

Facilitated book discussion, p. 2

Sherrills Ford Friends of the Library



March 2011



A Note from Linda



Every morning these days I refill my bird feeders and then watch as the finches swarm around them. They are feeding to fuel their bodies as they start to turn gold. Even as I grumble that these birds are eating me out of house and home, I know that my efforts will be rewarded when I can enjoy these birds in their glorious golden color throughout the spring and summer months.

It struck me that we get similar rewards in life as we put forth even small amounts of effort and then watch the results of those efforts. As I attended the last Spanish class at the library on February 26 and watched the children absorb everything that Señora Jones taught them, on behalf of the Friends, I enjoyed the rewards of our efforts to sponsor this class. It is nice to be associated with an organization that helps feed the souls and the intellect of our community as I feed my birds every morning.

I hope you are reading *Angle of Repose* and getting ready for our community discussion on March 29. There are some questions in this newsletter for you to ponder as you read the book. April 12 will bring a second program sponsored by the Friends. Dr David Moore will tell us about the excavation work at the 16th century Spanish fort in Burke County. Details are in this newsletter.

The next few months will be very active for our group. So by putting forth just a little effort to participate in these special programs, I think you will reap great rewards.

Linda



Help Keep Our Website Up To Date

If you have any community events or information that you would like posted to the Friends of the Sherrills Ford Library website, send the article or calendar information in either a Word document or in the body of an e-mail to Brenda Mickelson at brenda@ticaprintshoppe.com

Thanks again to Brenda for all of her work updating our website <http://www.sherrillsfordfriendsofthelibrary.org>



March Schedule at our Library

Richard Griffin and Sandy Cooke

- **Story time 10 a.m. Wednesdays:** March 2nd, we'll meet Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat*, with refreshments, crafts, and fun activities of a most unusual kind. On March 16 we'll wear green for St. Patrick's Day, reading Irish tales and searching for Leprechauns.
- **Music Time** 10 a.m. Thursdays
- **How to Download E-books class**, 10 a.m. Saturday, March 5
- **Visual Poetry Exhibit for Teen Tech Week, March 6-12:** A national celebration promoted and sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association, this program targets teens, their parents, and educators. We invite **all kids ages 12 to 18** to submit photos for a special visual poetry exhibit. We will have a sample poetry exhibit on display for all to see. All photos submitted will be scanned and digitally altered to show the title and identification of the artist, and then displayed on a digital photo album at the library by March 31. In addition to this unique display, various tech toys and brochures and flyers will be available for all our techies.
- **Friends of the Library**, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15
- ***Angle of Repose* book talk with Tony Abbott**, 7 p.m. March 29, SF Presbyterian.

Abbott to lead Sherrills Ford Book Discussion March 29

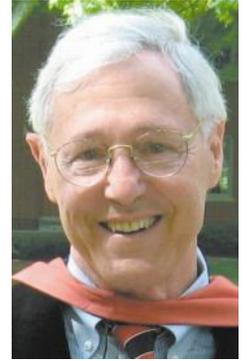


Anthony Abbott, poet and professor emeritus at Davidson College, will host a community book discussion at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29 at Sherrills Ford Presbyterian Church. Sherrills Ford Friends of the Library will host Abbott as he leads a program on the novel *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner (pictured at left).

Angle of Repose, which won the 1972 Pulitzer Prize, established Stegner as the "Dean of Western Writers." It is the story of a man who explores family relationships both past and present and affords the main character a chance to delve into the deeper recesses of his life. Flo Hollands, a SFFOL member, said that the Friends selection committee picked the Stegner book because it would appeal to both men and women and resonate with the community.

Abbott, who formerly taught English at Davidson, was himself nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for his first book of poetry, *The Girl in a Yellow Raincoat*, and in 2003 won the Novello Literary Award for his first novel, *Leaving Maggie Hope*. The book discussion is free and open to the public. Multiple copies of the book are available at the library.

As you are reading *Angle of Repose* and preparing for our community discussion, below are some questions Dr. Abbott (pictured at right) provided that you may want to think about:



1. Why is the story written in the first person? Why not just tell Susan and Oliver's story in the third person, and leave the narrator out of it? What do we gain by having Lyman Ward as the narrator?
2. What does the title mean? Look for places in the text where the actual words are used, and think about what the words mean in those contexts. Look especially at the dream/nightmare sequence at the very end of the novel where the term is used repeatedly....
3. Why does Stegner (or Lyman) dislike the '60's culture so much? Look at characters like Lyman's son, Rodman, or Shelly's husband.....Do you tend to be more sympathetic to the '60's or identify with Lyman's critique of those values?
4. If Stegner does not like the '60's, how does he feel about the Old West? A central conflict in the novel seems to be East vs. West, with Susan embodying the values of the East and Oliver those of the West. What are the values of each culture, and to what extent do they clash?
5. This is a novel about marriage....We see three marriages—those of Susan and Oliver, Lyman and Ellen, Shelly and Larry Rasmussen.....Why do Susan and Oliver stay together, despite their differences, while the other two marriages fail?
6. Do you identify more with Susan or with Oliver? Do you feel that she is a snob, that she fails her husband by not having faith in him? Which of her values do we most identify with? Is she really the central character of the novel? If so, why?
7. Why does Oliver keep failing? Why does something always happen that seems to ruin his hopes and dreams? What does this say about him, and about the society in which he lives and works?
8. What is the role of Augusta and Thomas Hudson in the novel? What do they represent for Susan? For us? At the heart of the novel are the letters that Susan writes to Augusta, pouring out her feelings about her life in the west.....What do we learn about her through these letters?
9. What is the role of Frank Sargent? Were Susan and Frank lovers? Was their meeting the reason for the death of Susan and Oliver's daughter? If we don't know the answer, why is this left a mystery?
10. Did you enjoy the novel? What made you keep reading? How does Stegner use tension to keep moving the novel forward?
11. Why would a community in North Carolina select a novel that is primarily a book about the West? Do you see any parallels between Stegner's created world and your own?



Spanish Lessons End With a Fiesta

On Saturday, February 26, the last Spanish class was held for this year. As in the past, Señora Victoria Jones did a wonderful job teaching the children, and Meg Thompson was instrumental in organizing the classes. All of the children and their parents were very appreciative that the Friends sponsored these classes again this year.



Señora Jones leads the class in a song



Abby Dent and Grace Chester fill their tortillas



Grace Chester decides how to garnish her black beans



Abby Dent, Grace Chester, Sara Rose Chester, Morgan Tillman and Tapanga Brunelle enjoy their tortillas and sopapillas

To celebrate, a fiesta was held after class. Señora Jones brought her wonderful homemade tortillas, refried black beans and salsa verde (green sauce). Meg Thompson made sopapillas which were a real treat. Everyone had a great time. Below is Meg's recipe for sopapillas. Next month we will share Señora Jones' recipes for the black beans and salsa verde.

Sopapillas



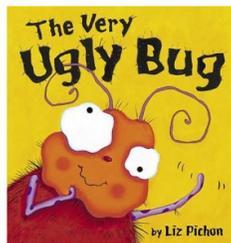
Ingredients:

Pepperidge Farm Puff Pastry
1 cup sugar
1 egg-beaten
2 tablespoons ground Cinnamon –adjust to taste
Honey

1. Lightly flour counter surface.
2. Unfold thawed puff pastry (there will be 2 sections).
3. Cut each section in 25 squares. Brush lightly with 1 beaten egg on top side only.
4. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet at 400 degrees for about 15 minutes.
5. Put sugar and cinnamon in a small paper bag. Shake the sopapillas, while still hot, in the bag until completely coated.
6. Drizzle with honey just before serving.
7. ENJOY!!!

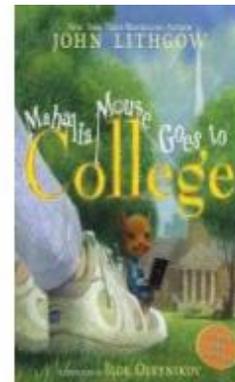
SFFOL Literacy Program News

Meg Thompson



At Sherrills Ford Elementary School, I first read a selected story to the class. Then students take turns bringing the book home along with a journal so they can each respond in writing to the story. Sometimes a story prompt is given to help them get started. Other times it is more open-ended. They also always take home something to help them connect to the story, like a game I've designed for them to play using sequencing activities, finding the main idea, etc. They've also brought home puppets, stuffed animals, or puzzles.

Recently, we chose *The Very Ugly Bug* by Liz Pichon. Students took home finger puppets to help re-tell the story to their parents. For *Mahalia Mouse Goes to College*, by John Lithgow, a little stuffed mouse accompanied the book.



Soon, I'll be reading *Skinny Brown Dog* by Kimberly Willis Holt. A stuffed dog will accompany this book.

Friends Host Archaeologist April 12

The Friends of the Sherrills Ford Library will host Dr. David Moore on Tuesday, April 12 at 7PM. The program is free and open to the public and will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Sherrills Ford Presbyterian Church. Dr Moore was instrumental in locating the site of a 16th century Spanish fort in Burke County. He will share how he and his colleagues have identified Joara (Ft. San Juan) through the 16th century Spanish artifacts unearthed at the site northwest of Morganton.

In 1566, Captain Juan Pardo and his army departed Santa Elena (on modern-day Parris Island, South Carolina) to claim the interior of southeastern North America for Spain. Generally following the Wateree and Catawba rivers, Pardo arrived at Joara, the most important Native American town in the western Piedmont.

In January 1567, Pardo built Fort San Juan at Joara-the earliest European settlement in the interior of the United States. Fort San Juan predates Roanoke (the Lost Colony) by nearly 20 years and Jamestown by 40 years. Be sure to join us to hear about this fascinating period of North Carolina history.

SFFOL Member Information

FOL Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, at the Library, 7 PM.

Sherrills Ford READ Community Discussion: Tuesday, March 29, at Sherrills Ford Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 7PM

Program on Joara-16th century settlement in Burke County: Tuesday, April 12 at Sherrills Ford Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 7 PM

Newsletter Submissions: Please e-mail **news and photo submissions** to Ellen Dewey by the fourth Tuesday of the month for inclusion, or to request previous issues: ejdewey@gmail.com. Unless otherwise credited, all photos by Ellen Dewey. Please notify Ellen of any e-mail address changes.

County Library News

Tammy Wilson, Public Info. Officer, CC Libraries, <http://catawbacountync.gov/library>

County library offers free computer classes: Catawba County Library System retains its commitment to adult learning by offering classes to sharpen computer skills and to download electronic books. The free 90-minute sessions are taught by trained library staff. Pre-registration is required.

Downloading E-Books—Learn the tricks of adding purchased or free book files to an e-reader. Class will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March. 3 at Newton; 10 a.m. **Saturday, March 5 at Sherrills Ford** and 9 a.m. Friday, March 11 at Newton.

Searching with Google—See how this essential search engine can help you find the information you want fast. Class starts at 10 a.m. Friday, March 18 at Southwest.

Intro to Excel—Learn this basic spreadsheet program to create interactive charts for bookkeeping and other purposes. Scheduled 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 22 at Newton.

Scrapbooking with Publisher—Learn how graphics functions can help you create eye-catching pages. Class begins at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29 at Newton.

LearnFree Sessions—Goodwill Community Foundation’s Learnfree program offers self-paced learning for those who wish to brush up on computer, math, reading or other life skills topics at their own pace through interactive videos. Sessions begin each Wednesday at 10 a.m. at St. Stephens.

To register for any class, call the Main Library in Newton at 465-7938; St. Stephens, 256-3030 or Southwest, 294-2343.



FOL Contacts



Officers

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Autumn Hinrichs, Membership
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Sandy Cooke, **Library Branch Manager**
Richard Griffin, **Librarian**

Friends of the Sherrills Ford Library

8456 Sherrills Ford Road
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673 **828-478-2729**

Website: <http://www.sherrillsfordfriendsofthelibrary.org>