

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

...VOLUME 5: NUMBER 12.....

.....DECEMBER 2010

Small Town Life

“There are no secrets in a small town. Everything is known; it’s simply a matter of what people are willing to discuss.” Or so writes the author and hero of our featured book this month—and oh, what a “discussion” takes place!

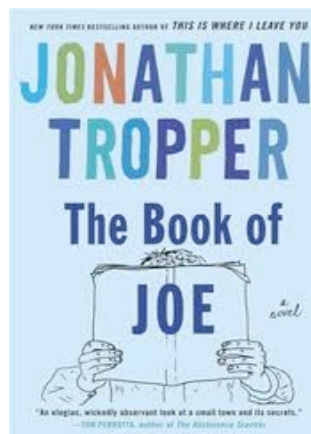
Featured This Month:

The Book of Joe by Jonathan Tropper

After 17 years, Joe Goffman is returning to the town he trashed in the novel that made him rich—and a pariah in his hometown of Bush Falls. Joe has been called home by his estranged brother Brad, and as the two sit down to talk over lunch after seeing their comatose father under life support, our hero’s greeting is a chocolate milkshake in the face from an elderly woman. His attacker is the wife of the town’s iconic baseball coach and just one of a town full of people seeking to punish Joe for his expose. The book of Joe is a book within a book, and no matter what you may think of the protagonist as the past and present stories merge, in the end Joe is a guy who finally gets his priorities in order.

The narratives alternate from the present state-of-affairs—a hateful town, a dying parent, a marriage breaking up, the reunion with an old love and an old friend—to high school years when Joe, the spawn of Bush Falls’s star athlete of one generation and the brother of his successor, fails to inherit the family basketball gene. Instead he hangs out with Sammy, a gay teen who is Lord-of-the-Flies defiled by his fellow students, Wayne, a closeted gay basketball star, and Carly, the gal-pal we remember from high school.

On his return, as he is angrily confronted time-and-again for his lack of allegiance, and no matter how often he tries to claim his account was fiction, the citizenry dole out their retribution as Joe is punched out, gets traffic citations from a former classmate, has



his car vandalized, and gets tossed over a waterfall. Days pass waiting for his father to die, punctuated by the thud of books bouncing off the windows of the family home as the townsfolk return their copies of Bush Falls, many with inscriptions for the author. Enough of plotting and complications. For spice there are fleshy cameos by Sammy’s ever-bikined mom and Cindy, Brad’s workaholic and exhibitionist wife.

Jonathan Tropper (or if you prefer to suspend disbelief, Joe Goffman) is a keen and cerebral observer, and that, beyond any drama, is what makes this moiré than one of those narratives of youthful reminiscence, as in scene after scene the reader is reminded of his or her own lack of attention to the seemingly casual events in our own lives.

Review by Stephen Siegfried

Notes from the Library Board

Thanks to all who baked, bought, and “womanned” the table at the Christmas in the Foothills Bake Sale. And a big salute and acres of appreciation to Diane Bellack, our Bake Sale CEO! Happy holidays to all! The Bake sale will return in **February**.

There are still some beautiful 2011 UNM calendars and planners for sale! Please contact Robbin Brodsky: stanandrob@wildblue.net or 895-5551.

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New at the Library

Non-fiction

Quiet Strength by Tony Dungy
Gaiam Real Goods Solar Living Source Book by John Schaeffer
The New Independent Home by Michael Potts
The Sunset New Western Garden Book
A Member of the Family by Cesar Millan
The Western Guide to Feng Shui by Terah Collins
The Parrot Who Thought She Was a Dog by Nancy Ellis-Bell
Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Polan
Dry by Augusten Burroughs
How We Die by Sherwin Nuland
Jesus Land-a Memoir by Julia Scheeres

Fiction

The White Queen by Philippa Gregory
All My Friends Are Going to Be Strangers by Larry McMurtry
Forty Fredoms by M. H. Salmon
The Known World by Edward P Jones
The Abstinence Teacher by Tom Perrotta
The Book of Joe by Jonathan Tropper
Whiteout by Ken Follett
Last Town on Earth by Thomas Mullen
Disobedience by Jane Hamilton
The Year of the Flood by Margaret Atwood
The Diezmo by Rick Bass
Truth or Dare by Jayne Ann Krentz
Now is the Time to Open Your Heart by Alice Walker
The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon by Stephen King
Scamming God by Morgan Ibarra
The History of the Kelly Gang by Peter Carey

Mystery

Timewalker by Aimee Thurlo
Cry Dance by Kirk Mitchell
Rough Weather by Robert B. Parker
The Murder Room by P D James
A Dangerous Mourning by Anne Perry

Westerns

Bowdrie's Law by Louis L'Amour
Comstock Lode by Louis L'Amour
Flint by Louis L'Amour
High Lonesome by Louis L'Amour
Hondo by Louis L'Amour
Jubal Sackett by Louis L'Amour
Killoe by Louis L'Amour
The Lonesome Gods by Louis L'Amour
The Man from Skibbereen by Louis L'Amour
Matagorda by Louis L'Amour
Mustang Man by Louis L'Amour
The Quick and the Dead by Louis L'Amour
The Rider of the Ruby Hills by Louis L'Amour
The Sky-liners by Louis L'Amour
The Tall Stranger by Louis L'Amour
Yondering by Louis L'Amour

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

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 5:30 - 7:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs: 5:30 - 7:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

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Bookmobile: Wednesday, December 15

Hillsboro: 1:00 - 2:00pm Kingston: 2:30-3:30pm