



BAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 1
Charlie Brown crafts 4pm

Wednesday, October 2
Music time w/ Mr. Rob 10:30am
Lego fun 4pm
Bailey Yoga Night 6pm

Monday, October 7
Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, October 8
Music time w/ Buster B 10:30am
Bookmark crafts 4pm

Wednesday, October 9
Lego fun 4pm

Monday, October 14
Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, October 15
Haunted House crafts 4pm

Wednesday, October 16
Kids Yoga 10:30am
Lego Fun 4pm
Bailey Title Waves 6:00pm

Saturday, October 19
Halloween Party 1pm

Monday, October 21
Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, October 22
Music time w/ Mr. Caleb 10:30am
Ghost crafts 4pm
Mt. Katahdin event 6pm

Wednesday, October 23
Lego fun 4pm

Monday, October 28
Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, October 29
Halloween crafts 4pm

Wednesday, October 30
Lego Fun 4pm

Footnotes / / a column by Shane Billings

Book Review: The Magus by John Fowles

The Magus is unlike anything I've read before. First appearing in 1963, Fowles released a revised edition (with a tweaked ending) in 1977, and it's this version that I read.

The Magus is a mixture of genres and styles, encompassing mystery, psychological thriller, love story, philosophical treatise, and literary fiction. There's lots of other stuff in there, too. Above all, though, it's an exciting read, full of twists and turns and shocking revelations that keep you guessing until the very end.

Nicholas Urfe is our protagonist. He's a 26 year old, smart, good looking, independent man whose parents died early, leaving him wayward and adrift. Very self-possessed, he is often lost in his thoughts and also quite judgmental of the 1950s London society in which he lives. Looking for adventure in the wake of a tumultuous romance, he accepts a post as language instructor in a school on the Greek island of Phraxos.

Although the adventure ostensibly begins when Nicholas arrives on Phraxos, close attention must be paid to the opening fifty pages of The Magus, which detail his relationship with a young Australian woman named Alison. These scenes showcase Fowles's strength at writing about romantic relationships between men and women and his strong character development.

The bulk of the book's action takes place on Bourani, and watching Nicholas navigate the maze set by Conchis makes for a riveting read. However, there are plenty of asides and various backdrops, including flashbacks to important periods in Conchis's life, and a sojourn to the mountains that Nicholas takes with Alison when he has reached an impasse of sorts on Bourani. These rustic mountain scenes are understatedly touching and lay a ground work for the finale of the novel.

I thoroughly enjoyed The Magus. I liked the character development, the storyline, the questions of physical attraction vs. romantic love, the adventure, the mystery, the historical references, and Fowles's writing style. By the end of the novel, I was slightly annoyed as I waited for everything to come together, and although I didn't get the answers I wanted, I found the concluding pages so striking that I forgave everything else.



Screen It! New DVD at the library:
The Place Beyond the Pines
directed by Derek Cianfrance



A brief movie review
by Richard Fortin

Derek Cianfrance directed 'Blue Valentine,' one of my favorite movies of 2010, so I had greatly anticipated the release of his new film 'The Place Beyond the Pines.' The film is a departure from the 2010 romantic drama, but the director dives head first into the crime genre without missing a beat. His two films might be worlds apart, but we can now identify the 'Cianfrance' signature style: extracting stellar performances from the cast that astutely complement the original screenplay. The film stars Ryan Gosling as a carnival stuntman who discovers he has a son resulting from a fling with a local waitress years ago. Luke (Gosling) decides to try to win her back and teams up with a shady mechanic to rob banks to provide for his child. This is an emotionally gripping bank robbery film with a compelling and engrossing storyline. Split into three acts, the transition between each is jarring, but the harshness contrasts nicely with the fragile and intricate character study. Some may find that the final act pales in comparison to the first two. Nevertheless, a good way to spend an evening as we enter autumn.

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Coming Soon in DVD



The Bling Ring
directed by Sofia Coppola

Disconnect
directed by Henry Alex Rubin

The East
directed by Zal Batmanglij

Iron Man 3
directed by Shane Black

The Kings of Summer
directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts

Unfinished Song
directed by Paul Andrew Williams

World War Z
directed by Marc Forster

Debut Author Spotlight

NEW BOOK COMING SOON:
The Night Guest by Fiona McFarlane

An enrapturing debut novel that toys with magical realism while delivering a fresh fable.

One night, Ruth hears a tiger in her home. The morning after Ruth hears the tiger, Frida appears as if from the sea. She explains that she is a government "carer." A spot opened up, she says, and Ruth was on their waiting list. Initially, it seems that Frida is exactly what Ruth needs: a no-nonsense, larger-than-life presence who keeps Ruth company and her floors shining and sand-free. Ruth doesn't hear the tiger again for some time. But other strange things begin to happen, things that test Ruth's sense of reality with increasing frequency and, eventually, give rise to an unshakable foreboding. McFarlane's rendering of Ruth's interior is quiet and exacting, and she builds suspense so gently that the danger is, at first, hardly noticeable. Frida, seen through Ruth's eyes, is as compelling as she is enigmatic.

A pleasurable novel, with turns of plot and phrase both startling and elegant.



Literary Favorites



NEW BOOK COMING SOON: We Are Water by Wally Lamb

Lamb's newest opens as a police procedural, its point of view that of one Gualtiero Agnello, rife with racial and sexual overtones. Fast-forward five decades, and it's a different world, the POV now taken by an artist named Annie Oh, who is attending to details of her upcoming nuptials to her partner and agent, Viveca, who has chosen a wedding dress with a name, Gaia. Reflecting on the Greek myth underlying the name, "chaos, incest, monsters, warring siblings: it's a strange name for a wedding dress." That thought foreshadows much of Lamb's theme, which inhabits the still-waters-run-deep school of narrative: Annie has attained some renown, is apparently adjusted to divorce from her husband, a clinical psychologist named Orion Oh, and is bound for a later life of happiness. Reality intrudes in various forms, and the story is elaborate and unpredictable. The use of multiple narrators is wise, considering that there are a few Rashomon moments in this leisurely unfolding narrative. The characters are at once sympathetic and flawed and mostly, by the end, self-aware.

Lamb turns in a satisfyingly grown-up story, elegantly written.

Lakes Region Forum



John W. Neff and Howard R. Whitcomb will share their vast knowledge of the Katahdin region's history and discuss the creation of their book, "Baxter State Park and Katahdin" on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:00pm. The event is cosponsored by the Winthrop Historical Society and is part of the ongoing Lakes Region Forum at the library. The book draws on collections of archival images, many never published before, dating back to the 19th century. Among the topics discussed will be tales of the native peoples; accounts of early scientific explorations; chronicles of adventurers, including Henry David Thoreau's visits to Maine's north woods in the 1840s and 1850s; and the spirited era of logging and sporting camps.

John W. Neff is a retired pastor of the United Methodist Church and lives in Winthrop. He is the author of "Katahdin: An Historic Journey." He first climbed Katahdin in the early 1960s and was a longtime Appalachian Trail maintainer within Baxter State Park. He is past president of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and the founding president of Friends of Baxter State Park.

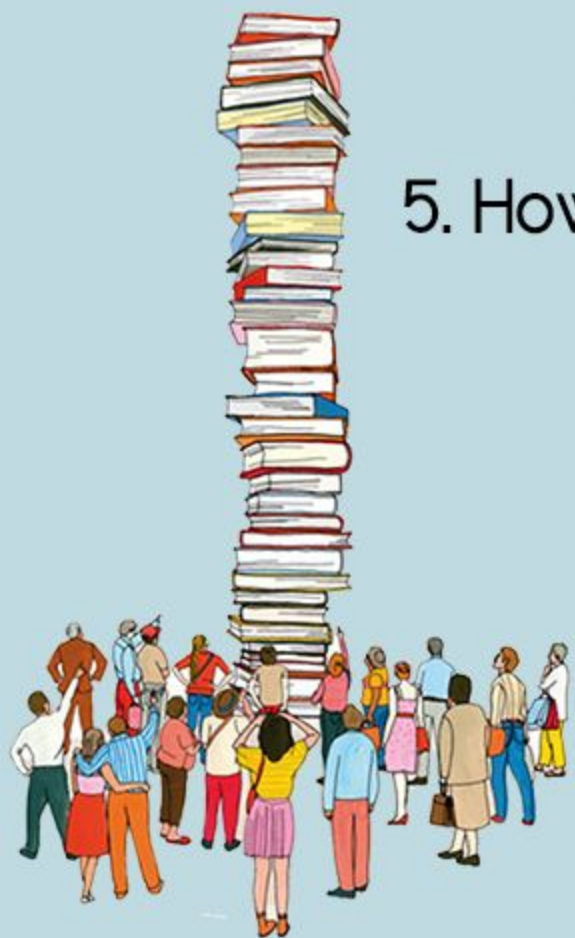
Howard R. Whitcomb, a Georgetown resident, is professor emeritus of political science at Lehigh University. He is the author of "Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession: A Documentary History of Baxter State Park, 1931-2006." He also compiled and annotated a four-volume set of original materials, "Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park." Howard's park experiences date back to the early 1950s when he climbed Katahdin three consecutive summers.

The event will take place in the historic Reading Room of the library and is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at 6:00pm and the lecture will begin at 6:30pm.

Bailey's Most Wanted

Last Month's Most Requested Items

1. The Cuckoo's Calling by Robert Galbraith
2. Doctor Sleep by Stephen King
3. Thankless in Death by J. D. Robb
4. W is for Wasted by Sue Grafton
5. How the Light Gets In by Louise Penny
6. The English Girl by Daniel Silva
7. The Great Gatsby
directed by Baz Luhrmann
8. Massacre Pond by Paul Doiron
9. Gone by James Patterson
10. Deadline by Sandra Brown



Notable Coming Soon

Longbourn by Jo Baker

The Pure Gold Baby by Margaret Drabble

Actors Anonymous by James Franco

The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert

The Two Hotel Francforts by David Leavitt

Loss of Innocence by Richard North Patterson

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

