

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 14: NUMBER 4..... JULY-AUGUST 2019

One of the Classics

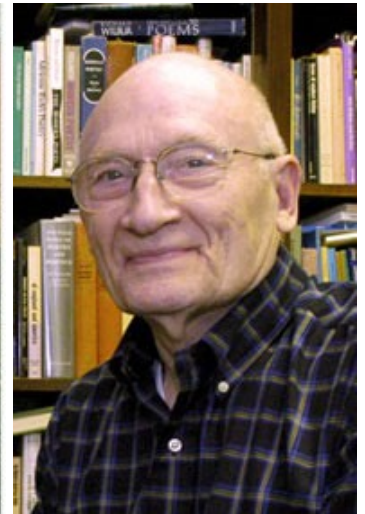
Many have read in their younger days the adventurous tales of Jack London about struggles for life in Alaska and sailing the Pacific Ocean, tales presented in such novels as *Call of the Wild*, *The Sea-Wolf*, and *White Fang* or perhaps in one of his harrowing short stories like “To Build a Fire” or “The Heathen.” But these bold adventures are merely shadows of the wild life that London himself experienced. That daring but short life is fully described in the biography by Earle Labor that was recently added to the Library’s collection.

Featured this Month

Jack London: *An American Life* by Earle Labor

London’s extraordinary life began at birth. He was born in San Francisco in January 1876 to a spiritualist mother, probably unwed, and sustained by an African American wet nurse. He never knew for certain his father. As a child in grade school he became an avid reader as well as a hard worker, delivering both early morning and afternoon newspapers. Following his elementary education he began grueling labor in a cannery for twelve hours or more a day. He later joined a gang of oyster pirates for more lucrative rewards. By age 17 he signed onto a seal hunting ship to Japan for more strenuous work and new adventures. Back in the Bay area during the great depression of 1893 he endured other back-breaking jobs, which resulted in his joining the hobo ranks to travel across the U.S. – and to spend a month in a New York prison.

These early experiences led London to align himself with the plights of workers, and already as a teenager he became an out-spoken proponent of unions and socialism. At the same time, he set his sights on becoming a writer. He attended high school for a while, and at the age of 20 was admitted to the University of California at Berkeley, but after a year



of study he chose another spectacular adventure, going to Alaska to join the gold rush of 1897. A year later, with another audacious escapade under his belt, he returned to California determined to be a writer. Taking odd jobs to help his mother, he set himself to writing stories for newspapers and magazines as well as longer stories and novels serialized in these popular outlets. He actually managed to make a living as a writer.

Over the next couple of years London lived through mixed literary and financial achievements, a loveless marriage, two daughters, two extramarital love affairs, and trips to England and France. But adventure always called. In 1904 he traveled to Japan as a correspondent for the *San Francisco Examiner* to report on the war between Japan and Russia. He then went through a scandalous divorce and second marriage and a period of active promotion of socialism. In 1905 he bought a yacht and experienced still more intrepid adventures sailing to Hawaii and on to Australia.

All of London’s personal exploits provided fodder for his writings. But his rugged life had another consequence. He died in 1916 at the age of 40.

Review by Garland Bills

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New at the Library

Films on DVD

Remember the Titans
Fraiser (Seasons 1-6 and 7-11)

Non Fiction

Jack London: *An American Life* by Earle Labor
The Truth About Stories by Thomas King
Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs edited by Claire Kowalchik
American Character-*Charles Fletcher Lummis and the rediscovery of the Southwest* by Mark Thompson
Down from the Mountain: *The Life and Death of a Grizzly Bear* by Bryce Andrews
Sadie Orchard: *Madam of New Mexico's Black Range* by Hillsboro Historical Society
Voices in the Stones: *Life Lessons from the Native Way* by Kent Nerburn
The Plot to Destroy Democracy: *How Putin and his Spies are Undermining America and Dismantling the West* by Malcolm Nance
War on Peace: *The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence* by Ronan Farrow
Chiricahua National Monument by J. E. Bowers
The Country Doctor Handbook by FC&A Medical
Prehistoric Past Revealed: *The Four Billion Year History of Life on Earth* by Douglas Palmer
To the End of the Earth: *A History of the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico* by Stanley M. Hordes
Backyard Bird Feeder's Bible by Sally Roth
Deep Creek by Pam Houston
Garden Problem Solver by Jeff Ball
The Queen of Education by Louanne Johnson
The Big Book of Gardening Skills by C. Chesman
Folk Remedy Encyclopedia by FC & A Staff
Projects for the Birder's Garden by Fern Bradley
Magic and Medicine of Plants by Inge Dobelis
Camino by Sarah B. Kotchian
Tailspin: *The People and Forces Behind America's Fifty-Year Fall -- and Those Fighting to Reverse It* by Steven Brill

Fiction

The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson
Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
Sea Glass by Anita Shreve

Mystery

City of Saviors by Rachel Howzell Hall
Skies of Ash by Rachel Howzell Hall
Trail of Echoes by Rachel Howzell Hall
Quinn by Iris Johansen
The Body in the Castle Well by Martin Walker

Audio Books

Sail by James Patterson
Simple Genius by David Baldacci
First Family by David Baldacci

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesdays, July 24 & August 21
Hillsboro 1:00- 2:00 Kingston 2:30- 3:30

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