WRL Newsletter November 2010

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Bestselling author Elizabeth Strout will read from her work on Thursday, Dec. 2, at 8 p.m. in the Wetherill Visual Arts Center Auditorium. A reception will follow.

There will also be a Craft Q&A Friday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m.—12 noon in the Hollins Room of the Wyndham Robertson Library.

Elizabeth Strout spent nearly seven years writing her first novel while juggling family obligations and her teaching career. The result, Amy and Isabelle, was published in 1998 to wide acclaim and went on to become a New York Times bestseller.

See continuation on pg. 2 for rest of “Strout Reading”

If you’ve ever spent a late night at the library, you’ve probably come across Cheryl at the reference desk. Cheryl began working as a reference assistant in the library in September. She graduated from the University of North Texas in 2001 with an M.S. degree in library science. She has been working in public libraries for 15 years. Her first experience working in a library was in 1992 as a student worker in college, and she has been in libraries ever since.

Q: What is the most interesting question you’ve been asked at the reference desk? (See continuation on pg. 2)
The Amish and Us
Sun. Dec. 5, 2:00 pm. Introduced by Prof. Jon Bohland.

Last year 4.5 million tourists visited Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to observe the Amish way of life. The money these visitors spend on quilts, lawn ornaments, wooden toys, baked goods and other Amish-made products is a boon to Amish families that can no longer make a living on farming alone. At the same time, the revenue brought by the tourist trade and the constant contact with outsiders threatens to erode the traditional values that are the foundation of the Amish way of life; community decision making, simple living and quiet non-conformity.

_The Amish and Us_ is an engaging and witty one-hour documentary examining this threat and other pressures on the Amish community in Lancaster County.

To find out more about the “Now at the Library” series, contact librarian Maryke Barber at 362-6328 or mbarber@hollins.edu.

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A: Well, the funniest was from a patron who sent me a cartoon picture and asked me “What kind of bird is this?” *

Q: What is your favorite thing about working here at Hollins?

A: Probably people who actually come in to use the library! But I really like the Horizon students — they’re fun. I like you guys, too, of course! But I feel more useful to them because it’s been 15 years since they’ve taken a test. I love that they came back. I admire that... and they come in at these weird hours!

Q: What do you like to read?

A: I like to read fiction fluff. I read one fiction and one non-fiction at a time. Right now, I’m reading _The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake_ by Aimee Bender and _The Power of Kindness: The Unexpected Benefits of Leading a Compassionate Life_ by Piero Ferrucci. It takes me longer to read the non-fiction because there’s so much more to absorb... you have to pay more attention.

*Editor’s note: all reference questions are confidential. Occasionally librarians will share topics they’ve been asked about at reference for training purposes. This example is shared with permission from the patron.

The cartoon, from Markus Zusak’s bestselling _The Book Thief_, shows a character who draws himself as a bird. After consulting a bird encyclopedia and comparing many species, client and librarian came to a consensus: it’s a dove....we think. Just another night at the reference desk!

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Six years later she published _Abide with Me_, which was a national bestseller. In 2009, her third book, _Olive Kitteridge_, a novel in stories, won the Pulitzer Prize, was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and also became a bestseller.

Beanstalk Readings are brought to you by the Beanstalk Fund, a joint venture of the Creative Writing Program and the Wyndham Robertson Library to bring writers and readers together at Hollins University.

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**Free snacks and coffee will also be available in the evenings during exam week.**

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