



WORDS BY THE WATER

The Drury Lane Books *Newsletter*

Vol. 19, May 2015

A FOND FAREWELL TO MY DREAM TEAM *by Joan Drury*



After making a bid for the building that used to be Sivertson's Gallery, I walked across the street to the restaurant at the old East Bay Hotel where the Sivertson staff was having lunch and informed them that I may actually buy the building (I was one of four bidders). I

remember they seemed delighted and wanted to know what I was going to do with it.

"I don't know," I shrugged. "Isn't that nuts? Maybe a book shop?" they cheered, and I felt pleased at the thought. By the time I'd reached home in Lutsen, the sister owners had called to tell me they'd accepted my offer, and I'd decided a book shop it would indeed be. It was early winter 2001.

And I started to worry about the persistently largest problem regarding running a business: personnel. I didn't know then that this was NOT going to be a problem. Everyone in commerce has illusions about "The Dream Team." Few achieve it. I did not know that I was about to be fortunate enough to be one of those few.

My first hire was Lee Stewart who already worked for me on a part-time basis at Norcroft, the women's writing retreat I'd created and directed at Lutsen. Once the word was out regarding my opening a bookstore, Lee informed me that she always dreamed of running such a place. She'd start to work on a Master's in library science after achieving her B.A. in history but ended up switching, for practical reasons, to nursing. She had a great deal of administrative experience through nursing which she felt would be useful in managing the book shop, but mostly she was convinced the job was *made* for her because she loved books more than anything else.

Although I interviewed others, in the end, I hired Lee who immediately demonstrated her mettle by embarking on a national course in South Carolina on small book shop

management. We both had much to learn; I was delighted to observe Lee's determination as she dug right in to learn everything she could about book shop computing, book shop accounting, general administration, and we spent hours discussing what I wanted to accomplish and what I wanted us to accomplish together.

While the months slipped toward our June 2002 opening, I interviewed others. I know I'd found my second employee when I was talking to Bruce Stahly, a computer expert and also passionate booklover. I'd asked him what he'd suggest to a customer who was looking for a romance novel since we wouldn't be carrying them. He recommended Jane Austen and I made my second hire.

Over the years, many others have worked with the three of us on a part-time basis during the summer months, but only Lee and Bruce have been constant employees year-round. Now, entering our fourteenth summer together, they both have informed me that this will be their last summer at Drury Lane Books. I have been so lucky in almost all my employees all these years but never as much as I have been with Lee and Bruce who love the shop as much as I do, who treat it as if it were their own. Of all the things we've learned from one another and shared with each other, nothing has been quite as wonderful as the books we've read that we might never have discovered if it weren't for each other.

For instance, Bruce raved about **Jane Gardam's** writing before I read her; I didn't know if I would've picked up *Old Filth* (if for no other reason because the title didn't resonate with me until after I'd read it) if he hadn't been so enthusiastic. *Old Filth* (an anagram for "failed in London, try Hong Kong" is a story of a man who was a judge in southeast Asia, inexpressibly written, one of those books you just don't want to put down. Another book for me in the same category that came highly recommended by Bruce, was **Jamie O'Neill's** *At Swim, Two Boys*, another beautifully-written novel, this one dealing with 1916 Ireland.

Lee convinced me to read *The Farming of Bones* by **Edwidge Danticat**, a staggering tale of lyrically beautiful but horrifyingly tragic events in the Dominican Republic where Haitians were, at best, tolerated, but mostly despised in 1937. I am grateful to her for all of the Danticat books which I've since read because she is such a superb writer and a fine thinker. And one of my favorite books dealing with Muslims is also a

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Drury Lane Best Sellers 2015

“Miss Brooke had that kind of beauty which seems to be thrown into relief by poor dress.” *Middlemarch* – **George Eliot**

JUVENILE

The Fault in Our Stars, Looking For Alaska, An Abundance of Katherines, and Paper Towns by **John Green**
Goodnight Loon by **Abe Sauer**
Frozen and *One Dog Canoe* by **Mary Casanova**
Miss Rumphius by **Barbara Cooney**
Antler, Bear, Canoe by **Betsy Bowen**
Phantom Tollbooth by **Norton Juster**
Belly Button Book by **Sandra Boynton**
Paddle - to - the - Sea by **Holling Clancy Holling**
If I Stay by **Gayle Forman**
Divergent by **Veronica Roth**
The Maze Runner by **James Dasher**
Ivy and Bean Series by **Annie Barrows**
The Quiltmakers Gift by **Jeff Brumbeau**

FICTION

Silent Words and *Closed in Silence* by **Joan Drury**
Book of Killowen and *Haunted Ground* by **Erin Hart**
Best to Laugh and *Mayor of the Universe* by **Lorna Landvik**
Windigo Island, Boundary Waters, Iron Lake and *Ordinary Grace* by **William Kent Krueger**
Only the Dead by **Vidar Sundstol**
All the Light We Cannot See by **Anthony Doerr**
Gone Girl by **Gillian Flynn**
The Superior Life by **Jean Miriam Larsen**
Orphan Train by **Christina Baker Kline**
The Long Way Home and *Still Life* by **Louise Penny**

NONFICTION

Rock Pickers Guide to Lake Superior's North Shore by **Mark Stensaas**
The Pie Place Café Cookbook by **Kathy Rice**
Guide to the Superior Hiking Trail by **Superior Hiking Trail Association**
Lake Superior Agates Field Guide and *Lake Superior Rocks and Minerals Guide* by **Bob Lynch**
Sawdust in Their Blood by **Jim Boyd**
Fascinating Fungi of the North Woods by **Cora Mollen**
Birds of Minnesota Field Guide by **Stan Tekiela**
Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by **Cheryl Strayed**
Shaggy Muses by **Maureen Adams**
The Lives of the Kings and Queens of England by **Antonia Fraser**



Lee-recommend: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by **Mohsin Hamid**. This is a book that taught me much about what it would be to be Muslim during the current U.S. attitudes toward this religion and its devotees.

I, on the other hand, introduced Lee to Qiu Xiaolong and his extraordinary mysteries that give us modern Shanghai police business as well as much Chinese history, particularly dealing with the Cultural Revolution. She apparently enjoys his books as much as I do as she's read all but one (I've read all). I also convinced Lee to read **Nancy Mitford's** novels *Love in a Cold Climate* and *The Pursuit of Love*. This led to other Mitford novels, a Jessica Mitford autobiography, and a Mitford biography, all of which puts Lee far ahead of me in the reading of the Mitford literary delights but not in pleasure.

An epoch novel taking place in India, *A Suitable Boy* by **Vikram Seth**, is a favorite Lee read because of Bruce's passion for it. In addition, Bruce highly pressed David Mitchell's historical fiction *A Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*, taking place in Nagasaki Harbor, Japan in 1799, resulting in another favorite of Lee's.

Bruce learned from and enjoyed Dan O'Brien's non-fiction book about raising buffalo instead of cattle on semi-arid western land that I adore, *Buffalo for the Broken Heart*. I also eagerly pushed and Bruce read and liked *The Lacuna* by **Barbara Kingsolver**, a sweeping story of Trotsky in Mexico at the Garcia/Kahlo home as well as McCarthyism in the U.S. following WWII. *All the Light We Cannot See*, a recent Pulitzer Prize winner by **Anthony Doerr**, was Lee's favorite book last year and pleurably picked up by Bruce. In addition, Bruce also read *A Time of Gifts*, a travelogue in Europe in the 1930's covering culture and geography that no longer exist, by **Patrick Leigh Fermor** highly touted by Lee.

So you can see, we have spent the past thirteen years sharing our favorite books with all of you but also, adamantly, with one another. I cannot imagine Drury Lane Books without Bruce or Lee behind the counter with an enormous stockpile of suggestions and attitudes. It's true, they've both been terrific at their jobs, but their best attribute has always been their undiluted love of books and the eagerness with which they share this passion with all who come through Drury Lane's doors. Even though neither will be in Drury Lane Books much of the time after the end of this year, if we're lucky, we'll all get to talk books with them on their occasional working days, picking up some time here and there for us.

LEE STEWART AND BRUCE STAHLY: *Thank You for all the love and passion you've brought to this work; you will be sorely missed – my very own inimitable dream team!!!!*

BRUCE STAHLY

Short Stories are well-known slow sellers in bookstores. I personally like short fiction for those occasions when my attention span cannot tolerate a full-length book, or when the distractions of traveling make it difficult to concentrate for long periods. Here are three volumes of stories which I can especially recommend.

Tenth of December by **George Saunders**, is a quirky and endearing collection of stories. Each story immediately pulls the reader into its narrative, and the various misfits and unpredictable characters are sympathetic and interesting. This is a rather slim volume, one of those rare books that is too brief. The stories are so engaging that I was left yearning for more.

William Faulkner's *Go Down, Moses* is a collection of seven linked stories about the McCaslin family in fictional Yoknapatawpha County, Mississippi. The McCaslins have complicated relationships with themselves, their neighbors, and the changing Mississippi landscape – both the natural world and relations between blacks and whites. The stories sometimes feel difficult and obtuse: they are not a light read. However, Faulkner's baroque prose and astute human insights make for a unforgettable experience.

The Turn of the Screw, by **Henry James**, is certainly one of the creepiest stories written in English. There is an enormous amount of critical commentary about this famous story and there is little I can add, except that you should read it, if you have not. The other stories in this volume are not as well known, but are nevertheless entertaining and interesting. As with Faulkner, James was a prose stylist, though in a very different way. And, as also with Faulkner, James requires effort and concentration, but with rewarding results.

LEE STEWART

Hope, Friendship and Love of Reading.

When my granddaughter was 8 years old, she was extremely excited about a book, so excited that even though she had read it, she wanted her own copy and she wanted us all to read it aloud. Her excitement was so full of feeling for the book - its characters and story. The book was *The One and Only Ivan* by **Katherine Applegate**. We read it aloud, and I will not forget the joy. Written for grade-school-age children, *The One and Only Ivan* is about a gorilla in a roadside zoo, and is inspired by a true story of a captive gorilla. It is a story of friendship and hope.

I started thinking about which books from my childhood had that impact on me – books that have stuck with me for 60 years.

From many favorites, I have two others to suggest. *Hitty: Her First Hundred Years* by **Rachel Field** and *The Wind in the Willows* by **Kenneth Grahame**.

Hitty: Her First Hundred Years is about a doll who is made from mountain ash wood. The doll is telling her memoirs of 100 years, which are full of exciting adventures, friendship and hope. Growing up, this book was one of my family's favorites. We named two dogs after Hitty.

The Wind in the Willows is also a long standing family favorite, read aloud in the tent on many canoe trips – complete with sound effects. Ratty, Mole, Badger, and Toad, friends full of hope, who went off on many adventures beginning with an escape from spring cleaning!

Lovely books, lovely reading

Drury Lane Events Calendar 2015

“Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again.” *Rebecca* — **Daphne du Maurier**



MAY 2015

Hours Friday May 1 - Thursday May 21

Mon, Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Wed. & Sun.

Hours Friday May 22 - Thursday June 4 Open Mon. - Sat.
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Wed. May 27.

Friday - Monday May 22 - 25 Drury Lane Books 13th Annual Sale. 50% off a wide selection of books

Saturday May 23 Season opening for **The Muffin Man** at 11 a.m. Stories for young children

Saturday May 23 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with local author **Chel Anderson** reading from her new book *North Shore: A Natural History of Minnesota's Superior Coast*.

Monday May 25 Memorial Day Hours 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

JUNE

Summer Hours begin Friday June 5

Mon. - Friday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturdays in June
The Muffin Man 11 a.m. Stories for young children

Tuesday June 2 5 p.m. Full Moon Reading featuring **Erin Altemus** Outside on the lakeshore

Saturday June 6 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with poet **Sharon Chmielarz** reading from *Visibility: Ten Miles, a Prairie Memoir in Photography and Poetry*

Saturday June 20 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with children's author **Lauren Stringer** reading from *When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky*

JULY

Saturdays in July
The Muffin Man 11 a.m. Stories for young children

Wednesday July 1 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. Full Moon Music Celebration. Outside on the lakeshore. Featuring Cellist **Yvonne Caruthers**, formerly of the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington D.C. Moon rise is at 8:27 p.m.

Saturday July 4 Independence Day Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday July 11 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with author **Mary Relindes Ellis** reading from *The Bohemian Flats*

Saturday July 18 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with author **Thomas Maltman** reading from *Little Wolves*

Saturday July 25 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with author **Caroline Giles Banks** reading from *Picture a Poem: Ekphrastic and Other Poems*

AUGUST

Saturdays in Aug. (8, 15, 22, 29) The Muffin Man 11 a.m. Stories for young children (No Muffin Man on Saturday Aug 2 - Fisherman's Picnic.)

Saturday Aug. 8 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with author **Shannon Drury** reading from *The Radical Housewife*

Saturday Aug. 22 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with author **Margi Preus** reading from *Enchantment Lake: A Northwoods Mystery*

Hours beginning Monday August 24
Mon. - Sat. 10 - 5 Sunday 10 - 4

Saturday Aug. 29 5 p.m. Full Moon Reading featuring **Kate Fitzgerald** Outside on the lakeshore

SEPTEMBER

Hours in September Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday Sept. 5 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with **Jim Pearlman** (editor), **Deborah Cooper** (editor), **Mara Hart** (editor), **Pamela Mittlefehldt** (editor) **Lake Superior Poets** reading from their newest anthology *Amethyst and Agate: Poems of Lake Superior*

Monday Sept. 7 Labor Day Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m

Saturday Sept. 19 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with authors **Jim Armstrong** and **Kim Chapman** reading essays from *Nature, Culture, and Two Friends Talkings*

Saturday Sept. 26 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Full Moon featuring **Amy Schmidt**. Outside on the lakeshore

OCTOBER

October Hours
Mon. Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 10 - 5 p.m.
Closed Wed. and Sun.

Saturday Oct. 3 5 p.m. Writer's Salon with poet **Jill Breckenridge** reading from *Sometimes... : poems*

Friday-Saturday Oct. 16 & 17 Moose Madness Weekend

Saturday Oct. 17 11 a.m. **Moose - a - Rama** with **The Muffin Man**.

Tuesday Oct. 27 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Full Moon Reading featuring **Tom Mc Cann**. Outside on the lakeshore

November 1 through December 31 Drury Lane books is open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday

What Book Groups in Cook County are Reading 2015



801 BOOK CLUB

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by **Susan Cain**

Deep, Down, Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle That Set Them Free by **Hector Tobar**

A Visit from the Goon Squad by **Jennifer Egan**

AVID READERS

The Enchanted April by **Elizabeth von Arnim**

Infidel by **Ayaan Hirsi Ali**

The Dance Boots by **Linda LeGarde Grover**

BOOK LOVERS CLUB

The All of It by **Jeannette Haien**

Obasan by **Joy Kogawa**

The Raven's Eye by **Barry Maitland**

THE BOOKIES

The Snow Child by **Ivey Eowyn**

The Vagrants by **Liyun Li**

Still Alice by **Lisa Genova**

THE BOUNDARY READERS BOOK GROUP

Love in a Cold Climate by **Nancy Mitford**

Light Between Oceans by **M.L. Stedman**

Gilead by **Marilyn Robinson**

THE BOOK TROUTS

The Night Circus by **Erin Morgenstern**

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by **Katherine Boo**

Sheepish: Two Women, Fifty Sheep, and Enough Wool to Save the Planet by **Catherine Friend**

THE CARE CENTER BOOK CLUB

Letters from Yellowstone by **Diane Smith**

Saving Cee Cee Honeycutt by **Beth Hoffman**

Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day by **Winifred Watson**

HOVLAND BOOK CLUB

Flight Behavior by **Barbara Kingsolver**

House Rules by **Jodi Picoult**

The Scent of God by **Beryl Singleton Bissell**

NO NAME BOOK CLUB

Mating in Captivity by **Esther Perel**

I am Malala by **Malala Yousafzai**

Water for Elephants by **Sara Gruen**

NANCY'S GROUP

Gone Girl by **Gillian Flynn**

Signature of All Things by **Elizabeth Gilbert**

The Book Thief by **Markus Zusak**

NO GUILT BOOK GROUP

We are All Completely Beside Ourselves by **Karen Joy Fowler**

Kristin Lavransdattar by **Sigrid Undset**

All the Light We Cannot See by **Anthony Doerr**

BOOKS THAT BIND

Zeitoun by **Dave Eggers**

Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague by **Geraldine Brooks**

I am Malala by **Malala Yousafzai**

SHAKESPEARE READERS GROUP

Henry IV Part 1 by **William Shakespeare**

Hamlet by **William Shakespeare**

Midsummers Night's Dream by **William Shakespeare**

SOUTH AFRICA BOOK GROUP

July's People by **Nadine Gordimer**

Disgrace by **J.M. Coetzee**

Singing Away the Hunger by **Mpho 'M'Atsepo Nthunya**

WESTEND BOOK GROUP

11/22/63 by **Stephen King**

The Goldfinch by **Donna Tartt**

Life After Life by **Kate Atkinson**

WESTEND BEER AND BOOK POSSE

All the Light We Cannot See by **Anthony Doerr**

Stranger in a Strange Land by **Robert A. Heinlein**

Rage is Back by **Adam Mansbach**

WESTENDERS

Cutting For Stone by **Abraham Verghese**

South of Broad by **Pat Conroy**

Ordinary Grace by **William Kent Krueger**

WHOLE LOT OF WOMEN WINE AND WORDS

Freedom by **Jonathan Franzen**

Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace

by **Ann Lamott**

I am Malala by **Malala Yousafzai**

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EXPLORING ENGLAND THROUGH ITS LITERATURE

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The class begins June 2015.

Call or email Cook County Higher Education for more information.
218-387-3411 or highereducation@northshorecampus.org

“1801-I have just returned from a visit to my landlord – the solitary neighbor that I shall be troubled with.” *Wuthering Heights* – **Emily Bronte**

