

# Reading EDGE

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## NEWPORT READS ZORRO!

“Swashbuckling.” “Romantic.” “Heroic.” These are some of the words used to describe the myth of Zorro in American culture. Using Isabel Allende’s novel, *Zorro*, as a starting point, the Newport Library Foundation brings discussion of this popular legend to Newport with its second annual community reading program, NEWPORT READS ZORRO!

The first event is a kickoff at the Performing Arts Center on March 1<sup>st</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. It includes bilingual readings from Allende’s *Zorro*, Mexican cuisine, and entertainment by Grupo Quetzalcoatl, local Mexican dancers. Local booksellers will sell copies of the book, and the Library Foundation will give out ‘Z’ buttons.

In anticipation of an increased demand for ‘all things Zorro’ the Newport Library purchased a variety of books, graphic novels, and movies about Zorro.

Book clubs are encouraged to select Zorro as their March or April book and come to the events. Two programs will be held in April during National Library Week. On April 19, at 7 p.m. in Newport High School’s Boone Media Center/Library, a panel of scholars will lead a discussion on the history, myth, and conflicts in the novel. The final event is a costume party and silent movie, *The Mark of Zorro*, starring Douglas Fairbanks, held April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Atonement Lutheran Church.

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds OCH’s grant program.



*Carmen Lara & Mariano Melo*

## JUVENILE DETENTION

Every week, Newport Public Library’s Youth Services Coordinator Jennifer Haggerty visits teens at the Lincoln County Juvenile Detention Facility. She interviews them about their reading preferences, then selects books and magazines from the library to bring to them.

Part of the library’s mission is to foster appreciation for reading and learning in young people. According to Haggerty, these particular youth do not tend to think of books as a source of pleasure or positive information. “Often they tell me that they don’t like books, that they don’t read,” says Haggerty. “But I have never met a kid who doesn’t read something.”

Haggerty talks with the young adults to determine their reading tastes. If they can’t name any books they like, she asks them about their tastes in movies and music, and whether or not they enjoy comics, computer games, or magazines. Finding this out is the key to the program, says Haggerty. “Maybe they haven’t done well in school; they think reading is work.” The library’s goal is to introduce them to the idea of reading as a positive, pleasurable activity.

Since the ages and reading levels of the inmates vary widely, Haggerty chooses a wide variety of materials to offer them. “There’s really not one favorite thing,” she says. She brings them everything from comics to novels, magazines to poetry collections, and all sorts of nonfiction books. “Usually I will find out that they have an interest in reading something,” says Haggerty.

“Detention is really boring,” said Diane Hawks, the Juvenile Detention Facility supervisor. “The library program has taken lots of kids who didn’t like to read and turned them into readers. The kids look forward to it,” she added. “It really has been the most incredibly helpful thing.”

## HONOR WITH BOOKS

The following people have been honored with books: Mary Eunice Jackson, Wilbur Charles Elam, Curt Fewkes, Cindy McConnell, Larry Henson, Richard Kilbride, Fred Fisher, Bea Ferris, Marguerite Belleville, Carmen Pages de Lord and Melvin Smith Lord.

## BRIDGES TO LITERACY UPDATE

*Bridges to Literacy*, Newport Library Foundation's five year project to build literacy opportunities for Newport students, will sponsor two more programs supporting this school year's science and math theme.

In late February, OMSI On Tour will visit all four Newport schools with their *Altered States* assembly. With its focus on physical science and chemistry, this program promises lots of snap, crackle, and BOOM, as matter changes from one state to another.

Young adult author Tamora Pierce comes to Newport on April 6. Author of *Alanna: the First Adventure* and over 20 other titles, Pierce will speak at Newport Middle School, Newport High School, and at an after school program in the Library's McEntee Meeting Room.

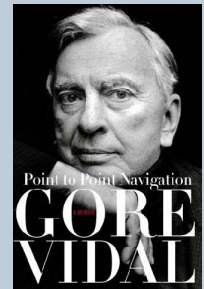
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ♦ February 10, 2:00 p.m.  
Poets Ralph Salisbury and Ingrid Wendt
- ♦ February 15, 7:00 p.m.  
Myth Busters - Third Thursday Teen Program
- ♦ February 19  
Closed for Presidents' Day
- ♦ February 21, 5:15 p.m.  
Library Foundation Meeting
- ♦ March 1, 5:00 p.m.  
NEWPORT READS *ZORRO!* Kickoff at the PAC
- ♦ March 21, 5:15 p.m.  
Library Board Meeting
- ♦ March 15, 7:00 p.m.  
Movie Night - Third Thursday Teen Program
- ♦ April 6, 4:00 p.m.  
Author Tamora Pierce in McEntee Meeting Room
- ♦ April 18, 5:15 p.m.  
Library Foundation Meeting
- ♦ April 19, 7:00 p.m.  
Poetry Night - Third Thursday Teen Program
- ♦ April 19, 7:00 p.m.  
NEWPORT READS *ZORRO!* Panel Discussion  
Boone Media Center, Newport High School

## Book Reviews

*Point To Point Navigation: A Memoir, 1964 to 2006*, by Gore Vidal. Early in this second volume of memoirs, the 82 year old Vidal remarks that he has witnessed one third of American history.

And in his scores of novels, plays, films, essays and appearances, he has certainly commented on more than that. Taking up roughly where volume one, *Palimpsest*, left off, this is a short look back at a long and fascinating life.



An astute social and political observer, Vidal focuses his steely gaze on everything from the state of American literary life to gay marriage, from the Founding Fathers to the Appalachian Mob Conference and its link to the assassination of JFK. The Vidal family has been at or near the center of America's political and intellectual scene, and he describes it all with his deliciously barbed wit. Of his mother's fondness for drink, he notes that during her life "she drank the equivalent of the Chesapeake Bay in vodka."

Vidal never shies away from a saucy anecdote, yet somehow, his gossip is different; it informs and entertains, as when he describes the US Marine Corps' planned coup attempt against Franklin Roosevelt or the exploding corpse of Pope Pius XII.

A long train of great Americans say their goodbyes in these pages, including Howard Austen, Vidal's partner of almost fifty years, and the accumulated loss to American life is surprising and sobering. While a pleasure to read, *Point To Point Navigation* feels like the work of man saying goodbye.

- Jeff Ingram

- ♦ April 21, 6:30 p.m.  
Zorro Silent Movie and Costume Party  
Atonement Lutheran Church
- ♦ Ongoing: bilingual preschool and toddler storytimes,  
Internet classes and Reading Circle

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