

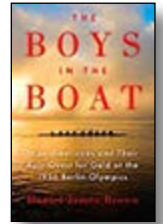


Friends of the Freeland Library

Volume 28 Issue 1

Spring 2015

Whidbey Is Reading *The Boys in the Boat*



The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown is a work of historical nonfiction and tells the tale of nine young men who entered the University of Washington during the Depression, took on the challenges of rowing and made the crew team, then worked their way through a series of grueling competitions to represent both their school and their country in national and international competitions.

The book describes what it was like to grow up and attend college in Puget Sound in the 1930s. It explores how these young men, sons of farmers, loggers and shipyard workers, learned about life, struggled to meet their coaches' expectations and eventually learned to trust each other and become a team. Brown beautifully describes each character — the boys, their enigmatic coach and the eccentric boat builder who becomes their mentor.

The heart of the story is Joe Rantz, a young man with no family or prospects who rows to put his personal demons to rest and find a home. Abandoned as a teenager, Joe worked several months to scrape together the funds

to enter the University of Washington. He tried out for crew because making the team would guarantee him a campus job, which in turn would enable him to feed himself. Joe's transformation from loner to someone who thinks of life in terms of how his actions will impact "the boat" carries the central theme of the power of commitment, determination and cooperation.

Brown grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and attended Diablo Valley College, the University of California at Berkeley and of Los Angeles. He taught writing at San Jose State University and Stanford before becoming a technical writer and editor.

Meet the Author April 15

Daniel James Brown is speaking at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 15 at South Whidbey High School, 5675 Maxwellton Road in Langley. Also at 7 p.m. that evening at the Best Western Plus Harbor Plaza at 33175 State Route 20 in Oak Harbor.



With an interest in bringing compelling historical events to life as vividly and accurately as possible, he now writes narrative nonfiction full time.

Named the best Nonfiction Book of the Year for 2014 by the American Booksellers Association, *The Boys in the Boat* also won the 2014 Washington State Book Award in the History / General Nonfiction category. The Weinstein Co. has begun to develop a script for a film adaptation of the book.

Other partners include Skagit Valley College, Best Western Harbor Plaza, Wind & Tide Books, Island Thrift and Moonraker Books.

— excerpted from the [Sno-Isle Libraries website](#), *Whidbey Reads, discussion*

Whidbey Reads Related Events Through April

Since early March the Sno-Isle libraries on Whidbey Island have featured a wide range of programs including book discussions, films, music of the era and lectures about events relevant to the times and about water and team sports.

Board members are or have been featured in several programs. Michael Moch our Membership Chair is the son of Bob Moch, the coxswain of the crew who won the gold medal at the 1936 Olympic Games. He, his sister Marilyn Moch, and Joe Rantz's daughter, Judy Willman, shared

Some of our own Friends of the Freeland Library

Related Events, see [page 4](#)

President's Message: Your Donations Make a Difference

The year is off and running and it always seems too fast. We have had several programs at the library already and there will be many more good ones to come. I am especially looking forward to the programs related to the Whidbey Reads 2015 choice: *Boys in the Boat* and the visit of author Daniel James Brown on April 15.

At our January 20 Board meeting, Betsy presented her yearly "wish

list," items that will enhance your visit to the library and make the staff's work, hopefully, easier. We approved all items and it was the largest amount we have ever spent, as far as I can remember. Had it not been for our Friends and countless customers at the monthly Book Sale we could not have done this.

The biggest item was by far the new shelving. Now all the shelves

for the book collections are interchangeable and can accommodate the bigger sized books.

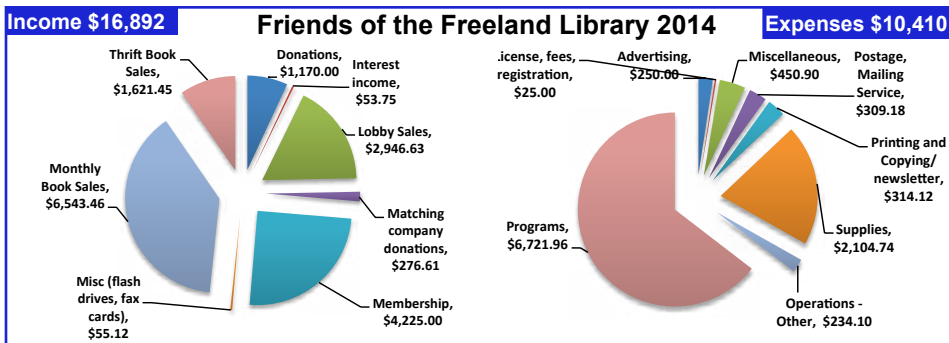
A good amount of money goes to funding programs in partnership with Sno-Isle for all ages, toddlers to adults and the wonderful Summer Reading program attracts more and more children.

At our March 17 Board meeting we began preparation for our special annual membership meeting at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. Storyteller Jill Johnson is presenting, *Rebecca: the Story of Rebecca Ebeby*.

Contact me if you can bring refreshments for this event. We also appreciate help with setup and cleanup.

See you at the library.

— Else Christensen, President



Meet Meri — Our Archives Volunteer

If you see a petite blonde leaving the library with a large scrapbook under her arm, it's probably Meri McCormick. She is our new media and archives volunteer. She is familiarizing herself with the Friends of the Freeland Library's history by looking through all the scrapbooks that have been put together since the Friends formed in the mid 1980s.

Meri moved to Whidbey about a year and a half ago with her husband. She worked with the *Whidbey Life Magazine* doing marketing, administrative tasks and learning about her new community.

"I've done everything," she says. Indeed she administered a nonprofit organization for service dogs in Denver, Colorado and, most recently, worked in the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. She holds a master's degree in organizational development and

has a lot of experience working with nonprofits.

She'd always disliked history as it was taught in school — the chore of memorizing dates and battle plans felt soulless to her. However her husband is a history buff. Sharing his interests she discovered how fascinating historical events can be.

"I love learning and I love this library," she explained. "We feel as though moving here, we are awakening to new things in our lives."

Meri is meeting with outgoing archivist Diana Carew soon to learn more about how to update the Friends' website on Shutterfly. Diana has done an incredible job posting items to the site, both past and present. Be sure to visit this website often and see how our library's history was made.

To Diana, the Friends of the Free-

land Library Board want to thank you for your talent and creativity these past six years as our archivist. Welcome Meri, it will be delight to share our proud past and future with you.

— Prescott, editor

Friends of the Freeland Library

P.O. Box 336 • Freeland, WA 98249

Archives: friendsofthefreelandlibrary shutterfly.com

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Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. The next meeting is the annual membership meeting on Tuesday, May 19. All meetings begin at 1 p.m. in the program room of the Freeland Library at 5495 Harbor Avenue.

Visit Our Friends' Scrapbook Online!

friendsofthefreelandlibrary shutterfly.com

Events Calendar • Archived News Articles • Video Interviews • Fun Photos • Current Officers • Friends of the Freeland Library Newsletter & Brochure • Bookmark us!

Another Adventure from Tears of Joy Theatre

Last year we had such positive response to Tears of Joy Theatre's play *Mantis and the Moon* we decided to bring them back during spring break for a show that

combines the artistry of puppetry with science. Come join us at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 10 for *Tad & Fry: A Tale of Friendship and Metamorphosis*. A tadpole and a fry can become friends, but what happens when they grow up? Tad and Fry are best friends, but as their bodies start to change and they grow up, their friendship is put to the test. What will happen when Tad grows legs or Fry is ready to migrate to the ocean? Experience biology and the science of metamorphosis through this charming and interactive puppet performance that utilizes shadow puppetry and music. Grab your magnifying glass and come explore your backyard stream.

— Jayanne Bixby, Librarian

New Library Hours

The Sno-Isle Board of Trustees has approved new open hours in 2015 for all community libraries. The target date for this new schedule is Monday, May 4.

The new hours for Freeland are: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday; 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

In addition to being easier to remember, there are many other benefits to this schedule, including being open a total of four more hours each week and having a consistent opening time every day that is the same as the Langley and Coupeville libraries. Another benefit to the new hours is that all Sno-Isle Libraries will now be open until 6 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays so customers can pick up their holds, books or DVDs on their way home for the weekend. Overall, the libraries on South Whidbey will be open an additional 14 hours/week or 628 hours/year, which will provide more service for the community.

— Betsy Arand, Managing Librarian

Whitsitt Launches Sundberg Lecture Fund

On Friday, April 24 is a luncheon fundraiser for the Trudy J. Sundberg Memorial Lecture Series at Useless Bay Country Club and the featured speaker is Bob Whitsitt, Trudy Sundberg's son-in-law. In addition, Bob Whitsitt will donate several foursomes of golf with himself and three others at the Useless Bay course. These will be auctioned off at the luncheon.

The cost is \$100 per person and tickets can be purchased through [Brown Paper Tickets](#) (click blue text).

For more information about the luncheon and the foundation, please email [Paul Pitkin](#) of the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

Book Sale Help Needed

Our monthly book sale is in need of some weight-lifting helpers (*manpower*) who can help moving boxes to and from the storage sheds to the book sale room with a handcart.

Mostly, we could use help on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. when unsold books are returned to the book storage sheds. And, you get a benefit of price discount on books and videos you might be interested in!

It's a win-win situation. Thanks for considering. Leave your contact information with the Freeland Library staff for me.

— Keith Jacobs, Book Sales Committee Chair

Friends of the Freeland Library

USED BOOK SALES

Hundreds of gently-used books available at great prices!

First SATURDAYS — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 4 • May 2 • June 6 • July 11

All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Freeland Library

Inspired by Our Library: A Different Kind of Book Club

My sixteen year old granddaughter and I were discussing John Green's *The Fault In Our Stars* on the phone one evening. She indicated as we hung up that she would really like to be in a book club but school takes most of her time.

I called her back a little later and said I had an idea. The family was going to Alaska on a cruise and how about if we have a book discussion and she could pick the book. Her mother told me later that she ran

right to her room and started rummaging through her books. She picked another John Green, *Looking For Alaska* (a girl's name, by the way).

On the cruise seven hardy souls showed up, books in hand. The ship found us a room to meet in and two daughters, three grandchildren, one brave son-in-law and one aging grandmother went at it. I think it was

Different kind, see [page 4](#)

Related Events, from page 1

their memories on March 14 at the Coupeville Library.

Friday morning on April 3 come to the Langley Library from 10 to 11:30 to hear stories about **World War II**. Learn about the English Land Girls, dispatched to farms when

the men were at war, from our Board's Vice President Iris Linton. Board President Else Christensen tells what it was like to live in Denmark, as a child, when the Nazis invaded. And a community member shares his soldier's



Photo by Prescott

At the *Children of the Boys on the Boat* program, Michael Moch, far right, is describing the quality of both the rowing skill and boat construction seen in the video clip of the race. "It was flying," he said. Michael and his sister, Marilyn (in the middle), are children of Bob Moch, the coxswain. Judy Rantz Willman, left, gave the main presentation. Her father was Joe Rantz.

Friday Movie Matinees

Enjoy a free film showing on the third Friday of each month at the Freeland Library. Each screening begins at 2 p.m. and popcorn is served, compliments of the Friends of the Freeland Library.

- **April 17:** *Captain America: Winter Soldier* featuring Steve Rogers, who continues his journey as the super-powered American soldier who's grasping to find his place in a modern world after being frozen in ice since World War II. Rated PG-14.
- **May 15:** *Hundred-Foot Journey* about a feud between two adjacent restaurants in a French town: one operated by a recently relocated Indian family and the other, a Michelin-starred restaurant. Starring Helen Mirren, Om Puri, Manish Dayal and Charlotte Le Bon. Rated PG.

Rebecca Highlights Annual Meeting

Join us for the Friends of the Freeland Library Annual Meeting at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. Storyteller Jill Johnson presents excerpts of her one-woman performance as Rebecca Ebey. It is based on the diary Rebecca kept living on the central Whidbey prairie in the mid 1800s. The meeting is brief and the festivities are grand. There will be lots of good food and friends. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

perspective serving under General Patton and going into Germany in 1945 to liberate concentration camps.

Whidbey Reads Movies

Freeland Library is doing a film series each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., including door prizes and snacks:

March 25 – *Cool Runnings*. This comedy hit starring John Candy was inspired by the true story of Jamaica's first Olympic bobsled team. Rated PG.

April 1 – *Invictus*. Newly elected President Mandela (Morgan Freeman) believes the country's underdog rugby team can bring his racially and economically divided people together in post-apartheid South Africa. Rated PG-13.

April 8 – *When the Game Stands Tall*. The remarkable journey of legendary football coach Bob Ladouceur, who took the De La Salle High School Spartans from obscurity to a record breaking 151-game winning streak. Rated PG.

Other Programs

Islanders should not miss the **Thursday, April 23** information forum by representatives of local water-sport organizations. The theme, *Getting Out on the Water*, is from 4 to 6 p.m. Representatives from South Whidbey Yacht Club, Oak Harbor Yacht Club, Island Rowing Association, North Puget Sound Dragon Boat Club, and Whidbey Island Kayaking Company will gather to introduce their programs and provide literature and registration details on many different approaches to getting out in boats around Puget Sound.

Different kind, from page 3

the highlight of the trip for me. Those three grand kids discussed alienation, suicide, bullying, etc at a level I know I could not have done at their age.

My thought is, if you are going on a trip, having a reunion or a get-together of any kind, how about sharing books you like with each other, instigating a one-time book discussion etc.? You may find out great things about the people who take part and get a "book fix" at the same time.

As an aside, the granddaughter and her mom have now formed an occasional book club of mothers, teenagers and grandmothers. Guess who is invited?

And it goes without saying that the staff at the wonderful Freeland Library will be glad to assist you in any way they can.

— *Kathy Foster*

Editor's note: "Inspired by Our Library" is a regular feature of this newsletter. If you have a special experience about how the Freeland Library has affected your life, please share it. Contact the editor, *Prescott*.

Have You Ever Eaten a Book?

If not your chance is coming up at the South Whidbey Edible Book Festival from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 29 at Bayview Hall. You, your neighbors, your kids or grandkids can enter your own edible interpretation of a book.

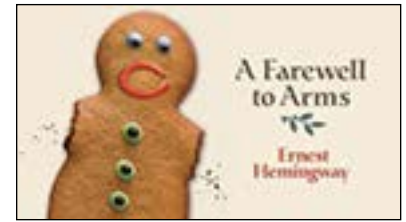
The guidelines are: it can look like a book, it can act like a book, it can be a pun on a book and it can be inspired by a book cover or character.

The only rule: it must be edible.

Prizes are offered in several categories. After judging, the forks come out. The entry is free but registration is required to help plan for space. Please email the [South](#)

Whidbey Edible Book Festival.

It is both a contest and fundraising event. All proceeds will benefit the South Whidbey Parks and Aquatics Foundation. This year proceeds will go to the Healthy Island Youth Initiative (HIYA). For more information, check out the Facebook page of the [South Whidbey Edible Book Festival](#) (click blue text for hot link).



This example qualifies as an entry because the armless cookie is a pun on the book, *Farewell to Arms*, and it's edible.

Seattle Opera Preview: *Ariadne auf Naxos*

At noon on Tuesday, April 14 the Seattle Opera education department brings an engaging hour-long multimedia presentation that covers the basics of history, music and stagecraft of *Ariadne auf Naxos* by Richard Strauss.

A wealthy patron has commissioned two pieces of entertainment for a private dinner party: an opera based on the myth of Ariadne in exile, and a capering troupe

of clowns for comic relief. The catch: the two acts must perform simultaneously so a fabulous pyrotechnics display can conclude the evening as promised.

Photo by Rozarii Lynch

From Seattle Opera's 2004 *Ariadne auf Naxos*: Philip Cutlip (Harlekin), Jane Eaglen (Ariadne), and Jane Giering-DeHaan (Zerbinetta).



For information about upcoming Freeland Library events, go to the [Sno-Isle Libraries website](#), select "Classes & Events." A list of libraries appears; select "Freeland Library" and view a calendar. Scroll to the month you wish to see. To refine your search, select the event types and the age group of interest to you.

Book Review: *The Field of Cloth of Gold*

The author, Glenn Richardson, provides the first history for more than four decades of a major Tudor event. In 1520, in an effort to bring the longstanding enmity between England and France to an end, England's monarch, Henry VIII and Francis I of France, agreed to meet. The two kings and their vast entourages were accommodated in tents and pavilions that were dressed in luxurious fabrics, especially the cloth of gold that gives the event its name. The two kings met for just over two weeks in Northern France where they hosted a tournament held to celebrate peace between their two countries. The event which this meeting inaugurated soon assumed mythic standards in the annals of English and French history. Part of my introduction is in the words of the author.

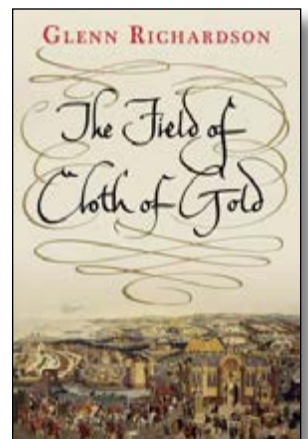
So much of the appeal of this historical event is the amazing size of Henry's retinue which crossed the Channel; surely it must have appeared to be an early Armada!

Aside from the political purpose of this memorable gathering, entertainments were planned including

jousting, archery, music and dancing, wrestling and equestrian events. The hospitality staged by the two kings was "on a monumental scale." The feeding and watering of some 12,000 people for approximately two weeks is impressive. They ate (as an example) beef, mutton, swan, capon, pork, venison, fish; not forgetting beer, wine and fruit. "There was also one dolphin."

Chapter six is entitled "The Cold Light of Day" for within two years of the event Henry and Francis were at war with each other. I leave this wonderful book on that unhappy note, but recommend it as a very readable slice of history.

— Iris Linton



Contents

Whidbey Is Reading <i>The Boys in the Boat</i>	1
Whidbey Reads Related Events Through April.....	1
Meet the Author April 15.....	1
<i>President's Message: Your Donations Make a Difference</i>	2
Meet Meri — Our Archives Volunteer.....	2
Another Adventure from Tears of Joy Theatre.....	3
New Library Hours.....	3
Book Sale Help Needed.....	3
<i>Inspired by Our Library: A Different Kind of Book Club</i>	3
Whitsitt Launches Sundberg Lecture Fund.....	3
Friday Movie Matinees	4
Rebecca Highlights Annual Meeting	4
Whidbey Reads Movies.....	4
Other Programs.....	4
Have You Ever Eaten a Book?.....	5
Seattle Opera Preview: <i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>	5
Book Review: <i>The Field of Cloth of Gold</i>	5
Your Donations Help the Freeland Library	6

Save the Date!

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 19

1 p.m.

featuring Jill Johnson as

Rebecca Ebey

globalvillagestory.files.wordpress.com (click)

Join us for good food and good company!

Library Closed

Please note the Sno-Isle Libraries are closed:

Sunday, April 5

Monday, May 25

Saturday, July 4

Note new hours, starting May 4 (see page 3)

Your Donations Help the Freeland Library

Each time a newsletter is published, individuals, families and businesses join the Friends of the Freeland Library by making a membership donation! You can check your renewal date (quarterly) on the label of this newsletter. Your membership donations help provide extras for the library, such as new work tables, book shelves, event supplies, additional books for Whidbey Reads and more. Your library benefits in countless ways from your support. Please join us. *Thank you!*

Friends of the Freeland Library, P.O. Box 336, Freeland, Washington 98249

Support the Friends of the Freeland Library with a membership donation, entitling you to a complementary quarterly newsletter, program invitations, participation in meetings and early notice of events.

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