

William K. Sanford
Town Library



629 Albany Shaker Rd.
Loudonville, NY 12211

HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
9 AM - 9 PM
Friday
9 AM - 6 PM
Saturday
9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday
Noon - 5 PM

Call 458-9274
for information.

e-mail us at:
info@colonielibrary.org

Web Page Address: <http://www.colonie.org/library>

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At the Library

December 2010

Noon Book Review: *American Grace* with Rick Shaw

This month's Noon Book Review on Thursday December 16th will be on ***American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*** by Robert Putnam (author of *Bowling Alone*) and David Campbell. About the book: "Religious life in America has gone through remarkable changes in the last half century: ...the rise of the megachurch, the growth and plateauing of evangelicalism, the decline in mainline Protestantism and Anglo-Catholicism, and the 21st-century surge in the ranks of those claiming no religious affiliation. [The authors] trace these changes to the great liberalizing shock of the 1960s and subsequent pendulum swings first to the right, now to the left....A monumental and insightful sociological analysis of the current religious climate and how it developed." "*American Grace* is based on two of the most comprehensive surveys ever conducted on religion and public life in America" and "promises to be the most important book in decades about American religious life and an essential book for understanding our nation today." Our reviewer will be Richard Shaw, who has been a Catholic priest for over 40 years, has written several books, and for the past 15 years has been chaplain at Coxsackie and Green Correctional Facilities. The review begins at 12:15 PM; bring your lunch if you're on lunch hour!

Holiday Schedule

Friday, December 24:

CLOSED

Saturday, December 25:

CLOSED

Friday, December 31:

CLOSED

Saturday, January 1:

CLOSED

Happy Holidays

from the

Board of Trustees and Staff
of the

William K. Sanford Town Library

Author Visit with Peter Golden

Peter Golden is an award-winning journalist, biographer, memorist, and historian. He will read from, and discuss, his just-released novel, *Comeback Love*, on Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 PM.

About *Comeback Love*... Over thirty-five years ago, Gordon Meyers, an aspiring writer with a low number in the draft lottery, packed his belongings and reluctantly drove away, leaving Glenna Rising, the sexy, sharp-witted med student he couldn't imagine living without. Now, decades later, Gordon is a former globetrotting consultant with a grown son, an ex-wife, and an overwhelming desire to see Glenna again. Stunned when Gordon walks into her Manhattan office, Glenna agrees to accompany him for a drink. As the two head out into the snow-swept city, they become caught up in the passions that drew them together then tore them apart, and as the evening unfolds, Gordon finally reveals the true reason for his return. Moving between past and present, *Comeback Love* is a journey into the hearts of two lovers who came of age in the 1960s and is a sensual exploration of youth, regret, desire, and the bonds that mysteriously endure in the face of momentous change.

During the course of his career, Mr. Golden has written about the Cold War and has interviewed such leaders as Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Bush; Secretaries of State Kissinger, Haig, and Shultz; and Israeli Prime Ministers Shamir, Peres, and Rabin, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He will be glad to discuss this aspect of his work as well.

Colonie Art League Holiday Card Tree

Handpainted note cards, suitable for framing or matting will be sold for \$5 each from the card tree in the library beginning at the Colonie Art League reception on Tuesday, December 7. All proceeds from these sales will go directly to the library for the purchase of new materials.

More Stories & Highlights...

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PROGRAMS

To register for programs requiring reservations
please call the Information desk at 810-0314 (direct line).

- 4 **SATURDAY- Northeastern New York Orchid Society-** At 1:30 PM.
- 7 **TUESDAY- Medicare 101-** Medicare can be very confusing even if you are already enrolled, or if you will be turning 65 soon. Seniors must select from a dizzying array of options, including 50 different Medicare health insurance plans, 12 Supplemental Insurance (Medigap) policies and 48 prescription drug plans. It is no wonder that seniors may need assistance in evaluating Medicare plans and identifying those that best fit their needs. A trained counselor will be available to answer questions about Medicare benefits, coverage options, out-of-pocket costs, and how to evaluate and compare plans. Sponsored by the NYS Office for Aging and the Albany County Department of Aging. Reservations are required. At 1:00 PM.
- 7 **TUESDAY- Colonie Art League Holiday Show Opening Reception-** The grand opening of the Holiday Show will feature the presentation of the show awards. Also at the reception, the annual card tree, featuring hand-painted note cards, will be unveiled. The Art League donates the proceeds from the sale of these cards (\$5.00 each) to the library. The tree will remain on display throughout the show, but the best selection will be had early! The show will be on display December 3-29. The reception begins at 6:30 PM.
- 9 **THURSDAY- Author Visit with Peter Golden-** Peter Golden will read from and discuss, his novel, *Comeback Love*. At 7:00 PM. (see story page one)
- 12 **SUNDAY- Saratoga Driving Association-** Program to be announced. At 1:00 PM.
- 13 **MONDAY- Violin and Viola Recital-** Come cheer on the hard-working violin and viola class of Holly Larson. This concert will feature many characters- a Gutsy Cowboy, a Gabby Ghost, Danny Boy, and even a Scandinavian king. Strings will dance to a Polish Dance, Minuets, a Waltz, and a Mosquito Dance. This Humoresque concert will serenade the memory of Sarasate with a heart-wrenching Farewell. A delicious Pizzicato Pie promises to bring Joy to the World. At 7:00 PM.
- 14 **TUESDAY- Understanding Social Security-** Learn how you can maximize the Social Security income benefits for which you are eligible and develop a strategy to provide you with income that will last as long as you live. Presented by MetLife Financial Services. Reservations are required. At 6:30 PM.
- 16 **THURSDAY- Noon Book Review-** *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* by Robert Putnam and David Campbell will be reviewed by Richard Shaw. At 12:15 PM. (see story page one)
- 18 **SATURDAY- People to People Student Ambassadors-** From 9:30-11:30 AM.

Teen Room News

Senior Storytelling Program – Teens Needed

We are looking for a few high school students who enjoy working with older adults. Over the next few months, our Teen Services Department will be pairing teens and local senior citizens for a storytelling project funded by a grant from the Upper Hudson Library System.

With the help of professional storytellers, the teen volunteers will learn how to interview seniors to gather stories of their life experiences. The interviews will be conducted at the library and will be recorded for broadcast. Each senior participant will receive a printed, bound book with their stories and related pictures included.

No experience is necessary, but participants should be in high school and should enjoy speaking with seniors. It is possible for groups of teens to work together on the interviews. Please call Maureen DeLaughter in the Teen Room for more information.

Teen Writing Club

Teens who love to write are encouraged to join us on Monday evenings in the Teen Room. The group works on two or three fun exercises each week, and members of the group then read or perform work for the group. Members encourage and critique one another. We especially focus on Slam Poetry, but any form of writing is encouraged. The scheduled time for the meeting occasionally changes, so those interested should contact Maureen DeLaughter at 458-9274.

Teen Anime Club

The next meeting of the Teen Anime Club will be on Tuesday evening December 16 from 7:00-8:30 PM. Participants will enjoy anime, manga discussions, trivia contests, a related craft and Japanese snacks. For more information about the program, please call Maureen DeLaughter at 458-9274.

AARP Safe Driving

Monday & Wednesday, December 13 & 15, from 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
Call Pat Latimer at 463-5221 for reservations.

Attendance is required at both sessions. There is a \$12 AARP member/ \$14 non member materials fee payable to AARP. Class size is limited and advance registration is required.

For information on other classes please call Pat Latimer at 463-5221.

Certain services and programs are adaptable to people with disabilities, upon request.
Please contact our Outreach Librarian at 458-9274 to discuss your accessibility needs.

A Tribute to John Ford

The last intelligible sentence John Ford uttered on this earth was "May I please have a cigar?" He died at 6:35 PM on August 31, 1973. Woody Strode, Pat Ford, and Ford's sister draped an American flag over the body, drank a toast to the man and his life with a glass of brandy, then broke the glasses. "I sat there two hours until the undertaker came to haul his body out," said Woody Strode. What was surprising about his death was that it was caused by lung cancer, rather than by alcoholism, for Ford was known for his alcoholic binges, for once he started on hard liquor, it unleashed something entirely, a ridiculously serious, maudlin drunk on his way to oblivion. The fact that alcohol completely dissolved the otherwise rigidly maintained façade of Ford (whose real name was John Martin Feeney), could be terribly disconcerting to people who weren't used to him. "The first time I met him," remembered Marilyn Fix Carey, the daughter of the actor Paul Fix, the wife of Harry Carrey Jr., "I was terrified. It was 1944, at Harry Carey's ranch. Ford was terribly drunk; slobber was coming out of his mouth. He had peed his pants." When Ford was on a binge no one was safe. Not even "the Duke," John Wayne, whose real name was Marion Michael Morrison. The "Duke" was the name he went by as a young man, who, at the time had wanted to be a professional boxer. He wanted to be called "Duke Morrison" but turned out to be a better actor than a fighter.

John Wayne, or the "Duke," was one of Ford's stock company of actors, which consisted of actors like John Wayne, (who appeared in *Stagecoach*, *Fort Apache*, *The Horse Soldiers*, *How the West Was Won*, *Quiet Man*, *Rio Grande*, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, and perhaps in his greatest performance as the haunted Ethan Edwards in *The Searchers*). For audiences in 1956, *The Searchers* was a good John Wayne Western, nothing more. The critics liked it fairly well: "a rip—snorting yarn," said the *New York Times*; "Far above the average picture," said the *Herald Tribune*; although Robert Ardrey, later a pop anthropologist, grouched that ". . . the same John Ford who once gave adults *The Informer* must now give children *The Searchers*." Despite these "mixed reviews," *The Searchers* was successful; it was the sixth top grossing film of 1956, earning \$8,500,000 worldwide by April of 1958. Although it didn't earn a single Academy award nomination, because of the "haunted" Ethan Edwards, he even mistreats Martin, played by Hunter, his companion for the seven or so years that the film encompasses, the boy, is part Indian, and therefore not an equal (he was going to kill his niece who had been abducted by Indians as a child, and instead picks her up in his arms and says, "Come on Debbie, let's go home). For a character whose favorite expression was "That'll be the day!," Ford makes explicit that the reason Ethan cannot kill the girl is her resemblance to her dead mother, whom Ethan loved. As performed by John Wayne, it's one of the great moments in movies—*balletique*, emotionally true, murder alchemically transmuted into the protective embrace of love, Ford insisting that we can only realize our truest selves when we accept all the many forms of humanity we meet.

Ford shot the film's final scene in the late afternoon. Ethan Edwards brings Debbie and Martin home. They dismount and walk through the doorway, leaving Ethan outside. "It just included

a dark doorway," remembered John Wayne. "I was outside and they came in [from outside] and [moved past] the camera turned around. . . It was emotional, and as they went in the door in the dark and got out of sight, and there was just me in the doorway and the wind blowing, I thought of Harry Carey. He had a stance where he put his left hand on his right arm. He did this incessantly.

Well, when they took the little girl past the camera and . . . Ollie Carrey (Harry Carrey's wife) just looked around at me, and I took the pose. The tears poured out of her eyes. It was a lovely dramatic moment in my life and I'm sure in hers."

The door closes, dooming Ethan Edwards to wander "between the winds" for all eternity. Little more can be added to the tragedy of the American hero. Ford's last great film ended. But the story doesn't end there, in 2008 *The American Film Institute* named *The Searchers* as the greatest Western of all time.

For the record, *The Ten Commandments*, with Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner and Anne Baxter was the top grossing picture of 1956, earning \$43,000,000 worldwide. But I think *The Searchers* is a better picture, and John Wayne's performance is the best of all of his performances in the many Westerns that he made, including *Rio Bravo*, *The Alamo*, *Fort Apache*, *3 Godfathers* (no not that *The Godfather*, with America's finest actor, Marlon Brando), *Rio Grande*, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, and *Cheyenne Autumn*. This was a turning point in Ford's treatment of the Native Americans in all of his Westerns. He cast the picture with a polyglot of Mexican and Italian actors—Sal Mineo, Gilbert Roland, Ricardo Montalban, and old friend Dolores Del Rio—of the sort that had been de rigueur in Hollywood since D. W. Griffith used white actors in blackface for *The Birth of a Nation*.

Nevertheless, Ford paid tribute that one proud, beaten tribe always pays to another. "I like Indians very much. They're . . . a very moral people. They have a literature. Not written. But spoken. They're very kind-hearted. They love their children and their animals. And I wanted to show their point of view for a change." Ford, with all of his other flaws, was a man of his word. That's why he was called "Pappy" by all who knew him.

The library has just ordered the 50th Anniversary Edition of *The Searchers*. There are also worthwhile books about John Ford: *Print the Legend: The Life and Times of John Ford* by Scott Eyman as well as *Searching for John Ford: A Life*, by Joseph McBride, if only to see a picture of the dying Ford being honored by President Richard Nixon with the Medal of Freedom on March 31, 1973. At the same nationally televised ceremony in Beverly Hills, Ford received the first Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute. I think he should have won the Nobel Prize for being a great poet of the cinema. But then, I don't get to vote! —*Bill Leone*

Computer Training Classes

All classes will meet in the Training/Conference Room.
Prior registration is required; come to the Information Desk or call 810-0314.

Introduction to Computers: Gateway to the World Wide Web- Date: December 9 @ 2:00 PM Are you a computer novice? This hands-on computer course is designed for individuals with little or no previous experience. The course will focus on developing skills in the following areas: 1) Basic understanding of the Windows environment. 2) Ability to use the computer mouse. 3) Ability to use the computer keyboard. 4) Ability to access computer programs and files. This 2-1/2 hour class is limited to 6 participants.

Introduction to the Internet- Date: December 9 @ 10:00 AM This class is designed for library patrons who have little or no experience with the Internet, but who are basically competent with using a computer. Learn Internet terminology and how to access the Internet from home, work, and at the library. Emphasis will be on browsing the Internet using an Internet browser's toolbars, menus, and hypertext links. The class lasts approximately two hours and is limited to 8 participants.

Intermediate Internet: Using Search Engines- Date: December 9 @ 6:00 PM This class is designed for library patrons who have experience using the Internet, and are very familiar with using the computer mouse, keyboard and the Windows environment. Learn the best methods of searching the Internet. We will explore the many search engines and directories available to aid you in your informational quest. **WARNING:** This is not an Introduction to the Internet. We ask that you have already spent time online and have a modest understanding of the Internet. Each class lasts 2-1/2 hours and is limited to 8 participants.

Basic Word Processing and File Management- Date: December 14 @ 10:00 AM This class explores the basic features of the Microsoft Word 2007 Screen from top to bottom. The purpose of this class is to encourage students to perform basic editing functions on a prepared document, to create a folder in Windows Explorer, and to save the document to the folder. Students should have dexterity with the mouse, keyboard experience, familiarity with the Windows environment, and a sense of humor. The 2-1/2 hour class is limited to six students.

Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2007- No December Class; call for Waiting List This class will explore the basic features of Excel. Students will learn how to create a worksheet and perform simple calculations and manipulations with data. Students should be familiar with the Windows environment, the keyboard and be able to use a mouse. Students may take this more than once if they feel they need more practice with the basics. This class will be two hours and is limited to eight students.

HAPPENINGS...in Youth Services

School Break Week Programs

Make It Monday!

Monday, December 27 (all day)

For all ages. **No registration needed.**

Music & Motion

Tuesday, December 28 at 10:00 AM

No registration needed.

Checker Tournament

Tuesday, December 28 at 2:00 PM

Must be in 2nd grade or older to participate.

Register in-person only beginning Saturday, December 11 in Youth Services.

Romp 'n Read

Wednesday, December 29, 10-11 AM

Toddlers, we have a special program just for you and a grown-up! **No registration.**

Midweek Movies: Toy Story 3 (G)

Wednesday, December 29 at 6:30 PM

Register in-person only beginning Saturday, December 11 in Youth Services.

Family First Night

Thursday, December 30 at 6:30 PM

Fun for the entire family! All ages are invited.

Register in-person only beginning Saturday, December 11 in Youth Services.

See the November/December issue of the "HAPPENINGS in Youth Services" newsletter or visit www.colonie.org/library/y sprogs for details.

Knitting Group Dates

The Library sponsored knitting group will meet in the Stedman Room on the following Fridays from 2:00-4:00 PM: December 10 (no meeting December 24) and January 14 and 28. For further information contact Gwen Gurien at 475-1470 or hgurien@nycap.rr.com.

Subscribe to "At the Library"

Subscriptions to "At the Library" are available for \$5.00 per year to cover the cost of printing, postage, and handling. You will also receive our bi-monthly children's newsletter, "Happenings...in Youth Services."

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Patrons can also receive the newsletters by e-mail in .pdf format. Just send your request and e-mail address to info@colonielibrary.org and we'll add you to the list.

Reference Stumper:

December 2010

1) Quote of the Month: "I am the supervisor, she had to remind herself constantly, I must not join the work. She hovered around, inspecting finished pieces, encouraging, advising. She scrutinized the tailors bent over the machines, their brows furrowed. The inch-long nails on their little fingers intrigued her; they used them for folding seams and making creases."

2) Brain Teaser: Who was the first husband and wife team to win Oscars, she before he?

The winner chosen will be the first person to answer both parts of the "Stumper" correctly. Answer to "Quote of the Month" must include title AND author.

Participants may submit their responses in 3 ways: 1) E-mail to: leoneb@uhs.lib.ny.us 2) Telephone the Information desk at 810-0314 3) By stopping off at the Access Services Desk in the library.

October Winner: No winner.