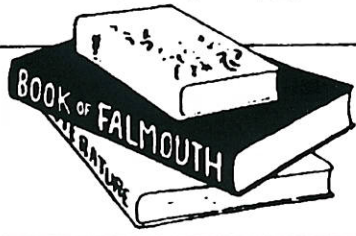


FFPL



Friends of the Falmouth Public Library

# Newsletter

Spring 2016

Nancy English, President • Marilyn Sanborn, Editor

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library  
cordially invite you to join them at their

**Annual Meeting**

and

**Election of Officers**

in the **Hermann Room** of the  
Falmouth Public Library

Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Featuring

**The Andy Sexton Trio**

The Andy Sexton Trio, a Cape Cod group, consists of Andy Sexton on guitar and vocals, Laird Boles on bass, and Zeuli on sax.

They will perform originals and standards from *The Great American Songbook*.

They have performed in many venues in Southeastern Massachusetts. A buffet lunch will be served at the close of the program.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Sycamore Row** Grisham

**Station Eleven** Mandel

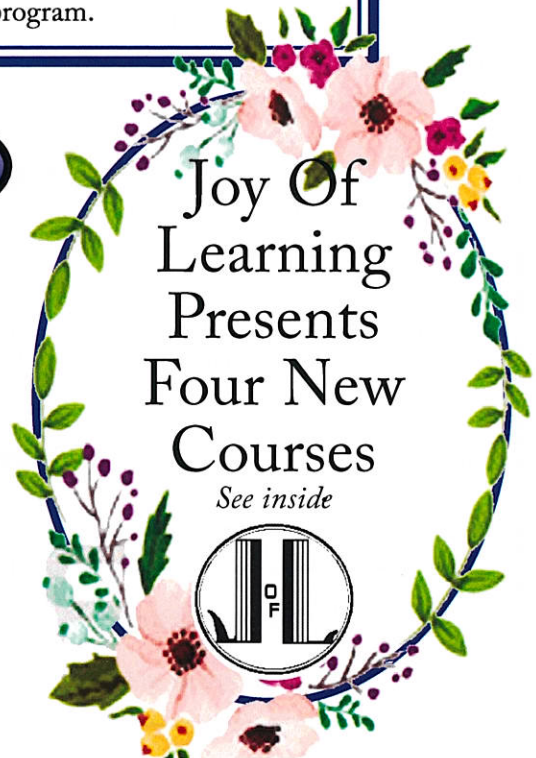
**THE NIGHTINGALE** | HANNAH

**Neapolitan Novels**  
Ferrante

**Dwelling Place** Clarke

Joy Of  
Learning  
Presents  
Four New  
Courses

See inside







# Joy of Learning



## Schedule of Courses for Spring 2016

The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library will offer four new courses beginning Monday, April 4th, 2016. The classes are **free and open to the public.**

**MONDAYS - 2:00-3:00 p.m. April 4th, 11th, 25th, May 2nd**

### THE CONSTITUTION

This series will focus on the world's oldest written national constitution and whether it is adequate for governing and guiding a modern state in a globalized world nearly 230 years after it was written. We will begin by looking at how the Constitution came about, arguments for and against, important modifications by amendment and major court cases that amplified or overturned parts; more importantly, perhaps, we will look at critical areas where the Constitution remains ambiguous or even silent.

*Michael Corgan PhD, Associate Professor of International Relations, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University; Adjunct Faculty, University of Iceland; Associated Faculty, University of Lapland*

**TUESDAYS - 10:15-11:15 a.m. April 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th**

### MOVIES! MOVIES! MOVIES!

- 1) Imagery: the use of music in non-musicals
- 2) Great openings and endings
- 3) Dread, and its master Alfred Hitchcock
- 4) Memorable Quotes and Memorable Moments

*Fred Gitlitz, BA Colgate, MA Columbia University, PhD Columbia University*



**TUESDAYS - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th,**

### VIGNETTES IN HISTORY

The Time Of Your Life Parts III and IV  
The Sacco-Vanzetti Trial, and Fallen Heroes  
PBS Video "The Day the 60s Died"  
Illegal Immigration; and 50 Years of TV

*Fred Gitlitz, BA Colgate, MA Columbia University, PhD Columbia University*



**THURSDAYS - 10:00-11:00 a.m. April 14th, 21st, 28th, May 5th**

### FINDING YOUR WAY TO WONDERLAND

When, through age or circumstance, it becomes difficult to hang onto what we love most about ourselves and our world, we are face to face with decline. Can we find a path through heartbreaking losses to a place where all is well? Come join the discussion.

*Susan Baur, PhD is a writer and psychologist. She has written books on the history of oceanography, psychology, and most recently, the turtle sisters of a Cape Cod pond. She has lived and practiced on the Cape for decades.*

CUT OUT HERE

**TO REGISTER:** Send your selections with your name, address and phone number to  
**Joy of Learning, Post Office Box 480, Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541**  
Please keep course descriptions as your record.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to enroll in the following courses: \_\_\_\_\_

Constitution

Movies!

Vignettes in History

Finding Your Way to Wonderland



# Whats's Happening at the Library

## Admiring the Work of our Predecessors - *Kim DeWall*

In this fast-paced day and age of getting materials onto the shelves as soon as possible, it may come as a surprise to many that there was a time when such library work not only took great time and effort, but took patience, perseverance, and practice on the part of the catalogers.

Because of a project made possible by the people of Falmouth through the Community Preservation Fund, we had the pleasure of cataloging a collection of the Library's historical documents.

When the beautifully bound collection arrived, we were charmed by a document entitled, "Rules for Library Hand." It reminds us that while the aim of our work is ultimately the same, the execution is quite different. Consider, for example, some of the rules that a staff member once wrote out by hand in an effort to learn the proper way to produce handwritten catalog cards:

1. Hold your pen between the first and second fingers.
2. Be careful to make all writing uniform in size, slant, blackness of line, spacing, and form of letters.
3. See that each letter stands upon the line.
4. Be careful to make no unnecessary lines and avoid flourishes.
5. Be careful to cross the t's squarely and dot the i's directly over the letter.

Oh, the days of learning to cross t's and dot i's!

In this fast-paced day and age of getting materials onto the shelves, in our catalog, and onto our website as soon as possible, we so enjoy taking the time to appreciate and admire the work of our predecessors; and we are truly inspired to be carrying on the legacy of documenting, describing, and organizing information for our public with the same care, only a little faster!

## Message from the President



Since our last newsletter in the fall our volunteers have been busy sorting, pricing and boxing the hundreds of books that you continue to donate to the Friends. Our Holiday Sale was very successful; we sold \$8500 worth of beautiful books and had no expenses. All our help was volunteer. In January the very active Book Nook in our Library brought in \$1332, and online book sales were \$1379. Volunteers take boxes of priced books to our rental storage weekly for our huge Summer Sale.

The Board just voted to fund the \$35,000 Library wish list for this year. This money allows the Library to provide extra special services for its patrons.

As you can see the Board has been very busy. Some members volunteer in the Friends Room on the lower level of the Library on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 12. We are adding two additional days, Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4 and Fridays from 9:30 to 12. In our room there are six computers for pricing and of course many books to file. We can use more volunteers on these added days, especially checking book prices on our computers. Can you help us out? We have fun and the hours are very flexible.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on April 2.

*Nancy English*

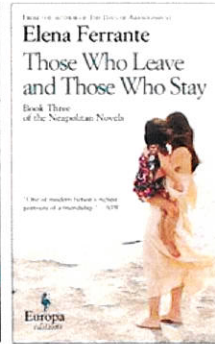
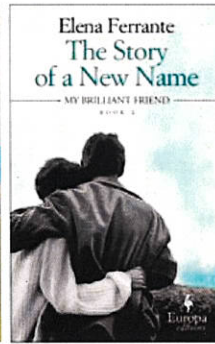
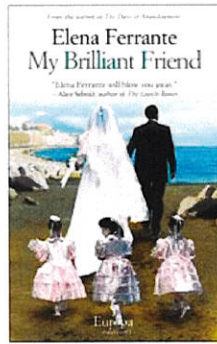




# BOOK REVIEWS

## *Elena Ferrante's* **Neapolitan Novels**

In December my sister-in-law, a retired librarian, asked me if I had heard of Elena Ferrante and the Neapolitan novels she had



written. She said that her books are the rage in Boston, are difficult to find in the libraries in the area, and was wondering if we had any in the Friends Room. I hadn't heard of this author but I started by checking in our room: no Ferrante, so I went upstairs to the Book Nook and found *The Story of the Lost Child*, which is the fourth book in the series. The following week I found *My Brilliant Friend*, the first in the series of four that Elena had written. I started reading and couldn't get into the book—it seemed to me too much info on Naples streets and surroundings. Since my sister-in-law lived in Italy for about ten years I figured she enjoyed the books because she was familiar with the area. But I decided to give the novel a second chance. Well, I was hooked.

The story begins in the 1950s when two children, Elena and Lila, develop a friendship in first grade and continue this love/hate relationship throughout their lives. The two girls are attracted to each other not because they're alike but because they're so different. They live in the slums on the outskirts of Naples and learn to deal with the strange behavior of many of their neighbors. They are like a gift to each other because they are constantly competing with one another, which propels them to a higher achievement in school and life. Their parents are too busy trying to provide for their families, so have little time for thinking about sending the girls to school. They would rather have them working at menial jobs to provide more income for the family. Elena's parents change their minds through the urging of her teacher. The two girls share their innermost thoughts as we are carried through their youth and teenage years. With deep insight and competitiveness, they help each other survive life in the poor city of Naples.

The second and third novels in the series, *The Story of a New Name* and *Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay*, were not donated to the Friends so I borrowed them through the CLAMS system. In Sunday's Boston Globe, all four novels were on the Bestsellers list. When I finish book three I have the fourth book, *The Story of the Lost Child*, waiting for me, thanks to patrons who donate books for the Friends to resell. What a bargain for two dollars each!

To get a real reviewers view, read Ann Mah's, "Elena Ferrante's Naples, Then and Now," in the New York Times of 17 January 2016. You can do this from your computer by going to the Falmouth Public Library's website, clicking on data bases, scroll down to New York Times, and in the bar that says "search" type Elena Ferrante.

*Nancy English*





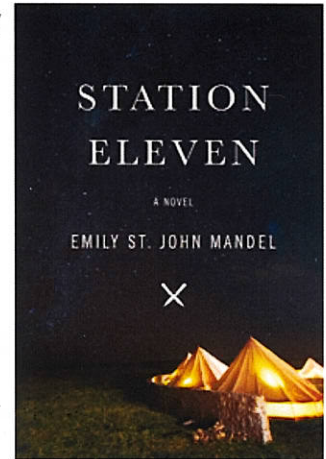
# BOOK REVIEWS



## **STATION ELEVEN** by *Emily St. John Mandel*

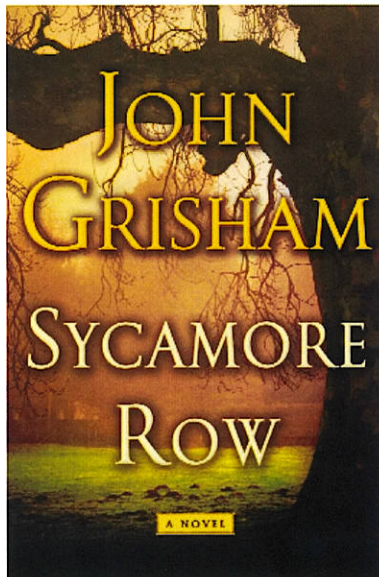
A good book is one that sticks in your head, one that keeps coming back to you at odd moments. In the grocery store I questioned, "If the pandemic is coming, how many family size tubs of Quaker Oats should I buy?" (would twelve be enough, or should I go with twenty-four).

**STATION ELEVEN** by Emily St. John Mandel creates a post-apocalyptic world with sensitive, smart people experiencing the new world order in real places: Toronto, the shores of Lake Michigan, and the Severn City Airport. Mandel cares about her characters and gives them reasons to carry on. They are involved in art, music, and the preservation of culture. There are the necessary evil doers, but they too are interesting characters who do not cause a constant level of stress that would diminish the enjoyment of this book.



Emily St. John Mandel, with her wonderfully rich imagination, has created a place well worth visiting, but one we hope will never come to pass.

*Linda Collins*, Assistant Director, Falmouth Public Library



## **Sycamore Row** By *John Grisham*

Grisham does it again! His successful lawyer Jake Brigance receives a handwritten letter hiring him to defend the estate of Seth Hubbard. Hubbard commits suicide near the big ol' Sycamore tree and leaves a small bequest to his church, a percentage to his brother, Ancil, but most of his \$24 million to his black housekeeper, Lettie Lang. His children are completely left out of his will. Needless to say the handwritten will is contested! An earlier will drafted by a well-known firm is deemed to be the true one. Was Seth, dying from lung cancer, in his right mind when he wrote the will, giving almost all of his money to Lettie?

Colorful characters abound, while the mood at the Clanton, Mississippi courthouse is almost as hot and testy as Judge Clement Atlee who presides over the case. Grisham, a great storyteller, grabs our attention and keeps us guessing throughout the novel. Put this one on your must read list. By the way, the audio edition is read by Michael Beck who does a superb job capturing the Southern voice.

*Donna Burgess*, Reference Librarian



# TELEVISION REVIEW

## Parenthood: First Fifty Episodes

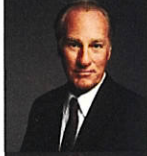
I should stop watching this series at night as I find the characters so annoying that I am unable to sleep afterward. Why do I watch it then? Because I am addicted. I chose it initially because of my fondness for Peter Strauss, whom I liked so much in a past series **Six Feet Under**. I still like him but I have trouble with his television family.

There are Mom and Dad, and their four adult children, two men and two women. Two of the children are married, one is divorced, and one is single. All four have children ranging from four or five years old to high school, and at this point there is a new baby.

You would be hard pressed to think of a crisis that this family has not been through, most of them brought on by their own foolishness and bad judgement.



**Camille (Bonnie Bedelia)** is Mom, who, with her curly hair and laid back manner, suffers through her husband's wish to live in the past. She is not seen much any more but is a competent actress.



**Zeke (Craig Nelson)** is Dad, who loves his family as long as they knuckle under to his out-of-date ideas. It can be embarrassing. He needs to learn not only about the twenty-first century, but the twentieth as well.



**Adam (Peter Strauss)** is the eldest child, and in my opinion, is the star of the show. He strives to be a good husband and father, acting as a model for his siblings, who are often not on the straight and narrow path.



**Sarah (Lauren Graham)** is the elder daughter. I almost gave up watching the series altogether because of her. Divorced with two kids, she cannot stay out of trouble. She is pretty and appealing so there is always some man, and thus begins still another relationship. Sarah never seems to learn, but she does smother her children with love.



**Julia (Erika Christensen)** is the younger daughter, a beautiful, accomplished lawyer who does not seem to be a victim of the family disease of making oneself miserable. She wants another child but is unable to become pregnant. Her desire is fraught with problems of course. In this family nothing goes smoothly.



**Crosby (Miles Heizer)** is the youngest, and also the least mature, although sister Sarah runs a close second. The viewer tires of listening to Crosby's excuses for his behavior. Envy often rears its head when big brother is around.

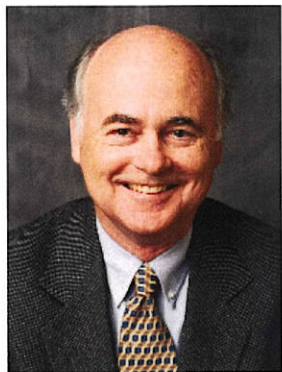


**Christina (Monika Potter)** is Adam's wife, another character I found irritating. Her answer to running her home and family, which includes a son with Asperger's and a teenage daughter who is rebellious and weird, is to have another baby when she's over forty. However, the baby, Lauren, is cute and appears happy. She does not seem to be afflicted with the family disease as yet.

I need not go on with the next generation as you know the gist of the series. It does not change: crises continue. I got so I could figure out ahead of times just what is going to happen, but that is probably due to watching so much of it at once. I still have many episodes to watch and I plan not to miss a single one of them.



## Friends Celebrate Black History Month



The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library celebrated Black History Month on Saturday, February 27, with a lecture by Erskine Clarke, Professor emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. An accomplished speaker, Professor Clarke held the jam-packed room spellbound relating his thoughts while researching and writing his Bancroft Prize winning book, *Dwelling Place: A Plantation Epic*.

This large and very readable book is the story of a white slave-owning family and their many families of black slaves, living before the Civil War in the Low Country of Georgia. Charles Colcock Jones, a plantation owner known as the Apostle to the Slaves, wished to improve the well-being of his slaves through religious instruction. To achieve his purpose, he prepared Bible lessons at the level he thought appropriate to the slaves, which he taught in their settlements, careful always to maintain the social order of master and slave.

Like the elephant in the room, Charles and his wife Mary never saw the oppression under which the slaves lived. While they were served tea by their slaves on the piazza of their home, chatting with their guests and admiring the view, their slaves worked from dawn to dusk in the severe heat to satisfy the needs of their master and mistress. One can only wonder why the latter were so surprised when, after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the war, most of their slaves took off, many never to return.

Clarke's lecture could easily be called a performance. To call it heartfelt would be accurate, but with his outstretched arms resting on the podium and his fists clenched, he strongly suggested far more, particularly when he spoke of the land, the South, a theme which occurs over and over in *Dwelling Place*. To those of us who sat listening, it was as if Clarke were sharing something personal with us: not this land is our land, but this land is my land. At the close of the program, Clarke spoke of something deep down inside of him which he cannot identify. I think he knows what it is, but the rest of us can only guess.

*Marilyn Sanborn*

## BOOK REVIEW: The Nightingale

An elderly woman in Oregon is preparing to move to a nursing home. As she goes through her belongings she comes across an invitation to a reunion in Paris honoring a member of the Resistance called The Nightingale. Memories she has hidden away, even from herself, force their way into her conscious mind.

Two sisters, one, Vianne, is a teacher devoted to her work, her husband and daughter, the family farm, and their village. The other much younger sister, Isabelle, is rebellious, adventurous, and desperately longing to return to Paris and her father. Their mother is dead. Their father, who owned a bookstore in Paris, devastated by his wife's death took to drink and shipped the girls off to the family farm in the remote village of Carriveau to be raised by a housekeeper, while he stayed in Paris.

In 1939 the Nazis have invaded France and Vianne's husband has been mobilized. This is the setting for Kristen Hannah's novel *The Nightingale*. The story, based on a real woman who fought in the Resistance, follows these two women through WWII.

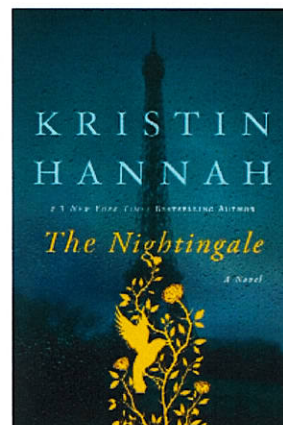
In 1940 the French army has surrendered. The Nazis are occupying France, and Vianne's husband has been captured. Vianne stays in the village and continues to teach school, but suffers the ever increasing privations of war: shortages, lack of fuel and food, and the occupation by the Nazis, eventually the billeting of a Nazi officer in her home. She is in constant fear of what may be happening to her husband and what may happen to her and her child.

Isabelle, eager to find a way to help her country, fight the Nazis, and find adventure, flees to Paris, where she falls in love and joins a group of Resistance fighters. Despite her youth she is engaged in the very dangerous work of rescuing British parachutists and escorting them across the Pyrenees to Spain, where they can be sent home. She learns to curb her impetuosity and displays amazing courage.

As the tides turn against the Nazis they become increasingly cruel toward the French. Their behavior toward the townspeople echoes their behavior everywhere else. They become desperate to find the people who are rescuing the British and American flyers who have parachuted into France.

Each of the sisters becomes a heroine in her own way in this thrilling story of the Nazi occupation of France during the war. The author shows strong character development, sense of place, and pacing of the novel as she moves the story along with the surprising twists and turns that bring one of the leading characters to Oregon, and a return to Paris. A warning: once you begin this book you will not want to put it down.

*Yang Conley*





# Notice of Intent to Change the By-Laws

*Following are proposed changes to the By-Laws for voting on at the annual meeting. A vote of two thirds of members present and voting is required to approve.*

**ARTICLE III**, Section 3: Change life membership to two categories, individual and family.

**ARTICLE V**, Section 1, Officers: Change officers to President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and two Members at Large [removing 2nd vice president and corresponding secretary]

Section 2, Eligibility: Change requirement for President from two years on the Board to one.

Add: Section 6. The Board of Directors is authorized to create nonexecutive voting positions such as corresponding secretary, archivist/historian, assistant treasurer, and liaison to the Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE VII**, Section 2: Notification of an emergency meeting of the Board must be made "at least 48 hours before."

**ARTICLE VIII**, Section 2, Duties, Part B: Delete "if called upon." [Liaisons from the Library and the Board of Trustees may take part in discussions as they wish]

Section 3: Delete July as a required meeting of the Board [month of the big sale]

**ARTICLE X**: Change to:

Committees and Directorships

Section 1. The Standing Committees of the Friends shall be: Amazon Sales, Book Nook, Book Sales, Finance, Hospitality, Joy of Learning, Membership, Programs, Publicity, and any other committees as the Board of Directors sees fit to create. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, any committee except Finance may be replaced by a single member, who shall be known as the Director of that activity.

Section 2. The purview of the Finance Committee shall be to advise the Board of Directors as to:

- A. The appropriateness of the investment of the funds of the Friends.
- B. The appropriateness of expenditures when requested.

**ARTICLE XII**, Dissolution: Change to:

In the event of the dissolution of the Friends, the books of the Treasurer shall be audited and the final balance shall be presented to the Falmouth Public Library Support Fund, Inc. EIN 46-4475142 as a contribution to its continuing activities. Any books, equipment, or other physical assets of the Friends shall be donated to the Library. None of the funds shall inure to any individual member.

**Friends Book Sale**  
Dates: July 1 - July 6  
Time: 10am - 4pm. Last day 10am - 12pm



Change Service Requested

US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 63  
Falmouth, MA 02540

*Friends of the Falmouth Public Library*  
P.O. BOX 480  
Falmouth, Massachusetts 02541