

# Letters from the Librarian

*"Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air."*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Won't you join us? We are thrilled to offer a free puppet show and dinner August 7 at 5 pm in the Civic Center at 205 West A Avenue. Thoughts on libraries, freedom of speech, freedom to read, and other freedoms we hold dear.

Upon entering the Mildred Whipple Library, one is surrounded with color and light. Soaring east- and north-facing windows flood the library with bright sunshine or filtered beauty, depending on cloud cover of course.

Color-coded signs direct: "Juvenile Fiction - Foreign Language - Audiobooks on CD - You 'Otter' Be Reading - Periodicals - Nonfiction - Local History" and more. So much more awaits inside the doors of the library. Information, entertainment, air conditioning, self checkout, assisted check out, reference help, a puzzle to work, art supplies and board games to use in the library or at home. Computers are available for searching for a job, printing those pesky return labels for packages, checking email, playing games, researching all manner of subjects. Oh, and we have books! Books of all sizes, topics, genres, books for all ages. Then, in addition to the books, I mustn't forget friends. Make new friends, and keep the old/One is silver and the other gold (my childhood Bluebird song is now stuck in my head). Inside the library we make friends, find friends, and discuss with these friends all manner of subjects. Friendly library staff members are ready to help or to chat. Families and patrons of all ages enjoy the library five days a week during seemingly chaotic programs

and during nearly silent hours upon hours. Do you know what you won't find in the library, though? A political debate. I like to think that in our district we all have many things in common. Like the library, we are built with beauty and differences of opinion. In spite of our differences, and maybe a little because of our differences, in the library we focus on our common ground. You don't have to love books to enter the library, and you certainly don't have to love crafting or puppet shows to enter the library. You do have to be mindful of others' freedoms and rights to enter the library. This may mean that the one sign you didn't expect is a surprise. It says "Politics-Free Zone."

We respect your opinion and cherish your right to vote and to participate in local, regional, state and national government. We believe deeply in your right to free speech. AND, in order to protect our community's gathering place, we want you to have those important conversations somewhere other than the library circulation desk. Thank you for helping to make it possible for all community members to enjoy the programming and materials that the Mildred Whipple Library offers.

One more thing... please do join us for our community's traditional "Family Night" dinner and puppet show. On August 7 at 5 p.m. we will host a "Super Silly Circus" from Dragon Theater Puppets and Princesses. The Friends of the Library will serve a free dinner, and library staff will have lots of door prizes and games for friends of all ages. Thank you for being a part of what makes the Mildred Whipple Library so beautiful.

Miriam Sisson, Director Mildred Whipple Library, North Douglas Library District nld.org 541-836-2648

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**SMALL TOWN TO WORLD STAGE**

*"I had the good fortune of being born with a high biological set point for happiness."*

Walking alone at night, at age nine, selling newspapers on the streets of Eugene, Oregon, Bob Crites was among the last of the American paperboys. In the early 1950s, Bob and his triplet siblings didn't know the word "homeless"; he thought they were living an adventure camping in the woods with their young mother.

As an adult setting out to make a difference in the world, Bob finds his passion: Helping others help themselves.

Follow the funny, sometimes sad, always interesting adventures of "The Incredible Crites" as he saves lives, almost gets killed, and makes a world of difference.

Bob Crites has earned numerous recognition and awards for his service and altruism. In 1964 he was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Brazilian hinterlands of Mato Grosso, Brazil when the country was taken in a military coup. And in the late 70s, he was an Associate Peace Corps Director in Guatemala during a civil war. In the 1990s, he partnered with the "Second Mother Teresa", one of the 20th century's most enlightened women, to enrich the education of impoverished students. In 1991 Bob was thrust into the role of agent for an African teen who went on to become an Olympic gold medalist and world record-holding track star voted along with cyclist Lance Armstrong as the two top sports competitors in the world. In 1998 Dr. Jane Goodall personally requested Bob to partner with the Jane Goodall Institute in awarding academic scholarships in Tanzania.

Now retired from a career as an educator and counselor, Bob is an avid backgammon player living with his Brazilian-born wife Dalva in Eugene, Oregon. They love to travel and winter at their beachside condo in Recife, Brazil.

—Back book cover  
*"...this book presents an engaging account of a wide-ranging life."*  
 —Kirkus Reviews

*"The memoir is written well and has a lovely tone to it."*  
 —Jayran Main, Founder & Editor-in-Chief of Review Talks Publishing & Editing Services and Review Talks Magazine

*"...a beautifully written memoir that will make you forget everything else as you read this book. The pacing of the book felt right and the narrative style was very gripping."*  
 —Heena Rathore Pardeshi, Author and Founder of The Reading Bud

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 Kindle and color versions also available on Amazon.  
 Library of Congress Control Number 2022482387

Bob, a triplet, was born in Drain, Oregon and graduated from Drain High School in 1959. His extended family has been in Drain for 147 years!

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