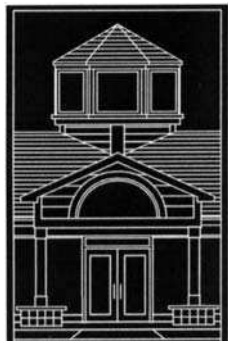


Library Tidings



News about the Siuslaw Public Library

Library Tidings, a regular feature of the Siuslaw News, features news about upcoming Siuslaw Public Library programs for adults and children, new books and videos, and other library news of interest to the community. Library Tidings by Kevin Mittge

Book Review *The Second Coming of the KKK*

By Linda Gordon

A new Ku Klux Klan arose in the 1920s, a less violent but equally virulent descendant of the relatively small, terrorist Klan of the 1870s. Unknown to most Americans today, this "second Klan" largely flourished above the Mason-Dixon line — its army of four-to-six million members spanning the continent from New Jersey to Oregon, its ideology of intolerance shaping the course of mainstream national politics throughout the 20th century.

As prize-winning historian Linda Gordon demonstrates, the second Klan's enemies included Catholics and Jews as well as African Americans. Its bigotry differed in intensity but not in kind from that of millions of others WASP Americans. Its membership, limited to white Protestant native-born citizens, was entirely respectable, drawn from small businesspeople, farmers, craftsmen and professionals, and at least half a million were women.

For many Klanspeople, membership simultaneously reflected a protest against an increasingly urban society and provided an entrée into the new middle class.

Never secret, this Klan

recruited openly, through newspaper ads, in churches, and through extravagant mass "Americanism" pageants, often held on Independence Day. These "Klonvocations" drew tens of thousands and featured fireworks, airplane stunts, children's games and women's bake-offs — and of course, cross-burnings.

The Klan even controlled about one hundred and fifty newspapers, as well as the Cavalier Motion Picture Company, dedicated to countering Hollywood's "immoral" and Jewish-influence. The Klan became a major political force, electing thousands to state offices and over one hundred to national offices, while successfully lobbying for the anti-immigration Reed-Johnson Act of 1924.

The Klan's collapse in 1926 was no less flamboyant, done in by its leaders' financial and sexual corruption, culminating in the conviction of Grand Dragon David Stephenson for raping and murdering his secretary, and chewing up parts of her body.

Yet the Klan's brilliant melding of Christian values with racial bigotry last long after the organization's decline, intensifying a fear of diversity that has long been a dominant undercurrent of American history.

Documenting what became the largest social movement of the first half of the twentieth century, "The Second Coming of the KKK" exposes the ancestry and helps explains the dangerous appeal of today's welter of intolerance.

Holiday cards available

Need a beautiful card to give to someone? The Friends of the Library (FOL) have made close to 100 cards for sale this holiday season and they will be available for purchase at the library from Dec. 1st until New Year's. The FOL have been making cards since 2007 and their November card making workshop was their 53rd. The cards are \$2 for small cards and \$3 for large cards. All the cards are beautiful handcrafted works of art.

Gingerbread Houses

Don't miss your opportunity to decorate a gingerbread house on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon in the library's Bromley Room.

A very popular program, families are invited to bring kids of all ages for this gingerbread house decorating extravaganza.

Supplies will be provided. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Peace Harbor Hospital gift shop seeks volunteers

The gift shop at Peace Harbor is in need of volunteers. The shop, which is run completely by volunteers and open five days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is under the direction of Jean Ryland.

PHPH volunteers work three-hour shifts and opportunities are open for a variety of days and hours.

Proceeds earned in the gift shop are a major source of income for volunteer programs, and enabling the group to make donations in various

areas of the hospital. With the holiday season underway, the gift shop is stocked with many holiday items including tree ornaments, decorations, handmade items and many more unique gift items.

Anyone interested in volunteering their time in the gift shop can contact Jean Ryland in the gift shop.

Applications to volunteer can be obtained at the front lobby desk or in the gift shop itself.

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