

# The Ridgefield Library

**rl:** ridgefield  
library  
Enriching Minds.  
Enhancing Community.

## BIBLIOEVENTS

Volume 17, Issue 3

September 2010

### *The Big Read: "The Grapes of Wrath"* by John Steinbeck

September - October 2010



The Ridgefield Playhouse in partnership with the Ridgefield Library has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host *The Big Read* in Ridgefield, an initiative of the Endowment designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

To get involved just check out a copy of *The Grapes of Wrath* at the Library or purchase a discounted copy at *Books on the Common* and begin reading now. You can also participate in the many related events coming this fall including book discussions, movies, concerts, art exhibits, lectures, and more.

*The Big Read* is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

### Big Read Public Programs and Events in September

#### **Exhibit: Posters of American Social Realism and The Great Depression**

September 2 through 30

On display are graphic works, from the collection of David Pollack Vintage Posters, created for public and private organizations from 1929 to the 1950s. Exhibit available for viewing in the Dayton Program Room during Library hours, whenever the room is not in use for another program.

#### **Facilitator Training: Workshops for Book Discussion Leaders**

Monday, September 13, 7 PM and

Wednesday, September 15, 10 AM

Library staff and other experienced facilitators lead an orientation and networking session for *Big Read* discussion facilitators. **Registration requested.**

#### **Lecture: Introduction to John Steinbeck and "The Grapes of Wrath"** with Mark Schenker

Wednesday, September 22, 7 PM

Dr. Mark Schenker, Associate Dean at Yale College, kicks off Ridgefield's Big Read by providing background and context for readers of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

**Registration requested.**

#### **Exhibit: Banned Books Week**

September 25 through October 2

The Library celebrates Banned Books Week with a look at challenges the *The Grapes of Wrath* has faced over the past 60 years.

#### **Film Screening & Discussion:**

##### ***Of Mice and Men* (1939)**

Saturday, September 25, 10 AM

Mark Edwards, professor of Media Studies at Sacred Heart University, will moderate discussion about the 1930s as depicted in Steinbeck's novel and the film.

**No registration.**

#### **Book Discussion: Controversy and "The Grapes of Wrath"**

Wednesday, September 29, 7 PM

Library staff member Judi Margolin leads a discussion, with special emphasis on what has made *The Grapes of Wrath* so controversial, from its original publication through the present day.

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters. **Registration requested.**

#### **Concert and Multimedia**

##### **Presentation: Woody Guthrie:**

##### ***Hard Times and Hard Travellin'***

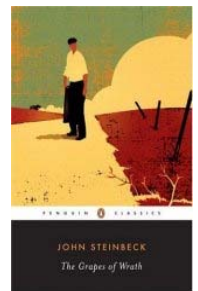
with Will Kaufman

Thursday, September 30, 7:30 PM

**At The Ridgefield Playhouse**

A *Big Read* keynote event, with actor/singer/writer Will Kaufman portraying the life and art of Depression Era balladeer Woody Guthrie. Co-sponsored by Acoustic Celebration and The Ridgefield Playhouse.

**To purchase tickets call 203-438-5795 or visit [www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org](http://www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org).**

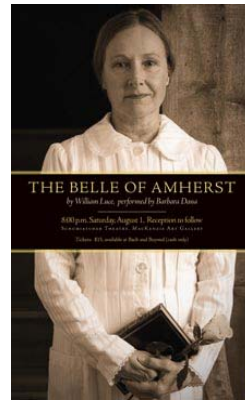


Programs take place at the Library unless noted. Check the Library's website at [www.ridgefieldlibrary.org](http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org) to register and to find out about *Big Read* programs in October.

# Emily Dickinson Comes to Town!

Join us for three special programs this September featuring award-winning actress, author and playwright Barbara Dana. **Power Girls** is the title of the first program to take place at the Ridgefield Library on **Saturday, Sept. 11 at 10 AM**. Barbara Dana will portray and discuss two exceptionally strong women from history, Emily Dickinson and Joan of Arc. Dana's program includes an exploration of the similarities and differences between these two "power girls," along with slides and readings from the author's HarperCollins novels, *Young Joan* and *A Voice of Her Own: Becoming Emily Dickinson*. This program is aimed at middle and high school girls and may be especially interesting to women's groups, although anyone is welcome to attend.

The second program will take place at the Library on **Thursday, September 16 at 7 PM** and is called **Meet Emily Dickinson**. Barbara Dana will perform short excerpts from the play *The Belle of Amherst* and talk about her own craft as an actor and author. **Register requested.**



The grande finale event will be the not-to-be-missed **Friends of the Library** benefit performance of William Luce's ***The Belle of Amherst***, a one-woman play, based on Emily Dickinson's own words in poetry and letters. The play was first staged on Broadway in 1976 and earned Julie Harris a Tony Award for Best Actress.

Barbara Dana has performed widely on stage, TV and Film. She has performed *The Belle of Amherst* at Emily Dickinson's home in Amherst, MA and most recently at the Bronx Botanical Gardens as part of the *Emily Dickinson's Garden* exhibit.

This performance takes place at **The Ridgefield Playhouse** on **Sunday, September 26 at 3 p.m.** Tickets are \$25/\$35/\$45/\$10 for students and can be purchased at [www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org](http://www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org) or by calling 203-438-5795. **Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.**

## Workshop

### ***Memoir and Imagination*** with Phyllis Ross

Participants in this four-session writing workshop will describe and reflect upon the nature of memoir and imagination. There will be ample time for writing.

**Wednesdays, September 22, 29  
& October 6, 13 @ 10:30 AM**

Registration Required

This program is made possible thanks to the  
**Friends of the Library.**



## Author Talk

### ***How to Succeed at Aging Without Really Dying*** with Lyla Blake Ward

**Lyla Blake Ward** will talk about her humorous take on growing old gracefully and discuss the unusual process she went through to get her book published.

**Thursday, September 23 @ 7 PM**  
No registration

## Live Music

### ***Ridgefield Folk*** with Mark Erelli

Sunday

September 19 @ 2 PM

Mark Erelli "embodies many of the best qualities of the folk-populist lineage that began with Woody Guthrie, and is carried today by Bruce Springsteen and others. His voice, a beautiful combination of wine and whiskey, is as intimately conversational as a fireside chat." **Sing Out Magazine**



Free thanks to the **Friends of the Library.**  
Tickets can be picked up starting at 1 PM on the day of the show. Doors open at 1:30 PM.

## Coming in October



Ridgefield violin virtuoso **David Gale** will perform a benefit for the Library's Annual Appeal on **Sunday, October 3 at 3 PM**, at the South Salem Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door and \$10 for children. To purchase tickets visit the Library or go to our website at [www.ridgefieldlibrary.org](http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org).

# BOOK GROUPS

## THE NONFICTIONEERS

Tuesday, Sept. 7  
7 PM

*Sea of Glory: America's Voyage of Discovery, the U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842*

by Nathaniel Philbrick

### Next Month's Selection

Tuesday, Oct. 5  
7 PM

*Meltdown: The End of the age of Greed*  
by Paul Mason

*Meltdown* tells the story of America's recent economic collapse, which precipitated a major recession comparable to the 1930s, sent shocks throughout the global financial system and also brought down other national economies, including that of Iceland. *From Book Jacket.*

## MURDER BY THE BOOK

Thursday, Sept. 2  
1 PM

*Crocodile on the Sandbank* by Elizabeth Peters

First in a beloved series that continues to this day, this book introduces the indefatigable Amelia Peabody – Victorian archeologist and amateur sleuth. Peters infuses the traditional “cozy” mystery with fascinating historical and geographic settings, a touch of romance, fine depiction of character and a delightful sense of humor.

### Books & Breakfast

Monday, Sept. 13  
10:30 AM

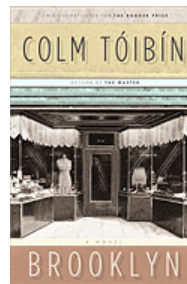
*Join us for breakfast and an informal book discussion*

## CRITICS' CIRCLE BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, Sept. 21  
7 PM

*Brooklyn*  
by Colm Toibin

In post-World War II Ireland, Ellis Lacey is committed to a quiet life. Then she is swept up in an adventure to America engineered by her family and her parish priest. Living in a Brooklyn boarding house, she painstakingly tries to reinvent herself, until the pull of her native land causes her to question the new life she has created.

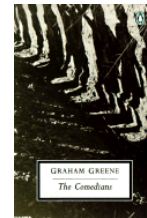


## A.M. BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, Sept. 22  
10 AM

*The Comedians*  
by Graham Greene

Both “entertainment” (as the author called his suspense novels) and serious examination of politics and human nature, this book recounts the story of an unlikely trio of visitors to the Haiti of “Papa Doc” Duvalier.



## POETRY GROUP DISCUSSION

Friday, Sept. 17  
1 PM

Sponsored by the Friends

# Hollister Films

## City Island (2009)

Rated PG13, 100 Minutes



When he recognizes his son Tony, whom he hasn't seen in more than 20 years, among a crop of new inmates in the jail where he works, Vince Rizzo decides to bring the troubled young man home with him, much to the surprise of his wife and kids.

Tuesday, September 14

1:30 & 7 PM

## Me and Orson Welles (2009)



Rated PG13, 114 Minutes



Set in the 1930s, this film tells the story of 17-year-old Richard Samuels, whose theatrical dreams are answered when Orson Welles, founder of the Mercury Theater, offers him a small role in his Broadway debut of *Julius Caesar*.

Tuesday, September 28

1:30 & 7 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>Exhibit: Posters of American Social Realism and The Great Depression</b> <b>Dates: September 2 - 30</b></p>			1	2 <b>Murder by the Book:</b> <i>Crocodile on the Sandbank</i> by Elizabeth Peters 1 PM	3	4 <b>Memoir Writing Group</b> 10 AM
5 <b>Closed Summer Sundays</b>	6 <b>Library Closed Labor Day</b>	7 <b>The Nonfiction-eers:</b> <i>Sea of Glory</i> by Nathaniel Philbrick 7 PM	8	9 <b>Founders Hall Book Discussion:</b> <i>The Space Between Us</i> by Thrity Umrigen 2:30 PM	10	11 <b>Photography Meeting:</b> <i>Shutterbugs</i> 9:30 AM  <b>Author Talk:</b> <i>Power Girls</i> with Barbara Dana 10 AM <b>Register</b>
12	13 <b>Discussion:</b> <i>Books and Breakfast</i> 10:30 AM  <b>*Big Read Facilitator Training:</b> <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> 7 PM <b>Register</b>	14 <b>Hollister Film:</b> <i>City Island</i> 1:30 & 7 PM	15 <b>*Big Read Facilitator Training:</b> <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> 10 AM <b>Register</b>	16 <b>Dramatic Performance and Talk:</b> <i>Meet Emily Dickinson</i> with Actor and Author Barbara Dana 7 PM <b>Register</b>	17 <b>Discussion:</b> <i>Poetry Group</i> with Dr. Alan Holder 1 PM	18
19 <b>Live Music:</b> <i>Ridgefield Folk</i> with Mark Erelli 2 PM	20 <b>Meeting:</b> <i>Library Board</i> 7:30 PM	21 <b>Critics' Circle Book Group:</b> <i>Brooklyn</i> by Colm Toibin 7 PM <b>Networking Group:</b> <i>The Writers Guild of Ridgefield</i> 7 PM	22 <b>A.M. Book Group:</b> <i>The Comedians</i> by Graham Greene 10 AM  <b>*Big Read Lecture:</b> <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> with Dr. Mark Schenker 7 PM <b>Register</b>	23 <b>Author Talk:</b> <i>How to Succeed at Aging Without Really Dying</i> with Lyla Blake Ward 7 PM	24	25 <b>*Big Read Film Screening and Discussion:</b> <i>Of Mice and Men</i> with Mark Edwards 10 AM
26 <b>Dramatic Performance:</b> <i>The Belle of Amherst</i> performed by Barbara Dana 3 PM at the <b>Ridgefield Playhouse.</b> Tickets \$25, \$35, \$45, \$10 students	27	28 <b>Hollister Film:</b> <i>Me and Orson Welles</i> 1:30 & 7 PM	29 <b>Writing Workshop:</b> <i>Memoir and Imagination</i> with Phyllis Ross Part 1 of 4 10:30 AM <b>Register</b>  <b>*Big Read Discussion:</b> <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> 7 PM <b>Register</b>	30 <b>*Live Music:</b> <i>Woody Guthrie: Hard Times and Hard Travellin'</i> with Will Kaufman 7:30 PM at the <b>Ridgefield Playhouse.</b> Tickets \$20, \$25, \$15 students	 <p><i>*A Big Read Event</i></p>	