



## THE BOOKWORM

WINTER 2008

### Books Sandwiched In

Winter 2008

#### Friday, February 1

*Threads of the Silkworm* by Iris Chang. This is the story of the development of China's missile and space program by Tsien Hsue-shen. He was born in China in 1911, ...came to the United States during the 1930s, earned a Ph.D. at Caltech, and made major contributions to aeronautics, rocketry, and other fields. After applying for U.S. citizenship in the 1950s, ... he became an innocent target of the Red Scare and was deported. Tsien's incredible life is the story of one of the greatest blunders ever made by the U.S. government. (Library Journal). Reviewer is Hubert Wang, MD.

#### Friday, February 22

*The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin. The author deftly distills the issues and enlivens his narrative of the Court's internal wranglings with sharp thumbnail sketches ...and editorials... His savvy account puts the supposedly cloistered Court right in the thick of American life. (Publishers Weekly). Pauline (Polly) Leveen is the reviewer.

#### Friday, February 29

*The Marble Faun* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Our reviewer, Martha Horton, will provide an update on Hawthorne's final novel. a richly symbolic ambiguous symbolic romance... the story of a murder, and a parable of the Fall of Man . (amazon.com)

#### Friday, March 7

*The Crying of Lot 49* by Thomas Pynchon. The highly original satire about Oedipa Maas, a woman who finds herself enmeshed in a worldwide conspiracy, meets some extremely interesting characters, and attains a not inconsiderable amount of self knowledge. (amazon.com). Owen Frank is the reviewer.

NOTE: Books Sandwiched In will be canceled on days when schools are closed because of bad weather.

Reviews will begin at 12:10 in the Steele Memorial Library auditorium.  
Sandwich lunches are available for sale beginning at 11:45.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2008. The Friends are gearing up for our annual book sale, and movie and poetry festivals. Please join us for these events and support our programs.

The year 2008 will bring some new ideas to our programs. Watch for small and large changes in the Poetry Festival during our poetry month, April.

Suggestions for new programs are welcomed from all the membership. Please share your ideas with board members and get involved.

Best Wishes,  
Charles A. Paone  
President

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## THE 2007 KINDERBOOK PROGRAM

The purpose of the Kinderbook Program is to have parents of kindergarteners sign their children up for library cards, and to encourage visits by their children to public libraries to borrow books and attend programs for children. The 5<sup>th</sup> year of Kinderbook sign up was just completed and, as a result, more kindergarteners are in possession of their own library cards this year than ever before since the program began.

This year kindergartener parents were visited by Kinderbook Committee members at both kindergarten registration and orientation. As a result, 574 parents completed library card application forms for their children compared to 453 in 2006 when just orientation visits were made.

This year all elementary kindergartens in Elmira, Elmira Heights and Horseheads were encouraged to visit a public library for a field trip experience. Four of 13 schools were able to take advantage of this invitation. During the field trip kindergarteners who had not yet picked up their library cards were given their cards. In three schools where data are available, 157 kindergarteners received library cards this year compared to just 33 last year when there were no field trips. Over all, 382 kindergarteners have their own library cards this year compared to 213 last year.

Library card use by kindergarteners was tracked for the first time in 2006, and 1953 books were borrowed by 175 kindergarteners.

The Kinderbook Committee is pleased by the progress being made in library card acquisition and use by kindergarteners, and by the successful field trips made by 4 elementary school kindergartens in 2007.

Ralph Moore  
Kinderbook Committee

## MEMBERSHIP

As 2007 draws to a close, the Membership Committee is pleased to report that the Friends of the Library has 348 members, some new and many who have renewed their memberships. The Friends has received \$9415 in dues and contributions from its members. These donations are utilized by the Friends to support programming and help purchase materials for the libraries. Your participation as members of the Friends is greatly appreciated. We send you best wishes of the season and ask for your continued support in 2008.

Marie Finnerty  
Diane Wilbur  
Suzy Smith  
Membership Committee

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## READ OUT LOUD

*Read Out Loud* continues to meet each month. We have shared readings on the topics of Mysteries, Holidays and Young Adult Literature. Topics for the rest of the year will be established at the 1/9/2008 meeting at 6:30pm at the Steele Memorial library conference room.

Join us and enjoy the experience of reading out loud.

Charles Paone, Chair

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## WINTER FILM FESTIVAL

Join us on those cold winter Sundays in late January and February for the Friends of the Steele Memorial Library's Annual Winter Film Festival. Friend's board members (and friends of Friends board members) will introduce "My Favorite Movie" as part of this year's festival. Come join us at the Steele Memorial Library at 1:30 on January 27, February 3, 10, 17 and 24. Films will include "To Have and Have Not", "Hoosiers", and "Quigley Down Under", among others.

Renee Berry, Chair

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The Friends welcome Lynne Rusinko as a board member and our new Poetry Festival chair. Short biographies of two other new board members will follow in the next issue of the *Book worm*.

**Lynne Rusinko** – I am what is referred to as a “townie.” I was born and pursued my education in Elmira, eventually earning a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a Master of Science in Education at Elmira College. Over the course of twelve years, I first taught writing and worked in lecture programming and historic preservation full-time at Elmira College, and then instructed composition part-time at Corning Community College. From the time I began reading, I began writing and drawing, initially on my bedroom walls. Long before laptops, I spent hours detailing stories and poems on clipboard legal pads that I alphabetized and shelved. (Regional anthologies have published some of my more recent pieces.) I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to and help expand local literacy efforts, because I believe reading and writing are essential to dreaming, building and thriving. *I want to stand as close to the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge you see all the kinds of things you can't see from the center.* — Kurt Vonnegut

# *Poetry Festival Weekend!*

## March 29 & 30, 2008

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### Poetry Workshop Guest Writer: MaryJo Mahoney

March 29, 2008  
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Auditorium, Steele Memorial Library

As I attend to his dying body,  
there is something reeling in the space  
around his body, but I cannot see it.  
I am not saying: as his body dies,  
his spirit continues. I am not saying:  
as his body lives, his spirit stays fixed.

from "The Bottle/The Body"

Dr. MaryJo Mahoney is a visiting writer at Allegheny College in northwest Pennsylvania, on one-year leave from her position as Assistant Professor of English at Elmira College. Prior to her career in higher education, Dr. Mahoney worked as a nurse, an experience that feeds the intensity of her writing in works such as "The Bottle/The Body." Dr. Mahoney later earned her Master of Fine Arts degree from Sarah Lawrence and her doctorate from the University of Houston. As a professor of creative writing, she publishes poetry and creative nonfiction. Her work appears in *DoubleTake Magazine*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Tampa Review*, *Spinning Jenny*, *Drumvoices Revue*, *Seattle Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Paris Review*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Diner*, *Washington Square* and *Northwest Review*. Dr. Mahoney will preview one poem per poet before the Workshop. Please submit poems for review by March 15<sup>th</sup> to Lynne Rusinko, Poetry Festival Chairperson, at [lrusinko@stny.rr.com](mailto:lrusinko@stny.rr.com). We look forward to seeing you Festival Weekend!

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### Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony & Reading by MaryJo Mahoney

Reception to Follow

March 30, 2008

2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

at Rural Research Laboratories @ the Arnot Art Museum's Carriage House  
254 Baldwin Street, Elmira  
Free and open to the public.

# Poetry Festival Contest and Awards

MARCH 29 – 30, 2008

## CONTEST RULES

1. Poems 50 lines or less are eligible. Poems must be typed, double-spaced.
2. One entry per applicant is allowed.
3. Previously entered poems are not eligible.
4. Poems must be the original work of the entrant.
5. Poet's name should not be included on poem.  
On a 3 x 5 card, please write entrant's name, home address, grade, phone number, category and school when applicable.
6. Categories:
  - A. **Adult** (18 years old and over)
  - B. **High School Students**, grades 9 – 12
  - C. **Middle School Students**, grades 6 – 8
  - D. **Elementary School Students**, grades K – 5
  - E. **Ellen McTiernan Outstanding High School Poet Award**
    1. **Award** is open to high school students grades 11 & 12.
    2. Entrants are to submit a portfolio of five (5) poems.
    3. **Award** is judged separately from other categories.
    4. Students may enter both the **Ellen McTiernan Award** and regular **High School Student** (grades 9 – 12) categories.
    5. Some years there may not be a winner in this category.
  - \*\*F. **Ellen Tift Outstanding High School Poet Award**
    1. **Award** is open to high school students grades 9 & 10.
    2. Entrants are to submit a portfolio of three (3) poems.
    3. **Award** is judged separately from other categories.
    4. Students may enter both the **Ellen Tift Award** and regular **High School Student** (grades 9 – 12) categories.
    5. Some years there may not be a winner in this category.
7. Entrants should bring or send poems to the Steele Memorial Library, Main Branch, 101 East Church Street, Elmira, NY 14901.
8. **Monday, March 17, 2008, is the deadline for entries.**
9. Winning poems will be announced **Sunday, March 30, 2008, at Rural Research Laboratories @ the Arnot Art Museum's Carriage House, 254 Baldwin Street, Elmira.**
10. **No poems will be returned.**

\*\* New award

Visit <http://www.steele.lib.ny.us/friends.htm>

## **2008 Friends Annual Book Sale**

The Friends of the Steele Memorial Library will hold its annual book sale at the Arnot Mall over two weekends in February 2008: February 14-18<sup>th</sup> and February 21-23<sup>rd</sup>. The book sale provides money for the Friends to contribute to the main library and its branches for program development and the purchase of materials. Last year over \$19,000 was collected at the sale.

Help is needed for sale days, set up days, Tuesday and Wednesday February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and take down day, Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers usually sign up for two hour blocks of time and keep tables stocked with books, help customers find books, and collect money from the sale of books. There are always several people working and most report the experience is enjoyable.

Enclosed is a sign-up sheet for you to complete and return if you would like to volunteer. We are unable to confirm volunteer requests so please mark your calendar when you sign up.

The sale location has yet to be determined but it will be publicized in the Elmira Star Gazette Time Out section and What's Going On calendar at sale time in February. The location can also be found by going to the mall desk by the escalator.

We hope you will find time to volunteer for this important Friends event and we extend an early thank you to all participants.

Carol Eberhard  
Ralph Moore  
Co-Chairs



Just in case you have not joined the *FRIENDS* for 2007-2008, here is a membership form.

I would like to become/remain a **Friend of the Steele Memorial Library**.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

I can help on  Book Sale  Publicity  Newsletter  Other \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dickinson \$5    Austen \$10    Twain \$25    Joyce \$50    Dante \$75    Shakespeare \$100

Mr.

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Miss

Ms.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Steele Memorial Library, 101 East Church Street, Elmira, NY 14901. *Dues and contributions to the Friends are tax deductible.*

<http://www.steele.lib.ny.us/friends.htm>