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Novelist David Baldacci to Speak at Spring Friends Event

The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library are pleased to announce that best-selling novelist and Virginia resident David Baldacci will be the speaker at the Friends' spring event on Friday, April 3, 2009.

David Baldacci has published seventeen novels. His works have been in numerous worldwide magazines, newspapers, journals, and publications. Baldacci has authored seven original screenplays. His books have been translated into more than 45 languages and sold in more than 80 countries. All of his books have been national and international bestsellers. Over 60 million copies of Mr. Baldacci's books are in print worldwide.

The evening with Mr. Baldacci will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. in the Library atrium. Baldacci will speak in Molnar Recital Hall in Wygal at 7 p.m. Following this talk, there will be a book signing in



David Baldacci will appear at Greenwood Library on April 3, 2009.

the Library atrium. Two of Baldacci's novels, *Divine Justice* and *The Whole Truth*, will be available for purchase.

Admission to the program is free, but by ticket only. First preference will be given to Friends of the Library, then it will open to the general public beginning

March 1. There are a limited number of tickets available for this event. If you would like to attend, please contact Keary Mariannino at marianninokm@longwood.edu or 434-395-2431.

Friends Group and Alumni Association Launch Online Book Club

There is a new alumni service sponsored by the Longwood Alumni Association and the Friends of the Greenwood Library. The Longwood Book Club Blog, known as the Longwood BookLink, is a joint effort of the Alumni Association and the Friends of the Greenwood Library.

Nancy Shelton, Director of Alumni Relations, approached the Library with the idea of a virtual book club as a place for alumni to participate in structured discussion on books from various genres and authors. It allows alumni to discuss a novel with others on their own schedule rather than a fixed meeting time and place. Another benefit to the book club is meeting other alumni from various parts of the country for discussion on a common interest. For the Friends Group, the benefit is having a link to the Friends of the Greenwood

Library site on the Alumni Association homepage.

The Longwood Book Club Blog is located on the web at <http://www.longwoodlink.com/blog/LUBookClub>. Guidelines for participation and how the blog works are posted on this site. Any alumni can view the blog posts, but one must be logged into LongwoodLink to be able to post comments. It isn't necessary to have previous experience with blogs to participate in the discussion. Alumni can share comments, thoughts, and questions or just "listen" to the discussion.

The first book discussion was led by Dr. Martha Cook, professor of English, who chose *Black Mountain Breakdown*, a 1980 novel by Virginia author, Lee Smith.

Dr. Cook notes that, after reading the first selection, the book club members felt "it is interesting

to see how Lee Smith portrays not only the Virginia setting in *Black Mountain Breakdown*, but also the roles of women in the mid-twentieth century. The plot is compelling, and there is a lot beneath the surface of this novel. I think it was a neat choice for our first Book Club Blog because of the sly references Smith makes to Longwood College when it was known more for teacher education than anything else."

Dr. Cook appreciates those who took part in the first discussion and urges other alumni to join the club: "It was great to have alums spanning several decades of experience at Longwood. I hope we have started a new tradition with the Longwood Book Club Blog. It is anticipated that there will be a book discussion each semester."

Spotlight on Special Collections: Edward Gorey

Greenwood Library's Special Collections Room houses a unique collection of books written and illustrated by writer, illustrator, and designer Edward St. John Gorey (1925-2000). These books were purchased for the collection in the early 1970s at the time when Gorey was becoming well-known in the literary world. One of Gorey's friends, Dr. Alexander Theroux, who was teaching English at Longwood in the early 1970s, may have asked the library to acquire this collection.

Gorey worked for Doubleday Anchor Books from 1953 to 1960 illustrating book covers. During this time, he also released two of his own publications, *The Unstrung Harp* (1953) and *The Listing Attic* (1954). These two small books, filled with numerous pen and ink drawings and very little text, were published by Duell, Sloan & Pearce.

In 1963, after having several of his works turned down by publishers, he began to publish under his own imprint, the Fantod

Press. He did all the drawings, hand-lettered texts, layouts, and covers for his self-published books. Most of his works were printed in limited editions of about 200, and these books are collectors' items. Today Gorey still has a loyal following, and his books continue to be reissued.

During his career, Gorey also earned recognition for designing sets for stage productions and costumes. In 1978, he won a Tony award for costume design for the Broadway production of *Dracula*.

He is probably best remembered for his illustrations that were used in the opening and closing credits on the PBS television program, *Mystery*.

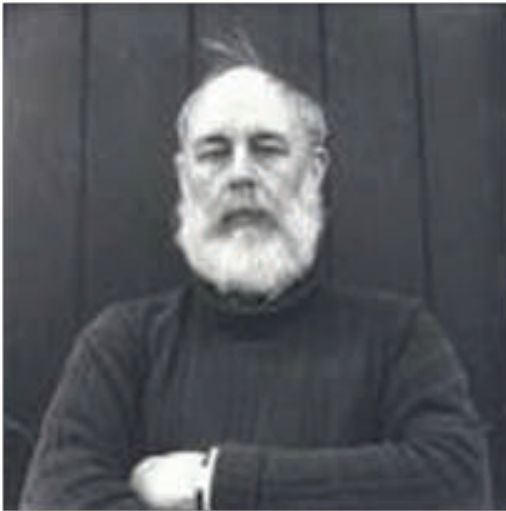
There are many things that make Gorey's publications unique. His books could never be classified as traditional. Most of Gorey's books are very small in size and appear to be children's books, but they are for an adult audience. His pen and ink drawings depict anemic looking characters living in what appears to be the Edwardian era. These characters often seem to be unhealthy, troubled, and removed from reality. The brief

stories that accompany the drawings are quite dark and twisted. According to Derek Lamb in his article, "The Mystery! of Edward Gorey":

His work seemed inspired by the worst of human nature and of the highest forms of art.... As readers we become enticed with the sheer brilliance of his art ... then to find he's delivering us a reminder of the darkest sides of ourselves; or in the words of Edmund Wilson, 'It is poetry and poison.' We are fascinated and repelled.

According to Alexander Theroux in his book *The Strange Case of Edward Gorey*, "Gorey's is an unclassifiable genre: not really children's books, neither comic books, not art stills." Theroux goes on to write that Gorey's works are definitely in a class by themselves.

You are invited to visit the Greenwood Library Special Collections Room to view the collection of works by Edward Gorey and learn why these books have received so much attention and why they are still quite popular today.



Writer, illustrator, and designer
Edward Gorey



Some of Edward Gorey's books from the
Greenwood Library collection

Options for Becoming a Member of The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library

Levels of Giving

Author: Up to \$99

- Greenwood Library Newsletter
- Invitations to special events, such as book signings and book groups

Editor: \$100 to \$249

- CD, DVD, and video check-out privileges
- And all of the above

Publisher: \$250 to \$499

- Two (2) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- And all of the above

Patron: \$500 to \$1,249

- Five (5) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- And all of the above

Collector: \$1,250 to \$2,499

- Ten (10) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- Membership in the Longwood University President's Circle

- Recognition on a donor honor roll located in the Library
- And all of the above

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- Twenty-five (25) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- Lunch with your favorite librarian
- And all of the above

Become a Friend of the Greenwood Library!

You may become a member of the Friends of the Library by making an annual tax-deductible contribution. Online contributions may be made through the Longwood University Foundation Office at www.longwood.edu/advancement. Please indicate "Greenwood Library" as your gift designation. You may also mail your contributions to Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library, Longwood University Foundation Office, 201 High Street, Farmville, Virginia, 23909.

Planned Gifts, Endowment Opportunities and Other Options

Donors making qualifying gifts may request that a room be named in honor or in memory of an individual or organization. The naming of buildings, rooms, or other physical spaces is contingent on approval by the Board of Visitors. Call Franklin Grant at 1.800.281.4677, extension 3, for a confidential discussion about the opportunities available.

Contact Us

The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library at Longwood University is governed by a steering committee composed of librarians, faculty, staff, students, and community members. For more information about the Friends of the Greenwood Library, please visit the Friends website at www.longwood.edu/library/friends or contact Wendell Barbour, Dean of the Library, at 434.395.2083.



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