

CHAPEL LIBRARY

Jottings



March 2016

edited by Edna Strnad

“One summer morning at sunrise a long time ago I met a little girl with a book under her arm. I asked her why she was out so early and she answered that there were too many books and far too little time. And there she was absolutely right.”

Tove Jansson *

WE THANK YOU AND INVITE YOU TO OUR MARCH EVENTS

The most important message this month is a great big thank you to our donors for your support of the Library and our activities in the Lost Tree community. Your generosity gives a boost to our spirit as well as our “financial function” so thank you one and all! Thanks also go to our Tea and Talk Chairman Martha McNeill who made it happen. Congratulations, Martha! Barbara Rinella was a smashing hit as she always is everywhere she goes. We’re lucky she finds a landing place here. She has a large following, and everybody comes to enjoy her dramatization – and to learn.

Next we are going to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with another exciting book discussion. **Black Diamonds** by Catherine Baily is the choice, and our discussion leader will be Woody Collins for his first time in that role. Let’s give him a big welcome and a great turn-out. The time is 11 am, the place – the Chapel Library, March 17.

We have another first to be presented by the Library. We’re calling it a Library Talk. This will be held March 10 (before St. Pat’s Day) in a very informal way in the Library. We’re fortunate to have a very qualified and interesting discussion leader, Joe Vogel, who will “teach” us – and his subject will be “Turkey at the Crossroads”. It will include ISIS, the Kurds and autocratic rule, and will give us new insights on this very timely and compelling topic. Remember to mark your calendar for March 10 at 2:30 pm in the Library.

The “Ides of March” is never ominous at Lost Tree but full of anticipation of wonderful things to come in the Library.



Until we meet,
Doris Jones
Library Chair

*Tove Jansson was born and died in Helsinki, Finland. As a Finnish citizen whose mother tongue was Swedish, she was part of the Swedish-speaking Finns minority. Thus, all her books were originally written in Swedish. Although known first and foremost as an author, she considered her careers as author and painter to be of equal importance. Tove Jansson wrote and illustrated her first Moomin book, *The Moomins and the Great Flood* (1945), during World War II. She said later that the war had depressed her, and she had wanted to write something naive and innocent. Besides the *Moomin* novels and short stories, Tove Jansson also wrote and illustrated four original and highly popular picture books. (Source: goodreads.com)

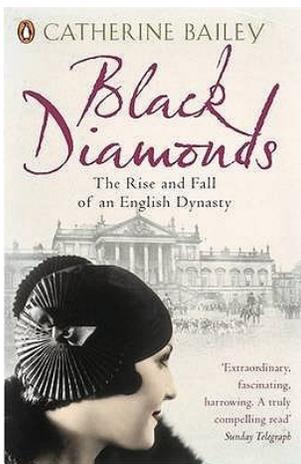
A GREAT BIG HUG TO MARCIA CROOK

We deeply appreciate Marcia's assistance in operating the Chapel Library these last 16 years. The functions and programs of the Library have always been managed by a volunteer committee while the in season day to day, 9 to 4 operations were in Marcia's hands. In addition to the Chapel congregation, the Library serves the broader Lost Tree community and to those patrons who use our services, Marcia was the important contact.

Marcia's humanity and compassion have been a blessing to the Chapel as a whole as well as the Library. The Library Committee was pleased to "mother" her with a Library reception following her wedding in the Chapel on March 6, 2004. Thank you, Marcia, for being a good and faithful partner to the Library family all these years.

The Library Committee

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE LIBRARY'S BOOK DISCUSSION



All Downton Abbey devotees won't want to miss this one. Woody Collins will lead a book discussion of Catherine Bailey's *Black Diamonds* describing the dramatic downfall of the Fitzwilliams family. You will enjoy this vivid narrative of their lavish living and privileged 19th century lifestyle a la Downton Abbey. All of this plus 21st century reflections on environmental energy issues plus current concerns about inequality.

Howard Shallcross had some pertinent observations in a mini review of *Black Diamonds* in the May 2015 Chapel News. "As they say, "truth is stranger than fiction". Catherine Bailey explores the changing world of British aristocracy in her account of the Fitzwilliams family in "*Black Diamonds, The Downfall of an Aristocratic Dynasty and the Fifty Years that Changed England.*" An aristocratic family dating back centuries, the Fitzwilliams' estates sat on top of one of the largest coal fields in England and the family became the richest one in the country from the resource that built the British Empire."

Please join us in the Library at 11 am on Thursday, March 17 for this lively discussion.

TURKEY - THE LIBRARY TOPIC IN MARCH

You won't want to miss the Library Talk at 2:30 pm on Thursday, March 10. In 2016, our wounded world has no more festering hotspot than the Middle East and the hurt is acutely felt in Turkey. Highlighting its problems for us will be Joe Vogel, Executive Director of the Global Education Benchmark Group, an international organization comprising more than 185 member independent schools across the United States and around the world. The title of his talk is: Turkey at a Crossroads: ISIS, the Kurds, and Autocratic Rule.

Joe Vogel's GEBG is designed to facilitate collaboration and establish best practices in the field of international programming for middle and secondary school students. Mr. Vogel's extensive international resume includes his travel in over 60 countries and he is the Director of the pioneering project The Center for Global Citizenship, a program which he helped found ten years ago at Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, Ohio.



Everyone in Lost Tree and the Chapel community are invited to join us for this important subject .

"If the Earth were a single state, Istanbul would be its capital" Napoleon Bonaparte

Book Reviews for March 2016

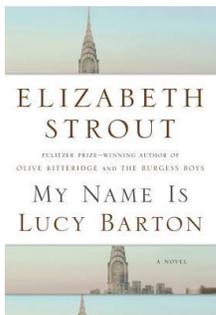
Jottings Editor's Note: This month members of the Library Committee have written the following reviews of books, all of them currently are on the New York Times Best Seller list. First, Susie Fruehauf gives us her unique "take" on the new novel by popular author Elizabeth Strout.

We, who are Christians, are in the midst of Lent and quite appropriately the last two reviews are about the end of life; this time two doctors. First, Flo Bouwman eloquently reviews *When Breath Becomes Air*, the story of young Dr. Paul Kalanithi, cut off in life's prime. And I wrote the review of the little book, *Gratitude*, a compilation of reflections written by esteemed Dr. Oliver Sacks shortly before his death at age 82.

Please note a special book review appeal following the book reviews.

MY NAME IS LUCY BARTON

by Elizabeth Strout



This wonderful little (only 193 pages) book, *My Name is Lucy Barton*, is deceptively simple. Lucy is a contemplative book. Don't forget that, because much is left unsaid. "It is a book of withholdings and a book of great openness and wisdom." Those of you who have read *Olive Kitteridge*, Elizabeth Strout's Pulitzer Prize novel, will recognize her style.

The story begins in a New York hospital where Lucy Barton has been for many weeks suffering from an unidentified infection. She awakens one day to find her mother, whom she has not seen for years, sitting at the foot of her bed. Lucy's mother has flown all the way from Amgash, Illinois to be with her daughter. This is the town where Lucy was raised in poverty in an abusive home. She was desperate to break out and succeed, went to college, became a writer in New York, married and had two children.

Lucy and her mother begin to talk – not about their shared past – not about Lucy's new life as a writer, wife and mother. They only speak of non-threatening subjects such as the lives of shared friends from Amgash. Lucy's mother loves her daughter, but will not say so. She is proud of her daughter, but will not show it. Lucy, in her weakened state, is mesmerized by her mother's voice. "I was so happy. Oh, was happy speaking to my mother this way." I feel that people may not understand that my mother could never say the words 'I love you' I feel that people may not understand: It was all right."

Suddenly we learn that all of these pages are the first pages of a novel began when Lucy was in a writing class with her teacher and mentor, Sarah Payne, who had a huge influence in Lucy's life. Sarah says about the writing Lucy has shown her, "This is a story about a mother who loves her daughter – imperfectly because we all love imperfectly."

The end of this novel concerns Lucy's life, as a wife whose marriage has ended, and whose children have grown up. When her parents die, she feels sorrow and compassion. This is a story not only about love, but about loneliness, identity, compassion and forgiveness. "Sarah tells Lucy to 'go to the page with a heart as open as the heart of God' and this is precisely what Strout has done."

What a field day for book discussions. It's in the Library.

Susie Fruehauf

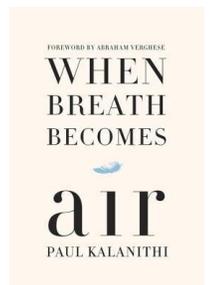


WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR

by Paul Kalanithi

Usually I will glance at the Times daily book reviews---some I read and some I just pass over. Was it the title *WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR* or the picture of a young attractive doctor in his surgical attire---I read every word and immediately knew I had to purchase the book.

The author, Paul Kalanithi, was an exceptional student with degrees in English literature from Stanford but also degrees in human biology. Always intending to be a writer (in fact, he opens Part I by stating "I knew with certainty I would never be a doctor"), his father is a cardiologist. He, nevertheless, found himself being drawn to science and medicine. In the forward to this memoir Abraham Verghese compares this to Paul's namesake life changing "calling" on the road to Damascus. Paul continued his education graduating cum laude from Yale School of Medicine, his goal to be a neurosurgeon. He married Lucy right after both had completed medical school and were about to begin their residencies.



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WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR (Continued)

When Breath Becomes Air is divided into two sections. Part I, In Perfect Health I Begin, is very graphic as Paul recounts his medical experiences in great detail during his residencies. It is Part II, Cease Not till Death, that brought tears to my eyes even as I reread sections for this review. Paul is ready for the next stage in his medical career, hopefully as a surgeon-scientist at Stanford. All his ambitions are to be fulfilled until he reviews his own X-ray; it is stage 4 lung cancer. With his wife Lucy sharing this traumatic shock to their lives, they make the decision to have a child. Together they deal with hope as Paul responds to treatment. Paul writes that "the most difficult part of dealing with death was leaving family behind, hoping he would live long enough for his daughter to have memories of him."

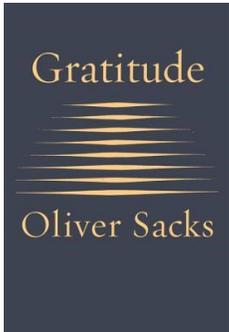
As I read this book I realized how important spiritual faith was emphasized as Paul became involved in dealing with his own mortality. Paul's journey with cancer brought him back to his roots in Christianity after his college and post college years "sojourn into ironclad atheism." Paul died March 9, 2015, twenty-two months after his diagnosis. This memoir is a testament to his succeeding both as a brilliant neurosurgeon and as a gifted writer. He can be assured his daughter, Cady, will have loving thoughts of her father, Paul Kalanithi.

I cannot convey the beauty of this small memoir...every word, sentence, paragraph has such expression of sensitivity and truth. Lucy Kalanithi wrote the epilogue to Paul's memoir with loving compassion, not only as his widow but as a message to their young daughter. The following quote is one that I know from personal experience is absolutely true. Dr. Verghese suggests not only reading *When Breath Becomes Air* but also listening to the overwhelming response it prompts in you. "I guarantee that finishing this book and forgetting about it is simply not an option."

Flo Bouwman

GRATITUDE

by Oliver Sacks, M.D.



How about a current *New York Times* Best Seller that's 64 pages long (audio – 36 minutes) with the title *Gratitude*? I couldn't go wrong to pick up this one and neither will you!

Gratitude was published the end of November, 2015 and consists of four essays written by Dr. Oliver Sacks, the last one "Sabbath" was first published in *The New York Times* just two weeks before his death last August.

Dr. Sacks' long medical career was devoted to the plight of those unfortunates afflicted with medical disorders of the brain. He wrote about them in 15 books. Perhaps the most famous of which was *Awakenings*, which was made into a movie in 1990 and will you ever forget the title *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*? *The New York Times* dubbed him the Poet Laureate of Medicine.

The Narrative – To Tell A Story – is the most effective Learning Tool there is, be it in Religion or History or in this case Medicine. A Foundation bearing Dr. Sacks' name has been established with the goal of enabling case histories to be published and shared, not only for the benefit of medical professionals but for all of us. Another part of its mission is to reduce the stigma of mental and neurological illness and support a humane approach to neurology and psychiatry.

Oliver Sacks and his three brothers grew up in London with both parents, doctors. It was a close-knit family but its strong Orthodox Jewish Faith had no room for Oliver's burgeoning homosexuality. You are probably familiar with those biblical passages which Fundamentalists relish quoting to justify their role as judges. His own Mother called the Teenage Oliver "An Abomination". Is it any wonder that a person of his talent and moral sensitivity should become the articulate champion and defender of marginalized groups in our society?

He quit the Jewish faith and had little use for "going to Heaven". In *Gratitude* he writes gratefully about his belief that his "Life after Death" will be the memory in the minds of his loved ones and his patients and those whom his books have touched.

There are four little essays in this book. In the first one he writes about the joys one can find in Old Age – its title, "Mercury" which is the number "80" in the Periodic Table (Dr. Sacks was 82 when he died). The second essay is a Reflection on the End of Life. There is an essay on his fascination with the physical sciences and the final essay his "Sabbath".

I particularly wanted to read this book because the concept of Gratitude has always gotten me through the "tough times". In my life Gratitude has been a God-given shield in adversity. I read this book thinking – those of you 70 and older – this book is for you! Then I happened to hear on the C-SPAN Book Channel that *Gratitude* was a top seller at the Harvard Book Store last month – those college students are really going after it.

Any why not? Oliver Sacks' little book gives a young person a wonderful template– an eloquent description of a "life-well-lived".

Being able to help another person is one of the deeply satisfying joys of life. Dr. Sacks seized those opportunities on a large scale and in his books shared the stories with us. That's a valuable lesson we can learn at any stage in our life. But surely the sooner the better!

Thank you, Dr. Sacks – you have taken the brokenness in your life and woven it into a story of Strength and Wisdom. And here I am writing about it – just as you had contemplated!

Edna Strnad

CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS!

In the next and last Jottings of the season we plan to feature mini reviews of youth and children's books written by the youth and children of Lost Tree Village and our Chapel congregation. We are looking for boys and girls to write short statements (50 words or less) describing their favorite book and email it to us at stusx4@aol.com or mark it for "Jottings" and mail or hand deliver to the Chapel, 11149 Turtle Beach Road, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408 by March 21.

MARCH EXHIBITION WILL FEATURE BETTY PERRY

Isn't it nice to have one of our own Lost Tree Villagers featured in the last art exhibition of the season? Betty Perry has been a resident of Lost Tree since 1977 and the exhibition of her work will be hung on March 16 and will include watercolors, pastels and encaustics (hot wax painting).

Betty's college education trained her to be a nurse but her childhood interest in art has dominated her adult life. She received university art training in studio art as well as professional organization workshops and under the tutelage of Lost Tree's art teacher Laurie Hein. She was recently honored to have her art selected at several juried shows in Ohio.

As an arts advocate she co-founded a hometown community foundation fund – ARTSDREAM for arts teachers K-12. She also sponsors an emerging BFA and MFA annual art award at Florida International University, Miami, of which her late husband, Chuck, was founding President.

There will be a reception in Betty's honor in the Chapel Library after the Sunday service on March 20.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

BOOKS and AUDIO*

| | |
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| The Dream Lover | Berg, Elizabeth |
| Gratitude | Sacks, Dr. Oliver |
| In Other Words | Lahiri, Jhumpa |
| John: The Gospel of Light and Life | Hamilton, Adam |
| NYPD Red | Patterson, James and Karp, Marshall |
| The Swans of Fifth Avenue | Benjamin, Melanie |
| Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates | Kilmeade, Brian and Yaeger, Don |

* Both the book and audio CD are available for the above titles



"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Thomas Jefferson