

CHAPEL LIBRARY

Jottings



JANUARY 2015

edited by Edna Strnad

“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language.

And next year’s words await another voice.

And to make an end is to make a beginning.”

T.S. Eliot

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR AT THE CHAPEL LIBRARY

Christmas 2014 is tucked away in our memory box and the New Year looms before us. Happy New Year to all! The Library Committee is looking forward to enriching our lives at Lost Tree in 2015, and I want you to know who they are. I salute all of them!

Anne Adams
Barbara Anderson
Sandy Beard
Flo Bouwman
Janet Fruehauf
Susie Fruehauf
Karol Hamel

Eunice Hunter
Mary Jo Isil
Martha McNeil
Jim Sebastian
Edna Strnad
Norma Thatcher
Marilyn Whims

Everyone has a “job” and everyone works together to accomplish the success of the Library and the programs we offer. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to start the New Year with our exciting, revealing, fun exploration of the current art market. Pat McGill will lead the *Brillo Box*, January 15 at 11am in the Library. Can’t wait to see you there.

Doris Jones
Chair

HERE’S WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH

Jupiter artist, Dr. Bill Sabino’s paintings are already hanging in the Chapel’s hallway for you to enjoy and they are available for purchase.

Please note the new time for the January book discussion conducted by Pat McGill. It is 11 am on January 15 and again the book is *The Supermodel and the Brillo Box* (see Doris’ description above).

Our first Tea and Talk will take place the following day, January 16: Tea at 2:30 and Talk at 3 pm. The Talk will be about our friendly nesting neighbor, The Sea Turtle, presented by MacArthur’s new Director of Education, Veronica Frehm.

MEET PAT MCGILL – JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSION LEADER



When Jim Sebastian asked Pat McGill to lead the January 15 book discussion her first impulse was the novel *Goldfinch*. Instead she chose an “off-the-beaten-path” book, *The Supermodel and the Brillo Box*, because she thinks it will provoke a lively discussion of the contemporary art scene.

Pat spent 17 years as a Metropolitan Museum Docent in their Education Department and the last 8 years she handled adult visitors with her specialty, Medieval Art. Pat has served as Vice Chair and Chair of many non-profit Boards from Minnesota to Washington D.C. and currently is Treasurer of Lost Tree’s Arts Committee.

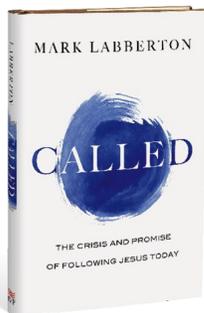
ABOUT THE BOOK REVIEWS IN THIS ISSUE

The first two book reviews deal with Christian faith. What a great way to start the New Year! The first is a non-fiction and the second a fictional novel about the wife of a Christian minister. Our Pastor Ken Mahanes has reviewed *Called* written by Mark Labberton, the first Chapel speaker of the season. Several copies of *Called* are available for checkout from the Chapel Library. You will have an opportunity to meet the author, Rev. Labberton, at Chapel Worship at 10 am and at the Lost Tree Clubhouse for brunch on Sunday, February 8.

Next you will find Susie Fruehauf’s engaging review of *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson. Robinson’s book was a finalist in the Novel category of the recent National Book Awards.

In contrast we will wind up with Howard Shallcross’ final thoughts on his Chapel Library inspired exploration into the book world with the reviews of *Dawn of the Belle Époque* and *Twilight of the Belle Époque*. If anyone plans to attend the four-part study, **Cities of the Belle Époque** starting on January 27 at the Society of the Four Arts, these two books are a wonderful introduction.

Called by Mark Labberton



Dr. Mark Labberton, President of Fuller Theological Seminary, has written a thoughtful book that presents, in his words, “the crisis and promise of following Jesus today.” His thesis is repeated throughout the book, which simply stated is: God has called all of us to follow the example set for us in Jesus Christ to share God’s redeeming love to all people. The crisis is the need in a divided, conflicted world for God’s purpose and His love to be known individually and shared in community with others. To alleviate the crisis, we are called to follow Jesus in both our internal and communal lives.

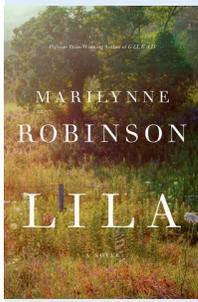
In many respects, Labberton’s book is a fresh reminder of what has been written throughout the centuries beginning with the initial call of Jesus to his original disciples to follow him. In nuanced ways, the writings as early as the letters of the Apostle Paul, the classic writings of both Augustine and Aquinas, and other Christian thinkers through the centuries have emphasized this simple but indispensable message. As I read *Called*, for example, I reflected several times on Thomas Kempis who, writing in the 15th Century, called for followers of Jesus to “imitate Christ” in his classic devotional book, *The Imitation of Christ*.

Many writers today encourage Christians to “be the presence of Christ” in whatever situation they find themselves. Jack Taylor, a popular conference speaker and writer of a decade or so ago, wrote that the key to triumphant living is living like Christ and noting that “nobody can live like Jesus like Jesus.” With those words, he encouraged his readers to allow Jesus to live His life through them. In a more detailed and current manner, Labberton explores what it means to let Jesus live His life through the lives of His followers. This insight of seeing ourselves as the objects of God’s forgiving and reconciling love, which then must be made incarnate in us in our everyday lives, comes through with passion in Labberton’s book.

For readers who are seeking to find God’s will for their lives, Labberton reminds us that discovering our primary call is not a game of hide and seek. We do not need to struggle to know what it is. The challenge comes in doing his will, not in knowing his will. In Labberton’s words, “the vocation of every Christian is to live as a follower of Jesus today. In every aspect of life, in small and large acts, with family, neighbors and enemies, we are to seek to live out the grace and truth of Jesus.” This, he declares, is our vocation, our calling. TODAY.

By Ken Mahanes

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For Everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8



LILA by Marilynne Robinson

Lila is the third book in a trilogy by Marilynne Robinson. In 2006 I wrote a review for Jottings about the first book, the radiant Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *Gilead*. *Gilead* is the story of ailing, seventy-six year old congregational minister, widower John Ames. The book is set in Gilead, Iowa, in the 1950's. Ames is married again to a much younger woman who has borne him a son. This story is in the form of a letter to his six-year old son recalling his life in Gilead, his family and his religious and philosophical views. "*Gilead* is a lovely book full of profound truths clothed in the humblest of settings."

The second novel, *Home* (which I have not read) continues the narrative mostly from the perspective of Ames' best friend and fellow minister, Robert Boughton.

Now it's John Ames' young wife Lila's turn. Lila is a child of the depression who has lived a life of trauma and despair. She is kidnapped by a woman she calls Doll, from a home situation which threatened her life. Doll is the only person Lila has ever loved. Their life of starvation, struggle, and danger leaves Lila scarred and fearful. Doll and Lila are separated, leaving Lila without any real human relationships. "When you're scalded, touch hurts, it makes no difference if it's kindly meant."

Lila, now an adult, wanders into Ames' church in Gilead, and their tentative romance will touch your heart. Ames, who assumed his years of loneliness would never end, is in a state of "anxious delight."

Lila's spiritual journey out of despair is clearly captured and explores the mind of an uneducated woman, her journey into the Bible and her introduction to trust. "For all the trauma that haunts Lila, her story is one of unimaginable good fortune that only her husband's patience can coax her into accepting."

"Both of these lovers know that this is grace."

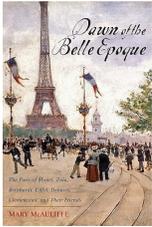
This lovely book is in the Library. It can stand on its own, but would probably be more meaningful if you had enjoyed *Gilead*.

Susie Fruehauf

Dawn of the Belle Époque, The Paris of Monet, Zola, Bernhardt, Eiffel, Debussy, Clemenceau, and Their Friends

Twilight of the Belle Époque, The Paris of Picasso, Stravinsky, Proust, Renault, Marie Curie, Gertrude Stein, and Their Friends through the Great War

by Mary McAuliffe



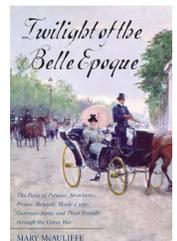
If Paris was not the center of power in Europe at end of the 19th century, it surely was the Art Center of the World. Mary McAuliffe's two tomes, Dawn of the Belle Époque and Twilight of the Belle Époque draws the reader into the politics, the art, and the famous personalities of the Belle Époque. You can enjoy the hobnobbing with great and peculiar artists, composers, politicians, activists, authors and other notables in Paris and its suburbs. As grand as it may have appeared on the surface, beneath this golden era was a growing tension among the less fortunate, the working public and the old world order.

Mary McAuliffe's style is one of invitation and inclusion into Paris society and the Arts community. It is almost like she is saying to you, "Follow me and let me introduce you to my friends. Some you will like, some you will reject and some you will love but they will all be interesting and entertaining." Although Belle Époque spanned over four decades and with the number of personalities, the conflicting social and political pressures, and changing industrial and economic landscape, McAuliffe handles this complexity with ease and avoids getting bogged down in the politics and events. (Margaret Macmillan's "The War That Ended Peace" handles those issues objectively and should be read as well.)

For me having an education in science and finance and maybe having one undergraduate course in Music Appreciation, Mary McAuliffe was an excellent tour guide into Paris and its diverse art communities from the Barricades of 1871 to the onset of World War I. She provided insights into the changing of the guard from Dumas to Hugo, the defense of Alfred Dreyfus by Emile Zola, the never-ending career of Sarah Bernhardt, the struggles of Debussy and the relationship of Picasso and Gertrude Stein. The author also had a great sense of timing and empathy for the reader. When you think that you are dwelling too long in the art world or the politics, she shifts into the engineering and financing of the Eiffel Tower and the Panama Canal.

"Twilight of the Belle Époque" introduces Picasso, Proust, Debussy, Duncan, Stein and Renault but by now you remember that "you know how the story ends". The mood of this book changes dramatically and darkens. As talented as the personalities are, they are more insular and selfish with the exception of Marie Curie with her dedication and sacrifice for science, marriage and survival against all odds. As you read, you feel the author's mood descending sadly in anticipation of the events that will end the Belle Époque.

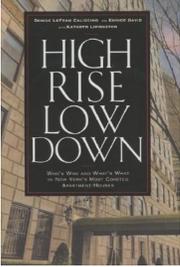
Together, Mary McAuliffe's books on the Belle Époque were most enjoyable and rewarding as they satisfied my curiosity and provided an in-depth understanding of the men and women who rose above the adversity and prejudices of the era to pursue a new world order.



NEVER A DULL MOMENT FOR THE FAMILY

Check out a Library DVD: Coming soon to the Library are four new DVD's which are family friendly. They are: How To Train Your Dragon-2, The Lego Movie, Dolphin Tale 2 and Christmas Candle, a movie that has been described as the new generation's "It's a Beautiful Life". These should be fun for all and a nice addition to the Library's collection. Enjoy!

TWO NEW ACQUISITIONS FROM KATHRYN LIVINGSTON



Our Tea and Talk speaker of last April, Kathryn Livingston, author of the Lilly Pulitzer biography, has inscribed two of her other works and we have placed them in our Library collection. The first one which Kathryn co-authored is *High Rise Low Down*, the story of who's who and what's what in New York's most coveted apartment houses. Livingston describes the often astonishing mix of characters under one roof. Compelling, touching and sometimes hilarious, these stories are vignettes of professional revenge and family feuds, love and divorce, ruthless ambition and reversal of fortune, etc. A real page turner. The second book, *Yesterday is Gone*, tells the story of the life and times and marriages of Rosemarie Kanzler. Rosemarie was a people person and this book, too, is a page turner with profuse illustrations.

NEW ACQUISITIONS – BOOKS

David and Goliath	Gladwell, Malcolm
Dawn of the Belle Époque	McAuliffe, Mary
High Rise Low Down	Livingston, Kathryn
10% Happier	Harris, Dan
Twilight of the Belle Époque	Mary McAuliffe
Yesterday is Gone	Livingston, Kathryn

AUDIO

David and Goliath	Gladwell, Malcolm
Killing Patton	O'Reilly, Bill
No Hero	Owen, Mark
Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good	Karon, Jan
10% Happier	Harris, Dan



"Cities of the Belle Époque: A four-part study," with Judy Pittenger

6:00 pm, Tuesday, January 27, 2015
11:00 am and 2:30 pm January 28
11:00 am Thursday, January 29
Four Arts Hall, Dixon Education
Building
Free for Four Arts Members