



NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE PCI LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER 2007

THE VALLA AND GUSTAVE AMSTERDAM PCI LIBRARY FRIENDS LECTURE SERIES VI

CRIME comes to the Philadelphia City Institute.

The Friends of the Philadelphia City Institute Library on Rittenhouse Square announce the sixth year of the distinguished Amsterdam PCI Friends lectures. Six lectures will be presented at the Library on Rittenhouse Square. Their focus will be on the myriad facets of crime, from intellectual property theft to the mob.

Featured participants will be:

Monday, **September 24, 2007** at 6:00 P.M.: Donald J. Goldberg, Esq., dauntless defender of those accused of white-collar crimes.

Monday, **November 5, 2007** at 6:00 P.M.: Robert Sadoff, M.D., "the mind of the murder," expert witness.

Monday, **December 3, 2007** at 6:00 P.M.: Donald Scott Richards, FBI agent for twenty-two years and author of *Deadly Betrayal: the CBS Murders*.

Monday, **January 7, 2008** at 6:00 P.M.: Richard W. Goldberg, Esq., and Eric B. Henson, Esq., Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Monday, **February 4, 2008** at 6:00 P.M.: George Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer crime columnist and best-selling author of *The Last Gangster* and *Blood and Honor*.

Monday, **March 3, 2008** at 6:00 P.M.: The Hon. Benjamin Lerner, Judge, Court of Common Pleas.

The Hon. Lynne Abraham, Philadelphia District Attorney will participate. To add suspense there may be surprise additions to the series.

Proceeds from the lecture series fund augmented collections, and programs including: *Monday Matinee Movies: Free Movies at the Free Library on Rittenhouse Square*. Seating capacity is limited. Unfortunately, the PCI Library meeting room is not wheelchair accessible. Through the courtesy of the 220 West Rittenhouse Square Condo Owners' Association, special arrangements may be made to reach the meeting room using the 220 elevator. The arrangements **must** be made in advance.

(continued on next page)

Please write to pcfriends@yahoo.com for more information about special arrangements for an elevator.

Please make Amsterdam Lecture Series checks payable to:

Friends of PCI, Series VI

And send the checks to:

135 South 19th Street, Suite 200

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Enclosed is my check (\$50 per person) to enroll for
Amsterdam/PCI Series VI **CRIME**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

A SUNDAY IN NEW YORK!

The Friends of the City Institute Library are sponsoring a bus trip to New York City on Sunday, September 30th. A Starr Tours bus will leave from the library at 8:30 A.M. and take us to Times Square. We will depart New York at 6:30 P.M.

Cost is \$35 per person, non-refundable. Payment in full must be received before reservation can be taken. For information, call the library at 215-685-6621.

All proceeds from this event benefit the Friends of the PCI Library.

PCI FRIENDS SEPTEMBER 2007 SCREENINGS

Free Films at the Free Library

Monday Matinee Movies

Monday, **September 10**, 2:00 P.M.: Kurosawa's great *Throne of Blood, Kumonosu Jo* (1957, 105 minutes): A great transposition of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" to medieval Japan. After a great military victory, Lords Washizu and Miki are lost in the dense Cobweb Forest, where they meet a mysterious old woman who predicts great things for Washizu, and even greater things for Miki's descendants. Once out of the forest, Washizu and Miki are immediately promoted by the Emperor. Washizu, encouraged by his ambitious wife, plots to make even more of the prophecy come true, even if it means killing the Emperor.

Monday, **September 17**, 2:00 P.M.: *A Taxing Woman, Marusa No Onna* (1987, Juzo Itami, 127 minutes): Ryoko Itakura is a government tax agent who has just landed a big promotion. Her first assignment is to catch a wheeler-dealer Hideki Gondo. She has a tough job, since in Japan tax evasion is an art and Gondo is, in effect, Rembrandt. Her job is complicated by a growing sympathy for the rogue and by political pressure to lay off.

Monday, **September 24**, 2:00 P.M.: *Kikujiro* (2000, Takeshi Kitano, 116 minutes): Masao, a lonely boy, decides to spend his summer vacation looking for his estranged mother, whom he has never met. Kikujiro is an immature man who has never had any serious responsibilities. When his wife gives him 50,000 yen to travel with Masao, the journey begins.

Screenings begin promptly at 2:00 P.M. We regret that there is not an elevator to the lower level meeting room where the films are shown.

COMING SOON...

A series of seldom-seen Woody Allen films will be featured in October.

In November, as we approach the holiday season movies with food themes will be screened. Look for *Babette's Feast* on November 19, the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Stay in touch with the library for up-to-date information on the schedule!

A BOOK REVIEW

Exile by Richard North Patterson, written by Evelyn Alloy

Patterson dedicated *Exile* to two of his friends: Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard University scholar, legal defender (O.J. Simpson and Claus von Bulow), prolific writer and fervent defender of Israel; and Dr. James Z. Zogby (Ph.D. Temple University Department of Religion, 1975), founder of the Arab American Institute and American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, lecturer and scholar on Middle East issues, author and newspaper correspondent. Both men gave freely of their list of contacts in Israel and Palestine, enabling Patterson to obtain the views of right and left oriented organizations and their leaders. Throughout, the author is even-handed, allowing us to make our own (perhaps disconcerting) judgment.

Essentially *Exile* involves the murder of Israeli Prime Minister Amon Ben Aron while visiting the U.S.A. A Palestinian, Hana Arif, at the insistence of her husband, has returned, after thirteen years for a brief visit, accompanied by her thirteen-year-old daughter Munira. Hana is implicated, arrested, and held for trial. She is reluctantly defended by Jewish attorney David Wolfe, her lover in college. This past relationship is a device for propelling the story forward. Carole Shorr, a Jewish woman about to marry David, severs their engagement, unable to comprehend David's sense of responsibility to defend Hana.

Courtroom scenes are riveting, as the prosecutor seeks the death penalty at the behest of the highest levels of our government. Is it to spare the Israelis the embarrassment of investigating their flawed security system? The plot thickens with the death of two of Aron's guards in Israel, who happen to be Jewish fundamentals opposed to Aron's conciliatory moves toward the Palestinians. This, and Saeb's faint-hearted support of his wife Hani, arouses David's suspicion of a double plot, but by whom, how, and why?

Evidence clears Hana, but not to everyone's satisfaction. Hana returns to family in the West Bank, but her safety is not assured. The conclusion is ambiguous. Will Hana and David meet again? Will Munira ever be told David is her father? There is no personal or political happy ending...a cliff-hanger true to life in the Middle East. *Exile* is a suspenseful, very well-written story. Try it on my recommendation. May I know your reaction?