2015 Book Expo America

Last week New York City was the place to be for book lovers. From Wednesday, May 27 – Friday May 29 the Jacob Javits Center hosted BookExpo America (BEA). Along with two of my librarian colleagues, I was able to attend on Friday May 29, 2015.

As we walked the floor of the Javits Center we were overwhelmed by the amount of publishers and authors. It’s like being a kid in a candy store!

The following are the books that attendees were most excited about and what book clubs may be reading in the near future.

- Purity by Jonathan Franzen
- City on Fire by Garth Risk Hallberg
- Home is Burning by Dan Marshall
- Circling the Sun by Paula McLain
- The Truth According to Us by Annie Barrows

Next year Book Expo America will be moving to Chicago. Hopefully, they will be bringing it back to New York so that we may be able to attend a wonderful book filled day soon.

– Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian

Presidential Pardon

We may hate to admit it, but the majority of us have, at some point, returned library books past the due date. Even librarians have been guilty of being in possession of overdue library materials. Fear not, we are in fact, in good company. Its seems that the founding father of the United States, our very first President, George Washington is the record holder for the most overdue library book. Five months into his presidency, September 1789, Washington borrowed the legal manifesto, Law of Nations: Principles of the Law of Nature; or Applied to the Conduct and Affairs of Nations and Sovereigns by Monsieur De Vattel from the New York Society Library in New York City. For the next 221 years the book lay forgotten amongst other belongings at Washington’s Mount Vernon home in Virginia. Library officials at the New York Society were aware of the lost book but were not holding out much hope. Miraculously, in 2010 the book was found and the staff at Mount Vernon returned the book to the New York Society Library. George Washington’s late fee of $300,000 was waived by the NYSL. Now, that’s a lot of dollars….

– Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian
The 2015 Pulitzer Prize winners were announced in April by the president of Columbia University on the recommendation of the Board. The Pulitzer Prize recognizes distinguished works in Journalism, Letters, Drama, and Music. Here are the 2015 award winners that your book club might consider for a future discussion:

**FICTION:**
*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan-turned-Resistance tracker struggle with their respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast.

**HISTORY:**
*Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People* by Elizabeth A. Fenn
Draws on important new discoveries in a range of disciplines to chronicle the history of the Mandan Native Americans while sharing revisionist perspectives about their thriving commercial and agricultural practices before European diseases decimated their culture.

**BIOGRAPHY:**
*The Pope and Mussolini: The Secret History of Pius XI and the Rise of Fascism in Europe* by David I. Kertzer
Analyzes the relationship between Pius XI and the notorious Italian dictator, tracing how after coming into power in the same year they forged covert ties to one another to consolidate power and pursue political goals.

**GENERAL NONFICTION:**
*The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert
Draws on the work of geologists, botanists, marine biologists, and other researchers to discuss the five devastating mass extinctions on Earth and predicts the coming of a sixth.

For a complete listing of current and past Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists, see the official website: http://www.pulitzer.org

-Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

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**The 2015 Adult Summer Reading Club...** is underway. Don’t forget to sign up* at the Readers’ Service Desk the next time you are in the library. The program is simple and stress-free, just the way summer should be! Enjoy and expand reading interests through book discussions, special events and more!

Submit titles of any book you start reading after June 2 and finish by August 8. For each title you submit, you will have a chance to win raffle prizes in our weekly drawing and at the Summer Reading Wrap-Up Party on August 12.

*In person registration is required to participate.

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Need a great summer read? Look no further than the “Beach Reads” book display found on the main floor of the Library. The display will be there throughout the summer months, so make sure to give it a look whenever you visit the library.