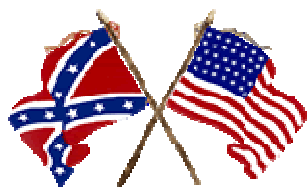


Ridgefield Remembers the Civil War: A Community-Wide Series of Events in Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War

January through June 2013



The Civil War was one of the most transformative periods in our national history, and people across the country are observing its sesquicentennial with an outpouring of books, films and other educational and cultural activities. Seeking to tie these large historical events to local history, the organizers of *Ridgefield Remembers the Civil War* have put together numerous commemorative programs for all ages in the 6 months leading up to the anniversary of the July 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, in which Ridgefield soldiers took part. The culminating highlight of the effort will be a *Soldiers Fair* in Ballard Park on Saturday afternoon, June 8 (rain date June 9), to feature

re-enactors, period music, games and numerous other activities. Visit www.ridgefieldlibrary.org for more information.

Author and Artist in Dialogue:

Still Fighting the Civil War

with David Goldfield & Brian Knep

Boston-based media artist Knep's participatory video installation *Deep Wounds*, currently on view at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, confronts the reality that the Civil War still profoundly affects the American psyche and engages not just the legacy of the War, but also the difficult processes of reconciliation that follow all human conflict.



Goldfield is the award-winning author of sixteen books about Southern and American history, including *Still Fighting the Civil War* and the recently published *America Aflame*. Goldfield is the Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History at the

University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Free for the price of museum admission

Sunday, February 2, 2 PM

Author Talk:

Stealing Lincoln's Body

with Thomas Craughwell



Join author Thomas J. Craughwell as he talks about his 2007 book *Stealing Lincoln's Body*, the true crime story of an 1876 attempt by counterfeiters to abduct Abraham Lincoln's body and hold it for ransom. Reviewers called it an "irresistible" and "entertaining" history of the dangerous rise of counterfeiting in late 19th century America and the establishment of the Secret Service to combat it.

Note: The Library's Murder by the Book discussion group will also discuss *Stealing Lincoln's Body* at 11:15 AM on February 7.

Register at ridgefieldlibrary.org

Thursday, February 7, 7 PM

One Man Play:

An Evening with Walt Whitman

with actor Stephen Collins

@ Keeler Tavern Museum

Register at ridgefieldlibrary.org

Thursday, February 28, 7 PM

Join us for *An Evening with Walt Whitman* with actor Stephen Collins. The play opens with the elderly Whitman on the evening of his seventieth birthday. Whitman begins to reminisce and to question his success as a man and a poet. During the telling, Whitman transforms into his young vibrant self and we begin to trace back along with him the experiences that led to the creation of *Leaves Of Grass*, his lifetime work. In the second part of the performance, Whitman's life is changed forever by the occurrence of the Civil War. It is here that he finds "... the most important work of my life..." nursing the wounded soldiers in the hospitals. Through poetry and readings of actual letters, we experience Whitman's movement from selfishness to selflessness and his growth into a mature artist who is at peace about "himself, God and death."

ARTalk:

Vision and Brilliance

Video Screening and Discussion

Vision & Brilliance: a time to imagine and think about Design, Technology, Business and Science, is an exciting screening of video highlights from the most recent Connecticut Forum conversation. The *Vision and Brilliance* program, which took place in at the Bushnell Theater in Hartford in December, features big thinkers and visionary minds, including Neil Gaiman, author of *Coraline*; Neil deGrasse Tyson, “the most popular astrophysicist in the universe;” and Neri Oxman, a cutting edge designer and Mediated Matter Director at MIT Media Lab. The Library’s discussion following the screening of the video will be led by Connecticut Forum’s Laura Donna and Jackie Johnson.

This program is part of the ARTalks series, which is co-sponsored the Ridgefield Guild of Artists.

Register at ridgefieldlibrary.org

Sunday, February 10, 2 PM

Author Talk:

Steering Your Marriage

with Suzanne Burger

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, Dr. Suzanne Burger, will share with us her new book *Steering Your Marriage: A Guide to Navigating the Road Together*, a self-help book for couples. The book provides key strategies as well as tools for navigating difficult life events such as financial hardship, relocation, and caring for aging parents.

During this program, Dr. Burger will speak briefly about her professional background and discuss the framework of *Steering Your Marriage*. She will read an excerpt from the book also provide time of Q & A.

Dr. Suzanne Burger is a licensed clinical psychologist with a B.A. from Yale University and an M.A. and Psy.D. from Yeshiva University. She maintains a private practice in Pound Ridge and White Plains.

Register at ridgefieldlibrary.org

Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 PM

Workshop:

Tech Fridays Social Media 101

Please join us for a monthly program called *Tech Fridays*. Each month we’ll highlight a 21st century tool offered by the Library, or one readily available online, with the goal of helping our patrons become empowered users of these resources.

February Program - Social Media 101

Interested in utilizing social media but not sure how to begin? Join Head of Children’s Services and Teen Librarian Geri Diorio and Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Pawlowski for an introduction to three of the most popular social media sites -- Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest.

No registration - drop in!

Friday, February 22, 1 - 3 PM

Workshop:

Podium Power with Dana Rubin



Communications consultant Dana Rubin will lead a 3-hour, interactive workshop designed to help individuals improve their presentation skills before audiences of any size, whether for an interview, sales pitch, or presentation. Participants will have multiple opportunities to practice public speaking, with feedback that strengthens their ability to communicate with authority and conviction.

Dana Rubin is a speechwriter and presentation coach based in New York City. She helps individuals shape their information into convincing messages, and coaches them to express their ideas clearly and persuasively.

Register at ridgefieldlibrary.org

Sunday, February 24, 1 - 4 PM

In Conversation:

with Stephen Sondheim

@ Ridgefield Playhouse

Tickets at ridgefieldplayhouse.org

Saturday, February 23, 7:30 PM



Join us for a rare opportunity to be side-by-side with Stephen Sondheim when he discusses his illustrious career and myriad contributions to American musical theater.

Emmy Award Winning journalist Morton Dean will host the on-stage interview in the Playhouse’s intimate venue, followed by an audience Q&A.

BOOK GROUPS

MURDER BY THE BOOK

Thursday, February 7
11:15 AM

Stealing Lincoln's Body

by Thomas Craughwell

There is no murder per se to solve in this true crime story of an 1876 attempt by counterfeiters to abduct Abraham Lincoln's body and hold it for ransom. But reviewers called it an "irresistible" and "entertaining" history of the dangerous rise of counterfeiting in late 19th century America and the establishment of the Secret Service to combat it.

NOTE: Author Thomas Craughwell will be at the Library to discuss his work at 7 PM on Feb. 7.

NONFICTIONEERS

Tuesday, Feb. 5
7:15 PM

The War of 1812 – Conflict for a Continent

by J.C.A. Stagg

This book is a narrative history of the many dimensions of the War of 1812 - social, diplomatic, military, and political. The events of 1812-1815 were shaped by the larger crisis of the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. In synthesizing and reinterpreting the war, Professor J. C. A. Stagg focuses on the war as a continental event,

highlighting its centrality to Canadian nationalism and state development. The book introduces the war to students and general readers, concluding that it resulted, in many ways, from an emerging nation-state trying to contend with the effects of rival European nationalisms, both in Europe itself and in the Atlantic world.



Next Month's Selection

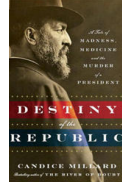
Tuesday, March 5
7:15 PM

Destiny of a Republic, A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President

by Candice Millard

This extraordinary *New York Times*-bestselling account of James Garfield's rise from poverty to the American presidency, and the dramatic history of his assassination and legacy, comes from bestselling author of *The River of Doubt*, Candice Millard. For a man forced into the presidency, the legacy of James Garfield extended far beyond his lifetime, and *Destiny of the Republic* revisits his meteoric rise within the military and government with meticulous research and intimate focus. Garfield was a passionate advocate of freed slaves, a reformer at odds with Republican power brokers and machine

politics, a devoted father, and a spellbinding speech-giver. *Destiny of the Republic* passionately brings President Garfield's unknown-but-widely-felt legacy into focus.



BOOKS & BREAKFAST

Next Meeting
Monday, Feb. 11
10:30 AM



This program now takes place @ the Keeler Tavern Museum at 132 Main Street

POETRY DISCUSSION GROUP

Friday, February 15
1 PM

Gulf Music

by Robert Pinsky

A limited number of copies of the book will be available for discussion participants, thanks to the Friends of the Library.

CRITICS' CIRCLE BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, February 19
7:15 PM

Rules of Civility

by Amor Towles

In 1938, 25-year-old Katey Kontent, armed with a formidable intellect, a bracing wit, and her own brand of nerve, embarks on a journey from a Wall Street secretarial pool through the upper echelons of New York society. *Rules of Civility* has been hailed as a sophisticated and entertaining debut on the themes of love and class.

A.M. BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, Feb 27
11:15 AM

O Pioneers!

by Willa Cather

The first volume of the author's acclaimed *Great Plains* trilogy focuses on Alexandra Bergson, daughter of a Swedish immigrant family who inherits her father's farm and struggles to keep it going against difficult odds.

Library Book Groups always welcome new members.

Copies of the books may be purchased at Books on the Common at a 15% discount, or inquire about in-house and Inter-Library Loan availability.

Unless noted otherwise programs will take place in the Library Program Room at
21 Governor Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Memoir Writing Group 1 PM Author and Artist in Dialogue: <i>Still Fighting the Civil War</i> 2 PM @ The Aldrich
3	4	5 The Nonfictioneers: <i>The War of 1812</i> by J.C.A. Stagg 7:15 PM	6 Workshop: 3/5 <i>Awakening Insight - Introduction to Vipassana Meditation</i> with Nina Nagy 7 PM Full	7 Murder by the Book: <i>Stealing Lincoln's Body</i> with Thomas Craughwell 11:15 AM Author Talk: <i>Stealing Lincoln's Body</i> with Thomas Craughwell 7 PM Register	8	9 Shutterbugs: Monthly Meeting 9 AM
10 ARTalk: <i>Vision and Brilliance</i> - Video Clips and Discussion 2 PM Register	11 Discussion: Books & Breakfast @ Keeler Tavern Museum 10:30 AM	12 Author Talk: <i>Steering Your Marriage: A Guide to Navigating the Road Together</i> with Dr. Suzanne Burger 7:30 PM Register	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!	15 Poetry Discussion Group: <i>Gulf Music</i> by Robert Pinsky 1 PM	16
17	18	19 Critics' Circle Book Group: <i>Rules of Civility</i> by Amor Towles 7:15 PM	20 Workshop: 4/5 <i>Awakening Insight - Introduction to Vipassana Meditation</i> with Nina Nagy 7 PM Full	21 The Writers Guild of Ridgefield: <i>A Networking Group for Writers</i> 7 PM	22 Tech Fridays: : <i>Social Media 101</i> 1 - 3 PM drop in	23 Discussion: Stephen Sondheim with Morton Dean @ The Ridgefield Playhouse 7:30 PM Visit ridgefield-playhouse.org for tickets
24 Workshop: <i>Podium Power: Effective Public Speaking</i> with Dana Rubin 1 - 4 PM Register	25 Meeting: Library Board 7:30 PM	26	27 A.M. Book Group: <i>O Pioneers!</i> by Willa Cather 11:15 AM	28 One Man Play: <i>An Evening with Walt Whitman</i> with Stephen Collins 7 PM @ The Keeler Tavern Museum	1	2