766-6988