



# BAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, July 1

Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, July 2

Stars and stripes craft 3:30pm

Wednesday, July 3

Music time w/ Mr. Rob 10:30am

Lego fun 3:30pm

Bailey Yoga Night 6pm

Monday, July 8

Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, July 9

Over the Moon Stories 10:30am

Teddy Bear crafts 3:30pm

Wednesday, July 10

Lego fun 3:30pm

Friday, July 12

Mr. Hoe Action Stories 10:30am

Monday, July 15

Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, July 16

Rocket Ship crafts 3:30pm

Wednesday, July 17

Kids Yoga 10:30am

Title Waves Book Group 6pm

Friday, July 19

Chewonki Cold Blooded Friends 2pm

Saturday, July 20

Library Book Sale at Town Hall 9-2pm

Monday, July 22

Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, July 23

Over the Moon Stories 10:30am

Beatrix Potter crafts 3:30pm

Tess Gerritsen Author Visit 6:30pm

Friday, July 26

Garden Tea Party 1-3pm

Saturday, July 27

Mr. Harley Summer Party 1:30pm

Monday, July 29

Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, July 30

Construction Day 1-2pm

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# Footnotes / / a column by Shane Billings

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## Literary Classic: A Good Man is Hard to Find by Flannery O'Connor

Flannery O'Connor is one of the most well-known names from 20th century literature. She wrote two novels, "Wise Blood" and "The Violent Bear It Away," before her early death at thirty-nine. She is probably more revered for her two collections, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" and the posthumously published "Everything That Rises Must Converge." In 1972, she won the National Book Award (also posthumously) for her Complete Stories. She is absolutely among the greatest short story writers of all time.



I remember reading three of her stories for my AP English class with Mrs. Taylor during senior year of high school: "Greenleaf," "The Enduring Chill," and "Parker's Back." They were strange and alluring, eccentric tales, and my curiosity was piqued. Somehow I did not have to read her for any of my college courses, but she's always been in the back of my mind. As an adult, I've enjoyed exploring more of her work.

"A Good Man is Hard to Find," a collection of ten stories, produced some of the most famous and studied titles in 20th century American literature, including "A Late Encounter With The Enemy," "Good Country People," and "The Displaced Person." It's a bleak book, full of desperate, tortured, and unhappy characters, and lots of uncomfortable situations. O'Connor's style is often labeled Southern Gothic, and she is compared to writers like Eudora Welty, William Faulkner, and Carson McCullers. Her tales are not for the faint of heart.

In all honesty, though, Flannery O'Connor did not write like anyone before or since. Her style is unique and entirely her own, which is a large part of the reason these works have stood the test of time. Yes, the South of the 1950s is a huge part of the stories' fabric, which places her alongside Eudora Welty. However, Welty's stories were written in a much more formal style, and violence and danger were merely undercurrents. O'Connor, on the other hand, writes in a quick, blunt style with slight echoes of Hemingway, and violence is right on the surface of these sometimes chilling tales. The only living author I can think of whose stories bear a slight resemblance to O'Connor is Joyce Carol Oates, but again, these comparisons are not overt.

The title story, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," is possibly the most well-known in this batch. It follows a family of six as they take off on a road trip. They are not a happy bunch. The grandmother, known only as The Grandmother, is constantly harping at her son, Bailey. Her grandchildren, a boy and girl, are argumentative and fidgety. Bailey himself is often finding fault with his old mother, yelling at and insulting her more than once. His wife (also nameless) and newborn baby don't have much to do. When the grandmother's cat jumps out of a basket and startles Bailey, he drives their car down into a ravine. They are soon "rescued," but the rescuers are a group of bandits led by a notorious killer named The Misfit who has been referenced since the opening of the story. What happens next is horrific, even by today's standards, and you'll not soon forget this tale.

Flannery O'Connor was a Roman Catholic, and many of her stories involve characters searching for grace, pondering grace, or finding grace at an unlikely moment. Religion was an integral part of her work. It also cannot be denied that many of her characters are racist, uneducated, and coarse. She was writing what was real to her in that time and place, and it's often ugly and hateful. You can argue that she was making deeper points than are readily apparent in some of the stories, possibly trying to combat racism by exposing it at its brutal core. These are issues that have been debated for more than fifty years, and readers will have to make up their own minds.

# DAVID MALLETT

## Sat., Aug. 10, 7pm

Winthrop Performing Arts Center

Sponsored by Bailey Library Trustees  
and the Bank of Maine



**Proceeds to benefit  
the Bailey Library Expansion**

**Tickets: \$25 or \$30 at the door  
Available at the Bank of Maine  
or at the Bailey Public Library**

[baileylibrary.org](http://baileylibrary.org)  
[thebankofmaine.com](http://thebankofmaine.com)

# Lakes Region Forum with Tess Gerritsen

Doctor-turned-suspense novelist Tess Gerritsen will appear at the Library on Tuesday, July 23 at 6:30pm as part of the ongoing Lakes Region Forum. After 23 successful novels, ranging from romantic suspense to New York Times best-selling medical and crime thrillers, Gerritsen's books have been published in forty countries and have sold 25 million copies.

While she has drawn on some of her experiences as a physician in her previous books, it wasn't until her 2011 book "The Silent Girl," that she strongly incorporated another important part of herself - her Chinese-American heritage. Gerritsen's newest book, "Last to Die" arrived at number 5 on the New York Times bestseller list last year and is her tenth in the famed Rizzoli and Isles crime series starring homicide detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles. The "Rizzoli & Isles" TNT television series starring Angie Harmon as police detective Jane Rizzoli and Sasha Alexander as medical examiner Dr. Maura Isles is now in its fourth season.

Gerritsen started writing while on maternity leave from her job as a doctor in Hawaii in the mid-1980s. The prolific author initially introduced the Boston detective as a supporting character in "The Surgeon" (2001), not intending to continue Rizzoli beyond one book. In fact, Gerritsen initially planned to kill off the character during that novel, but something changed while she was writing the tale of a top trauma surgeon forced to relive the worst moments of her past when a serial killer with medical knowledge is on the loose.

Gerritsen followed up with The Apprentice (2002) which also introduced medical examiner Maura Isles, because Rizzoli "was such an interesting character" that the author wanted to see more of her.

For more information, call the library at 377-8673 or visit [baileylibrary.org](http://baileylibrary.org).

## Bailey's Most Wanted

### Last Month's Most Requested Items



1. When We Were the Kennedys by Monica Wood
2. Inferno by Dan Brown
3. The Silver Star by Jeannette Walls
4. Joyland by Stephen King
5. The Burgess Boys by Elizabeth Strout
6. Six Years by Harlan Coben
7. The Hit by David Baldacci
8. And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini
9. Silken Prey by John Sandford
10. Silver Linings Playbook directed by David O. Russell

## Notable Coming Soon

- Amy Falls Down by Jincy Willett
- The Curiosity by Stephen Kiernan
- Fin & Lady by Cathleen Schine
- Letters From Skye by Jessica Brockmole
- Massacre Pond by Paul Doiron
- The Resurrectionist by Matthew Guinn
- Whistling Past the Graveyard by Susan Crandall

