

Literary Salon set for Feb. 2

Writers on the River presents its next “Midnight in Florence” Literary Salon on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), 120 Maple Street in Old Town Florence. Designed as convivial gatherings, literary salons celebrate local writers and the literary arts.

The event spotlights local authors who talk about writing and share excerpts from their books. An Open Mic follows

Writers who wish to participate in the open mic must arrive at 6 p.m. to sign up. Call 541-708-2120 to preregister.

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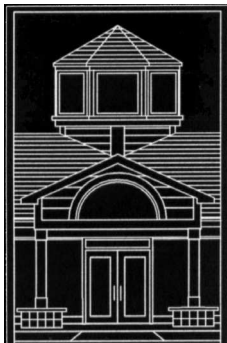
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Library Tidings



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 “Squeezed” by Alissa Quart

Families today are squeezed on every side — from high child care costs and harsh employment policies to workplaces without paid family leave or even dependable and regular working hours. Many realize that attaining the standard of living their parents managed has become nearly impossible.

Alissa Quart, executive editor of the Economic Hardship Reporting Project, examines the lives of middle-class Americans who can now barely afford to raise children. Through gripping storytelling and elegant prose, Quart shows how our country has failed its families. Her subjects — from professors to lawyers to caregivers to nurses — have been wrung out by a system that doesn't support them, and enriches only a tiny elite.

Interlacing her own experience with close-up reporting on families that just getting by, Quart reveals parenthood itself to be financially overwhelming, except for the wealthiest. She also provides real solutions, outlining necessary policy shifts, as well as detailing the DIY tactics some families have

embraced.

And she offers a blue-print for helping us to see parenting and caregiving as truly valuable, not only emotionally but professionally and politically.

Written in the spirit of Barbara Ehrenreich and Jennifer Senior, “Squeezed” is an eye-opening page-turner. Powerfully argued, deeply reported and ultimately hopeful, it casts a bright, clarifying light on families struggling to thrive in an economy that holds too few options. It will make readers think differently about their lives and those of their neighbors.

Blind Date with a Book

Are you ready to take part in the library's sixth annual Blind Date with a Book program? For the adventurous reader this program offers the opportunity to let fate take a hand in selecting what you read.

The program works like this. Select a plainly wrapped book from a selection of books at the library. Read the book — or at least make an honest and fair attempt at doing so — then return the book with a “blind date” evaluation form. The forms, besides being used to recommend new and wonderful

books to readers, will also be used for prize drawings.

The point is to take a risk and expand your reading interests.

Sound fun? The program starts Friday, Feb. 1, and books can be selected up through Thursday, Feb. 28. The drawing will take place on March 15, allowing readers time to finish and evaluate those last blind dates!

“Living Voices” Program

The library is pleased to co-sponsor, along with the Siuslaw Genealogical Society, a return of “Living Voices” this Sunday, Feb. 3, at 1 p.m.

This year the presentation will be “Hear My Voice: The Women's Suffrage Movement” with re-enactor Rachel Atkins playing the role of “Jessie,” the daughter of a political columnist from Tennessee, growing up in Washington, DC, during the early 1900s. When her great-aunt, a longtime suffragette comes to town, she introduces Jessie to the movement and she begins to learn about the history of women who started the movement.

“Living Voices” combines dynamic solo performances, with archival film and sound, turning history into a moving and personal journey.

Siuslaw Middle School to experience Ellis Island

Ellis Island Day will unfold on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at Siuslaw Middle School. The day-long learning experience for all eighth graders is organized by Social Studies teacher Heather Wiggins with support from Florence Elks Lodge #1858 and Seacoast Entertainment Association.

This interactive learning event kicks off as Living Voices actress Racheal McClinton presents a re-enactment of The New American, the journey of a young

Irish immigrant in 1910.

In the gripping story, McClinton becomes 15-year-old Bridget Fitzgerald; who makes the agonizing choice to leave her family, travel in steerage, endure scrutiny at Ellis Island, find work in New York City's garment district at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, and ultimately — gain her citizenship.

Three presentations of Bridget's journey will allow every eighth grader time to experience the re-enactment and fol-

low up with questions and comments.

In the afternoon, the gym will become Ellis Island's main hall as students take on the identities of immigration officials, and of travelers from all across Europe.

Each year, many students bring their own costumes and makeup to better look the part. Students will find out who will be sent back to the “Old Country,” and what the fate of the “New Americans” will be.

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