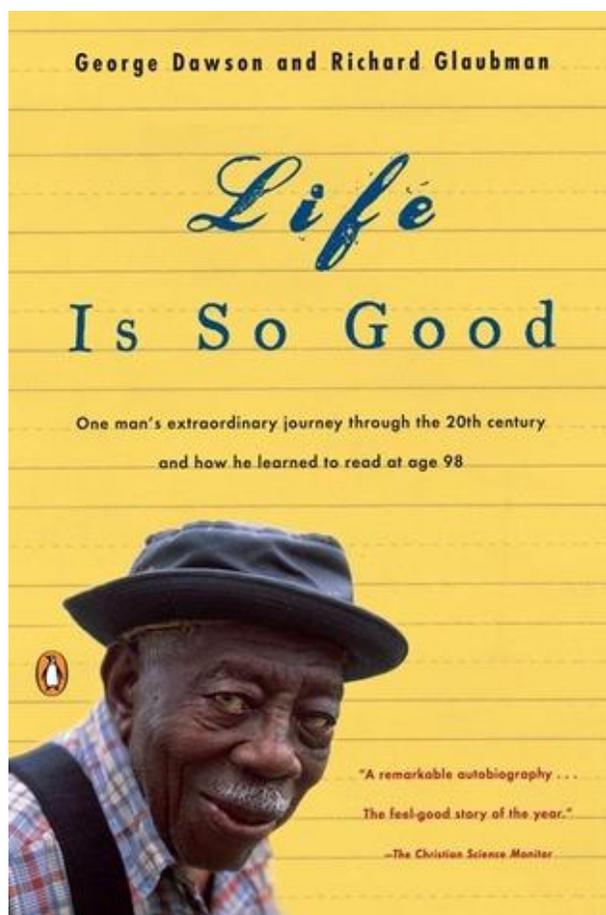




Friends of the Port Townsend Library Newsletter — Special edition 2013



Teen Community Read is an opportunity for teens in Port Townsend to read a great book and share it with their families and friends. As part of the 100th birthday celebration of the Port Townsend Public Library, the book chosen for the 2013 Teen Community Read is *Life is So Good* by George Dawson and Richard Glaubman. The grandson of a slave, Dawson learned to read at age 98 and this story is his reflections on life as well as a fresh, firsthand view of America during the twentieth century. Blue Heron P.E. teacher, Glaubman, was intrigued by a Seattle Times photo of Dawson reading his birthday cards for the first time at age 100 and decided to call him in Dallas, Texas to find out more. A few weeks later, Glaubman flew to Texas and introduced himself to a very surprised George Dawson. They spent a few days getting to know each other, and with a lot of courage and faith, Dawson invited Glaubman to live with him and write his story so that “my story, a story about the common man, will be recorded and help people, especially young people, better their lives.”

Eighth grade students at Blue Heron and students at Port Townsend High School have been given copies of the book to read and they’ve been encouraged to share the book with their parents and grandparents. Copies of the book are also available for check out at the Port Townsend Public Library. A book discussion open to the public will be April 17 from 1-2pm at the Library Learning Center. Glaubman will present a program on Thursday, April 18 in the Port Townsend High School auditorium from 9:40a.m.-10:30a.m. or 11:10a.m.-noon. These free programs are also open to the public. The 2013 Teen Community Read is sponsored by First Federal Savings & Loan, Friends of the Port Townsend Library, and the Port Townsend School District.

*Teen Community Read --
Celebrating the 100th birthday of
The Port Townsend Library!*

By Jody Glaubman

Passage to Juneau *A Sea and Its Meanings*

Reviewed by Dick Conway

Where, O Library Patron, would you like your book to take you on its magic carpet? To windy Troy with Chapman's Homer and Keats? Down the Mississippi with Huck and Mark? To Hell and back with Dante and Vergil?

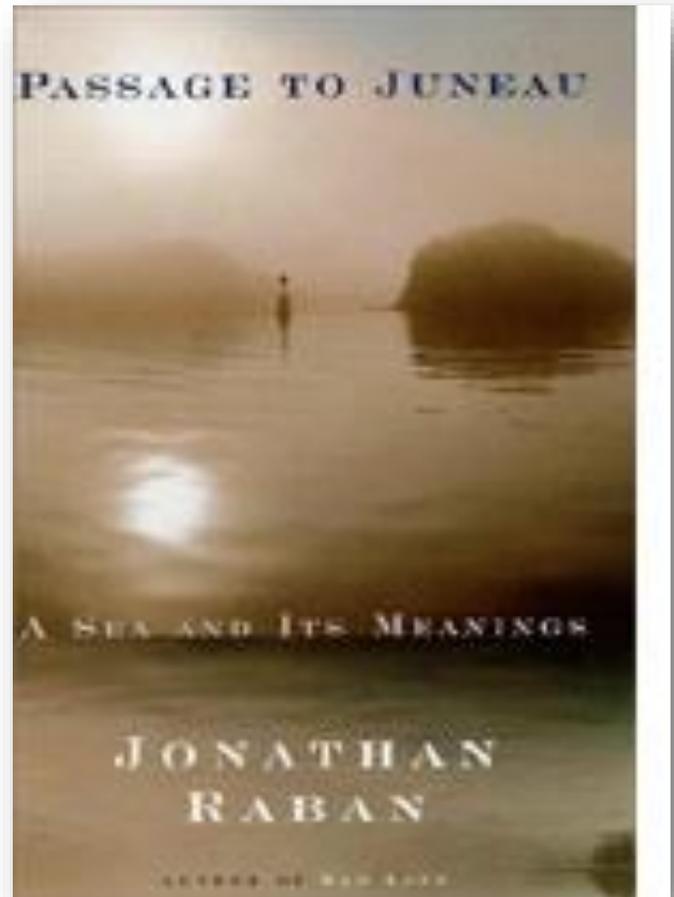
More likely, since you are here in Port Townsend, you have longed to sail north to Alaska (again?) visiting the colorful islands, stopping in the rugged fishing villages, and catching your breath before the deep woods and towering cliffs on both sides of your thirty-five-foot sailboat.

Well, I have just the book for you. Jonathan Raban's *Passage to Juneau* is something of a local classic, known by word of mouth to many a Port Townsend seafarer. Raban made the voyage from Seattle in the spring and summer of 1996; his account was published two years later.

The book's subtitle, "A Sea and Its Meanings," may sound portentous – I thought so at first – but the reader soon discovers it is a modest understatement, quite characteristic of an Englishman such as Raban, who was born and educated in England but moved to Seattle in 1990 when he was 48.

Passage is certainly about the sea. Raban tells us how the sea changes color to the sailor nearing landfall; tells us the different qualities and causes of turbulence; describes the methods of navigating by compass and GPS; tells how the Native Americans used the echo of their voices to steer safely through fog; and hundreds of other things that amaze poor landlubbers.

But what gives the book a rich cargo of sea lore is Raban's command of history and poetry. Everywhere he goes (yes, to Port Townsend), Raban sees the sea and landscapes through the eyes of Captain Vancouver on his maiden Northwest voyage in 1792. He evokes Wordsworth and the Romantic obsession with the Sublime to explain the awe (and sometimes terror) with which Vancouver and his men saw the peaks and thundering waterfalls of what is now British Columbia.



In the middle of his journey north, Raban learns that his father is dying in Norfolk. He interrupts his voyage to fly to England, and – much as I prize his anecdotes about Ketchikan cannery workers and Wrangell tavern toughs and low times on the high seas – this is my favorite part. Raban's linking his father's cremation to Shelly's is a masterful melding of life and literature.

"Ah, the sea," says Conrad's Marlowe. And ever since Conrad, it has been acknowledged that a voyage can be seen as a metaphor for life. This voyage, it turns out, is full of meaning – for the reader, who learns about his land, its history, beauty, and neglect – and for Raban himself, who finds it a passage, not just to Alaska, but to loneliness and heartbreak. For his wife flies to Alaska once he has sailed all the way to Juneau, not to join him for the long-savored vacation in Glacier Bay – but to end their marriage.

We leave him climbing the street to his house on Queen Anne Hill, where he will now live alone, perhaps to read Shelly's "Stanzas Written in Dejection."

Celebrating the Library Centennial (1913-2013) And the Next 100 Years

Jennifer Cohn
Centennial Committee Chair

Port Townsend Library is celebrating its Centennial this year! There will be many special events in the community to recognize this 100 year anniversary. Spring tours of the partially restored Carnegie Reading Room (on the second floor of the Library on Lawrence St.) will be conducted on the first Monday of the month through May, open from 1-3 pm. You can also take this tour on the 3rd Saturday of the month in April and May, open from 1-3 pm. Additional tours can be booked by appointment.

The Rose Theatre will feature a special showing of "Desk Set," a classic movie on the "future of libraries," featuring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy sometime this spring. The event will be followed by a Reception at the Upstage.

"Building up and extending out" The Library's Rhody Parade theme

We are planning a "construction" theme for our Rhody Parade entry May 18. We'd like to feature people of all ages in their construction gear and hard hats to carry our banner and also to follow a truck with dignitary Andrew Carnegie riding in the back. The flashmob dancers will enter the parade in front of the Review Stand to do the "Let's Celebrate Dance." Can you help in the design and planning for this event? If you're interested, please contact Renee Bush reneesense@hotmail.com or Jennifer Cohn jenniferhcohn@gmail.com, or phone Jennifer at 360-344-2037. We appreciate your support and ideas!



We're looking for historical items

Do you have any old furniture, letters, books, cards, photos or other items of interest from the Carnegie Library? We'd like to use these for special displays in the community throughout the Centennial year. You may donate these or we will take care of items and return to you when we have concluded the events. If you have an item that could be used for this purpose, please contact Renee Bush, 360-774-1859 reneesense@hotmail.com, or Jennifer Cohn, 360-344-2037 jenniferhcohn@gmail.com, and leave a message including your contact information and a description or photograph of your historical artifact.

BOOK THE DATE! The weekend of October 14, 2013 is the 100th anniversary of the Carnegie Library on Lawrence St. The weekend will culminate in a *Grand Celebration* in the Carnegie Library Reading Room on the Second Floor. Other special exhibits and events will be announced and held throughout the year in recognition of the important year for the Port Townsend Library.

To review the Library Expansion options to be considered by the Port Townsend City Council, please go to their Website - www.cityofpt.us

Please become a Friend of the Port Townsend Library Today!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Amount of donation \$ _____
(tax deductible)

- Individual.....\$10
- Family.....\$20
- Supporting.....\$50
- Sustaining.....\$100
- Patron.....\$500 or more
- Business.....\$100 or more

(Your business card will be featured in each newsletter for the membership year.)

Additional Gift \$ _____

Total of your tax-deductible donation \$ _____

FOPTL is qualified for tax exemption under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

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
- Special events/Advocacy
- I have an idea, call me!

Annual membership runs from June 1st until May 31st. Dues may be paid at the library, at the book sale or by completing this form and sending it with your check, made out to "FOPTL" or, "Friends of the Port Townsend Public Library," to:

**Friends of the Port Townsend Library
1220 Lawrence St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368**

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.ptpubliclibrary.org 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, 4:00 pm, at the Library Learning Center (at the corner of Lawrence and Harrison). The next meeting is Wednesday, April 10, 2013. If you are interested in a Board position, or any other volunteer activity, please phone Geralynn at 385-1206.

Board Members

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Membership: Ellen Dustman
Newsletter: Linda Martin
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(open)
(open)

