



Arts In Action

www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org

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March/April 2017

Book Discussion



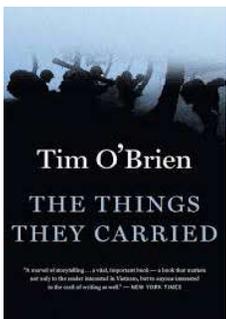
Please join us for a discussion of *Leo Africanus* by Amin Maalouf to be held in the Program Room of the Sturgis Public Library on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 7 PM. The author is a Lebanese writer, once editor in chief of *Jeune Afrique*. The discussion leader is SD Humanities Council scholar Candy Hamilton.

From the book's first page: "My wrists have experienced in turn the caresses of silk, the abuses of wool, the gold of princes and the chains of slaves. My fingers have parted a thousand veils, my lips have made a thousand virgins blush, and my eyes have seen cities die and empires perish."

From *Library Journal*: Written in the form of a memoir, this historical novel explores the meeting of two worlds, Islam and Christendom, through the adventures of real-life Arab traveler and geographer Hassan al-Wazzan. Born in Spain just as the Moors were expelled in 1492, Hassan grows up in North Africa and as a young man crosses the Sahara to Timbuctu, eventually reaching Cairo on the eve of its conquest by the Ottomans. In the last of his sojourns... Hassan arrives in the Rome of Pope Leo X, who christens him *Leo Africanus*. Chronicling the loves and adventures of his wandering protagonist, the author deftly weaves into Hassan's account a score of the traveler's more famous contemporaries, including Columbus, the Medicis, Martin Luther, and Suleiman the Magnificent. Enjoyable reading for general readers.

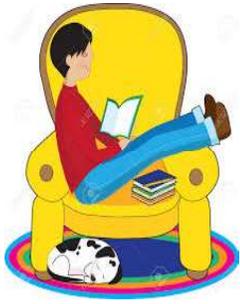
Our moderator: With a bachelor's degree from Auburn University in English (journalism and sociology minors) and her master's degree from USD in English with a creative writing thesis, Candy Hamilton is a retired journalist and teacher, who lived on the Pine Ridge Reservation for most of her adult life. She has worked in addiction prevention and treatment and continues to work as an artist in schools and communities in addition to her work as a SD Humanities scholar. Her writing has been published in a number of literary magazines and won her national awards. She lives in Rapid City with three rescued dogs, a cat, and a ridiculous number of books.

This program is made possible with a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Sturgis Area Arts Council and the Sturgis Public Library are co-sponsors. The books are available at the library now for you to borrow. Refreshments will be served.



The Sturgis Area Arts Council and the Sturgis Public Library have applied for a NEA Big Read grant. This group selected a novel titled "*The Things They Carried*", by Tim O'Brien, whose own tour of duty in Vietnam served as the inspiration for the book.

At this time, we are projecting a need for \$7000 to match a grant of the same amount from the NEA. We would appreciate donations of any amount, which may be mailed to PO Box 901, or emailed through the web site, www.sturgisbigread.com. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so all donations are tax deductible. We would be honored to count you among those helping to better understand and serve our veteran community. Please see the website for all the details.



Armchair Travelers Book Club

On March 2, at noon in the Library's Lushbough Room, the Armchair Travelers will discuss books set in or by

authors of the Deep South. We are limiting this to Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The librarians will display a collection of books that qualify, but each reader is free to choose his own read.

April 6, same time, same place, finds the group traveling to California. Books by authors from the state or set there qualify. Have fun deciding on which book to tell the group about.

This is an open book club for anyone who likes to read and share. Come to see what it's about even if you haven't read on the topic of the month. It's fun and a good way to meet fellow readers.



History at High Noon

History at High Noon got off to rousing start in January with Randy Bender's program on the CCC Camp Fechner and the German War Prisoners. It was a full house - thank you to both our faithful old as well as our new audiencs!.

Dave Super will be the program presenter on Friday, March 17. His program will be on the history of the Sturgis City Auditorium / Sturgis Armory. Dave is formerly from Sturgis and is a retired editor and reporter for the Rapid City Guide. We are all glad to have him back in the Black Hills.

Susan Writer and Mary Wood Fossen will share memories of the Wood family on Friday, April 21. Once again, we will have an important contribution to the history of Sturgis. We LOVE those family histories.

History at High Noon meets on the third Friday of the month at noon in the program room in the Sturgis Public Library, January through May and in October and November. We are always interested in a family history, a good story, histories of our smaller communities in the country and also places, events and organizations. We appreciate your faithful support and ideas. The committee members are Diana Hayes, Rosalee Johnson, Bonnie Lange and Dode Lee. The coffee pot is always on thanks to the library. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you and enjoy it while you listen to our interesting programs.

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Easter Cantata - "Forsaken"



The Sturgis Area Cantata Choir will present its 2017 Easter Cantata, "Forsaken", on Palm Sunday, April 9th and Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00pm each evening at the Grace Lutheran Church, which is located at 1061 Sherman Street in Sturgis. The cantata features music by Mark Hayes, lyrics by John Parker, and narration by Audra Parker. The choir is conducted by Marlene Kotab.

The powerful cantata focuses on the events of Holy Week, but goes beyond what most worshipers know about Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem amid shouts of "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Or when four days later He prayed with His disciples in the garden of Gethsemane and Judas betrayed Him with a kiss. Forsaken reflects on what happened on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this eventful week in Christ's life. Through narration and song, it allows both singers and audience to fully understand the events of Christ's last week on earth and helps look forward to Easter.

Please don't miss this powerful production sung by over 60 local singers from across the Black Hills area. Admission is free, but donations are happily accepted to help defray concert expenses.

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Sturgis Area Arts Council's Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 2.

Armchair Travelers Book Club
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Thursday, March 9

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting
Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

Friday, March 17

History at High Noon
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Thursday, March 23

Book Discussion of "Leo Africanus"
Sturgis Public Library, 7:00pm

Thursday, April 6

Armchair Travelers Book Club
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Saturday, April 8

Quilt Show "Bed Turning"
Sturgis Public Library, 2:00pm

Sunday, April 9

Easter Cantata ~ "Forsaken"
Grace Lutheran Church, 7:00pm

Tuesday, April 11

Easter Cantata ~ "Forsaken"
Grace Lutheran Church, 7:00pm

Thursday, April 13

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting
Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

Friday, April 21

History at High Noon
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Sunday, April 30 & Monday, May 1

Auditions for "The Drowsy Chaperone"
Grace Lutheran Church, 6:00-8:00pm

Green Thumb Gala Time to Think Spring!



The Sturgis Public Library is already planning our annual "Green Thumb Gala" Fundraiser. We're asking

people to donate a plant in a decorated or creative pot (if you'd like- we are always amazed at how talented our community is!) or anything garden related to the Sturgis Public Library by May 8th to be part of this year's event.

The plants will be on display in a silent auction held the week of May 8th – 12th. The bidding will end at 4:30 pm on Friday, May 12. If you have the winning bid on a plant, you may pick up your prize and enjoy refreshments from 4:00-5:00pm that day. Make sure to check back often if you put in a bid, because if someone raises it, you'll then have to give up that specific plant or put in a higher bid! It's a fun and friendly competition, with all proceeds going to help out the library.

2017 SAAC Quilt Show Reception and Program

March and April will be a riot of color and design in the Sturgis Public Library, when the Sturgis area quilters once again display their quilts. This popular exhibit will be on display for two months this year, giving even more opportunity for people to view the show and vote for their favorite quilt in the Viewer's Choice award, sponsored by the Sturgis Area Arts Council.



The special program this year will be a bed turning on Saturday, April 8, at 2:00pm. People are invited to bring a quilt which is special to them. The quilt does not have to be made by the person who brings it. Quilts are stacked on "the bed," and the owner will tell a bit of the story behind the quilt as the quilts are removed.

Everyone is invited to join the fun in hearing these stories. Refreshments will be served by the Sturgis Area Arts Council.



Sturgis Area Arts Council is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a grant award from the Shopko Foundation in the amount of \$250. Thanks to the ShopKo Foundation for their generous gift! These funds will go toward the cost of scholarships for Meade 46-1 students in grades four through six, who were nominated by their teachers to attend the South Dakota Music Educators Regional Music Festival on March 6 in Sturgis. These students will participate with other students from the region in a day-long workshop with a professional guest conductor. The day will culminate in an afternoon concert.



.....
As well, we'd like to give a big THANKS to the Sturgis Rally Charities for their gift of \$500.

We plan to use these funds from Sturgis Rally Charities to replace broken pavers and clean up the landscaping at the "Kinship" statue, which is located at the front of the Sturgis Community Center.

We couldn't do what we do without help from all and we're grateful for all the support this community sends our way. Thank You!!

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Local artist sees designs become apparel

Sturgis artist Bill Cissell can now sell you one of his photoshop art designs and you can wear it.

Cissell started sending his art to shopvida (<https://www.shopvida.com>) just before Christmas last year, and so isn't disappointed that he has yet to see his first order.

"Everybody is shopped out and the items are hand-made so orders can take up to two months", Cissell said.

The former newspaper editor said that while he took a lot of photos in his job and started out 40 years ago wanting to be just a photographer, he quickly learned that staying with local newspapers meant he had to do a little bit of everything.

"When I was put on medical retirement from the local papers, I didn't look back. I still miss it but this is a whole new aspect of photography for me", he said.

He said he hadn't done a lot of research on the company that, on their website, claim to be working with 45,000 artist around the world. "45,001", Cissell added.

The local artist has been showing his work at art and craft fairs around the Black Hill for eight years and in 2015 had a small show of nine pieces in the Bruce H. Lien Cultural Café of the Dahl in Rapid City.

"I invited Dale Lamphere. He had just been named as the South Dakota Artist Laureate. He pointed out a couple of pieces he liked. Many of those in the show took up the entire canvas and he liked those that didn't. I took that as a hint and really have gone from there," Cissell said.

He did note that the items at shopvida, 19 in all, are not inexpensive. "But, you will be getting a hand-stitched item and probably one of a kind. I really want to hear from people after they receive their order", Cissell added.

He noted that, until he reaches a certain amount in sales, he is also in charge of advertising his work.

This isn't the first time his art appeared on apparel. "My then-girlfriend bought me several dozen t-shirts with about a half-dozen of my pieces printed on them. This time, except for a couple items, my art IS the fabric", he said.

You can reach the artist at crazymountaincowboy@outlook.com or 605-499-8393.

To see how his art translates into clothing and other fun things, go to www.shopvida.com and type Bill Cissell into the Search bar.



"Flight"
by Bill Cissell

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Auditions for our summer musical

Auditions for the musical “The Drowsy Chaperone” will be Sunday, April 30, and Monday, May 1, from 6:00-8:00p.m each evening at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 1061 Sherman St. in Sturgis.

Performances will be Friday, June 16th at 7:00pm - Saturday, June 17th at 7:00pm - Sunday June 18th at 2:00pm - and Monday, June 19th at 7:00pm. Please check your calendar to insure that you don’t have conflicts with any of these days before auditioning

Cast requirements: All cast members must be high school age and older.

Choreographer and Director are Bridgett Hill and Stephen Farruggia

“The Drowsy Chaperone” is a parody of the American musical comedy of the 1920s. This “Perfect Broadway Musical,” pokes fun at all the musical theater genre. The story is told by a middle-aged, musical theater fan as he plays his favorite (fictional) musical record (The Drowsy Chaperone). As he shares the recording with the audience, the show comes to life onstage. This outrageous comedy has the fan entering and exiting the play-within-the-play as he comments on the music, story, and actors.

Hilarious characters include two lovers on the eve of their wedding, a bumbling best man, a desperate theater producer, a not-so-bright hostess, two gangsters posing as pastry chefs, a misguided Don Juan and an intoxicated chaperone – all ingredients for an evening of madcap delight. The narrator’s personal life is revealed throughout his musings about the show, until, as the record ends, he is once again alone in his apartment. The audience will still be laughing as they exit the theater.

MALE ROLES

Man In Chair -narrates the show as he listens to the record on vinyl. Male (40+)

Underling – the savvy butler who is thrifty and stiff yet has an understated dry sense of humor.

Robert Martin - the dashing, rollerskating, ever-cheerful groom; played by matinee-idol Percy Hyman.

George - Robert’s anxious, dim-witted best man who has Robert’s best-interest always at heart.

Feldzieg – Insensitive and overbearing Broadway producer who is desperate for his star to return; played by Jack Adler. (30+)

Gangsters - Posing as pastry chefs, this duo is intending to collect from Feldzieg; played by the vaudeville duo Tall Brothers. Need great comic timing.

Aldolpho - European self-proclaimed “ladies man”; played by former silent movie star Roman Bartelli.

FEMALE ROLES

Mrs. Tottendale - The confused, air-headed, proper, and bossy host of the wedding. Female (50 +)

Kitty - Feldzieg’s dim-witted companion who has hopes of being a star; played by Sadie Adler.

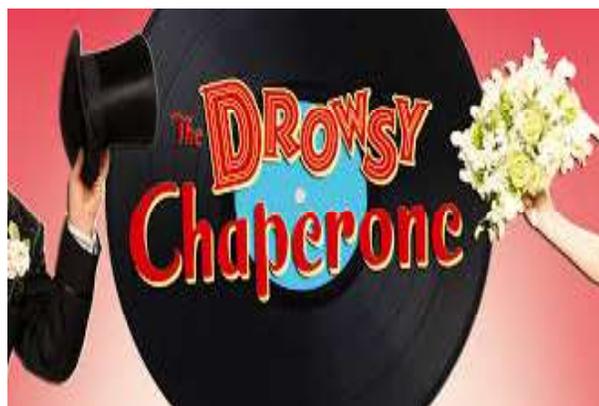
Janet Van De Graaf - The famous bride. Glamorous and talented star of Feldzieg’s Follies; played by rising star Jane Roberts. Requires a big, belting voice.

The Drowsy Chaperone - Janet’s alcoholic confidante and friend; played by well-established stage actress Beatrice Stockwell. Extremely comedic role. (40+)

Trix - The sassy, brave, and brash female aviator who, by chance, is recruited to perform the wedding.

Ensemble – all voices

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Find us in all of these other places as well

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We post this newsletter on our site, just in case you lose this one and need to take another look!

You can also "like" us on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/Sturgis-Area-Arts-Council

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