



# Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library



## Coming up:

- Our next meeting is March 3 at 6:30 (well, it's *Almost, February...*). We hope to have the *Almost, Maine* cast on hand, by arrangements have not as yet been finalized.
- Community Read discussion: **Guests on Earth**: with Professor Emeritus Tony Abbot, Davidson College. March 16, 7:00p.m.  
Who burnt up Zelda?
- ALFRED HITCHCOCK FILMS!  
Vertigo  
The Birds  
Dial M for Murder  
Rear Window  
Psycho
- March Madness for Dads & Kids  
Basketball goes bigtime!
- Author Patrick Daily coming to our April meeting to discuss his recently-published work The Last Days of Patrick Henry

## Greetings from the President

If you are looking for the Pot of Gold this month, start out by searching inside the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library. Oh, the riches to behold! From traditional books, audio books, e-books, and DVDs, to games, classes, movie shows, technology help, and more! Comfy chairs, lots of natural light, and a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere await you.

This month's Friends meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 PM. Bring a friend to Friends. If our *Almost, Maine* cast can reschedule as well, our program about the controversial play and community standards will be held after the meeting. An e-mail will be sent by Monday evening.

### A Pot of Golden SFTFOL Volunteer Opportunities:

- Library Priority-Needs Liason:** Work with Jennifer to identify educational priorities for FOL sponsorship
- Hardscape Committee:** Pursue ideas for a hardscape/patio area to enhance the library grounds
- Fall Fest Games Committee:** Research and create easy new games for children
- Interest Group Leaders:** Anyone interested in starting a book club, or other interest groups to be sponsored by FOL, please contact Ellen Dewey with your ideas! Send your ideas to [ejdewey@gmail.com](mailto:ejdewey@gmail.com)



**There's still time to read Guests on Earth, our Community Read selection for 2015. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on March 16th to welcome Professor Tony Abbot, Davidson College (pictured at right) for a discussion of Lee Smith's novel, set in Asheville's Highland Mental Hospital.**



What do the child of a deceased exotic dancer from New Orleans, Zelda Fitzgerald and Asheville have in common? They are all key characters in *Guests on Earth* which will be the subject of our community read discussion on Monday, March 16.

Tony Abbott, a professor emeritus at Davidson College, and an author in his own right will lead this discussion. Abbott was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for his first book of poetry, *The Girl in the Yellow Raincoat*, and in 2003 won the Novello Literary Award for his first novel, *Leaving Maggie Hope*. Those who have attended our Community discussions in the past know that Tony Abbott leads a lively discussion and provides great insight into the book.

*Guests on Earth* is set at Highland Mental Hospital in Asheville, NC during the years 1936-1948. Evalina is the abandoned child who is sent to Highland Hospital by her mother's wealthy lover—a convenient way of dealing with an inconvenient problem. Evalina connects to Zelda Fitzgerald, Highland's most famous patient, in many ways. In this book Lee Smith offers a solution for the mystery of how the fire in 1948 started that ended in the deaths of 9 patients located in a locked ward on the top floor. Zelda Fitzgerald was one of those patients.

Highland Hospital was known for its humane treatment methodology in an era when most mental illness was dealt with harshly. The treatment, under the direction of Dr. Robert Carroll, founder of the Hospital, included exercise, diet, hiking, gardening, games, art, music, dance and

theater in addition to the more conventional therapies of the day, such as insulin shock. Art activities were an integral part of the treatment and Zelda Fitzgerald's art plays a part in this book.

The author has a personal connection to Highland Hospital in that both her father and son were patients there. In the notes from the author that accompanies the book she says that she was always in love with the golden couple, the Fitzgeralds. When her son was a patient at the Hospital Lee Smith became fascinated by Zelda Fitzgerald's art, her life within the Hospital and the mystery of the fire that caused her death.

Below are discussion questions to help you think about the book from different angles:

◇ What does Evalina mean when she says (page 3), "This is not my story, then in the sense that Mr. Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* was not Nick Carraway's story, either—yet Nick Carraway is the narrator, is he not? Is any story not always the narrator's story, in the end?" Do you think it is true that any story is always the narrator's story? Why or why not? How does Evalina's role as an accompanist help her to be a good narrator for this story?

◇ Zelda Fitzgerald has become almost mythical of late, with a recent "Gatsby" film out and several books written specifically about her. What makes Zelda such a compelling character? In *Guests on Earth*, she is symbolized by the salamander. Why does this image work—or not work—for you?

Do you think that there is any connection between mental

illness and creativity? Discuss the portrayal of this theme in *Guests on Earth*.

Following the Christmas scene at the end of chapter 11 (page 249), Evalina looks down toward Asheville and says, "I had a sudden, overwhelming urge to plunge off down that mountainside and find Pan deep in his lair, beneath the smooth white sweep of snow, for he was my kind, and now I knew it." What do you think she means by "my kind?" How does this moment relate to the final choices she will make in this novel?

◇ The novel's title comes from a quote by F. Scott Fitzgerald in a letter written to his daughter Scottie in 1940, concerning her mother. "The insane are always mere guests on earth, eternal strangers carrying around broken decalogues that they cannot read." However, the author has said "But we are all 'guests on earth' in a way, aren't we; and most of us are a little bit crazy, too, one way or another. I hope my readers will think about that, as we all examine the very thin line between sanity and insanity. In this novel I especially want to show that very real lives are lived within these illnesses, and within such institutions...friendships, love affairs, learning, growth, and even transformations occur." Do you think the author has succeeded in her aim?

***"The insane are always mere guests on earth..." F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1940***





### **Instructor Señora Victoria Jones**

in action with the FOL-sponsored  
Spanish classes:

The 10:00 a.m. class (K thru 2nd) listens  
attentively while Señora Jones  
introduces vocabulary and concepts.



The 3rd-6th grades attend the 10:45  
class and besides more sedentary  
studies, they learn the names of the  
seasons while doing the  
**Macerena!**



Hum, I wonder what is SNOW in Spanish...?

Friends of the Library sponsorship at work!

## ***Check out the library's programs (as well Guests on Earth...)!***

**FOL meeting** – Tuesday, March 3rd, 6:30 pm, program will follow business meeting.

**Alien Abduction Day Art Contest** -- Friday, March 20, 3:30 p.m. for grades 6-12. Celebrate by designing your own alien world. Art supplies will be provided. Artwork will be displayed in the library for one week, and Patrons will vote on their favorite Alien World image. Winner will receive 4 tickets to the Catawba Science Center! Advance registration required.

**Dr. Seuss's 111th Birthday Party** - Monday, March 2nd, 4:00p.m. Pre-K thru grade 5; advance registration required.

**"Emperors of the Ice"** - Documentaries about our planet for all ages, no registration. Saturday, March 7th at 1:00 p.m.

**March Madness for Dads & Kids!** Monday, March 9th all day. Dads and kids will play games, fill out their picks for March Madness game brackets and a prize will reward the most correct picks. Advance registration required.

**Pawsitive Reading: Read to certified therapy dogs**, 15 minute sessions - March 5th, 3:30-5 p.m., school age, preregister to read with Maggie & Brandy.

### ***Come chill out on Alfred Hitchcock Day!***

FIVE films to send chills up and down your spine (if you've not received enough chills from our snows...).

On Thursday, March 12th; come in for:

**VERTIGO** 9 am  
**THE BIRDS** 10:45 am  
**REAR WINDOW** 12:45 pm  
**DIAL M FOR MURDER** 2:30 pm  
**PSYCHO** 4:15pm



### ***Take advantage of Technology!***

Drop-in Computer & E-reader Question Sessions:

MARCH 3rd and 17th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. No appointment required.

Tablets--all are welcome. Bring yours on MARCH 10th, 6:00--7:00 p.m.

Resume Building -- Update and tailor yours on MARCH 24th, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Remember to pre-register for these classes!



**PAWS-ITIVE READING:**

Relaxing, reassuring,

refreshing, rewarding.

## **Catawba County Library News**

**Free Computer Classes for MARCH :** <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library/LibraryClasses.asp>

Stay up to date with news from Catawba County Government through the twice-monthly Catawba County E-News. Go to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/pubs/subscribe.asp> to subscribe.

## Baby Bounce

Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m.

(for ages up to 23 months)



for preschoolers:

Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

## Community

“From Wheels to Wingbacks” will be the topic at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PROBUS Club of Lake Norman. Mr. Jerome Bolick, CEO of Southern Furniture Company of Conover, NC will talk about the evolution and success of his company. The PROBUS Club of Lake Norman is a nonprofit and nonsectarian club for retired and semi-retired professional and business persons and their spouses. Members meet monthly at the Berea Baptist Church (1015 River Highway, Mooresville, NC 28117) Fellowship Hall and guests are welcome. Contact [pclnmc@yahoo.com](mailto:pclnmc@yahoo.com) for more information.

## An Eastertime Invitation

Rehobeth United Methodist Church at Terrell has invited the community to attend the many services they have planned for the Easter season. For more information visit their website : <http://rehobethumc.org> or call Ladonna Hilton, [828.478.2518](tel:828.478.2518).

**Newsletter Submissions:** Please e-mail **news and photo submissions, and community announcements** to Joyce O’Neal, newsletter editor, by the fourth Tuesday of the month: [joyceoneal417@gmail.com](mailto:joyceoneal417@gmail.com)

Photos of children must have written parent/guardian consent for publication to the newsletter and website.

## Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library 2014-2015

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Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library

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<http://sherrillsfordfriendsofthelibrary.org>

Librarian: Jennifer Patterson

Library Services Specialists: Kayla Lavigne and Ede Murray-Escuder

Library Assistant: Maria Gelabert, Jenny Meeseree, Steve Yang