

Let's Talk Books!
Haskett Branch Library
July 2017

Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center presents
Deconstructing Liberty: A Destiny Manifested
The Exhibition is from August 5-October 15, 2017.

Deconstructing Liberty: A Destiny Manifested is part of Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, a far-reaching and ambitious exploration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles. Through performance, installation, video, and photography, these artists question ideas traditionally associated with American liberty as they resonate in forms of collective identity across the globe. Curated by Marisa Caichiolo and featuring art created by 14 artists from 8 Latin American countries.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$6 for ages 4–12, and free for children 3 and under. Tickets are available for purchase at the Muzeo, located at 241 South Anaheim Blvd or on-line at www.muzeo.org. Museum hours are 10am-5pm, Tuesday through Sunday. For private rentals, group sales or membership information, call 714-956-8936 or visit www.muzeo.org

Mark your calendars for the **Art Crawl Experience** on August 19th, 6 pm to 10 pm at the Center Street Promenade.

This is the month that we will all read a book (fiction) about Summer Mysteries.

Join us at our next meeting for cookies, coffee and conversation on
August 8, 2017 at 1:00 at the Haskett Library.

John Simon reported on 3 books.

Deliver Us from Evil (3) by David Baldacci follows Evan Waller who has built a fortune from his willingness to buy and sell anything and anyone. In search of new opportunities, Waller has just begun a new business venture: one that could lead to millions of deaths all over the globe. On his trail is Shaw, the mysterious operative from *The Whole Truth*, who has tracked Waller to Provence and must prevent him from closing his latest deal. But someone else is pursuing Waller. Reggie Champion, an agent for a secret vigilante group headquartered in a musty old English estate and she has an agenda of her own. Hunting the same man and unaware of each other's mission, Shaw and Reggie will be caught in a deadly duel of nerves and wits

Victory and Honor (3) by W.E.B. Griffin is the 6th book in the *Honor Bound* series. In May 1945, just weeks after Hitler's suicide, Cletus Frade and his colleagues in the Office of Strategic Services are fighting several battles. The first is political, with every federal department from Treasury (Secret Service) to the FBI trying to grab OSS agents and assets. The second is military with the OSS having smuggled Germans into Argentina for years because of their knowledge of Soviet KGB agents in America's atomic bomb program. The third concerns what might be the next world war against Joe Stalin and his voracious ambitions. To get an early advantage, Frade has been conducting a secret and daring operation against the Communists. But to do it undetected, he and his men must walk a perilously dark line because all it takes is one slip and everyone becomes a casualty of war.

The Scarecrow (2.5) by Michael Connelly is the story of newspaperman Jack McEvoy who is being forced out of the *Los Angeles Times* amid the latest budget cuts. He decides to go out with a bang, using his

final days at the paper to write the definitive murder story of his career. He focuses on Alonzo Winslow, a sixteen-year-old drug dealer in jail after confessing to a brutal murder. But as he delves into the story, Jack realizes that Winslow's so-called confession is bogus. The kid might actually be innocent. Jack is soon running with his biggest story since *The Poet* made his career years ago. He is tracking a killer who operates completely below police radar—and with perfect knowledge of any move against him, including Jack's.

Betty Hesse reported on 2 books.

The Nightingale (4) by Kristen Hanna tells the story of two French sisters, one in Paris and one in the countryside during WWII. Each is crippled by the death of their beloved mother and the abandonment of their father; each plays a part in the French underground; each finds a way to love and forgive. The story captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen, the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France. The book is narrated by one of the sisters in the present, though you really don't know until the very end which sister it is.

Lilac Girls (4) by Martha Hall Kelly is the story of three women whose lives are set on a collision course. New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate, but her world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939 and then sets its sights on France. Meanwhile, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences. For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

Rosemary Odermatt reported on 2 books.

Orphan Train (4.5) by Christina Baker Kline is an unforgettable story of friendship and second chances that highlights a little-known but historically significant movement in America's past. Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by pure luck. As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was one such child, sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to "aging out" out of the foster care system. A community service position helping Vivian clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse. As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life—answers that will ultimately free them both.

Orphan Train Girl (4.5) by Christina Baker Kline is a young readers' edition of *Orphan Train* Adapted and condensed for a young audience, *Orphan Train Girl* includes an author's note and archival photos from the orphan train era. This book is especially perfect for mother/daughter reading groups.

Dorothy Egin reported on 1 book.

The Grapes of Wrath (5) by John Steinbeck is a Pulitzer Prize winning story of the Great Depression that chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. It is a

story of the hard realities of an America divided into haves and have-nots. It tells of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes the very nature of equality and justice in America.

Mary Nuttelman reported on 3 books.

The Body Snatchers Affair (4) by Marcia Muller is the latest in the Carpenter and Quincannon historical mystery series. Two missing bodies and two separate investigations take Carpenter and Quincannon from the heights above San Francisco Bay to the depths of Chinatown's opium dens. For John Quincannon, this is a first: searching a Chinatown opium den for his client's husband, missing in the middle of a brewing tong war set to ignite over the stolen corpse of Bing Ah Kee. Meanwhile, his partner, Sabina Carpenter, unsure of the dark secrets her suitor might be concealing, searches for the corpse of a millionaire, stolen from a sealed family crypt and currently being held for ransom. With the threat of a tong war hanging over the city (a war perhaps being spurred on by corrupt officials), Carpenter and Quincannon have no time to lose in solving their cases. Is there a connection between the two body snatchers? Or is simple greed the answer to this one?

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie (2.5) by Rita Mae Brown is a foxhunting mystery, featuring "Sister" Jane Arnold and the antics of her four-legged friends. Sister Jane and the Jefferson Hunt Club have traveled from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains to the Bluegrass State of Kentucky to ride with the members of the Woodford Hounds in the teeth of foul weather. After the hunt, Sister Jane and her boyfriend, Gray Lorillard, head to a party on a nearby estate which is also home to a historic equine graveyard. The revelry is interrupted by the discovery of grisly remains in the cemetery that are decidedly not equine. Now Sister and her hounds are on the case, digging up clues to an old murder that links three well-connected Southern families.

Die Again (4) by Tess Gerritsen has Boston homicide detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles summoned to a crime scene. They find a killing worthy of the most ferocious beast, right down to the claw marks on the corpse. But only the most sinister human hands could have left renowned big-game hunter and taxidermist Leon Gott gruesomely displayed like the once-proud animals whose heads adorn his walls. Maura fears that this isn't the killer's first slaughter, and that it won't be the last.

Sally Nuttelman reported on 2 books.

George, Nicholas and Wilhelm (4) by Miranda Carter is the story of three royal cousins of England, Russia and Germany and the road to World War I. It takes the author over 400 pages to detail the events plus give detailed descriptions of the leaders of the three countries. For England's part, she spends ¾ of her writing discussing King Edward's role until his death puts the country's fate in the hands of his brother George, who takes up the last few chapters. England and King George did not want war; Russia and Czar Nicholas did not want war – he was much too occupied with unrest among his own people; Wilhelm did not want war but his army most certainly did – it had become huge and very restless. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and his wife Sophia in Sarajevo, Serbia caused Germany's army to clamor for revenge in support of Austria and to put Serbia back in its place. Russia felt obligated to support Serbia. England stayed out until the last possible moment, when France called for help against the invasion of the German army which had overrun Belgium and Luxemburg. The end result was the murder of the Czar and his family in Eastern Russia where they had fled to avoid the uprising of the Russian people. Wilhelm abandoned his people and fled to Holland where he raised flowers and died in 1941. King George of England died beloved of

his people in 1936. The book was well written and very detailed regarding clothes, manners and attitudes of the era.

Earthly Remains (3) by Donna Leon continues Commissario Guido Brunetti's pursuit of truth and justice. He decides to take a 2 week vacation at the villa of a relative on a neighboring island in Venice. The first five days are spent rowing on the lake with an elderly neighbor. This takes up the first half of the book and is very boring. Suddenly, there is an overnight storm and the neighbor is found dead in his boat the next morning. Obviously a victim of the storm, but is he? Events now move rapidly with many complications.