

*Friends of the  
Port Townsend  
Library  
Newsletter*



Fall 2010

## FALL BOOK SALE!

Saturday Oct. 9  
At the Uptown  
Community Center

Members 8-9 am  
General public 9 am - 2 pm

Can you help? Volunteers are always appreciated on Friday night for set-up and for the sale on Saturday and cleanup afterwards. If you would like to volunteer, please contact either Cheryl Bentley at 379-0953 or [cbentley@cablespeed.com](mailto:cbentley@cablespeed.com) or Macy Mullarky at 379-1061 or [macym@olympus.net](mailto:macym@olympus.net)

### Reminder:

Memberships for the Friends expire May 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

If you have not yet renewed, come early, renew and have "first dibs" at the books.

Individuals -- \$10.00

Family -- \$20.00

## READING CAROL SHIELDS

*by Dick Conway*

Call it serendipity. There I was in a strange rented house far from home and I had forgotten to bring anything to read from the Port Townsend Library. Tomorrow I would find a bookstore, but what about tonight? From childhood, I have fallen asleep over a novel (or been kept awake, sometimes).

I was about to reach for a cookbook in the kitchen when my eye fell upon a volume lying on a dark shelf in the living room, doubtless forgotten by the previous visitor. Thus, I entered the enchanted land of Carol Shields, in this case "Larry's Party," the story of Larry Weller, a seemingly ordinary Winnipeg landscaper, who in high school was "part of the jerk squad, president of nothing, member of no organization, unathletic, with barely average marks . . . an unmemorable smudge in the yearbook."

I suppose the point is that we are all seemingly ordinary human beings and perhaps each of us has a spark of genius if only something can fan it into fire. In Larry's case, it is a passion for hedge mazes, which he discovers on an otherwise tiresome

honeymoon to England. But long before he becomes a sought-for and wealthy landscape architect, we follow his travails as a lost young man seeking love in mostly wrong places. One of Shields's most striking characteristics is an antic sense of humor. We follow Larry's escapades with sympathy and empathy but also with a strong sense of the human comedy. I soon began to laugh at this character's foibles, follies, and frolics; and by the time I reached the chapter titled "Larry's Penis"—surely one of our literature's comic masterpieces—I was hooked for good.

Many authors seem to be writing only thinly disguised autobiography—Hemingway and his heroes, for example—but until her last book, "Unless," narrated by a woman novelist, Shields maintained an uncanny distance from her characters. That may be easier to do when the protagonist and author are of different genders, as in "Larry's Party," but Shields' artistry is perhaps most evident in her best-known novel, the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Stone Diaries." **Continued →**

### (Continued “Reading”)

As a novel, it is, for me, a lesser achievement than “Larry’s Party.” But as a fictional tour de force, it is in a realm of its own.

If the task of the novelist is to make us believe in the emotional reality of her characters—for as long as we are reading the book, at least—Shields has in “Stone Diaries” an extraordinary success.

The book comes with not only a two-page genealogy in the front and an elaborate family history of the protagonist, Daisy Flett (daughter of Mercy Stone), who tells us her own story, but also (I don’t really understand this) pictures of major and minor characters!

Our library has these and other books by Carol Shields, who died of breast cancer at age

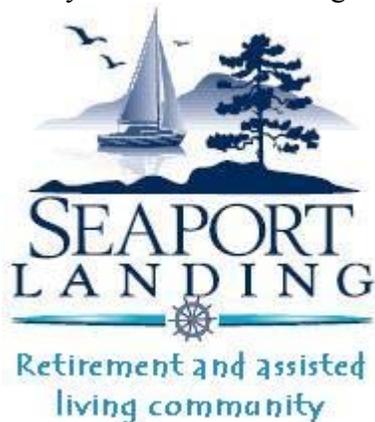
68. Her career was as varied and remarkable as her novels: she moved from mother of five, to poet, to novelist, to professor, and finally to chancellor of the University of Winnipeg, her home for most of her Canadian life (she was born in Illinois). In 2000, Shields moved to Victoria, B.C., where she lived out the last three years of her life. ●

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## Friends of the Port Townsend Library Annual Meeting by Cheryl Bentley

The annual meeting for the Friends of the Port Townsend Library occurred Thursday evening, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Seaport Landing. Excellent wine and hors d’oeuvres were provided by our host, Melinda “Mendi” Short, and her gracious staff to honor and celebrate library volunteers, an integral part of the success of our Port Townsend Library.

More than forty guests gathered for food and socializing. A brief board meeting took place near the end of the evening to elect officers for next year. And, at the close, door prizes, including a PT Library book bag and salon gift certificates from Seaport Landing, were awarded to many of the guests. We are grateful to Seaport Landing for their generosity and were happy to see so many members turn out for this year’s annual meeting.



## What We Are Reading

Here’s a list of books Friends of the Port Townsend Library Board and friends are reading currently:

Renee Bush – “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” by Stieg Larsson

Macy Mullarky – “Shadow Tag” by Louise Erdrich

Kathleen Hawn – “Does This Clutter Make My Butt Look Fat?” by Peter Walsh

Colleen Freidberg – “Annie Dunne” by Sebastian Barry

Cheryl Bentley – “The Geography of Bliss” by Eric Weiner

Geralynn Rackowski – “Stones from the River” by Ursula Hegi

Gwen Lovett – “Little Bee” by Chris Cleave

Ellen Dustman – “Listening Below the Noise” by Anne D. LeClaire

Linnea Patrick – “The Vicar of Wakefield” by Oliver Goldsmith

Linda Martin – “The Lacuna” by Barbara Kingsolver

## From the Library Director: Theresa Rini Percy



Photo by Barney Burke

I am pleased to announce the launching of the new and improved library website [WWW.ptpubliclibrary.org](http://WWW.ptpubliclibrary.org) that went "live" at the end of September. With support from the Office of the Secretary of State with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we have given our website not only a new look but also a new purpose. By investing in this new

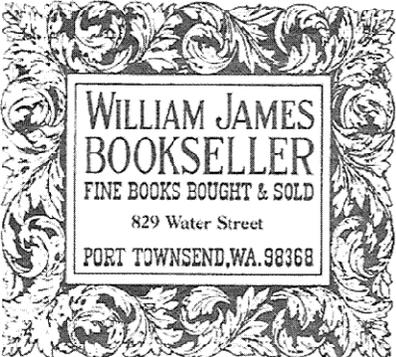
look we have empowered the website to become the superhighway delivering the latest and greatest library news and information directly to you, our community. It is the "go to" place for library happenings and services. Therefore, I invite you to check out all of the easy-to-use features including searching the catalog for new bestsellers, finding out about all of the exciting programs for babies, teens, and adults, and learning about our new resource centers for job seekers and grant research. I am also very pleased to announce the library has received funding for a second year from the Washington State Library and the Gates Foundation to continue the very successful Hard Times Grant which provided resources for a job center at the library. (For details, see Susan Wilson's project consultant's news item) This project has helped the library step up with significant *Help in Hard Times* for job seekers and the unemployed.

Finally, I would like to share some recent thoughts I've had about libraries and the

Internet. The Internet with all of its amazing electronic devices such as Kindles and smart phones are all part of this information revolution. Our philosophy as a library is to embrace all of it as just another "collection."

However, this collection perhaps more than any other needs the skill and knowledge of a librarian to help you ask the right question and find the right answers from the best, reliable online sources. According to a recent study the internet contains over a trillion individual web pages, with several billion more created each day." Rather than librarians joining the ranks of endangered species, they are becoming the gatekeepers for the vast ever expanding worldwide web. Something to think about the next time someone says libraries and librarians are becoming obsolete.

So, Port Townsend Public Library is alive and well and is constantly moving forward with the generous help of its Friends to provide the best library service possible for its community. Thank you Friends again and again. ●



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## FINDING YOUR WORK PATH IN HARD TIMES

**T**heresa Percy, Port Townsend Public Library director, announced the second year grant award of \$25,000 to continue the Hard Times Grant, Transition Yourself<sup>©</sup> ~ *Finding Your Work Path in Hard Times*, in September 2010. The project will build on last year's foundation of workshops and network group meetings for job seekers as well as provide training for library staff, add information to the library website and enhance collections. During the first year grant, more than 500 items were added to library collections and more than 75 people received service with job search and career

development through 21 workshops, 39 network group meetings or individual coaching sessions. Twenty-four workshops are planned in 2010-2011 and Susan Wilson, Employment Consultant, hopes to reach more job seekers and especially teens, workers age 50+ and veterans. The *Transition Yourself*<sup>©</sup> Network Group started weekly meetings September 20 at 9am at the Charles Pink House. For more information, leave a message at 360-344-4608 or email [swilson@cityofpt.us](mailto:swilson@cityofpt.us). *Susan Kay Wilson*

### New Friends!

Since our last newsletter was published, the following people have joined as new members of the Friends of the Port Townsend Library:

Renée Bush  
Roberta Byrners  
Thomas Crubaugh  
Ryan Davis  
Beth Dejarnette  
Ellen Dustman & Oliver Henry  
Albert & Bridget Foster  
Ted Gates  
Kay & David Goetz  
Ron Gove  
Karen Graham  
Jim Harris  
Janie Kimball  
Warren & Beverly Leitch  
Linda & Bob Maguire  
Vicki Mansfield  
KL Mayer Consulting Group  
Cameron McPherson  
Charlie & Gayle Moore  
Mary Robson  
Patt Roche  
Nelly & Jim Tretter  
Ted Walch

*Thanks to all our continuing members and our newest members for supporting our local library programs through your dues.*

### \$1,000 Raffle to Kick-off Capital Campaign

by Linnea Patrick

The Port Townsend Public Library will soon kick off its Capital Campaign to raise money to help build onto and renovate the Carnegie building. Part of that fundraising effort will be a \$1,000 giveaway raffle. You can lend your support by purchasing raffle tickets today!

Tickets are \$10 each and a maximum of 1,000 will be sold.

First Prize is \$1,000 (or 10% of the value of the tickets sold).

Second Prize is an evening of cocktails and appetizers for 6 to 8 people at the beautiful PT home of Jim Whittaker and Dianne Roberts (value \$250).

Third Prize is a Library tote loaded with contents worth \$100.

Tickets can be purchased at the PT Public Library during library hours, from **Friends President**, GERALYNN RACKOWSKI, LINNEA PATRICK, or any other PT Library Foundation Board member. The drawing will be on November 17. You need not be present to win.



## New FOL Board Members

By Dick Conway

When Andrew Carnegie established a foundation to build libraries, he required a commitment from the people served -- civic enterprise and a passion for knowledge.

We think he would be pleased with the new members of the FOL Board, Colleen Freidberg and Renee Bush. Each of them, in a recent interview, remembered what the libraries of her life had given to her and expressed a heartfelt wish to express her appreciation by helping to make the Port Townsend Library even more effective.

Colleen, who grew up in Gloversville, near New York's Adirondack Park, remembers her local Carnegie library fondly, especially the story hours she enjoyed as a child. When her work as a nurse, and her husband Stan's medical practice, took her to the Far West, a good library was the essential requirement for their choice of a home location. So, from the time of their first visit to Port Townsend

in 1986 until they settled here a few years ago, Colleen and Stan have appreciated the excellent holdings of our little library.

Renee, who moved here recently from Quilcene, took a similar route to Port Townsend. Raised in Texas, she moved to Denver as a teenager and then attended college in San Francisco. From a job educating children in the San Francisco museum, she fell in love with museums, becoming a curator in Jacksonville, Oregon, and then Seattle. Libraries, she says, have always been instrumental in her work and now she wants to pay back what they have given her by working for ours.

It is a measure of their dedication that both women chose a Port Townsend house within walking distance of the library, although they live on opposite sides of the library's hill. In the coming months of the centennial renovation project, they will be close to the action in every way. Welcome, Renee and Colleen! ☺



## Friends go to the Farmers Market

In June, Friends volunteers sold books from a booth at the Farmer's Market. Wes Eng, book sale volunteer extraordinaire and Library Advisory Board member, initiated this successful project. Pictured are FOPTL volunteers Susan Robinson, Karen Farr and Wes Eng.



Book Sale photos by Cheryl Bentley

## Adult Reading Programs

We are pleased to announce the success of the Summer Adult Reading Program supported by the Friends of the Library and First Federal. We had 119 participants submitting 357 reviews. The reviews will be posted on the library website throughout the year on the Pageturners Book Review Blog edited by Friend of the Library Member Kathleen Hawn. The winner of our drawing was library supporter and volunteer Sarah Fairbank. She was pleased with her book bag, mug, hat and books donated by the Friends.

We have been asked to have a winter Adult Reading Program by a family with teenagers who wrote their reviews and talked about the books together and then all went to the Undertown for lattes and hot chocolate!

### Coming Events:

**Thursday Oct. 7 -- All day.** Meet at Wing Luke Museum 11:15 am

Field Trip to the Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

Visit the International District and sites from the book written by Jamie Ford about life in Seattle for a Chinese boy and Japanese girl during World War II. Call Cris Wilson at 379-4441 for information.

Limited number. At \$16.95 for tour. Or, pick up a Self Guided Tour Brochure at the Port Townsend Library

**Thursday Oct. 14 -- 7 pm**

Author Jamie Ford presents "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" Talk and Book Signing.

**Thursday November 17 6:30 pm**

Silent auction 7pm Cooking Demonstration and Book Signing

Northwest Chefs Dessert Auction with author/chef Debra Daniels Zeller cooking from her new book "The Northwest Vegetarian Cookbook". In support of the Port Townsend Public Library Foundation.

*Chris Wilson*



## New Saturday Programs for Families

New Saturday programs at the library! Join us on Saturdays for Family storytime at 11am and Baby Lapsit storytime at 1pm.

Our annual Harvest and Magic Halloween celebration will be on October 28 at 6:30 pm at the Library. Grammy award winning composers, Arthur and Leslie Stead, will amaze and delight you with music and magic. Fun for the whole family! We'll also have yummy treats for your pleasure and a drawing for a harvest basket full of goodies.

*Jody Glaubman*

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If you would like to volunteer, we'd love to have you. Please indicate your area(s) of interest:

- Book sales
- Membership drives
- Fundraising events
- In-library service
- Newsletter / publicity
- Rhody parade
- Special events/Advocacy
  
- I have an idea, call me!

*ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> UNTIL MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>. DUES MAY BE PAID AT THE LIBRARY, AT THE OCTOBER BOOK SALE OR BY COMPLETING THE FORM ABOVE AND SENDING IT IN. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "FOPTL" OR, "FRIENDS OF THE PORT TOWNSEND PUBLIC LIBRARY"*

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**Don't miss the October 9 Friends' Book Sale at the Uptown Community Center. Come early, renew your membership, and browse the largest ever selection of lightly used books, CDs, and videos.**



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Library Hours:

Monday thru Thursday

10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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## Friends of the Port Townsend Library (FOPTL)

provides services, programs, and materials for the library that are beyond the means of the city budget, for the cultural and educational enrichment of the community. FOPTL publishes three newsletters each year -- spring, summer, and fall. Members may receive their newsletter via email or post. Any library patron can read the publication at [www.cityofpt.us/library/](http://www.cityofpt.us/library/) or pick up a printed copy at the Port Townsend Library.

If you want more detailed information on the Friends, please attend an FOPTL Board meeting, held on the second Wednesday each month, 4:30 pm, at the Charles Pink House (next to the Library, at the corner of Lawrence and Harrison.) The next meeting is Wednesday, October 13, 2010. If you are interested in any of the vacant Board positions, or any other volunteer activity, please phone Geralynn at 385-1206.

### Board Members:

President: Geralynn Rackowski

Vice President: Cheryl Bentley

Secretary: (vacant)

Treasurer: Jean Harrington

Hospitality: Gwen Lovett

Membership: Cheryl Bentley

Newsletter: Linda Martin

Programs: (vacant)

Publicity: (vacant)

Book Sales: Macy Mullarky

FRIENDS  
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PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON

### Members at Large:

Kathleen Hawn

Colleen Freidberg.

Renee Bush