We cannot hold our annual holiday potluck and musical evening this December, but we are excited to offer a special online performance by Pontine Theatre, a 40-minute original staging of Sarah Orne Jewett’s beloved story, A White Heron performed by Pontine’s co-artistic directors Greg Gathers and Marguerite Mathews.

We will host four different screenings of this virtual holiday production for all ages: Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 18 at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 29 at 3:30 p.m., all on Zoom. Find more information and links to the online performances at https://bit.ly/whiteherontamworth

Our 2021 Calendar featuring artwork that has been exhibited in our 2018, 2019, and 2020 community art shows, will be on sale any day now. A compact 7” square (7” x 14” when opened), this full color fine art style calendar will brighten the coming year, and will make a great gift. Price is $15 for one, $12.50 for two or more. They will be for sale at the library, and mail order or pickup options for ordering are posted on our website. Proceeds support the Friends of Cook Memorial Library.

Our third annual Community Art Show, All Things Water, curated by Lucy Gatchell, has been extended through December! Come see the exhibit during library open hours.

UPDATES ON SERVICES

The library is open its regular hours with COVID-19 requirements that include mask wearing, hand sanitizing, and limits on the number of people in the building at a time. With the increase in cases locally, library staff will greet you and let you know what spaces are available and remind you about keeping social distance while inside the library. If you need to use a computer, it helps to call ahead to make an appointment, 323-8510.

We continue to offer foyer pickup, home delivery, and document services.

Our downstairs meeting room is currently available with restrictions, but with the recent surge we aren’t recommending in-person meetings if you have a safer alternative. We’ve found that groups of no more than 6 people work better than the maximum of 10 we initially set. If local conditions change, we may have to stop offering meeting room space at short notice.

BOOKS!

CML Fiction Book Group: Borrow a copy of Mary Beth Keane’s novel Ask Again, Yes, and plan to join us on Wednesday, January 20 at 1:00 p.m on Zoom to talk about the book. Kirkus review: “Neighboring families in a New York commuter suburb are entwined, root and branch, through work, their children, and a tragedy of profound consequence. Graceful and mature. A solidly satisfying, immersive read.”

Book Sale coming back in 2021: The Friends of Cook Memorial Library have formed a new Book Sale subcommittee. They are organizing the books they have on hand now, and will hold a sale as soon as practical and responsible. Until the reorganization is done, we cannot accept book sale book donations, there’s just no room!

Local history publications for sale: The Friends of Cook Memorial Library will have a space at the December Farmers’ Markets and will be selling copies of local history books including Yesterday’s Women Recalled Today, If Walls Could Speak Revisited in 2017, and more. The Friends will also have order forms so you can order copies by mail or for pickup at the library. They will also have holiday books, notecards, and the new 2021 Cook Memorial Library calendars for sale.

PROGRAMS

A White Heron, a performance by Pontine Theatre, see story on left, above.

Storytimes: Weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in person outside the library. If the weather is truly awful, come to storytime on Zoom. Contact amy@tamworthlibrary.org for the Zoom link.

Yoga for preschoolers: Weekly on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom except on school vacation days. Tara Schroeder leads a half-hour yoga time for 2- to 5-year-olds and their parents or caregivers. Friends of Cook Memorial Library provided funding for this program. Contact cooklib@tamworthlibrary.org for Zoom link.

Library Trustees will meet on Monday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. Find the meeting link on the library website.

Morning Pages writing inspiration: Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Join Louise Wrobleski for a time for reading and writing. Find link at https://tamworthlibrary.org/2020/11/ morning-pages-an-introduction-to-writing-inspiration/

Race and Racism discussion group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom on the following Wednesdays this month: December 2 and 16. Registration for this group is closed. If you have a group that wishes to discuss Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Saad or Caste by Isabel Wilkerson, beginning in January, we will have multiple copies of both books to share with book groups.

Project Feederwatch The library is again participating in this citizen scientist project from Cornell, counting birds at our feeder two days a week. Watch the birds visiting the feeder when you are near here!

The library will be closed on Friday, December 25, Saturday, December 26, and Friday, January 1.

Coming in January: Virtual chess lessons! Learn to play and be ready when we can start an in-person chess club. Volunteer leader Victor Vitek brings his experience and love of chess.

TECHNOLOGY

Karen Vitek, our tech volunteer, is offering one-on-one tech assistance by appointment. Karen is a retired school technology integrator, has experience teaching about PCs and Macs, and is kind and patient. Call the library to ask for an appointment.