

A literary journey along the coast at Beach Books

In case you don't appreciate it yet, Seaside is lucky to have Beach Books, a thriving and pulsing center of the literary arts. They're 10 years here in November and that is a milestone to be celebrated.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, we passed through the waist-high gate (to keep the cat in) and stepped upstairs to the balcony. There, authors engaged in the timeless art of hawking their books, one which I have done once or twice myself. Nothing could require more nerve than to stand there with your newest "child" in front of you for the world to see. Some authors are grateful if more than a handful of browsers stop by their table in an afternoon — it can feel like the loneliest job in the world.

But at Beach Books, business was buzzing, with authors and the readers to match. It was a testament to the literary connections of the store's proprietress Karen Emmerling, and to the authors themselves who were able to inspire weekend walkers and bumper car enthusiasts over to the Gilbert District.

The place was "lousy with writers" to paraphrase Raymond Chandler, and bringing to mind those film noir days were the dashing Nestucca Spit Press authors, Bill Hall and Matt Love.

Hall is the author of "McCallandia: A Utopian Novel," and also happens to be the chairman of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. Kind of makes me want to check out what goes on at those meetings.

The book was inspired by a picture of Ronald Reagan and Tom McCall. Hall's friend, author and publisher Matt Love, hypothesized what if it had been McCall who was president, not Reagan? I love this book, which is filled with history and cultural commentary, and so seamless you sometimes don't know which is real history and what is Hall's creative vision.

Astoria's Love showcased his

SEEN FROM SEASIDE

By
R.J.
MARX



newest work, "The Great Birthright: An Oregon Novel."

Like much of his other work, "Walking in Rain" or "A Nice Piece of Astoria," Love uses narrative and collage to celebrate those who fought for Oregon's famed Beach Bill — Oregonians' "birthright."

Love creates a diabolical entrepreneur who seeks to take that birthright away, to "promote private ownership and economic development of America's undeveloped coastal place?"

Love calls this "a work of pseudo-pulp historical environmental detective socialist metafiction."

Take that, Batman!!!

Rocket man, coastal poet

A solemn presence belies a gentle man, Gregory E. Zschomler. The Cannon Beach author was displaying a table stacked with his titles, including "Rocket Man: From the Trailer Park to Insomnia and Beyond." He culls wit and wisdom from around the spectrum sprinkled into an inspirational memoir. The title comes from his lifelong fascination with outer space: "Something was out there and I felt it," he writes. "Was that something calling to me? I wanted to know. Maybe not just then, but eventually (certainly by the time I was six)."

Poet Nancy Slavin saw my Cubs cap and immediately con-



Authors Honey Perkel and Gloria Stiger Linkey at Beach Books in Seaside.

fessed to Chicago origins. Her first book "Moorings" explored her experience as an Alaskan fishing guide. Now living on the Oregon Coast, her poetry hikes some of the same inspiration guiding Oregon's literary laureates: the sea, the beaches and the forest.

In "Ecotone," she describes the "natural zone between land and sea, where life holds to rock while waves work to wash life clean."

Her pen is unawed by painful truths: cold snaps, cold winds, wintry damp and the displaced poor. "When night falls and there is no heat, will they know the taste of death is bittersweet?" Slavin writes in the poem "November Flood."

Seaside scribes

My favorite "new" author at the Beach Books signing was Gloria Stiger Linkey, Seaside's "historian" and resident since

1941. We had a fascinating talk in which she shared the inner history of Seaside's riots — the first in the 1960s, in which spring break kids erupted — and the second in the 1990s, when a film crew incited a crowd into violence.

Stiger Linkey is the author of "Great Indian Women" and is working on her seminal work, "A Town Called Seaside," scheduled for release in February. She describes it as looking back from Memorial Day 1941 to Memorial Day 2015, "a compelling story about survival and rebuilding a small town, the war years, recession, riots and a tsunami. The spirit of the town is reflected by the spirit of the citizens who would not let the town die. It was the love and unlimited energy of these people who turned the town into one of the leading resort towns on the Oregon coast."

Finally, I have wanted to read



Authors Bill Hall and Matt Love of Nestucca Spit Press.

the work of Honey Perkel since I arrived in Seaside, and picked up her stunning memoir, "Just Breathe," her compelling, emotional story about the loss of her son. I read it in an afternoon.

For those of you who think there are any easy solutions when a loved one is suffering from mental illness, Perkel's transformational story leaves you with the sense that the process is the path, and redemption is only found within our own courage to move forward. I wish this book could have had a happy ending.

Perkel's newest book is a mystery, "House of Sand," and it takes place in Seaside. Scary title!

If these types of speeding-signing author-meets appeals to you, I hope you were able to get to Seaside Public Library this week for "Crazy Eights Author Tour," presented by the Seaside Library Foundation. And may I recommend a visit to the Community Room of the Seaside Public Library Thursday, Nov. 7, when Friends of the Seaside Library welcome Bill Hall and you can ask him all about Tom McCall.

Beach Books is located at 616 Broadway; 503-738-3500. Seaside Public Library is located at 1131 Broadway. For more information call 503-738-6742.

Between the Covers

ESTHER MOBERG

Seaside Public Library makes countywide outreach

Since 2010, the Seaside Public Library has proudly supported Reading Outreach in Clatsop County.

Back in 2009, this was actually formed as a program for all rural children and teens by Reita Fackereil of the Seaside Public Library, and Jane Tucker of the Astoria Public Library. Their goal was to form a partnership with the school districts in our county to make sure every child in Clatsop County had access to books and reading.

If you think about Clatsop County, it's like a big square with the Seaside, Astoria, and Warrenton libraries around the northwest corner. This leaves all the kids in the rural areas of the county far away from the libraries. In fact, their closest library is usually their school library. For kids in kindergarten through fifth grade especially, they typically are only allowed to check out only one or two books every seven to 14 days. That is not a lot, when

you consider the most crucial time for brain growth is during this time. In the first three years, a child's brain grows to 90 percent of its adult weight, while also creating all the correct process and connections for learning success. Building vocabulary for kids is crucial because brains make the majority of the connectors they need for the rest of their lives (how to store, retrieve, and make connections between things to learn and make judgments) during ages 0-18.

In a study by Hart & Risley in 1995, the number of words a child has heard by age 3 in a lower income home is 10 million. That sounds like a lot until you realize that a middle income child has heard double that amount. They have had the opportunity for far more interactions with a parent or caregiver, and they are typically read to at night.

A high-income child has even more opportunities



ESTHER MOBERG

and typically has heard 30 million words by the age of three. I'm giving you these statistics, not to depress you, but to say, we are working to help change the outcome for children in our county. The more opportunities and access kids have to books, reading, and more vocabulary resources, the more opportunities will open up for a child later in life. This is the premise behind Libraries Reading Outreach in Clatsop County program. We try to put

a library card in the hands of every child in Clatsop County that wants one and have a countywide (not just one or two cities) summer reading program to further that access and exposure. We have great partnerships with the school districts of Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Seaside, and Warrenton, the Warrenton Library is the third public library that is in partnership in the program and Clatsop County has supported the Libraries ROCC program since 2014.

We have already established three key areas of success for the program including summer reading program, library cards for kids, and courier services between the schools and public libraries and we will continue to look for ways to collaborate and grow. Since 2010, over 700 children have gotten library cards through this program and they have checked out over 78,000 books and other materials! One challenge

we now face is that funding for the program over the last five years was supplied through several Library and Services Technology Act grants and now we are in the process of working toward being permanently funded locally. In order to reach that goal, Libraries ROCC will be doing several fundraisers annually.

Our very first fundraiser, sponsored in part by the Seaside Public Library Foundation, is to have people in the community create Little Library stands (similar to Little Free Libraries you can purchase from littlefreelibrary.org) to be donated and auctioned off in February by Libraries ROCC. The rules for the contest and more details can be picked up at the Astoria, Seaside, or Warrenton Public Libraries. We hope you will join us if you are crafty or a builder and be creative in making these cute little "houses". All proceeds will directly benefit the Libraries ROCC

program. The little libraries must be finished and dropped off at the Seaside Public Library by December 31st. If you like, please place a weather proof placard on the little library stating who or what business created it. I've seen some very creative ideas for the little libraries including one that looked like a lighthouse! The little libraries will be on display in January at the Seaside Library and auctioned off in February. Money donations are also accepted for the Libraries ROCC program and can be made out to the fiscal agent: The Friends of the Seaside Library, in care of the Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway Ave., Seaside, OR. You can also give online at: www.gofundme.com/Libraries-ROCC.

As U.S. Education Secretary Richard W. Riley has said, "If every child were read to daily from infancy, it would revolutionize education in this country!"

Scene and Heard

CLAIRE LOVELL

He can sing, he can knit, now where's the violin?

One of the best knitters in our area is Randy Brainerd of Indian Place in Seaside. Randy began to knit at the age of seven. He was learning to play the violin as well and his hands had become stiff so that it was hard to do the fingering in practice. His mother taught him to knit as a limbering up process. Randy, also a soloist with a beautiful voice, more or less let the violin go and something happened to his instrument. Now if someone would just gift him with a Stradivarius, HA — or even an unused violin in a closet somewhere, we could all have the advantage of three talents and get Randy back in business. While said more or less in jest, it is a pos-



CLAIRE LOVELL

sibility. Randy has knit a lovely pumpkin-colored sweater for our Christmas bazaar.

Church welcomes musical duo

We have a new organist-pianist at our church — Mrs. Jean Olney. She has a

service dog named Ginger, an apricot standard poodle who loves music and surveys the audience before everything begins. She is so curious about everyone and appears so intelligent — aware of everything, yet unobtrusive and doing her job. She's a wonderful addition to our congregation. Arf!

We don't need more temptaion

I don't know what our standing is today, yet at one time Clatsop County held the record for the number of people who abused alcohol in Oregon. We seem to have replaced that distinction with being known now as a producer of fine beers and a go-along. Get-along sponsor

As the DUI accidents increase, is it ever possible to put the toothpaste back in the tube, the genie back in the bottle or the lid back on Pandora's box?

of another mind-altering "recreational" drug, marijuana. In the beer ads, there's a big typo on page 12 of the special microbrew guide. Maybe there is a red (rouge) ale, for all I know.

I guess progress is in the eye of the beholder. And isn't there supposed

to be in present Mary Jane a more powerful kick than in the "medicine" of old? As the DUI accidents increase, is it ever possible to put the toothpaste back in the tube, the genie back in the bottle or the lid back on Pandora's box? Pick your own clichés. And I do know that fairly recently, two downtown stores have added enough wine to their inventories to sink, if not a battleship, at least a small fishing boat. Who needs that much temptation?

Celebrating Columbus Day

I put my flag out Oct. 12, then went to the bank and looked in my mailbox. It was the special day for Christopher Columbus. It's always been his day,

and I believe it should stay that way.

Laugh line:

I heard about a man who went to his doctor and said he was having trouble with his sex life. The doctor, a great believer in exercise, said "Walk 10 miles a day for seven days and then call me." The patient followed the doctor's orders and when he phoned him later, the doctor asked, "How is your sex life?"

"How the heck can I know?" answered the man. "I'm 70 miles from home!" Referenced from the book "Older But Wilder" by Effie L. Wilder.

Query:

When did starfish become "sea stars?"