



LITERARY  
*Liaisons*

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A SEASON OF CELEBRATIONS  
AND  
LITERARY ENCOUNTERS  
2011–2012

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## Welcome to a Season of Celebrations and Literary Encounters, 2011-2012

It is with great pleasure that, through the combined efforts of the Norfolk Library Board of Trustees and the Norfolk Library Associates, we offer you A Season of Celebrations and Literary Encounters, 2011-2012. We hope that this wide-ranging series will offer something unique and rewarding for everyone.

The Norfolk Library Associates assist the Norfolk Library Board of Trustees and Directors in achieving their goals by raising funds that support the Library's programming and facilities.

Enclosed in this booklet please find a pre-addressed return envelope that includes the reservation form and a pocket for checks. **We urge you to make your selections and send a check to hold your reservations quickly.** A number of the events have very limited seating.

Remember, by participating in this series you are contributing to your Library while having a good time.

Robert Dance  
*President*  
Norfolk Library Board of Trustees

Rita Freedman and Joel Howard  
*Co-Presidents*  
Norfolk Library Associates

## Reservation and Refund Policy

1. Reservations for all events will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. All reservations will be date-stamped and recorded as they are received.
2. Payment in full for selected events must accompany the reservation form. A convenient, return envelope for your form and check is included in this booklet.
3. Confirmations will be sent by email, unless another method of contact is specified on the reservation form.
4. If the event of your choice is filled, you will receive a refund and be placed on a waiting list.
5. Cancellations must be made 30 days before an event by **email: [norfolkliterary@gmail.com](mailto:norfolkliterary@gmail.com)**.

Should an event be full or you are unable to attend, **please consider contributing those funds to the library, for a tax deduction of the full amount of the price.**

Please mail all orders to:  
Norfolk Literary Liaisons  
PO Box 674  
Norfolk, CT 06058



# A Walk Through the Pleistocene Landscape

Starling Childs Invokes Thoreau and Muir in the Norfolk Woods

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**Date:** September 10, 2011

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Great Mountain Forest and Tobey Pond

**Hosts:** Starling Childs and Michelle Childs, Betsy Gill

**Cost:** \$35 per person

**Limit:** 20 people

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Join Starling Childs, Adjunct Professor at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Science, for a 2-hour (or so) hike through the ancient landscape of the Norfolk woods, exploring the glacial terrain of eskers, erratics, and kettle holes. Enjoy a picnic lunch served lakeside at the end of the trail.

*“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he thinks.”*

— John Muir

*“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.”*

— Henry David Thoreau

## **Suggested Reading:**

- Any work by John Muir and H. D. Thoreau



## Dinner At Doolittle

With Jonathan Dee

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**Date:** October 1, 2011

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** 90 Deerfield Road, Doolittle Lake

**Hosts:** Betsy and Christopher Little

**Cost:** \$125 per person

**Limit:** 10 people

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Share a delightful dinner with author Jonathan Dee on Doolittle Lake at the peak of the leaf season—*The Privileges* indeed! Jonathan is no stranger to Northwestern Connecticut as his family began summering in Salisbury and then moved to Taconic when Jonathan began kindergarten at Salisbury Central School. He graduated from Indian Mountain, Andover, and Yale, is a former editor of *The Paris Review*, and now teaches at Columbia. Jonathan's most recent book, his fifth, *The Privileges*, was published to critical acclaim in February 2011 with comparisons to John Updike, Don DeLillo, and Jonathan Franzen.

*“Mr. Dee has given us a cunning, seductive novel about the people we thought we’d all agreed to hate. His case study of American mega-wealth is delicious page by page and masterly in its balancing of sympathy and critical distance.”*

— Jonathan Franzen

### **Suggested Reading:**

- *The Privileges* and *Palladio*, Jonathan Dee



## A “One-Night-Only” Book Group & Dinner Party

Explore Enduring Themes with Radhika Jones

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**Date:** October 22, 2011

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Overlook, 26 Windom Road

**Host:** Patricia Deans

**Cost:** \$125 per person

**Limit:** 16 people

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This literary encounter provides a wonderful opportunity to have an in-depth conversation comparing and contrasting two novels on the theme of biography, written a century apart. Led by Radhika Jones, former managing editor of *The Paris Review*, current executive editor of *TIME Magazine*, and popular book group leader, the evening will be devoted to a discussion of Henry James’s *The Aspern Papers*, written in 1888 (the year our library was founded!) and A. S. Byatt’s *Possession*, written in 1990. Enjoy all this over drinks and dinner at one of Norfolk’s most unusual and lovely homes. Reading is **required, not suggested**, for admission to this lively, educational evening.

*“People think that because a novel is invented, it isn’t true. Exactly the reverse is the case. Biographies and memoirs can never be wholly true, since they cannot include every conceivable circumstance of what happened. The novel can do that.”*

—Anthony Powell

*“I wish, just once, there’d be a wedding announcement in the NYT that states: ‘The groom is keeping his name.’”*

—Radhika Jones

### **Required Reading:**

- *The Aspern Papers*, Henry James
- *Possession*, A. S. Byatt



## 84 Charing Cross Road

Performed by Megan McTavish and Edward Herrmann

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**Date:** November 5, 2011

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** Church of Christ Congregational, 12 Village Green  
*Reception afterwards in the Great Hall of the Norfolk Library*

**Cost:** \$100 (preferred seating) / \$50 per person

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This true story chronicles the warm and witty 20-year correspondence between Helene, a writer in New York, and Frank Doel, the owner of a rare book store in London. It has been much loved in all its incarnations—a book, a play, and a movie. It celebrates not only a love of language and reading, but also the power of friendship during the turbulent years from 1949 to 1969.

Emmy-award-winning writer and actress Megan McTavish plays Helene. Tony- and Emmy-winning actor Edward Herrmann—perhaps best known for his portrayals of Franklin D. Roosevelt on TV—plays Frank.

Please join us for a reception at the Library following their performance.

*“When you reread a classic you do not see more in the book than you did before; you see more in you than was there before.”*

— Clifton Fadiman

**Suggested Reading:**

- *84 Charing Cross Road*, Helene Hanff
- *Ex Libris*, Anne Fadiman



## Food for Thought

With Mark Scarbrough and Bruce Weinstein

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**Date:** December 3, 2011

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

**Place:** 508 Litchfield Road

**Hosts:** Pam and Dennis Collins

**Cost:** \$35 per person

**Limit:** 16 people

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Join award-winning cookbook authors Mark Scarbrough and Bruce Weinstein for an afternoon of fun and games as they burst your soufflé with their latest book *Lobsters Scream When You Boil Them and 100 Other Myths About Food and Cooking*. Study up and bring your own long-held culinary beliefs (“a watched pot never boils,” “never eat oysters in a month with an r,” “butter is bad for you,” “butter is good for you,” etc.) to challenge the masters. In addition to a lovely tea served by Pam Collins, there will be a cooking trivia game (4 teams of 4) and prizes of some of the author’s 19 cookbooks awarded to the winners! This promises to be an excellent pre-holiday event for the competitive (or not) cook.

*“I don’t like gourmet cooking, or this cooking or that cooking. I like good cooking.”*  
— James Beard

*“The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found.”*  
— Calvin Trillin

### **Suggested Reading:**

- Any of Mark and Bruce’s 19 cookbooks
- *Too Many Cooks*, Rex Stout
- *Like Water for Chocolate*, Laura Esquivel



## An Afternoon of Duplicate Bridge at Coolwater

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**Date:** January 21, 2012

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** Coolwater, 100 Windrow Road

**Hosts:** Betsy Gill and Robert Dance

**Cost:** \$50 per person

**Limit:** 16 players

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Don't be a *dummy*! Match wits with the best bridge players in the Northwest Hills of Connecticut by joining in this afternoon game of Duplicate Bridge. A light luncheon will be provided and *double* your pleasure with delicious bridge snacks while bidding your way to a *slam* or two. A perfect activity while your golf *clubs* and garden *spades* are in mothballs! No need to wear *diamonds* or pearls. The funds raised will help the Norfolk Library, so dear to our *hearts*. Prizes for the top 2 teams.

*"No matter where I go, I always make new friends at the bridge table."*

— Martina Navratilova

### **Suggested Reading:**

- *The Card Turner*, Louis Sachar
- *Bridge with Algy*, Alfred Sheinwold
- *The Devil's Tickets*, Gary Pomerantz
- And check out the whopping number of bridge books available at [www.bridgeworld.com](http://www.bridgeworld.com)



# Murder Mystery Dinner #1

A Killer Evening with Robert Dance & “Friends”

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**Date:** February 11, 2012 (the dead of winter)

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** 130 Litchfield Road

**Hosts:** Robert Dance and “Friends”

**Cost:** \$125 per person

**Limit:** 14 people

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Dinner and death—how divine! Enjoy fine food as you enact a murder mystery—but watch what you eat, it may kill one of you. Two weeks before the event, participants will receive a brief description of the characters they will play and details about period dress—but true natures will only be revealed as the mystery unfolds.

Library President Robert Dance and “Friends” (whose identities must remain secret at this juncture) will host what they expect will be an event to die for.

## **Suggested Reading:**

- Any of the Goldy (the caterer) Schultz mysteries, Diane Mott Davidson
- Any of the Faith Fairchild—caterer, wife, traveller, and detective—mysteries, Katherine Hall Page
- *How To Solve a Murder: The Forensic Handbook*, Michael Kurland
- <http://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk/games/solve-the-murder.html>
- Anything by Agatha Christie, Conan Doyle, Ellery Queen, Rex Stout, Dorothy Sayers, Elizabeth George...need we go on?



## Family Matters

A Conversation with Peter and Maggie Pouncey

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**Date:** April 14, 2012

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Place:** Robin Hill, 281 Mountain Road

**Host:** Carol Stein

**Cost:** \$125 per person

**Limit:** 16 people

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Enjoy an invigorating evening of literary conversation with Peter Pouncey, President Emeritus of Amherst College, Dean of Columbia College 1972-1984, and author of the critically acclaimed novel, *Rules for Old Men Waiting*, and his daughter, Maggie, author of the enthralling 2010 novel, *Perfect Reader*. Peter and Maggie will lead an exploration of their themes of family relationships and growing old (gracefully) during the cocktail hour, to be followed by a delicious buffet dinner at Carol Stein's beautiful, historic Norfolk home.

*"To a father growing old, nothing is dearer than a daughter."*

— Euripides

### **Suggested Reading:**

- *Perfect Reader*, Maggie Pouncey
- *Rules for Old Men Waiting*, Peter Pouncey



## Wally's World: How And Why I Write My Novels

A Talk by *New York Times* Best-selling Author, Wally Lamb

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**Date:** April 28, 2012

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Church of Christ Congregational, 12 Village Green  
*Reception afterwards in the Great Hall of the Norfolk Library*

**Cost:** \$100 (preferred seating) / \$50 per person

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According to Wally Lamb, “Writing novels is, in a sense, like raising children. You nurture them, bring them to maturity, and then relinquish your control. . . They belong to those who read them.” The ferocious success of Lamb’s first two novels—both *New York Times* bestsellers and Oprah Book Club picks (and both about growing up in a Connecticut family)—pleased and stunned him. He didn’t write another novel for ten years. During that time Lamb, a lifelong English teacher and former director of creative writing at UConn, gave generously of his talents by teaching writing to inmates at Connecticut’s York Correctional Institute. He published two collections of their essays to wide critical acclaim and, 12 years later, the program continues to thrive. Come listen to Wally describe the how and why behind his enormously successful—and remarkably diverse—books. Then join him for a reception at the Library.

*“Wally Lamb is almost as masterful a speaker as he is a writer. He was by turns funny, insightful, and poignant. . . My audience—all two thousand—felt like they spent an intimate evening with a friend.”*

—Andrew Proctor, Portland Arts & Lectures

**Suggested Reading. . .**Books by Wally Lamb:

- *Wishin’ and Hopin’*
- *I’ll Fly Away*
- *I Know This Much Is True*
- *The Hour I First Believed*
- *Couldn’t Keep It to Myself*
- *She’s Come Undone*



## Murder Mystery Dinner #2

A Diabolical Dinner with Coleen and Brett Hellerman

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**Date:** May 12, 2012

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** 21 Golf Drive

**Hosts:** Coleen and Brett Hellerman

**Cost:** \$125

**Limit:** 14 people

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For those few survivors of Murder Mystery Dinner #1—as well as others with a taste for murder and mastication—we offer Murder Mystery Dinner #2. The basic format remains the same: exquisite fare, accompanied by the demise of one or two guests. Two weeks before the event, participants will receive a brief description of the characters they will play and details about period dress—but everyone will have to do some strenuous sleuthing to solve the mystery.

Coleen and Brett Hellerman look forward to hosting a dinner at which all the guests are suspects. Won't you join them?

### **Suggested Reading:**

- Any of the Goldy (the caterer) Schultz mysteries, Diane Mott Davidson
- Any of the Faith Fairchild — caterer, wife, traveller, and detective — mysteries, Katherine Hall Page
- *How To Solve a Murder: The Forensic Handbook*, Michael Kurland
- <http://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk/games/solve-the-murder.html>
- Anything by Agatha Christie, Conan Doyle, Ellery Queen, Rex Stout, Dorothy Sayers, Elizabeth George...need we go on?



# Tiptoe Through the Tulips

A Garden Luncheon with Mary Ann McGourty

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**Date:** May 19, 2012

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** The Alfredo Taylor Stable House,  
207 Litchfield Road

**Hosts:** Molly Ackerly and Michael Sconyers

**Cost:** \$35 per person

**Limit:** 15 people

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What better way to welcome Spring to the Norfolk hills than time spent with renowned garden expert, Mary Ann McGourty?! Join Mary Ann at Molly Ackerly and Michael Sconyer's charming garden and historic home for an enchanting, educational and tasty few hours of garden lore, practical plant recommendations, and a delicious lunch. A perfect beginning to the Summer Season for all garden lovers.

*"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies."*

— Gertrude Jekyll

## **Suggested Reading:**

- *Perennials—How To Select, Grow and Enjoy*, Fred McGourty
- *The Secret Garden*, Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *Gardening for Dummies*



## Drawing Connections

Dinner with Art Historian and Author Susan Galassi

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**Date:** June 2, 2012

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Corner House, 309 North Street

**Hosts:** Caroline and Dyck Andrus

**Cost:** \$125 per person

**Limit:** 12 people

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Among the many talented and accomplished residents of Norfolk, perhaps none is more graceful and quiet in her illustrious career than Susan Galassi, PhD, senior curator at the Frick Museum and Picasso expert. Susan will share the insights and research that resulted in her most recent book, *Picasso's Drawings 1890-1921: Reinventing Tradition*, published in conjunction with the exhibit she co-curated at the Frick that runs from October 4, 2011 to January 8, 2012. Go see the show to prepare and share your thoughts on this giant of 19th and 20th century art at this intimate dinner with Susan hosted by Caroline and Dyck Andrus.

*"The show focuses on this fundamental aspect of his work, specifically in relation to his drawings, where his interaction with artists of the past often first emerged."*

— Susan Galassi

*"Bad artists copy. Good artists steal."*

— Pablo Picasso

### **Suggested Reading:**

- *Picasso's Variations on the Masters: Confrontations with the Past*, Susan Galassi



## The Olympic Games—Ancient and Modern

A Dinner with Professor David Potter, Classicist and Sports Fan

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**Date:** July 14, 2012

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** 220 Mountain Road

**Hosts:** The Potters

**Cost:** \$125 per person

**Limit:** 8 people

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What could be more appropriate in this Olympic year than a conversation with Professor David Potter, of the University of Michigan's Department of Classical Studies, on the bizarre sporting events of the ancient world? Bull leaping, chariot racing, naked foot races—Professor Potter describes these and other ancient sports in his new book, *The Victor's Crown*. This author/editor of more than 10 books on the ancient worlds of Greece and Rome will share a deep knowledge and love of his subject over dinner at the Potter home on Mountain Road. This evening will be a fine way to get ready for the London games in August and to explore our deep connection to the past through the timeless games people play.

*"Citius, Altius, Fortius."*

— Olympic motto

*"The Olympics have been with the world since 776 B.C., and have only been interrupted by war, especially in the modern era."*

— Bill Toomey, 1968 Olympic decathlete

### **Suggested Reading:**

- *The Victor's Crown*, David Potter
- *The Amateurs: The Story of Four Young Men and Their Quest for an Olympic Gold*, David Halberstam
- *See Delphi and Die*, Lindsey Davis

# Our Thanks

The Norfolk Library is a 501(c)(3) organization that relies on the generous contributions of individuals, businesses, and organizations to fund its services and programs. Our heartfelt thanks to the following who contributed their time, talents, expertise, homes and/or financial support to make this major fundraising effort possible.

Our sincere gratitude to the fabulous literary luminaries who contributed their talent and expertise for this Season of Celebrations and Literary Encounters.

Our sincere gratitude to our generous hosts who are graciously opening their homes for these literary events.

Thank you to our extraordinary Literary Liaisons Committee who worked tirelessly to organize and manage these events:

Janet Gokay, Chair

Libby Borden	Sally Briggs
Robert Dance	Ann DeCerbo
Angela Engle	Betsy Gill
Anita Holmes	Robin Ketchum
Margaret O'Malley	Frankie Polidoro

# Special Thanks

Our thanks to **The National Iron Bank** for helping to underwrite the cost of this program and to **The Church of Christ Congregational** for opening its doors for two of our Literary Encounters.

Thanks also to the **Library Staff** and to the many **Volunteers** who worked to ensure the success of these events.

**MANY THANKS also to all our supporters who bought tickets to these Literary Encounters. We are grateful for their dedication to the Library.**

# For Your Records...

Event	When	Price	TDA*	# Tkts	Total \$
1. Great Mtn. Hike	Sat 9/10 11 a.m.	\$35	\$20		
2. Jonathan Dee Dinner	Sat 10/1 7 p.m.	\$125	\$75		
3. Radhika Jones Dinner	Sat 10/22 7 p.m.	\$125	\$75		
4. 84 Charing Cross Rd	Sat 11/5 3 p.m.	\$100 \$50	\$75 \$25		
5. Food for Thought	Sat 12/3 3 p.m.	\$35	\$25		
6. Duplicate Bridge	Sat 1/21 12 p.m.	\$50	\$20		
7. #1 Mystery Dinner	Sat 2/11 6:30 p.m.	\$125	\$25		
8. The Pounceys	Sat 4/14 6 p.m.	\$125	\$75		
9. Wally Lamb	Sat 4/28 4 p.m.	\$100 \$50	\$75 \$25		
10. #2 Mystery Dinner	Sat 5/12 6:30 p.m.	\$125	\$75		
11. Garden Talk	Sat 5/19 11 a.m.	\$35	\$25		
12. Susan Galassi Dinner	Sat 6/2 7 p.m.	\$125	\$75		
13. David Potter Dinner	Sat 7/14 7p.m.	\$125	\$75		

\*TDA = tax-deductible amount. This is the amount of your contribution to the Library, after subtracting the cost of goods/services received.



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