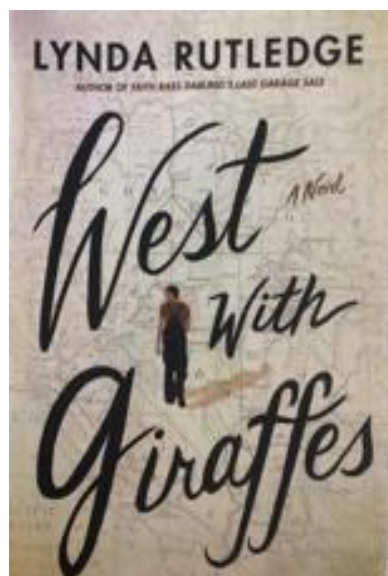


BOOK FRIENDLY



January 2025

TWO TOWNS-ONE BOOK PLANS FOR 2025 LINDA CONKLIN



The winning book, **West with Giraffes**, has generated lots of program ideas. TTOB is excited to announce the 2025 kickoff event entitled **“Weather“ or Not You’ve Read the Book ...**

Come to the library on Sunday, January 19th at 2:00 PM and hear Reid Kisselback, meteorologist from WYNT – channel 13 speak about hurricanes (mentioned in the beginning of the book), and weather.

The next program called **Souper Saturday** will be on Saturday, February 8th at 2:00PM. Abby Shea, CIA graduate, will return and perform another cooking demonstration. She will show the audience how to create stock and then make a soup with the stock. Three soups prepared by Abby will be available to taste.

Upcoming programs include a panel discussion of **What’s Wild in Your Backyard?**, a photo exhibit, another story telling program with Kate Dudding, a trip to The Wild Park in Chittenango, NY, and a celebration of World Giraffe Day.

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Look for the Community Flyer at the kickoff on January 19th for exact dates and more detail on the array of programs offered by Two Towns-One Book. Information will also be available on the Friends website at friendsofcphlibrary.org/two-towns-one-book/

Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.

Sidney Sheldon

“BEAUTIFUL CREATURES ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION” BLAISE J. NOTO

“The giraffe has always fascinated people and cultures throughout history. The Greeks and Romans believed that this creature was an unnatural hybrid of a camel and a leopard.

Julius Caesar is believed to have brought and displayed the first giraffe in Rome in 46 BC. In the Middle Ages, Europeans knew about giraffes through contact with the Arabs. A giraffe presented to Lorenzo de Medici in 1486 caused a great stir on its arrival in Florence. In the early 19th century, a similar gift to Charles X of France from Egypt caused a sensation. He loved this animal, and it was something he showed to special guests for 18 years. His palace featured many paintings of his beloved giraffe.” (Source: “Tales of the Giraffe”)

In the early 1400s, the Emperor of China viewed this remarkable animal as possibly a qilin, mythical creature that has been compared to a unicorn in Western mythology ... But the giraffes were obviously something special,” writes historian Sally K. Church in Smithsonian Magazine. “Of all the animals that the emperor received, the giraffe was the one he asked a court artist to paint...which looked like a cross between a deer or horse and a lion or dragon.”

With giraffes historically being such revered animals...why are they becoming an endangered species at risk of extinction? In November of 2022, CNN Climate professed that giraffe populations are declining at such an alarming rate - from habitat loss, poaching, urbanization and climate change-fueled drought -that the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing many giraffe species as either Endangered or Threatened Species, the most severe levels of threat under the law, indicating the species is at imminent risk of extinction. CNN notes that the giraffe population in Africa plummeted by roughly 77% since 1985 from a population from 25,653 giraffes to 5,919.

So what is causing this catastrophe for the African giraffe, and what part does the U.S. play in this crisis?

The Humane Society of the United States conducted an undercover investigation in 2018 that revealed the scale and variety of giraffe trafficking. It found that the US has become a significant market for giraffe parts and products, importing nearly 40,000 parts over a decade-long period. Giraffe hides are made into pillows and rugs, giraffe skin bible covers and furniture; and tails are used as “good luck” charms. Western boots made from giraffe leather and specialty knives/knife products made from giraffe bone were the most commonly found giraffe products. American hunters travel to Africa to kill giraffes and bring back body parts — typically the head and neck — as trophies to be mounted on plaques or walls. [Continued on page 3.]

[Continued from page 2]

Climate change is a major factor in the decline to the giraffe population in Africa, which been dealing with more frequent droughts, crop failures, livestock and animal deaths and tens of millions of people desperately in need of food and water. In addition, human population growth has led to habitat loss and increased human-wildlife conflicts.

Much needs to be done if the giraffes are to be saved. Among the many watchdog organizations leading the effort are the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Wild Nature Institute, African Wildlife Organization, IFAW, and Zoo New England. Please think about lending them – and the giraffes – your support.

References

CNN Climate: “Giraffes are Up Next on the Endangered Species, US Wildlife Officials Say”; Rachel Ramirez (11/20/2024) www.cnn.com/2024/11/20/climate/giraffes-endangered-species-list/index.html

Humane Society of the United States: “U.S. Market for Giraffe Parts Uncovered.” www.hsi.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/pdfs/giraffe-report-HSI-HSUS-082318.pdf

Millennial Matriarchs: “Twiga’s Tales of the Giraffe.” millennialmatriarchs.com/2022/06/23/twigas-tales-of-the-giraffe/

Smithsonian Magazine: “The Peculiar Story of Giraffes in 1400s China.” Kat Eschner (6/21/2027) www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/peculiar-story-giraffes-medieval-china-180963737/

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: “Endangered Species” www.fws.gov/program/endangered-species/species



TRAVELS WITH RHONA

RHONA KORETZKY FORMAN

The December 7 trip to New York City was a resounding success. The bus was almost filled to capacity and the group was congenial, prompt and enthusiastic. The city was extremely crowded and hectic and everyone stayed safe and had a great time. The city looked spectacular with all the holiday decorations.

20 people took a tour of the 42nd Street Library and several people took advantage of the opportunity to get a card for New York Public Library. Every New York State resident is eligible. You can apply online at NYPL.org or in person at any of the library branches across the boroughs of Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island. All the library's online resources and databases will be available to you. Give yourself the gift of a library card!

We divided into two groups of 23 for the self-guided tour of the Morgan Library, featuring a special exhibit about the personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene. Two quotes from the exhibit that resonated with me: Belle was a fashion plate. From her: "I might be a librarian but I don't need to dress like one". And—a reference to her salary when she was appointed director in 1924—the princely sum of \$12,500 per year. 100 years ago! A fortune in today's dollars.

There were also some visits to other museums including a family first time trip to the American Museum of Natural History, some retail therapy at the holiday markets around the city, and sightings of department store windows and the magnificent Rockefeller Center Christmas tree.

Building on that successful day trip we are now planning a trip to the Wild Park in Chittenango, NY, in coordination with Two Towns-One Book. Stay tuned for details as they emerge.

2024 was a great year for FOL travel. The year began with tropical Costa Rica in January and ended with the rugged Canadian Rockies in September and a highly successful day trip. The two extended trips in 2025 promise to be equally stunning. Both trips: the Scandinavia trip in early October and the river cruise tour of European Christmas markets in late November are fully booked.

It is not too soon to think about 2026! Our 2026 extended trip opportunities will be announced shortly after the first of the year. Here is a teaser: There will be a return to the UK in late April, 7 years after our first UK tour, and featuring some different destinations. There will also be a return to some US National parks in the fall of 2026. A presentation about these tours is scheduled for Thursday evening April 3 in room A-B at the library. Time to be announced. Watch for the announcement!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2025 and safe travels wherever you may go.



SCENES FROM THE MORGAN LIBRARY



TWO GOODBYES AND A HELLO

WILMA JOZWIAK

In January, the Friends Board will say goodbye to two wonderful Board members and welcome a new one.

Michele Gorab joined the Board in 2017 after retiring from the Ford Foundation and moving to the area from New Jersey. Soon after joining the Board, she agreed to serve as one of our Co-Presidents, a role she filled for most of her tenure on the Board. Michele also chaired our Scholarship Committee and was a sparkplug in the initiation of our first Crafting Supplies Give & Take event in 2023. Michele's knowledge of nonprofit organization and legal considerations were immeasurably valuable as we worked to update our by-laws and develop our initial standard operating procedures. Michele's even-keel temperament and good humor helped us keep our Board interactions positive and productive.

Jamie Hanley joined the Board in 2018 and served as our Membership Chair for several years before agreeing to assume the role of Board Secretary. Jamie's skill at condensing our often-long-winded discussions into succinct and accurate records is unsurpassed. Her ability to throw in a random bit of humor actually made reading the Board minutes entertaining, not an easy thing to do. In addition, Jamie also was a visionary force behind the inaugural Crafting Supplies Give & Take event in 2023. Her sense of humor and willingness to step in and help made her a valued asset to the Board.

Michele and Jamie leave with our heart-felt thanks and will be sorely missed!

It is our good fortune that Jennifer Duval (Jenn), who was already a wonderful volunteer, agreed to join the Board and step into the role of Secretary. We asked Jenn to introduce herself to the community:

"Hello! I'm Jenn Duval. My family moved to Clifton Park 7 years ago after spending a good 25 years on the move. I taught elementary school for the majority of that time, and now here in NY, I'm driving a school bus for Shen. I love children, music, and books. I will do whatever I can for The Friends of the Library and the wonderful new people I've found in this community. I'm excited to be a part of the FOL Board!"



Jennifer Duval

The Friends Board meets most months on the fourth Wednesday of the month (check our calendar at friendsofcphlibrary.org/our-events/ to confirm the date). All are invited to attend; let us know if you'll be joining us!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

JUDY AND TOM CORIGLIANO

Wow! Did summer and fall just fly by!?! Here we are preparing a message for the winter “Book Friendly Newsletter,” and looking at Christmas in 10 days. Time to put 2024 into our history and memory books!

We are happy to report that the Friends of the Library membership is still looking strong at 557 individuals in all membership categories. Actually, we estimate our membership to be over 600, as we have a large number of active members whose membership expired the week after the fall Used Book Sale. We expect these folks will renew their membership at or before the January book sale.

Speaking of the Used Book Sale, there will be three Used Book Sales in 2025, each lasting 3 days (Thursday to Sunday). If the dates aren’t already on your calendar, please note the following: January 31-February 2, May 16-18, and September 26-28. Only FOL members will have early access on the first day of each sale (from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm), the doors will open at 1:00 pm to the general public. We will have a desk set up where you can renew your membership if necessary or become a new member.

If you haven’t renewed your FOL membership, now would be a good time to do it, and it’s easy! **Membership application** forms are available online at the following web link: [FOL-Membership-Form-October-2024.doc](#). You can renew your support for the Friends of the Library **and** be eligible to win a copy of a New York Time best-selling book! Each quarter, we draw a name from all new and renewed members at the \$10 and above level and reward them with a book of their choice from the NYT Best Seller List! If you are not yet an FOL member, join us now.

At the end of September, we concluded the third quarter “Win a New York Times Best Seller” promotion and selected a winner from the 135 new and renewed members. This is a quarterly membership promotion, so if you haven’t renewed yet for 2025, do it now, and you may be our next NYT book winner! If you have already renewed, we thank you again for your membership and your support! If you have time and would like to join our FOL team as a volunteer, we would love to have you! There is great satisfaction in helping the Library provide funding for programs and events for the entire community. The **Volunteer Opportunities Form** is available at the following web link: [FOL-Volunteer-Opportunities-Form-October-2024.pdf](#).

See you at the Library!

Tom and Judy Corigliano

Win a NY Times Bestseller!

Become a member (or renew your membership) of the Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library at the \$10 level or higher and be eligible to win a NY Times Best Selling Book of your choice!

A winner is randomly selected each quarter from new and renewed memberships.



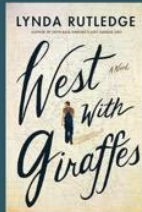
Download a Membership form on the FOL Website

(see web link below)

web link: [FOL-Membership-Form-October-2024.doc](#).

Two Towns-One Book 2025 Kick-off!

Sunday, January 19 at 2 pm



“Weather” or Not You’ve Read the Book ...

Join us as Reid Kisselback, WNYT-Channel 13 meteorologist, speaks about weather and hurricanes (mentioned in the beginning of *West With Giraffes*, our 2025 community read).



Two Towns-One Book is a program of the
Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library



Don't miss our Next Used Book Sale!



Friday, January 31st

- FOL Members only
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM
- No shopping
12:45 PM - 1:00 PM
- Open to the public
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Saturday, February 1st

- 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday, February 2nd

- 12:15 PM - 4:00 PM
- **“Dime Day” -
all books 10 cents!**

Help a local nonprofit with your
donation of children's books.
See us at the sale for more information.



On November 21, 2024, a rainy Thursday evening, members of the reading community gathered for a profoundly moving event with Heather Morris, the bestselling author of the 2018 debut novel **The Tattooist of Auschwitz**, **Cilka's Journey** (2019), **Three Sisters** (2021) and **Sisters Under the Rising Sun** (2023). Although the New Zealand author was originally scheduled to visit earlier, Heather suddenly found herself ordered to return home due to COVID restrictions.

Heather boarded the second to last flight to Australia before a policy change would lead to quarantine. We are so fortunate that she was able to make a return!

Heather described her author's journey as a series of "Did I tell you about?" moments that continue to lead her to additional connections across time and space, through a shared history linking generations that should not be forgotten. She promises to keep writing, to "hurry up and tell my story", to write the accounts she has been entrusted to share. Heather continues bringing readers the stories of ordinary people living through extraordinary times. When asked how she was able to get to know those she wrote about, she shared that her background as a Social Worker prepared her to gather and receive their historic trauma. Although big cups of coffee and wafer biscuits also helped!

Some in the audience had seen the 2024 mini-series adapted from *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. She described its long journey, starting with her original screenplay that evolved into the novel. She was chuffed when Oscar-winning German-born composer Hans Zimmer pursued her to pitch creating the score, when Harvey "I don't do TV" Keitel agreed to play Lale Sokolov, and Barbra Streisand contributing the original song "Love Will Survive"!

Heather touched on the diversity in the numerous book covers, acknowledging that some were more historically accurate than others. She also shared that a Canadian man's mother recognized the photo of linked hands with both forearms displaying a four-digit number on the Australian/New Zealand version of the book cover as a picture of Lale and Gita; his mother then showed him her number, "just three apart". [Continued on page 11]

[Continued from page 10] Lastly, Heather was deeply moved when she learned that just weeks prior to her appearance on the Shenendehowa West auditorium stage where she brought to life Lale Sokolov, the tattooist of Auschwitz-Birkenau, a double cast of students from the Shenendehowa Drama Club were given both the honor and opportunity to bring The Frank Family (Anne, Otto, Edith, Margot) to life in the play **The Diary of Anne Frank**.

COMING EVENTS

Visit our website at friendsofcphlibrary.org for more information on these events.

January 19, 2:00 – 3:30 PM: **Two Towns-One Book Kick-off “Weather or Not You’ve Read the Book” Meteorologist Reid Kisselback from Channel 13.** Reid will provide information on hurricanes and other weather events.

January 30 – February 1: **Friends of the Library Used Book Sale**

Friday, January 30: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM. Friends of the Library members only pre-sale

Friday, January 30: 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Sale opens to the general public

Saturday, January 31: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Sale continues for everyone

Sunday, February 1: 12:15 – 4:00 PM. Sunday is Dime Day – all books 10 cents each!

February 8, 2:00 – 3:30 PM: **A Two Towns-One Book Event Soup-er Saturday – Soup Making with Chef Abby Shea.**

April 11 – 13: **Crafting Supplies Give and Take (A “free-will donation” event)**

Friday, April 11: 2:00 – 6:00 PM ONLY: Intake of supply donations

(visit our website for information on accepted donations)

Saturday, April 12: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Event open to everyone

Sunday, April 13: 12:15. 3:00 PM: Event open to everyone

3:00 – 4:00 PM Remaining materials free to everyone

May 5, during Library hours: **Books for Babies** - Library District parent or grandparent of a newborn (up to six months old) may receive a special complimentary gift packet that contains a children’s board book, library card application, nutritional information, tips on reading and other materials.

May 16 - 19: **Friends of the Library Used Book Sale**

Friday, May 16: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM. Friends of the Library members only pre-sale

Friday, May 16: 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Sale opens to the general public

Saturday, May 17: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Sale continues for everyone

Sunday, May 18: 12:15 – 4:00 PM. Sunday is Dime Day – all books 10 cents each!

May 17, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: **Garden Express/Plant Swap.**

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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 Lisa Totaro, Social Media, Communication
 Coordination
 Mary Fran Verostek, Publicity
 Jim Foster, Library Liaison to the FOL Board

About Book Friendly

Changes are afoot!

Book Friendly will become a blog-style newsletter in 2025. Blog posts will be published monthly on our website, with links to the articles pushed out on our Constant Contact email service.

Back issues of the traditional Book Friendly are available at

friendsofcphlibrary.org/news/

