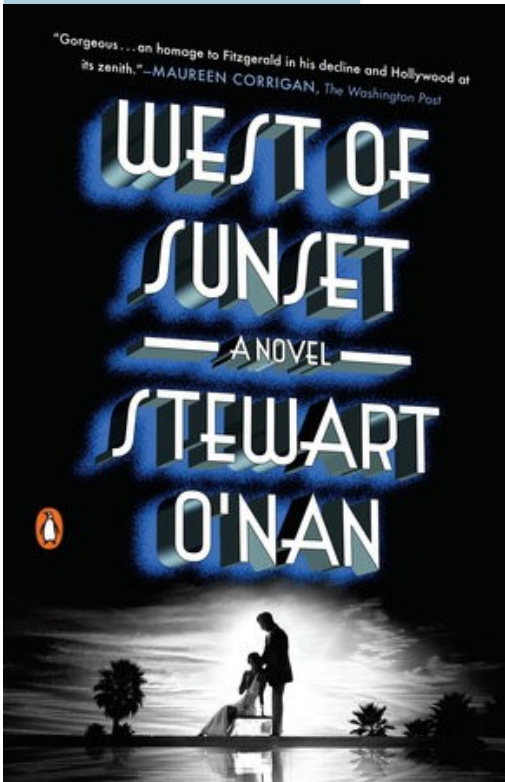




Fall Newsletter

FALL, 2016

Presidents' Message



When Mayor Jim Clarke asked what the Friends of the Library were going to do to celebrate the Culver City Centennial, we were inspired by Beverly Hills' idea of having a One Book/One City reading program for their Centennial. They chose the book The Boys in the Boat, and while that is an outstanding read, we hoped to find something more relevant to Culver City and specific to our past. After about six months of reading (and discarding) possibilities, we stumbled across West of Sunset when the author, Stewart O'Nan, spoke at Vroman's Books in Pasadena. The book was perfect. It took place in Culver City and Southern California, during the Golden Age of Hollywood when F. Scott Fitzgerald, the subject of the novel, was working as a screenwriter at MGM (now the Sony studios lot). The author was interesting, articulate and willing to come to Culver City and speak to our community and our students. And thus we embarked on this great adventure.

We are quite excited about the upcoming months. We have received incredible support from the community. The Culver Hotel is providing accommodations for Stewart O'Nan while he is here. Sony Pictures Entertainment is offering a free, two hour private tour for 40 members of the Friends of the Library. Penguin books, the publisher of West of Sunset has also been amazingly helpful. They provided copies of the book for the English teachers at CCHS, and they are flying Stewart O'Nan in for the occasion. Sorrento Italian Market is giving us sandwiches for the lunch program with students at the High School. Lundeen's and The Ripped Bodice agreed to offer West of Sunset for sale. Bison Archives provided photos of the era. Many other people have offered to help plan and put on activities, and we are encouraged by the number of community members who have expressed interest in reading the book

As of now, we have a variety of plans in store for this celebration. We plan to participate in the Opening Ceremony Parade for the Centennial on Saturday, September 24. Three discussions of the book are scheduled: September 19 at the Culver City Julian Dixon Library, September 28 at the Senior Center and October 6 at Temple Akiba. We are offering the Sony tour from 8:30-10:30 on Friday, October 14. Stewart O'Nan will be speaking to high school students between 11 and 2 at CCHS, both about the book and about a career as a writer that same day. We plan to hold a "happy hour" for FOL members at the Culver Hotel that evening, from 4:30-6:30 pm. CCFOL will provide appetizers and it will be a no-host bar. The highlight will be Stewart O'Nan's talk about the book at the library on Saturday, October 15 at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by a reception in the community room of the library.

Other information and resources are available on our website at <http://ccfol.org>, and you can sign up for the Sony tour and the happy hour at info@ccfol.org or at ccfriendspres@gmail.com.

Culver City Friends of the Library

Culver City
Julian Dixon Library
4975 Overland Ave.
Culver City, CA 90230
Phone: (310) 559-1676
E-mail: info@ccfol.org

One Book/One City

Other Books you may want to read:

In conjunction with our One Book/One City program, there are other books you may want to read.

Everybody Behaves Badly by Lesley M.M. Blume. Tells the story of Ernest Hemingway while he was writing The Sun Also Rises but gives good insight into the relationship between Hemingway and Fitzgerald in their early years.

A Touch of Stardust by Kate Alcott is about the making of "Gone With the Wind." Lots of local scenes and local color

Books by F. Scott Fitzgerald including The Great Gatsby and The Last Tycoon, the manuscript Fitzgerald was working on when he died. Also, The Pat Hobby Stories are based on Fitzgerald's time as a screenwriter at MGM, and give an interesting picture of his impression of that occupation.

You can find other works by or about Fitzgerald in the Book Club Guide by Stewart O'Nan, which you can access from our FOL homepage.

Movies you May Want to See

Three Comrades written by Fitzgerald

The Last Tycoon

The Great Gatsby

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Tender is the Night

Last Call (Fitzgerald)

Beloved Infidel written by Sy Bartlett and Sheilah Graham

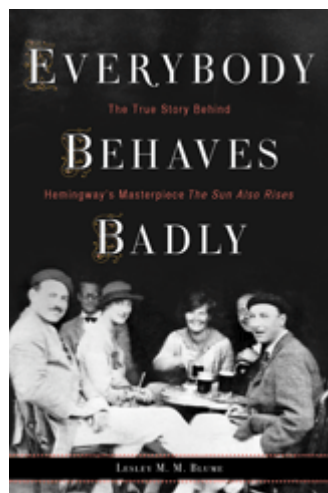
Genius

Did you know?

Harry Culver was the manager of the Hollywood apartment building where Sheilah Graham lived. Here's the Wikipedia article about Fitzgerald's death: "The following day, as Scott ate a candy bar and made notes in his newly arrived Princeton Alumni Weekly, Ms. Graham saw him jump from his armchair, grab the mantelpiece, gasp, and fall to the floor. She ran to the manager of the building, Harry Culver, founder of Culver City. Upon entering the apartment and assisting Scott, he stated, "I'm afraid he's dead." Fitzgerald died of a massive heart attack. His body was removed to the Pierce Brothers Mortuary."

Fitzgerald worked in the Irving Thalberg Building at MGM (now Sony) studios. Here's the quote from West of Sunset, "His own office had no name and a view across Culver Boulevard of a billboard in a vacant lot touting a coming subdivision artfully christened Edendale."

F. Scott Fitzgerald was one of the screenwriters they brought in to "save" *Gone With the Wind*.



Bonus Author Event With Lesley M. M. Blume

As part of the One Book/One City program for the Culver City Centennial, the Friends of the Library are pleased to announce that in addition to the appearance by Stewart O'Nan, author of West of Sunset on Saturday, October 15, we have a second author visit scheduled. Lesley M.M. Blume, author of Everybody Behaves Badly, will be at the Culver City Julian Dixon Library on Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss her book. Everybody Behaves Badly is a non-fiction look at Ernest Hemingway and the writing of his novel, The Sun Also Rises. The close relationship between Hemingway and Fitzgerald is an important part of the story, and does an excellent job of adding context to the reading of West of Sunset which explores the later years of Fitzgerald's career. A look at Ms. Blume's blog and her reflections on F. Scott Fitzgerald can be seen at this link: <http://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/06/07/falling-for-fitzgerald/>

We hope you can join us at both of these events. For more information, go to the Friends of the Library website at <http://www.theparisreview.org>



One Book/One City Activities

West of Sunset Photo Scavenger Hunt

On-Going

F. Scott Fitzgerald scavenger hunt
(aka West of Sunset-Go)

Monday, September 19

Culver City Julian Dixon Library- 6:45 PM
Book discussion - West of Sunset- led by library staff

Saturday, September 24

Centennial Grand Opening Parade- Vets Park 9:00 AM
Downtown Culver City Block Party-9:30 AM

Wednesday, September 28

Culver City Senior Center- 12:30 PM
Book discussion- West of Sunset
- led by Diane Taylor and Judith Orth

Thursday, September 29

Culver City Julian Dixon Library- 6:30 PM
Author Lesley M.M. Blume discussing her book Everybody Behaves Badly and the relationship between Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald

Thursday, October 6

Temple Akiba- 4:00 PM.
Book discussion-West of Sunset- led by Rosie LaBriola

Monday, October 10

deadline for submission of West of Sunset photo scavenger hunt entries

Friday, October 14

Sony Studios - 8:30 to 10:30 AM
Private 2-hour tour of Sony Studios

Friday, October 14

Culver City High School - 11 AM.to 2 PM
Stewart O'Nan speaking to students of Culver City High School

Friday, October 14

The Culver Hotel - 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Happy Hour
in honor of F. Scott Fitzgerald

Saturday, October 15

Culver City Julian Dixon Library -10:30 AM
Stewart O'Nan speaking about West of Sunset

Saturday, October 15

Culver City Julian Dixon Library- 12:00 PM
Reception and celebration of One Book/One City

Below are instruction to locations listed in the official book of the City of Culver City Centennial, West of Sunset by Stewart O'Nan. Take a picture of the location or a selfie at the location. Email the photos to info@ccfol.org to enter. Photos will be posted on the Friends of the Library Facebook page, and also on the website at <http://ccfol.org>

For each photo submitted your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a free book of your choice from the CCFOL Friends book sale room. Photos must be submitted to info@ccfol.org by Monday, October 10. The drawing will be held at the reception following Stewart O'Nan's talk at the Culver City Julian Dixon Library at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 15. Winner must be present.

1. Get a Coke at the corner liquor store just like F. Scott did. (Take a picture of/at the liquor store on the corner of Keystone and Culver).
2. Find Mr. Ito. (Take a picture of a cat or yourself with a cat).
3. Visit the Iron Lung (the writers' room) and the Commissary at MGM/Sony Studios. Take picture of Sony's Culver Blvd. entrance for one and Sony's Overland Ave entrance for the other.)
4. Catch Bogie and Mayo poolside at the "Garden of Allah". (Take a picture of the CC Plunge.)
5. Visit the house in Malibu. (Take a photo of the Malibu Pier.)
6. Hobnob at the Brown Derby with Sheilah. (Snap a photo and have a drink at the Culver Hotel.)
7. Go to a movie premier. (Snap a photo and catch a movie at the Arc-Light)





Are You Interested In Joining The Friends Executive Board?

The Friends of the Library’s Executive Board is seeking nominations for next year’s Board. We meet monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30. Please contact us at info@ccfol.org by November 11 if you’re interested.

Our mission is:

To maintain an association of people interested in supporting the Library.

To heighten public awareness of the Library’s resources, services and needs.

To enrich the Library’s resources through funds derived from memberships and special projects; to stimulate gifts to the Library of books and other publications and materials; and to encourage endowments and bequests.

To enable the Library to enhance services, expand programs and add new dimensions that maximize the Library’s role and usefulness in the community.

To develop support among legislators and other elected officials to enable the Library to better serve the community.

2016 Executive Board

- Co-Presidents Nancy Kuechle & Elaine Hirohama
- Vice President Steven Wieber
- Secretary Patty Krause
- Treasurer Wanda Anesh
- Membership Chairs Michael Laase & Joanne Seltzer
- Book Sale Chair Wayne Pulliam
- Program Chairs May Jung & Aileen Zeidman
- Publication Chair Lise Friedman



Glen Perry Memorial Fund

The Glen Perry Memorial Fund has been established by a group of Sony employees to honor the memory of their colleague, a business affairs attorney at Sony Pictures Television who passed away in July at the age of 54. An ardent reader and "big fan" of the Culver City Julian Dixon library, he was well regarded by his co-workers both past and present. The fund will be used to endow the Summer Reading program for children and teens at the library, and to provide the prizes to be offered to participants. In addition, books for the newly established classic books collection will be purchased in his memory. A plaque honoring him will be added to the donor recognition display in the foyer of the library. This fitting tribute will ensure that he will remain a part of the library for many years to come.





Knitting Returns

The ever popular knitting group is back at the library. With a focus on teens and tweens, the group is open to stitchers of all ages and abilities. We did a special class at the La Ballona lunch program this summer and were able to share the love of yarn with lots of young finger knitters. Meeting on Mondays from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Community Room, it is a good place to learn new skills, pass on ideas, and share in the fun of creativity! Materials are provided by generous donations to the Friends of the Library and instruction is available by dedicated volunteers. In addition, this year, we are supporting the charity started by a former Culver City resident in memory of her son. This group, Blankets of Love, is making baby blankets for donation to newborns and their families at Martin Luther King Hospital. Blankets should be 36" square and soft and washable. If you want to contribute yarn or blankets, we'd love to have you participate. If you don't want to be responsible for an entire blanket, make an 8" square and we will incorporate it into a blanket.



October Storytime



Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 PM

Culver City Unified School District's new Superintendent Joshua Arnold will read to the children. Fun arts and crafts project to follow. Admission is Free!

Summer Storytimes

We got ready to celebrate Culver City's Centennial with a special story time at the library with Mayor Jim Clarke on Tuesday, August 9 at 7 p.m. The Mayor read the children's counting story, One Hundred Hungry Ants by Elinor J. Pinczes in the Community Room of the Culver City Julian Dixon Library. This fun tale got us all in the mood for the 100th birthday of Culver City. Mayor Clarke also gave an update on some of the festivities being planned for this year long celebration. A fun, 100's themed craft followed the story time.



We also had a great July story time with the Culver City Fire Department. The kids had a great time listening to stories, checking out the fire fighter gear and exploring the fire engine.



JOIN THE CULVER CITY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY!

The Culver City Friends of the Library is a non-profit group comprised of volunteers dedicated to supporting the Culver City Julian Dixon Library. The Friends strive to heighten public awareness of the Library's resources, services and needs, enrich the Library's resources through funds derived from memberships, donations and special projects, and stimulate gifts to the Library of books and other materials. The support provided by the Friends enables the Library to enrich its resources, enhance its services, and expand its programs to maximize the Library's role and usefulness in the community. Please join us! Just complete the form below (please print!) and mail in your dues today. You will receive the Friends' newsletter via email. Membership is from January to January.

Name(s) to be printed on membership card: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Type of membership, please check one: New Renewal

- Individual: \$10.00/year
- Senior (over 60): \$5.00/year
- Student (under 18): \$5.00/year
- Sustaining Senior (over 60) \$15.00/year
- Family: \$20.00/year
- Supporting: \$50/year
- Lifetime: individual: \$200 couple: \$300.00
- Business/Organization: \$100.00/year

Total enclosed tax-deductible payment of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Culver City Friends of the Library. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Culver City Friends of the Library
4975 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 559-1676 — info@ccfol.org

Feel free to share this newsletter with people who want updates about our library renovation and/or who might be interested in joining the FOL to support the library and getting to know others who are involved with the Culver community