



Visiting Louise Penny Country

Noreen Campbell, FNFL Treasurer

I was walking through Barnes & Noble several years ago with a friend when I mentioned that I needed a good book to take on vacation. She immediately dragged me to the mystery section where she plucked a book off the shelf.

“Read this” she said handing me the book. “You won’t be able to put it down.”

The book was *Still Life* by the Canadian author Louise Penny and I was hooked after reading the first ten pages.

Ms. Penny was an award-winning radio journalist before turning to writing novels in a mid-life career change. Her main character, Armand Gamache, is the head of the homicide department of the Sûreté du Québec, and the novels are set in and around the province of Quebec. Ms. Penny has a deft pen, and her writing is almost lyrical. Her characters are complicated, often flawed people who you could imagine living next door. Her plots are clever and subtle and her settings often become an additional character in the novels.



Still Life is set in Three Pines, a tiny, imaginary town in the eastern townships of Quebec province, the part of Quebec found closest to the border of the United States. Other of her novels feature the Charlevoix region, Quebec City, Montreal and the Gaspé Peninsula. Ms. Penny possesses the ability to describe place in such a way that it blossoms in your imagination, becoming almost tangible. Often, while reading her novels, I stopped to look up something that she had mentioned, wondering if it was only fictional or was based on something that actually existed. Time after time, I discovered that places she mentioned were based on or inspired by real locations and found myself wanting to visit them.

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This spring, I decided it was time to make a pilgrimage to Louise Penny country. I’d visited Canada several times in the past but had never been to Quebec Province and wondered if someone organized tours. An internet search turned up Three Pines Tours, a small local company that organized tours of a number of sites in the eastern townships that inspired Ms. Penny to write several of her novels including *Still Life*. I contacted Danielle Viau, who runs Three Pines Tours, and agreed upon a date in late July.

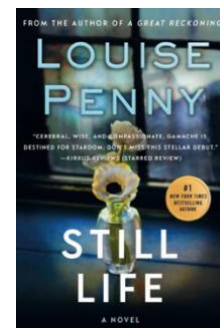
Using that date as an anchor, I planned a 10-day trip that would include three days in the eastern townships, three days driving up the St. Lawrence river and visiting the Charlevoix region and three days in Quebec City.

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On July 29th, we flew from Philadelphia to Burlington, Vermont, and rented a car for our drive into Canada. The eastern townships were created in the late 1700s when land was granted to British loyalists who fled north after the American Revolution. The countryside is beautiful farm lands dotted by picturesque towns and lakes. We stayed at the Hotel Lac Brome, right outside the charming town of Knowlton, which serves as the inspiration for Three Pines and where Ms. Penny lives. Walking around Knowlton on our first day, we found that many of the townspeople are a bit bemused by the number of Americans arriving on their doorstep. While they recognize and celebrate Ms. Penny's success, she is, to them, "just one of us", and we got the idea that they are not quite sure what is driving the hordes of tourists flocking in from south of the boarder.

Our second morning in Knowlton, Danielle picked us up at 8 am for our official Three Pines tour. Joined in a comfortable six passenger SUV by a couple from Washington, DC, we were whisked off to our first stop, the "Hadley House", location of the climactic scene in *Still Life*. From there we visited the inspiration for Mr. Beliveau's general store and had a delightful stop for coffee and baked goods. Our next stop was the monastery of Saint-Gilbert-entre-les-Loups, the inspiration for *A Beautiful Mystery*. We learned about the history of the monastery and listened to the monks sing their Gregorian chants before their midday service before heading down to the gift shop to sample the world famous cheeses produced by the monks.



Danielle proved to be a knowledgeable and gracious hostess, feeding us bits of Louise Penny history and tidbits about the locations we were visiting. For lunch, we drove to Manoir Bellechasse, the location featured in *A Rule Against Murder*. This home built on a lake in the early 1900s is one of the top 10 hotels in Canada and we enjoyed a delicious meal while learning the history of the charming inn. After lunch, we drove to Knowlton where we viewed the painting *Fair Day*, located in the local historical museum and then on to the bookstore where we met owners Lucy and Danny and were able to see the bench with its inscription "surprised by joy" that is featured in several of the novels.

Our final stop of the day was the small village of Sutton where we visited the small, white church that was the inspiration for St. Thomas Church in the books. We also stopped at a Sarah's boulangerie and finished the tour by sitting around enjoying wine and cheese and talking about our wonderful day.

Leaving the eastern townships, we had a pleasant drive up the Saint Lawrence river to the town of La Malbaie where we stayed for three days. The Charlevoix region is wilder and hillier than the eastern townships with views of the Laurentian mountain range in the distance. From the pretty riverside town, we explored the region, visiting the center of the 54 km wide Charlevoix crater, created 450 million years ago when an asteroid hit the region and strolling the streets of Baie St. Paul, inspiration to many of Canada's notable artists and featured in the book *A Long Way Home*. We also drove up to Baie St. Catherine to go whale watching and were reward with sightings of a number of whales including belugas, sei whales and an enormous fin whale with a baby.



The final three days of our trip were spent in the city of Quebec. The 400-year-old city of Quebec is an UNESCO World Heritage site and the only walled fortification north of Mexico. From our base in the Hotel Manoir Victoria, we explored the city, walking along the walls to the citadel, home to Canada's Royal 22nd Regiment, the only French-speaking regiment in the Canadian army. There we watched the changing of the guard and strolled on the Plains of Abraham,

location of the key battle in England's seven-year war with France that resulted in the surrender of Quebec. We also visited Artillery Park, where a pair of guides dressed in 1750 French soldiers' uniforms expressed concern that I might be a British spy sent from the colonies to the south!

Quebec is truly a treasure, and we were able to visit many of the locations mentioned in the book *Bury Your Dead*. For our final stop, we visited the Montmorency Falls, a fifteen-minute drive from Quebec. This waterfall, at 272 feet is actually 100 feet higher than Niagara Falls and while not featured in any of Ms. Penny's books, made a spectacular finish to our trip through Louise Penny country.

All of Louise Penny's books are available in the Delaware library system. If you like mysteries and would like to take a trip in your imagination, I encourage you to take one out and enjoy your own trip to Louise Penny country.



From the President

Judith Taggart



Dear Friends,

Welcome to fall and hopefully cooler weather. The library staff and your board have been working hard planning fall activities which are described throughout the newsletter. I hope you are able to participate in many. We are especially excited about marching in the Newark Halloween Parade and the opportunity for children to make a costume of their favorite book character. AND invitations have been extended to our elected officials to dress as their favorite book character and join us in the parade. YOU are welcome to join us also. Details are at the Library and on the Library and Friends websites.

I was perusing various Delaware Friends websites and came across Friends of the South Coastal Library (Bethany Beach) newsletter. The President of their Friends wrote an excellent article, *Films that Feature Libraries and More* that I knew you would find interesting. I contacted, Norbert Kraich, President and he very willingly gave us permission to print. His article follows mine.

If you come across an interesting article about a library or libraries, please email us at friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com. We can share with our members.



Thank you.

Judy

Hey, Let's Go to the Movies

Norbert Kraich, President
South Coastal Library

In our last issue I wrote about Susan Orleans' terrific story on the Los Angeles Central Library that she wrote about in *The Library Book*. Great read on subjects near & dear to many of us – 'who-done-it', social history and the worth of libraries. {Recently} I read a couple of reviews about two recently released movies that feature library/librarians. *Red Joan* features Judi Dench as a meek, retired librarian who apparently has a complicated and mysterious past that includes espionage, atomic secrets and treason. *The Public*, written, directed and starring Emilio Estevez along with Alec Baldwin and Christian Slater, is billed as a social advocacy drama, that features a library-based, hostage-taking crisis involving the homeless in a downtown Cincinnati library. I plan to see them both, soon.

This got me thinking about movies and libraries. But not about the normal stereotyped images of the stodgy, frumpy, middle-aged, repressed librarian working in a tomb like edifice where the liveliest event is collecting a long overdue book fine. I'm thinking more about films that present libraries and those who work there as real people and interesting folks. The prestigious British Film Institute (BFI) recently picked "The 10 Best Librarians on Screen". As the BFI noted in their introduction to the list they "...*picked screen representations that contradict the stereotypes and prove...(that) librarians are pretty cool...*". A few examples of those included on the list:

Alicia Hull (Bette Davis) – *Storm Center* (1956) – Ms. Hull refuses to censor a book even if it means losing her job & tells the all-male Town Council "...*you have the power to remove the book...and you have the power to remove me...if you do one you will have to do the other...*", spoken like we hope all librarians would react to censorship.

Gloria Mundy (Goldie Hawn) – *Foul Play* (1978) – Gloria becomes embroiled in a web of intrigue, murder, and dastardly villains. A lively divorcee, she drives a yellow VW Beetle around San Francisco and wields a deadly umbrella when attacked in the stacks.

Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) – *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994) – Andy, the only innocent man in the lock-up, builds a respectable library from nothing, helps the cons better their lives and shows that librarians are a tenacious bunch undeterred by bureaucracy.

There's lots more, check out the BFI web site at www.bfi.org.uk.

Over the years there have been lots of films that feature libraries that have made indelible impressions on movie-goers. Film critic and podcaster Jeff O'Neal recently posted the "16 Best Library Scenes in Film". As he noted in his intro to the list, "...*some combination of ambiance, seclusion, hidden knowledge, and the sheer beauty of shelves upon shelves of books make libraries a fantastic film setting...*". Examples include:

"I Love You" From *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961) – George Peppard & Audrey Hepburn,

"The Library as a Prison" From *The Breakfast Club* (1985) – Molly Ringwald, Judd Nelson, Ally Sheedy, et. Al.,

“Investigating at The Library of Congress” From *All The President’s Men* (1976) – Robert Redford & Dustin Hoffman,

“The Hogwarts Library” From EVERY *Harry Potter Movie* (2001 – 2011) – Daniel Radcliff, Emma Watson, Alan Rickman.

Hey – “Let’s All Go To The Movies” – it’s where you’ll find excitement – and libraries!



From the Library Manager

Pat Birchenall

If you have attended the annual brunch in the past, you may remember seeing a list of the Friends’ accomplishments in the program. It shows the energy, enthusiasm and dedication that our Friends members have for the library and for its place in the community. I wanted to highlight a just few examples of accomplishments which you may not know about, but which make such a difference in our level of service.

Did you know that a Friends member is in charge of the wonderful displays in our six glass display cases? This is a big ongoing task which requires careful coordination. Board member Deb Morehead has done a great job in communicating with groups and individuals who have created the displays, and we appreciate the work that she puts into it.

Some of our Friends members are actively involved in planning and presenting programs. Katy Ferrero took a great idea for a children’s program – Campfire Kids - and made it happen in August, with 117 kids and their families attending. Katy also coordinated the Friends’ entry for the City of Newark’s Halloween parade last year, and will do so again this year, encouraging library patrons both

young and old to join the parade dressed as their favorite book character.

Banjo Oriade recently developed and presented The Art and Science of Origami, a program for children which gave them not only a chance to try origami but also to understand the science behind it.

The Friends sponsor the twice-monthly Lego program, which is one of our most successful ongoing family events. Through your sponsorship, we are able to purchase new Lego building pieces as needed and provide refreshments for those in attendance – sometimes up to 80 people – with funds from the Friends. We periodically also set up the green screen equipment to create fun photos of kids with their Lego creations. Some of the equipment needed for this was also purchased with Friends funds.

We will soon be offering ukulele lessons for children at the library, and the Friends have purchased the ukuleles and cases for the library to use. Our baby grand piano is used frequently for musical performances, many of which are funded by the Friends, who also make sure the piano is tuned regularly and in time for these events. Our performers appreciate this attention to detail and I’m sure our attendees do as well.

These are just a few of the ways the Friends of the Newark Free Library organization goes above and beyond to help make this a great library. Thank you!



Halloween Parade Costume Creations

Carol Mckelvey

Sometimes the characters in our favorite books become so real to us that we want to pretend to be them. The Friends of the Library is offering a workshop to help children and families create a costume of their favorite character to wear in the Halloween parade down Main Street on October 27. We will plan to march in the parade as a group. The Costume Creation Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th, from 11 to 1 PM at the NFL.

Bring your ideas and things that you think might help you make the costume. We will have helpers and materials on hand on October 12. We may not finish all the costumes, but we will send you home with a good start and memories of lots of fun, working on the costume. "A genuine, made from scratch, home (library) made creation from your own imagination" is our goal. Some of my favorites are Olivia, the pig and Charlotte of *Charlotte's Web*. What is your favorite character? How will you depict him or her in costume for the Big Parade!



Many Thanks
for the recent
donations of
the 1947 and
1951 Krawen
Year Books.



Please consider donating your Krawen Year Book to the library.

What's New at the Library

Sherri McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian

Drop-In Tech Help: "Tech Tuesdays"

Every Tuesday afternoon, Newark Free Library offers drop-in tech help from 2-4pm. Computer aides are available during this time for help with:

- eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines (using the apps Overdrive, Libby, and Flipster)
- DLC app (how to install our catalog app and use it to track your account, renew or reserve books, etc.)
- Create an email
- Learn about Internet, Social Media.
- Help with tech devices such as laptops, eReaders, tablets, and smart phones within reasonable limits
- Individual help with computer skills within limits
- Help with online job applications

The service has been popular since we began in May 2019. Our computer aides have helped many with using eBooks, various eReaders, and the apps. Aides have helped with online job applications, uploading resumes, and so on. Some patrons have received help with using their new smart phones. Others got help with LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube, etc.

We will continue to offer this popular drop-in help, although the day and times are subject to change as work schedules change.

Coming soon: *Cell Phones for Seniors*. Details to be determined, but we will soon be offering drop-in help aimed at seniors with smart phones, probably once a month. We are also planning classes on social media such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram. We would be happy to hear your suggestions of topics you would like to learn about. Stop by the Information Desk and chat with a staff member.

FY19 Circulation / New Items Added in FY19

Circulation figures for FY19 show a total circulation at the 15 New Castle County Libraries of nearly 3.3 million items! Circulation at Newark was 513,262 (including physical items and digital loans). Digital loans accounted for about 11% of the total. Newark added 2917 new users during FY19, and had 246,663 user visits. What were people checking out? Well ...

Newark Library added nearly 12,000 new items to our collection in FY19. This number includes all adult and juvenile materials: books, CD books, DVDs, and music CDs (but does not include periodicals). That's almost 1000 new items per month!

Do you like reading fiction, including mystery and science fiction? 2140 new items were added in the last year for you to choose from. Nonfiction and biography = 2105. DVDs = 920. CD Books = 318. Large print titles = 297. Over 3000 new items were added to the teen collection, including almost 250 new teen graphic novels. Over 3000 new items were added to the children's collection, including 122 new board books to chew on!

It's easy to walk through the library and think everything looks the same. But new items are continually added. Our total collection (excluding periodicals) is about 165,000 items. On any given day, 15% of those items are missing from the shelves because they are checked out. Exactly *which* 15% changes all the time; therefore, what you see on the shelves changes all the time.

Ask for help at the Information Desk in locating the particular authors, titles, or subjects you are seeking. We are happy to help you search – and to put holds on items not available immediately.

eBooks / eAudiobooks/ eMagazines

Speaking of growing collections: the digital collection currently consists of 27,670 eBook copies and 8,732 eAudiobook copies. User demand for eAudiobooks shows in the increased

circulation. Back in July 2013, we circulated 1,856 eAudiobooks. By contrast, in July 2019, we circulated 18,718 eAudiobooks. Ten times more! Our policy now is to purchase an eAudiobook version of every eBook title we purchase, if one is available.

In July 2019, we set a record for total daily circulations (1917 checkouts). July's total circulation of 55,053 exceeded the record-setting June total.

Flipster digital magazine loans totaled 4325 in July. The most popular titles were *Consumer Reports* (544 downloads and views), *People* (461), *US Weekly* (227), *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* (172), and *Delaware Today* (162).

Ask for help at the Information Desk in accessing digital books, audiobooks, and magazines. We are happy to help you identify the right app for use with your device and to explain the process. Or ... drop in on a Tech Tuesday!

The FRIENDS OF THE NEWARK FREE LIBRARY RECEIVES \$1 DONATION WHEN YOU BUY THIS BAG THIS MONTH (15 August to 30 September)



AT THE COLLEGE SQUARE ACME ON
LIBRARY AVENUE, NEWARK
Save the planet, Support the library!

Music Programs for the Fall

Pamela Nelson, Reference Staff

This summer the audiences at the Library enjoyed a variety of music programs. In June, pianist Mark Blaschke delighted patrons with a program of masterpieces including Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, and Rachmaninoff. In August, the program featured a trio including Kimberly Christie, soprano; Jason Buckwalter, baritone and Andrew Stewart, piano highlighting composers Mozart, Faure, Sondheim and more in *An Evening of Song*. Both of these programs were made possible by the support of the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**.

The summer also included two sessions of **Music Open Mic**, one for Adults & Teens and the other for KIDS ages 6-12. The KIDS Open Mic was so successful last year that another was scheduled for this summer.



Pamela Nelson (far left) and Kid's Open Mic participants

The music season continues in the fall with a **Piano Recital** given by **Jennifer Most** on **Saturday, November 2nd at 1:00pm**.



Jennifer, a student of Christine Delbeau, Associate Professor of Music at the University of Delaware, will be presenting her degree recital. Her program will include *English Suite No. 3, in G Minor* *BMW 808* by Johann Sebastian Bach,

Three Sketches by Frank Bridge, *Ballade* by Claude Debussy, and *The Man I Love* by George and Ira Gershwin. We thank Ms. Most for sharing her recital program with us at the Newark Library.

In November, the women's vocal ensemble **Vox Humana**, directed by Michael Xavier Lundy, returns for a program entitled **God Bless America**. The program on **Saturday, November 9th at 2:00 pm** is a menagerie of patriotic music in recognition of Veterans Day. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Free Library.

In December, **First State Ringers** return for their popular annual holiday program, which is scheduled twice: **Friday evening, December 13th at**



7:00pm and then on **Saturday, December 14th at 1:00pm**. Under the direction of Ruthie Toole, the handbell ensemble will play festive music for the holidays. In addition to the selections, the performers will demonstrate the variety of bells that they use. These performances are also sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Free Library.

The next **Music Open Mic** for Ages 12 – up is scheduled for **Friday evening, November 8th from 6:30pm – 8:30pm**. The Library's baby grand piano



will be available for soloists or those in an ensemble. Musicians should register for a 10 minute time slot in which to perform. Previous sessions have featured guitarists, pianists, vocalists and an accordion player. All listeners are welcomed to join us to support the performers and enjoy some refreshments.

In addition, **KIDS Open Mic** for ages 6 – 12 is scheduled during the holiday season on **Saturday afternoon, December 28th at 2:00pm**.

Beginning December 1st, young musicians will be able register to perform during the session. The Library's piano will be available to all musicians. Friends and families are most welcome to come and support the young musicians.

As we enter the new year, keep these dates in mind: **Mélomanie, Provocative pairing of early and contemporary works**, with Kimberly Reighley, flutes; Christof Richter, violins; Donna Fournier, viol da gamba; Ismar Gomes, cellos and Tracy Richardson, harpsichord is scheduled for a program on **Sunday, January 26th at 2:00pm**. February welcomes the return of the **Sylvia Olden Lee Music Guild** with their lively performance of spirituals and readings on **Friday, February 14th at 7:00pm**.

Please join us for our many music programs, and we thank the Friends of the Newark Free Library for their support of so many of our programs.



Summer Reading 2019

Pat Birchenall, Library Manager

The Summer Reading Challenge came to an end in mid-August, with 1034 children registered to read throughout the summer, a 12% increase over last summer. Kids of all ages enjoyed a full slate of special programs which were offered each day during the week along with our regular ongoing activities. The Friends were involved throughout the summer, from presenting the 2nd annual Campfire Kids program to providing refreshments for our kickoff event to funding a number of performances, reading incentives and end-of-summer grand prizes.



In total, the library hosted 68 children's programs during the summer months, with 3267 people in attendance. A big thank you goes to our Children's

staff members, Lisa Beamer, Susan Montney, Adriana Camacho-Church and Sam Santiago for making it all a success. These staff members also supervised and mentored a large cadre of teen volunteers, who provided valuable assistance throughout the summer.

Not only did children have fun reading and attending events. 132 adults registered for the Adult Summer Reading program. This was almost double the number who participated last year.

About the volunteers:

This year 19 teen volunteers completed 973 hours of volunteer service, covering the SRC desk for nearly all the hours we were open, helping families sign up and record their hours of reading, and giving out the many incentives available to the children.

In addition, the teen volunteers helped with the set up and cleanup of the meeting rooms before and after programs. A few took turns being the "movie host" serving popcorn for our Tuesday afternoon kids' movies. Several teens helped out with LEGO, card making and watercolor workshops. Teen volunteers also helped retrieve items from the shelves, packed our out-going transit crates, retrieved the book drop and cased DVDs as time permitted.



Through these tasks, the volunteers learned a quite a lot about library operations. "I learned communication skills from talking to many people and learned how the books are organized." "I learned about the way books are organized and where the fun new books are!" "I learned how important it is for libraries to remain organized and running." "I learned about the significance of reading and imagination in children's lives."

What would our teen volunteers change for next summer: "More tasks to complete at the SRC desk when we aren't busy." We truly have some
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motivated teens helping make the summer run smoothly. A thank you to volunteer coordinator Linda Llanso, who trained and organized this great group of volunteers and coordinated their varied schedules to provide patrons and staff with assistance throughout the summer. We're already looking forward to Summer Reading 2020.

Friends of the NFL Need You!



The Friends of Newark Free Library will be at **Newark Community Day** Sunday, September 15 (rain date September 22), from 11:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be distributing children's

books and giving out information about the library and upcoming events.

If you are a Friend and would like to volunteer for an hour or two for this well attended event, please email Barbara Jo German at hugo477@aol.com. Hope to see you there!



I've Been Reading...

A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II.

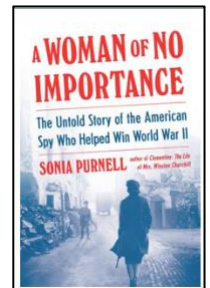
By: Sonia Purnell



Reviewed by

Bob Taggart

Virginia Hall (1906-1982) is a name few Americans know, which is partly rectified by this account of a terrifically effective American woman spy in Vichy France during World War II. Virginia came from a wealthy Baltimore family and attended Radcliffe and Barnard, where she studied French, Italian and German. After refusing several marriage proposals, the adventurous Virginia travelled the Continent, then worked in the consular office of the American Embassy in Warsaw by 1931. Unfortunately, she shot herself in her leg the next year in a hunting accident, causing the amputation of one leg below the knee, which ended her diplomatic career. Retaining her sense of humor, she later named her wooden leg "Cuthbert"!



Seeking adventure, she served as an ambulance driver in France when the Germans invaded in 1940. Virginia fled to southern France and moved on to London where she joined the new SOE (Special Operation Executive) to be trained for British intelligence operations. She was quickly sent to Toulouse and Lyon to set up underground

contacts with Resistance fighters. For 15 months, using such aliases as Germaine, Camille and Diane, Virginia achieved more than any other British operative in an incredibly perilous situation. She had to make and expand contacts, guarding against double-agents, while organizing numerous cells. She gathered money and armaments through couriers from Switzerland, and directed air drops of munitions and supplies in numerous operations. Virginia was so successful, the Gestapo called her the "most dangerous of all Allied spies." The Germans never captured her as she used various disguises and frequent moves to stay free, unlike many of her less careful British colleagues.

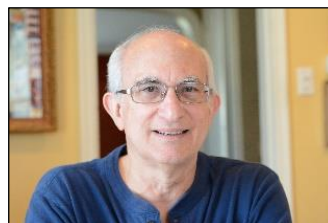
This account is at times nerve-racking to read because one becomes convinced she will be caught by German and Vichy cars, airplanes and counter-intelligence agents, especially when she helped with radio transmissions.

By late 1942, the Germans took over all of France, and Virginia had to escape. Despite her wooden leg, she walked 50 miles in two days over the Pyrenees into Spain where she was captured by Franco's police but freed due to U.S. Embassy intervention. She returned to a desk job in the London SOE office but was so valuable she was sent back to Lyon to direct larger clandestine operations, training three battalions of Resistance fighters. She had great success despite local chauvinists who did not like Americans or women bosses. Virginia continued her career in the SOE, the American OSS, and in the CIA until 1966.

Virginia was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre MBE, but was often shamelessly ignored in the CIA. The CIA eventually recognized her work by naming a building after her at Headquarters, but that was years later. Still, she is now recognized for her superlative work by the British, French and American intelligence communities. I think you will agree with them after reading about this amazing and courageous woman. If you liked this book, you might also like the author's recent work, *Clementine, The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill*.

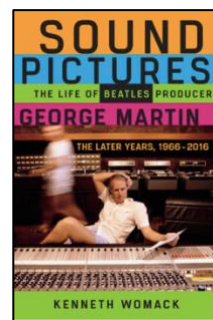
Sound Pictures: The Life of Beatles Producer George Martin The Later Years, 1966-2016

By Kenneth Womack
Chicago Review Press, 2018; 576 pp.



Reviewed by Roy H. Lopata

I would hate my disappointment to show, but Kenneth Womack's long and winding road through George Martin's years as the Beatles' producer is not what it appears to be. Instead of Martin's "life," this volume feels like it's a thousand pages, give or take a few, of the rehearsing, recording and re-recording; overdubbing; mixing; arranging and orchestrating every second of every single track of every record the Beatles made from 1966 until the band broke up in 1970. I don't want to sound like a complainer but a reader of this helter skelter mess of a book would have to be either seriously musically inclined (especially interested in the recording rather than the playing of music), or a Beatles fan of epic proportions who wants to learn each twist and shout of the process involved in bringing original fragments of Beatles song ideas to fruition. And frankly, I'm going to let you down by noting that the previous sentence makes Womack's volume sound more interesting than this very strange book actually is.



Womack begins where I presume he left off in a previous volume with the Beatles at the height of their chart-topping success by describing the work behind the recording of *Revolver*. Then, in the only section of the book I would suggest that is worth reading, Womack turns to describing the germination of the ideas for what many consider
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the greatest rock and roll album of all time -- *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Womack provides mind-numbing detail of all the fits and starts, tedium and the magical mystery tour involved in the Beatles writing the *Sgt. Peppers* music and Martin's contribution to this groundbreaking LP. Martin's subsequent role in the recording of the singles *Strawberry Fields Forever* and *Penny Lane* also is notable as it underscores how the Beatles, even in the midst of interpersonal struggles and feuding could come together to make records that when one reads the songs names we hear the music playing inside our heads. But eventually a lengthy and sad sequence of hard days' nights results in the end of the band in 1970. From here Womack describes Martin's many years working with other recording stars including Jeff Beck, America, Cheap Trick, Elton John and Paul McCartney as a solo artist. I should have known better and left the text unread after the Beatles' breakup since Womack's description of Martin's work in multiple recording studios after the end of the Fab Four continues the monotonous pace of most of the volume.

So if you see Womack's George Martin bio on the Newark Free Library shelves I suggest you let it be and instead, if you are interested in his life story, just imagine it.

WEBSITES:

Friends of the Newark Free Library

www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com

Newark Free Library main page

<http://www.nccde.org/Newark>

Newark Free Library Calendar

<http://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/newark>

New Castle County Happenings library page

<http://www.nccdecs.org> and click on libraries and then Happenings Guide

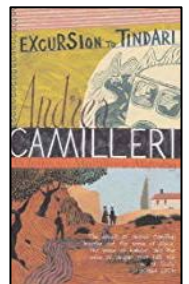
Inspector Montalbano Mysteries

Judy Taggart, FNFL President

In May Bob and I toured Sicily for two weeks. A fascinating country with so much history--first the Phoenicians, then Greeks, followed by Romans, then Moslems, and finally Christians. Each culture physically built on the existing structures, literally. Our guides and local guides were excellent historians.

Many times during the trip, our Guide raved about the popularity in Italy of Italian author, Andrea Camilleri, Inspector Montalbano mysteries. When we returned, I checked out several of his books and found them intriguing with bits of humor. The plots are based on the usual--murder, betrayal, office politics, corruption, temptation. There is mix of humor, cynicism, compassion and love of food. Detective Salvo Montalbano has a small gang of lieutenants with varying talents that report to him and one in particular is hilarious.

I especially enjoyed *Excursion to Tindari* which connects Sicilian history to religion and the mafia. Two seemingly unrelated events, a young man is assassinated in front of an apartment and an elderly couple living in the same apartment disappear. Evidence shows that the couple were murdered together while they were holding hands. Inspector Montalbano brings it all to an end in his usual credible and interesting way.



Mr. Camilleri, age 93, passed away in July and the *New York Times* dedicated a half page article to him. His first book was not published until he was 69 (guess there's hope for all of us). The *Times* wrote, "For sunny views, explosive characters and a snappy plot constructed with great farcical ingenuity, the writer you want is Andrea Camilleri." There are approximately 27 so the author produced many in a relatively short period. The final novel in the series was already

written and deposited at the publishing house. This final book will be published before year's end.

His series has been made into a very popular Italian television series and the library has copies of each on DVD. Because they are in Italian, they have subtitles. You can also find the DVDs on Amazon Prime; however, you have to pay for each program. **BETTER TO USE YOUR FREE LIBRARY CARD!!!**

It's not very often that the DVD version of a book is almost as good and true to the book; however, in watching a number already, each is quite close to the book.

There's an app for that!

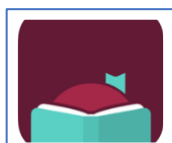
If you are interested in downloading digital copies of your favorite magazines or books (audio or ebooks), check out these apps. Available for both IOS and Android devices.



Overdrive



Flipster



Libby

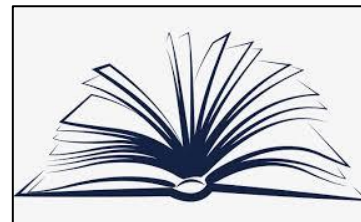
Digital Newsletter

Beginning with the September 2019 issue of the FNFL newsletter only a digital copy of the newsletter were sent to all Friends who have an email address on file. Print copies were sent to all members with only a street address on file or who requested the print version of the newsletter.

If you'd like to receive a digital newsletter in lieu of the printed newsletter, please contact the Friends at friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support as we transition from a print only newsletter to a digital newsletter option.

The following article originally appeared in the Greater St Louis Knitters' Guild Knitters' News (June 2019) and is reprinted with permission.



Knitting in Literature – Julie Vance, Education VP

Do you have a favorite book that features a character that knits? Do you enjoy books that weave knitting into the plot? Here are a few to of each:

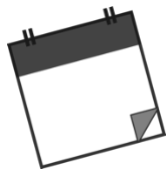
Characters who knit:

Harry Potter Series – Hermione Granger,
Molly Weasley, and Hagrid
Miss Marple from the Agatha Christie
A Tale of Two Cities – Mme. Defarge
Little Women – Jo and Beth
Persuasion – Mrs. Smith

Books that feature knitting:

The Friday Night Knitting Club Series –
Kate Jacobs
Knitting in the City – Penny Reid
A Knitting Mystery Book Series –
Maggie Sefton
Blossom Street Series – Debbie Macomber
The Sweetgum Knit Lit Society – Beth Pattillo
Black Sheep Knitting Mysteries –
Anne Canadeo





Calendar

WRITING WORKSHOP SERIES*

Various topics and tips for aspiring writers. Attend one of the sessions or all of them. Topics will vary month-to-month. Registration required. Ages 15+. 2-4 p.m. **SUNDAYS:**

September 29, October 27, November 24

THE ART OF CRITIQUE: A POETRY WORKSHOP*

Feedback is essential to the writing craft. In this workshop series, participants will have an opportunity to receive thoughtful critique of their own poems while learning to offer constructive feedback on the work of others. Workshop is open to poets of all levels. Ages 15+. 2-4 p.m.

SATURDAYS: September 21, October 19, November 16

MONTHLY CARDMAKING WORKSHOP

Learn the art of cardmaking. Each workshop focuses on a new holiday or theme. Registration required. Ages 12+. 6-8 p.m. **TUESDAYS**

September 3, October 8, November 5

DECLUTTER TO DE-STRESS WORKSHOP

Tidy up, declutter, organize, de-stress. Workshop will focus on clutter-busting ideas, strategies, and plans. Get your hands on clutter! Registration required. Adults. 6-8 p.m. **TUESDAYS**

September 17, October 15, November 19

WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOP

Enjoy an evening of watercolor painting at the Library. No experience required. Beginners Welcome! Supplies provided by Library.

Registration required. Teen/Adults. 6-8 p.m.

FRIDAYS :September 20, October 18, November 15

FRIDAY FILMS, September 6 @ 2pm & 6:30pm
Film showing - **The Public**



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 @ 11am-12pm

AROMATHERAPY FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Join Certified Aromatherapist Robin Kielkowski from Brandywine Botanicals for a discussion of aromatherapy basics. Smell your way through a variety of essential oils while learning how they provide support through a variety of wellness issues. Perfect as we enter cold and flu season. Registration required.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 @ 10 a.m.-12 p.m. **COFFEE WITH COPS**

To help celebrate Peace Week the Newark Free Library will offer an opportunity for the public to talk with Newark Police officers, and will include coffee and refreshments.



FRIDAY FILMS, October 4 @ 2pm & 6:30pm

Film showing - **The Mule**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 1-2 p.m.

CLEAN WATER STARTS at HOME

Helpful tips and tricks for keeping water clean and unpolluted before entering storm drains. No scientific jargon so anyone at any age or background can understand the content.

Registration required.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 1-2 p.m.

DELMARVA GHOST STORIES AND LEGENDS.

Come hear Ed Okonowicz tell some spooky stories and legends for Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. This will be one of Ed Okonowicz's last presentations. Registration required.



FRIDAY FILMS, SEPTEMBER 6 @
2pm & 6:30pm
Film showing - **Rocketman**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 @ 1-2 p.m.
PIANO RECITAL with Jennifer Most
Jennifer Most, studying at the University of Delaware, presents a program of piano classics.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 @ 6:30-8:30 p.m
OPEN MIC Music Night at the Library
Looking for a place to showcase your musical talent? We are putting out a call for vocalists, acoustic instrumentalists, and pianists (baby grand piano will be available). Be part of the fun! Performers must register.



FRIDAY FILMS, December 6 @
2pm & 6:30pm
Film showing - **Ben is Back**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 7-8 p.m.
FIRST STATE RINGERS
Handbell choir presents a concert of holiday music. Sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Free Library.



SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 14 @ 1-2 p.m.
FIRST STATE RINGERS
Handbell choir presents a concert of holiday music. Sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Free Library.

Calendar information provided by Bryan Gollicker, NFL library staff. For additional calendar information click on the link below or copy into your browser.

www.delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/newark

Sign up for the Newark Free Library “Weekly Happenings”. It is emailed every Sunday with the upcoming week’s activities. It serves as a great reminder of the variety of opportunities at our Library. Just stop by the reference desk and give your email.

