



# Between Friends

## Friends of the Cooper Memorial Library Newsletter

December 2010

Volume 4

Issue 12

Editor: Barbara Elkins

A Note from the President

Role and Purpose of CML Friends

Executive Committee

Committee Chairpersons

Upcoming Events

Membership Drive

Book Review

2011 Book Club List

Annual Rededication

Holiday Wishes

*Dear Friends,*

*I hope this finds you well on your way to a very happy holiday season. This is a time for thinking of loved ones, those who are near and dear to our hearts. That is why I am thinking of you. For four years you have played a primary role as my Clermont family and my dearest friends. You have inspired me, cheered me, warmed my heart, shared your lives with me and made our organization truly come to life. I thank you for these gifts.*

*For those who have not heard, this will be my last letter as President. I am stepping down from the role of President of Friends effective December 31. Your new Executive Board has had a year to experience the full range of scheduling and activities and will no longer need my presence for transition. As you know I was planning to step down at this time last year but with all others serving on the Executive Board for the first time I agreed to stay on for a transition period. Now, it is time to go. I will be using these last weeks to tie up a few loose ends and tidy my files before transferring them to our file cabinet in the store room.*

*As a matter of policy, I don't believe administrators should stake a claim, homestead, or build an empire, nor should they overstay their welcome. I have served the equivalent of 2 consecutive two-year terms. Hence, I am moving on. I don't think it's a good thing for the outgoing President to remain overly present and involved lest he/she become an impediment to full evolution of the organization. Hence, I am moving on. I will of course maintain my membership but for at least a full year I will keep a low profile. This should leave the road clear for your new leaders.*

*I wish you well in your endeavors in 2011. I know our organization is in good hands-yours. Blessings and good wishes for a Happy New Year.*

*Between Friends,  
Jody Close, President*

*Time to Reflect on the Role and Purpose of Friends of CML*

The purpose of Friends of Cooper Memorial Library is to support the library, to raise funds to pay for things that might have gone unfunded or underfunded if we hadn't been there. Our job is also to assure the continuing operation of Friends as an organization so as to provide for the growth and development of programs and library giving for the future. In order for Friends to become a modern and more efficient organization it is necessary to plan not only for annual giving to the library but also for operating expenses and project development investment to initiate new programs and projects.

For the last four years we have increased the dollar amount spent on behalf of the library. We are striving to continue that incremental increase each year. We will only be able to do so if we increase funds raised. There will always be necessary costs like publicity, fees, supplies and storage of our books. There are also Project Development and Implementation costs, the monies needed to set up or pay for new projects as well as our annual fund raising projects. It takes money to put on these fundraisers even though they are intended to pay their own way in the end.

We are by our constitution and our definition of purpose, connected with one target. Our tax exempt charity status is premised on our connection solely to the Cooper Memorial Library, a Lake County Branch Library. We are not like other groups who raise funds for different charities each year nor do we whimsically dole out gifts to causes as the mood strikes. We have a well defined target and this frees us to focus our creative projects and energies more effectively.

Keeping these parameters in mind helps us to understand our mission. Those who join Friends of the Library are joining a fellowship of dedicated people who believe in free public libraries and in providing the best possible service to our community. Keeping the bridge between the library and the community strong means keeping the doors open to all, no matter where in our sprawling far flung and fast growing Clermont area they might live.

We may not all work IN the library but we do work FOR our library, and we welcome all who would join us in this mission.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jody Close  
President  
352-227-4803

Priscilla Suffredini  
Vice President  
352-429-2747

Pat Van de Voorde  
Secretary  
352-394-8932

Judy Beaty  
Treasurer  
352-242-4923

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership:  
Carol Finger

Publicity:  
Pat Van de Voorde

Veterans History Project:  
Audrey Jackson Morgan

2011 Book Sale:  
Priscilla Suffredini and  
Kathy Weaver

Newsletter:  
Barb Elkins

Hospitality:  
Lucille Gross

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

Dec 13 Executive Committee Mtg.

No Book Club Mtg. in Dec.  
No General Membership Mtg. in Dec.



**Happy Holidays to one and all!!**

Jan 10 Executive Board Meeting.

Jan 18 Friends Book Club

Jan 24 **Annual Meeting** All members needed. If you don't come to any other meeting please come to this one for an annual confirmation of membership. This is the annual rededication meeting and annual planning and budget adoption moment.

Late January - Literary Adventure Seminar:  
on Zora Neal Hurston

### Looking Ahead:

February Annual Big Bonanza Book Sale

March Woman's Club EXPO  
Literary Adventure: Eugenie Price



## Membership Drive

Anyone joining Friends of the Cooper Memorial Library from October through December will be considered paid members for all of 2011 plus the 1, 2 or 3 month bonus period remaining in 2010.

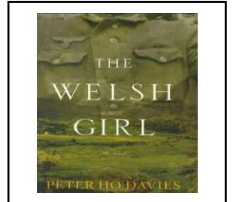
Stop in at any meeting -  
4th Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m.  
We'll provide the registration forms and a  
very warm welcome.

Next meeting January 24.

## Book Review

We hope you are encouraged to read some of the books the Book club is reading or that you will be intrigued enough to read some of the books presented here. If you would like to suggest a book to be reviewed or volunteer to provide a review you are cordially invited, urged, encouraged, and solicited to do so. We want to be sure we explore many different reading tastes and selections. So far most of the reviews have been fairly positive about the selections. Reviews with negative points are welcome as well – critical analysis will stir the discussion and make it more lively. Please, let us know if you read any of our review list books, and whether or not you agreed with the reviewer.

**The Welsh Girl**  
by Peter Ho Davies



This is a first novel for Peter Ho Davies, University of Michigan professor, although he previously authored much admired collections of short stories entitled *The Ugliest House in the World* and *Equal Love*. This is a book of great subtleties and nuances, of eternal passions that drive us all and, the prejudices and influences that affect our relationships with people of different backgrounds. One imagines that Professor Davies, who appears to be of both Western and Asian heritage, may know firsthand of the dynamics of such relationships.

The Welsh Girl in the title refers to Esther Evans, a 17 year old bar maid who lives on a sheep farm in a remote village in Wales and who touches or is touched by the lives of five young men from various homelands who all find themselves in this far away place. There are only two other women in the story, the local Postmistress whose son wooed Esther before being turned down and leaving for the war, the only mother-like figure Esther has in her life. The other woman, Mary is an actress and the mistress of an itinerant London evacuee who is a radio and

(Continued next page.)



stage comedian. His soliloquies in the pub are intended to evoke laughter but most often hide great darkness and secrets. Mary is the more worldly, big sister figure who is the only person to share Esther's secret and attempt to help her. Other than these two women, Esther is surrounded by men, the pub owner, the working men of the community who people the pub, her crusty father, often insensitive to those around him and rooted in an argumentative Welsh patriotism. There is a kind of little brother figure, Jim, a young English evacuee, lodging with Esther and her father for the duration, to provide them some help with the farm and who will go home to his mother in London when the danger has passed. Jim is a loner and feels strongly his outsider status, he will do almost anything to get in with the local lads. There are the British sapper, stationed at a local army facility who is the villain of the piece; the absent Rhys, the Welsh boy who wanted to marry her; the German POW who escapes from the army facility now revealed to be a prisoner of war encampment; and the well educated formerly German, part Jewish young officer now working for the English as an investigator and translator. In such a small town, everyone crosses paths sooner or later but finding that the infamous prisoner Rudolf Hess plays a part in this story does come as a surprise. Everyone has secrets, everyone is trying to find a balance and some focus for their lives as they struggle to survive in the midst of a most unbalanced time in their history.

This is a very well written novel, deftly describing the dilemmas and insecurities of all the various characters. It is noted that Davies' past experience was in writing short stories and this novel with its several sub-plots is rather like a collection of short stories woven together in a broader tapestry of interconnected lives. If you enjoyed *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, reviewed here in 2009, about invading Germans on the ground in Great Britain and if you like stories about WWII Britain, *The Welsh Girl* will offer still further insights into the effects of that war and should be an interesting addition to your collection. Esther will certainly resonate with women readers.

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007.  
ISBN: 13: 978-0-618-00700-4.

## *Annual Book Club Update*



The Friends Book Club meets each month to discuss a book they've chosen to read together. There is nothing to pay to join and nothing to do other than read the book, show up, and join in the discussion.



The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month, at 5 p.m. in Room 221 on the second floor of CML. You can obtain a printed list of the books designated for 2011 at the Reference Desk on the second floor of CML, right at the head of the stairs.

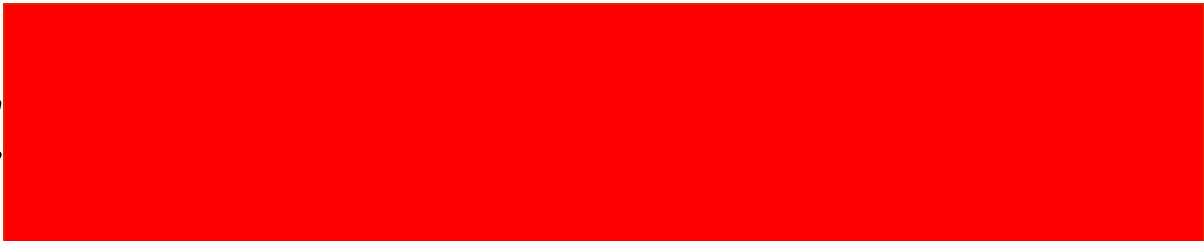


*The 2011 Reading List is as follows:*

- Jan 18 **The Summer Guest** by Justin Cronin
- Feb 15 **A Great Deliverance** by Elizabeth George
- Mar 15 **Spoken From the Heart** by Laura Bush
- Apr 19 **The Assassin** by Ted Bell
- May 17 **New York** by Edward Rutherford
- Jun 21 **The Sigma Protocol** by Robert Ludlum
- July 19 **The Walk** by Richard Paul Evans
- Aug 16 **Deliver Us From Evil** by David Baldacci
- Sep 20 **The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver
- Oct 18 **The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein
- Nov 15 **Folly** by Laurie King



*Books make wonderful Gifts. We love to receive them and we love to select "just the right book" to give to a loved one or friend. Consider donating the cost of a book to Friends so we might arrange to give "just the right gift book" to the library in your name.*



### *Annual Rededication*

Membership enrollment is for one year from January through December. So in effect, as you re-up each January you are re-committing to our mission and to your part in it. You are staying the course and sticking with other Friends in the shared goal to support the library; to see that it thrives and has the wherewithall to make purchases critical to program success; to help purchase equipment when needed.; to promote the benefits and treasures our library offers; and to help when and where needed. As any good friend does, we try to better understand the realities that influence and impact the library and we try to understand and support the loyal staff who keep it all together and running so smoothly. As any good friend does we cheer their successes and stand by them in lean or troubled times. These are fairly simple demands but do require a certain commitment of enthusiasm and energy.

The physical manifestation of your commitment is timely payment of dues. Our dues are fairly nominal, in fact one of the bargains in town as membership dues go. Your annual re-enrollment fees are used to support our obligations and are critical as the base line funding for the year. Your annual dues signify your intent to stick it out and join the other members in seeing that our cause is served. Your membership expires on Jan. 31 unless you have paid your dues by that time.

Good friends become like extended family, and are just as important in our lives. We need each other. As the song goes, we've grown accustomed to your face and your presence in our lives, we don't want to lose anyone of you. Coming together each month is like having a visit with family. We hear the news, express opinions, share some laughs, often continuing the party at dinner together afterwards. And like family we pitch in when needed. SO.....

Please reenroll and don't forget to pay your dues before Jan 31.

*LIBRARY:  
Here is where people,  
One frequently finds,  
Lower their voices  
And raise their minds.  
Richard Armour*

# *Happy Holidays!*



*With Best Wishes for a  
Fabulous Holiday Season  
and a very  
Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New  
Year from your Executive Board*

*Pat Minkowski*

*Priscilla Suffredini*

*Jody Close*

*Judy Beatty*