The QUILL

Spring Hours:
Mon.-Thurs.: 9 AM - 8 PM
Fri. & Sat. : 9 AM - 9 PM
Sunday: 11 AM - 6 PM

May 2008
Volume 4, Number 5

The Inkwell Bookstore • 199 Main Street *Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540 • 508-540-0039 • www.inkwellbookstore.com*

From the Pen of the Inkwell's Owners

By MICHELLE LEMAY

We've recently had a reading contest at the Inkwell. Steve, our assistant manager and events publicist, challenged me late one night after closing the store to see who could read the most books during the month of April. The winner would receive a free dinner at one of Main Street's fine restaurants. The award was really an unnecessary excuse to read more books, and to talk about them with one another. Well, the month long contest has ended, and it looks like I'm the proud recipient of a complimentary dinner. Steve said in his Charlie Brown voice, "I failed, I'm doomed!"

The contest was so inspiring and fun that we've opened it up to the whole Inkwell staff. We don't simply count the number of books read…that's too easy. After all, you could read 100 mysteries by Agatha Christie in the time it takes to read Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*. In an effort to take into account the choice of reading material and the time it takes to read it, we invented the ratio that a page of nonfiction counts as 1.5 pages of fiction (e.g. 100 pages of nonfiction equals 150 pages in the contest, and 100 pages of fiction equals 100 contest pages.) The person with the highest page count at the end of the month is declared the winner.

My love of reading contests began in Carla Zavorskas' first grade class. The thrill of possibly being named the person who reads the most was so appealing! For the whole year, I was tied for first place, neck and neck with a boy named Kevin. The final day when the results would be announced loomed large in my six year old heart. I treasured the first place prize, the book *Petunia* by Roger Duvoisin, so much that I even carried it with me while I played tag in the backyard.

We encourage all of you, especially families, to start a book challenge. It is so rewarding to share your love of reading, and to talk about books with each other.

Owners of the Inkwell Bookstore
Michelle and Kathleen

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2:30 PM
AUTHOR
DR. ELISE FORBES TRIPP
Surviving Iraq: Soldier's Stories

The Iraq war is being fought by an all-volunteer army recruited from working-class America, and it is these men and women who are the stars of Tripp's powerfully moving book.

Surviving Iraq: Soldier's Stories is the result of a close collaboration between the author and thirty veterans who tell their stories of the invasion, occupation, and ongoing insurgency in Iraq.

Ken Burns wrote, "This fascinating collection of testimonies underscores the universality of all war... what emerges is a shocking, moving, and utterly heroic portrait of young men and women in impossible situations."

Elise Forbes Tripp is a graduate of Harvard, and has a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. A former international relations counselor for UN affairs at the World Bank, she is an adjunct professor of American history at Holyoke Community College in Massachusetts.

Tripp and guest veterans will share stories from *Surviving Iraq*. Refreshments will be served.

MAY 4 - JUNE 2
Art Scene at the Inkwell
Paintings by
GAYLE VISENTINE REYNOLDS

Gayle paints in her art studios both in Lexington and in Falmouth. Making art has become her daily passion. She studied at the MFA and the DeCordova Museum Schools. Color and texture are important elements in design so exploring mood and emotional nuance using color in her art came naturally. Working on canvas, she explores dynamic physical gestures and controlled accidents to create larger, bold abstract paintings in a multimedia art form.

Her paintings were juried into a special Emerging Artists Exhibit at the Cape Cod Museum of Art. Her work has also been exhibited at the DeCordova Museum, the Falmouth Artists Guild, and the Cambridge Art Association where she is a member. She is also a member of the Provincetown Art Association and Museum.

MAY POETRY READINGS
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 7:00 PM

Three Guyer Barn Poets

ROBERT GARDINER is a retired minister. He has one book, and several articles which have won national prizes. Robert has just published his first volume of comic verse, *Funny Stuff: A Cheerful Poetic Romp Through the Puddles & Muddles of This Goofy Planet.*

ROGER KESSEL is a retired attorney and business executive. Active in cultural arts communities on the Cape. Member of the Board of Directors Cape Cod Writers'Center. His poetry has appeared in the *Aurorean* and *Blueline.*

ROBIN SMITH-JOHNSON is on the staff of the Cape Cod Times and is an Adjunct Professor of English at Cape Cod Community College. Published in literary journals; recently won third prize in Cape Women Writing Contest. Member of Falmouth Poets.

MONDAY, MAY 19, 7:00 PM
JARITA DAVIS
JANUARY O'NEIL
An Evening of Poetry

Come for a delightful evening of poetry with two startling talents, Jarita Davis and January O'Neil.

JARITA DAVIS is a poet in Woods Hole, MA, who has been awarded both a Woodrow Wilson Research Grant and a N. P. B. Kappa Award. She has received fellowships from the Mellon Mayes program, Cave Canem, and Hedgebrook. Her work has appeared in the *Southwestern Review, Historic Nantucket, Cave Canem Anthologies, Crab Orchard Review,* and *Plainsongs*. Learn more at www.jaritadavis.com.

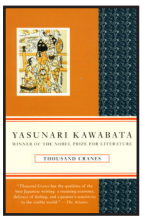
JANUARY GILL O'NEIL's work has appeared in *Crab Orchard Review, Literary Mama, Field, Callaloo, Seattle Review, Stuff Magazine*, and *Cave Canem anthologies II and IV*; her first poetry collection, titled *Underlife*, will be published by CavanKerry Press in October 2009. She is a senior writer and editor at Babson College, runs a popular blog called Poet Mom (www.poetmom.blogspot.com), and lives with her husband and two children in Beverly, MA.

These two poets will read their work and be available for discussion afterwards. Complimentary refreshments provided.

Staff Reviews

Recommended by CHARLOTTE

Thousand Cranes

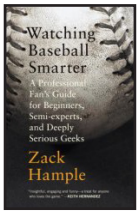


By Yasunari Kawabata
Vintage, $12.95

"Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Kawabata has written a short but enlightening novel about the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Kikuji shows his indifference to this ancient custom as offered by Chikako, one of his late father's mistresses. Chikako is a master of tea who attempts to manipulate Kikuji and others to realize her plans for his future and marriage. The masterful, subtle novel offers a fascinating glimpse into another culture, and is a must read for anyone planning a visit to Japan."

Recommended by WENDELL

Watching Baseball Smarter: A Professional Fan's Guide for Beginners, Semi-experts, and Deeply Serious Geeks

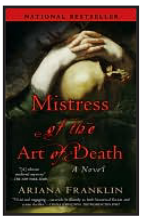


By Zack Hample
Vintage, $13.95

"Zack Hample's *Watching Baseball Smarter* is a great book to pick up if you want to learn more about baseball. There is some interesting historical baseball trivia in the book as well. The author keeps things light with his humor, with very few interjections of his opinion. The situation-dependent responsibilities of each fielder; the many different kinds of pitches there are, the complexity of calculating some statistics, the vagaries of official scorekeeping, and much more helps the reader learn to watch the subtleties and nuances of baseball. This may not be the best book for a long-time baseball fan, but anyone who wants to know more beyond what each fielding position is called should pick it up. One thing that concerns me is that there is no index for quick searches for a specific bit of information. Other than that it's a great read. Jerry Remy's *Watching Baseball: Discovering the Game within the Game* is also a good starter baseball book, with small asides from Remy of his opinions and perspective, including a lot of Red Sox coverage—great for a Red Sox fan who wants to learn more or relive some Red Sox moments."

Recommended by MICHELLE

Mistress of the Art of Death

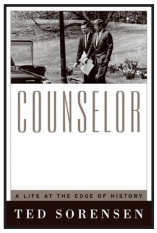


By Ariana Franklin
Berkley Publishing, $15.00

"Become immersed in the scandal and intrigue of Henry II's England by means of Ariana Franklin's well-researched historical mystery. Outsider Dr. Vesuvia Adelia Rachel Ortese Aguilar of Salerno is hired in secret by King Henry II to investigate the murders of several children in Cambridge which threaten to become a political nightmare. Adelia's plight as an educated, independent woman in a repressive society is handled with delicacy, unlike so many historical novels that imbue the characters with modern sensibilities. Adelia is a winning creation - intelligent, prickly, and truly alive on the pages. *Mistress of the Art of Death* is certain to appeal to fans of Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael mysteries."

Recommended by STEPHEN

Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History



By Theodore C. Sorensen
Harper, $27.95

"Theodore Sorensen was counselor and confidant to the late John F. Kennedy, the first member of his staff and one of the last surviving members, making *Counselor* a must read memoir. Sorensen reveals intimate details of his eleven years with JFK and tells what it was like to give hope to a nation while contributing to JFK's policies during the tumultuous 60's.

In *Counselor,* Sorensen remains the gentleman. Although privy to conversations of a private nature, he remains loyal to the leader whose untimely death has left an ache in this country's heart. With so much material on JFK, we might think we have heard it all. Surprisingly, we have not. *Counselor* includes new information: from Sorensen's role with Khrushchev and the Cuban Missile Crisis, to the peace corps, the moon race, and a parody of the inaugural speech. Recently I joined a writing group and I particularly enjoyed reading Sorensen's chapter on his speech writing techniques.

People in Washington are still eager to be the next Sorensen, and after reading this memoir you will truly understand why."

Recommended by KATHLEEN

The Legend of Colton H. Bryant

by Alexandra Fuller
Penguin Group, $23.95

"Writing about what she knows gives Alexandra Fuller the ability to develop an unparalleled truthfulness and depth to both her scenes and subjects. The unusual format (short chapters with a hint of playwright) makes the story even more riveting. Reading this book means slipping from chapter to chapter as seamlessly as it is written. I have never been to Wyoming or visited an oil rig, but I can see them both in my mind's eye with crystal clarity. Her subjects are people you wish you'd meet, but never seem to find, not unrealistic, just painfully tied to a harsh landscape with the hardscrabble incumbent wisdom. Purposely skipping the chapter index, I was shocked and thrilled at the end, which I intentionally delayed, to find out that this larger-than-life cowboy walked this earth.

So few authors hit again with a third book, but Ms. Fuller surely did. We can only look forward to her next masterpiece."

Book Clubs

Readers in Red Sneakers

Wednesday, May 14, 7:02 PM
The Abstinence Teacher
By Tom Perrotta

Wednesday, June 11, 7:02 PM
Setting Free the Bears
By John Irving

Public welcome. This book club is for anyone who appreciates humorous literature. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month.

Science Fiction Reading Group

Monday, May 19, 7:00 PM
Earth
By David Brin

Public welcome. The SF Reading Group has been meeting for 10 years, and reads a broad selection of current and classic speculative fiction.

Classics Book Club

Wednesday, May 28, 12:30 PM
A Bend in the River
By V.S. Naipaul

Classics Club summer hiatus - resumes in September.

Community Clubs & Workshops & Events

KNIT & CROCHET GATHERING

TUES., MAY 6, 13, 20, 27
6:00 - 7:45 PM

Beginners to advanced knitters and crocheters are welcome at this friendly and informal gathering. Established by the owners of SAGE FINE YARN & GIFTS. For more information contact Jen at Sage 508-457-9513 or email: info@sageyarnandgifts.com.

BACKGAMMON CLUB

TUES., MAY 6, 13, 20, 27
7:00 - 8:00 PM

CALLIGRAPHY CLUB

WED., MAY 7, 21
6:30 - 8:00 PM

All levels of experience welcome. This is a combination workshop and club. Not a formal class as we are merely enthusiasts.

REIKI CIRCLE

SAT., MAY 10
11 AM - 12:30 PM

Suggested reading for the Circle: *Empowerment Through Reiki* by Paula Horan. The Reiki Circle is independently run by Madeleine I. Felker, a Reiki III practitioner.

INDEPENDENT WRITERS' CLUB

SAT., MAY 10, 24
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Serious writers of every level are welcome. Share your experience and get feedback on your work. Three years strong, the Independent Writers' Club is free and welcomes new members. The club is moderated by Madeleine I. Felker.

PHILOSOPHY CLUB

SUN., MAY 11, 25, - 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Everyone is welcome at our informal discussion group. Every other Sunday evening we'll talk about specific assigned readings selected from *Introducing Philosophy* by Robert C. Solomon.

CREATIVE VISUALIZATION

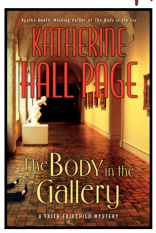
SAT., MAY 24 - 11 AM - 12:30 PM

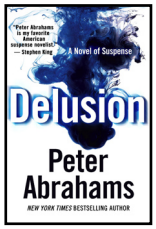
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 7:00 PM

The Inkwell Bookstore Literary Series
Presents an Evening at
Historic Highfield Hall with
New York Times bestselling authors

KATHERINE HALL PAGE
PETER ABRAHAMS
CYNTHIA RIGGS &
WILLIAM DOUGHERTY

Merlot & Murder at the Mansion





New York Times bestselling authors Katherine Hall Page and Peter Abrahams, and local authors Cynthia Riggs and William Dougherty, appear on an interactive author panel at Highfield Hall to discuss the murders they commit, and the writing process. The lecture is a part of the Inkwell Literary Series.
Doors open at 7:00 PM. Socialize while Cape Cod pianist Gary Girouard performs original compositions on a Mason & Hamlin grand piano, and taste complimentary fine merlot wines provided by Murphy's Fine Wines and Spirits. The interactive panel begins promptly at 7:30 PM and will be followed by a question and answer session. $5.00 tickets are are available at the Inkwell Bookstore, 199 Main Street, Falmouth, or may be purchased by calling 508-540-0039. Net proceeds benefit the preservation

The Wright Way To SUCCESS WORKSHOPS

Becoming a better you by learning the secrets of success

THURSDAYS, 6 - 7:00 PM
$10 PER CLASS

MAY 8: **PASSION & TALENT;** LESSON 3 POWER & FOCUS
MAY 15: **BELIEVE & ACHEIVE;** LESSONS 4 &5 - CREATE YOUR DESTINY
MAY 22: **EYES ON THE PRIZE;** LESSON 6 - CREATING A VISION ON CANVAS
MAY 29: **TAKING ACTION;** LESSON 7 - VISULATION AND AFFIRMATION.
Reserve a space in person at the Inkwell. Complete syllabus available.

Notes from the Basement

The Inkwell Family

By KATHLEEN THUT

Paperwork, inventory, Main St. and events...I have covered them all when writing about owning a bookstore. However, I have failed to mention the most important part of Inkwell's business and its most valuable asset: its bookselling staff. Instead of writing about what it takes to be part of our team, I would like to introduce and thank those whose faces you see behind the register whenever you visit our store.

CHARLOTTE – our display guru and link to the community at large. Charlotte reads and sells internationally-set books, Falmouth Year-of-the-Reader selections and, as a retired teacher, terrific books for high-school age children. Thanks for all of your help with the New York Times reporting and your work ethic, Charlotte.

KAY – our resident mystery maven and off-site specialist. Kay reads our most popular fiction and has introduced the best in mysteries to our customers. Kay, we appreciate your trusting Inkwell to sell books at your many community events, your willingness to tackle email and keeping the "hold" shelf up-to-date. Local authors have a true friend in you.

KELLY – feminist and goddess-based books are Kelly's specialty. With a new baby in her life, we can add parenting books to the list. Tackling the nitty-gritty of retail and showing no fear when the summer throngs appear prove your loyalty and dedication to bookselling and Inkwell.

STEVE – if it is humorous or in any way related to the Kennedy family, Steve will read it. Steve has recommended and sold the #1 book on our Staff Picks table – *The Laments* by George Hagen (I loathe to admit this as we have a running contest.) Steve is not only Inkwell's Assistant Manager but Events Coordinator, Light Bulb Changer, Quill Publisher and Cash Drawer Counter. Our appreciation of your talents and devotion is indescribable.

WENDELL – Inkwell's reader of scholarly and intellectual tomes. Wendell has a wide and varied interest in culture and humanity which is in evidence in his personal picks. We adore your attention to detail, technological superiority and calm demeanor.

And to those who have moved on both geographically and career-wise...Cristin, Marjorie and Joni...we thank you and miss you.

Ramblings from the Book Nook

Mortality and the Madeleine

By RIC GERACE

Recently, after crashing stunningly close to mortality and thus being reassured that I was not, indeed, immortal, I had the fortune to taste a little madeleine cake.

The taste was somewhat bland, slightly lemony, and the texture was mildly chewy. It was definitely not in the same class as good chocolate chip cookies, especially the kind from Amber Waves, nor was it as much fun as a pecan sandie. It was... satisfactory. And it had no side effects, neither digestive nor mental nor emotional.

Which is to say the little madeleine cake did not inspire six volumes of tumbling prose, not in French, not in English. In fact, it brought nothing to mind.

Perhaps that was my parents' fault. After all, they never fed me a madeleine when I was a child, at least not as I remember my childhood gastronomy. So it does seem quite fair to blame them for my lack of inspiration. Who knows? Had they been more thoughtful and provided fewer dishes of broccoli and lima beans, and more spiritual food such as madeleines, I might have transcended the middle class muddle and effortlessly risen into the ranks of the talented literati.

For want of cake, was a talent chilled and lost? O cursed parents!

On the other hand, the madeleine being a decidedly and historically French concoction, perhaps it would be better to look to American confections for a transcendent experience.

The Twinkie, perhaps.

One cannot be encouraged by the fact that a knowledgeable food fellow has kept a Twinkie on his desk for three years. It has inspired him to write on junk food, but not to traipse into transcendent memories. It has also not decomposed in the slightest. The Twinkie obviously exists outside the normal cycles of life and death, while contributing nothing to either. Hardly inspiring. It passes through life and our bodies, full of unnameable this and that, signifying nothing.

Perhaps it is best to simply give up seeking to transcend reality, and to simply sit beneath a tree and eat an apple while contemplating mortality and the gravity thereof.

But wait... perhaps a fig newton would open new worlds...

No. That's merely hope springing, like a rat trap. Give me the apple.

TICKETS

The Inkwell Bookstore Presents
Evenings at Historic Highfield Hall

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 7:00 PM
New York Times Bestselling Author

MICHAEL PALMER

The First Patient

The Inkwell is most pleased to welcome back former Falmouth ER Doctor turned New York Times bestselling author of medical suspense. Doors open at Highfield Hall at 7:00 PM to a wine and cheese social. Lecture begins at 7:30 PM, followed by a Q&A. Tickets for the off-site event are $5. Tickets may be purchased at the Inkwell Bookstore, or over the phone at 508-540-0039. Tickets on Sale May 10th. Net proceeds benefit the preservation of Highfield Hall.

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 7:00 PM
New York Times Bestselling Author

ERIC JAY DOLIN

LEVIATHAN: The Whaling History of America

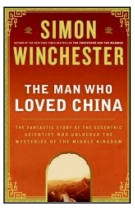
Leviathan is an absorbing history that demonstrates that few things capture the sheer danger and desperation of men on the deep sea as dramatically as whaling. The Inkwell Bookstore off-site event at Highfield Hall includes a wine tasting and tickets are available only at the Inkwell Bookstore, 199 Main Street, Falmouth, in person or by phone at 508-540-0039. $5 tickets on sale June 1st.

The QUILL NEWSLETTER

NEW RELEASES

Week of May 6

The Man Who Loved China: The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom



By Simon Winchester
HarperCollins Publishers, $22.95

In sumptuous and illuminating detail, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Professor and the Madman* and *Krakatoa* returns with the remarkable story of the growth of a great nation, and the eccentric and adventurous scientist who defined its essence for the world.

The Inkwell Bookstore
199 Main Street
Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540