



Gustavus Library Associates
cordially invites you to a

FALL MEMBERSHIP TEA

Hosted by President Jack and Kris Ohle

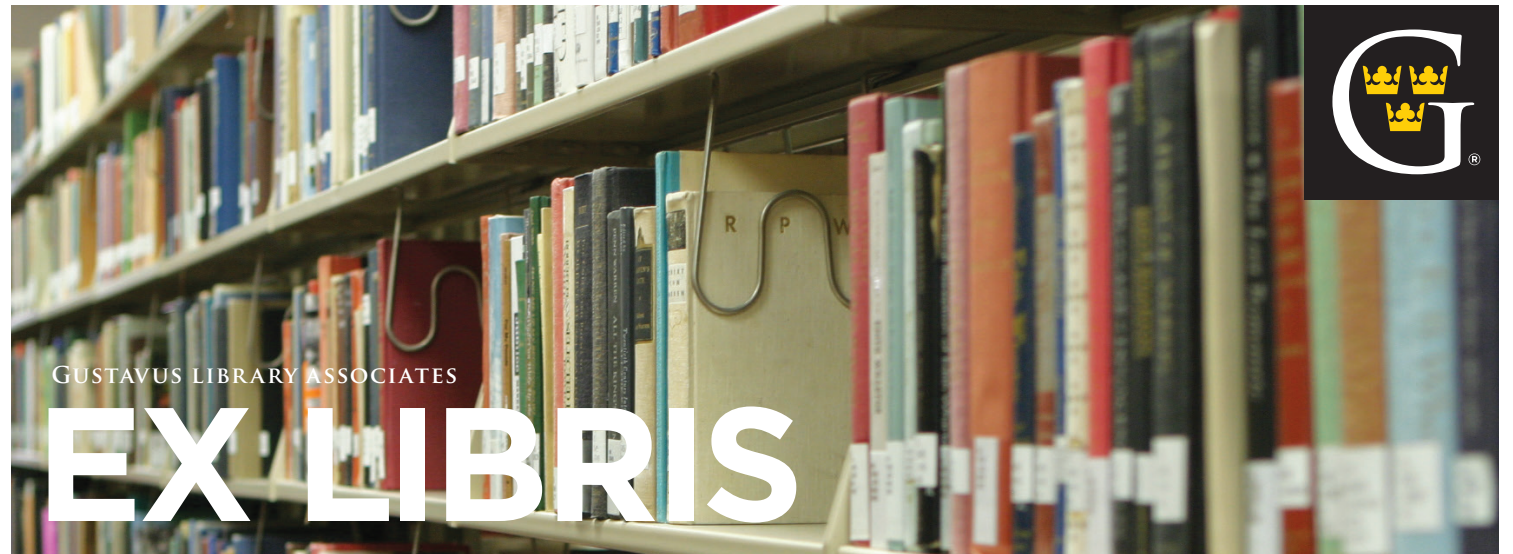
Monday, September 23, 2013
10:30 a.m.–Noon
President's Home
Gustavus Adolphus College

All friends and friends of friends are welcome!

Gustavus Library Associates
800 West College Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

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Newsletter of Gustavus Library Associates

Volume 20:2 | Summer 2013

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A Royal Affair Returns

JAN MICHALETZ, A Royal Affair Co-Chair

A Royal Affair is back! After skipping the 2011 gala in order to help Gustavus Adolphus College celebrate its Sesquicentennial, our party is once again on the calendar. This year's event will take place on Saturday, November 16, at the new Radisson Blu Mall of America.

The hotel, which opened this spring in Bloomington, offers plenty of free parking, and special room rates are available for those who may wish to make a weekend of it!

As you enter the second-floor ballroom area, servers will offer a cocktail created just for us. The head chef has promised a wonderful, multi-course dinner, capped off by a signature dessert designed for our event.

The entertainment will be provided by Gustavus alumna Kim Beyer Fragodt. Kim's vocal talents are backed up by an equally talented group of instrumentalists (some of whom are also alumni), who will provide music for listening or dancing. Kim's husband, the Rev. Brian Fragodt, will serve as the master of ceremonies for the gala. Brian also serves the College as a member of its Board of Trustees.

Our auctions will feature vacations and dinners, a variety of "experience" packages and, of course, many of those special items that have graced our auction tables over the years. A special collection of autographed books will enhance your personal library. Our live auction will encourage friendly competitive bidding, while the silent auction will introduce electronic bidding. Not comfortable with technology? Many student coaches will assist you throughout the event.

Video technology will be used to tell the story of the library and celebrate the vision and accomplishments of Gustavus Library Associates since its founding in 1977. We're proud to announce that the GLA's new cookbook will be available for purchase that night.

How can you help? We're seeking

continued on page 3

2013 GLA BOARD

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From Your President . . .

They called it “Operation BOB.” The undertaking was moving bundles of books, 127,329 books to be specific, from the old Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library to the new structure on the other side of Christ Chapel. I was 10 years old in 1972, watching in amazement as students, faculty, and board members all came together to make this happen. One exchange student even carried a bundle of books on his head! As a young child, I was impressed by what can be done when a group gets behind a goal.

A few short years later, in 1977, a group of extraordinary women came together with a goal: to gather friends who would help make Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library a library of which to be proud. Using such methods as “Patty’s Pitch” and “Rhoda-grams,” they generated excitement and enthusiasm throughout the Gustavus community and beyond to get Gustavus Library Associates up and running.

Today, indeed, we can be proud of our library. As I walked between carrels and shelves during the first weekend in May enjoying our third annual Books in Bloom, I felt that same excitement and energy in the air. Students, faculty, parents, and community members took in the lovely, thoughtful arrangements

Our library is a building filled with books, but it is so much more; it is a center for study and discussion, a place of supported learning for students and faculty, and a hub for ever-expanding electronic resources. It stands next to Christ Chapel as the heart of our campus.

In the same way, we are an organization, but we are so much more; we support library acquisitions and endowment, yes, but just as importantly, we continue to gather friends of the library. We love books, we love reading, and we love Gustavus.

This year, we will host two membership events: September 12 at Northland Country Club in Duluth, and September 23 at the President’s home on campus. Then, on November 16, A Royal Affair returns with new exuberance. I hope to see you there!

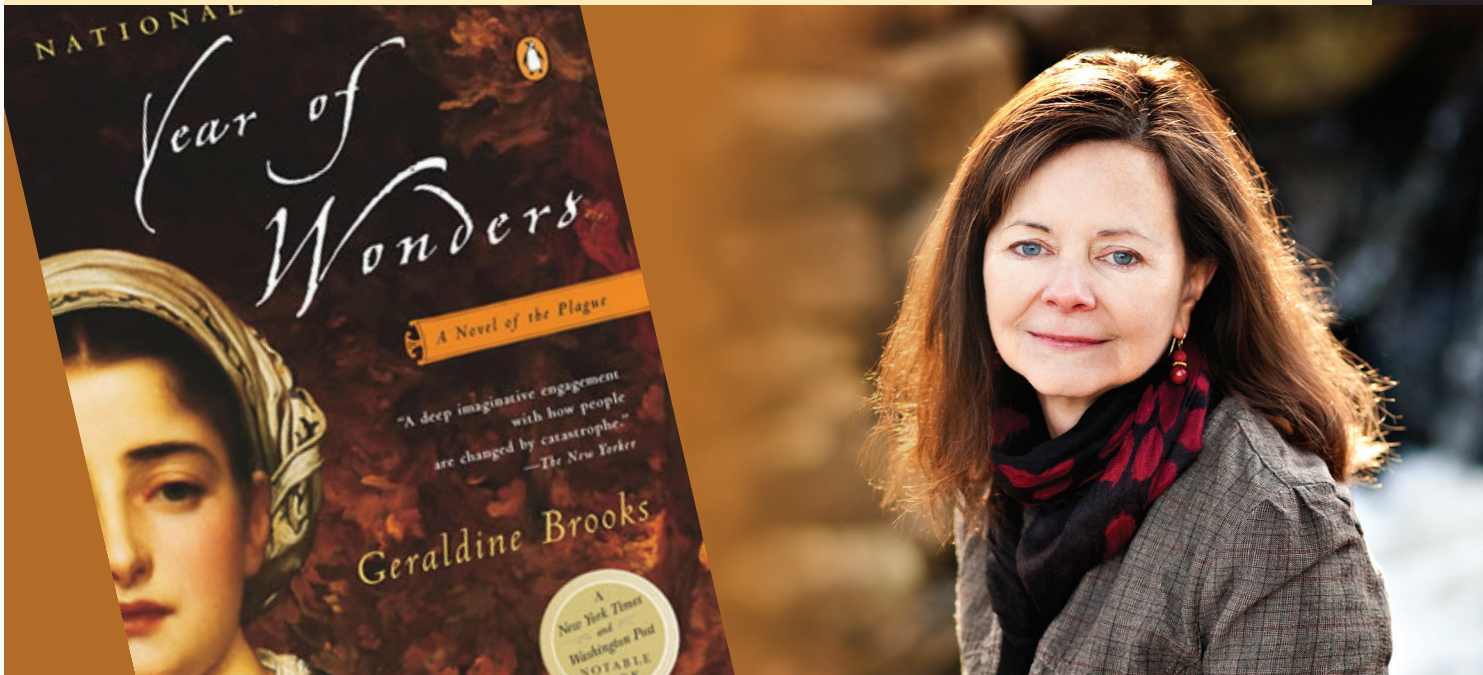
I am proud to follow in the footsteps of so many formidable presidents, grateful for the founders of GLA who had a wise and important vision for our library, and pleased to be working with such a dedicated and enthusiastic board and membership who believe that the mission should be continued. Here we go!

Sincerely,



Lynn McGinty
Co-president

This newsletter is published three times during the academic year by the Office of Marketing and Communication, Gustavus Adolphus College, under the supervision of Dean Wahlund, director of communication services and special events and executive director of GLA. For further information about Gustavus Library Associates membership and activities, contact Wahlund or Dana Lamb at 507-933-7550 or e-mail marketing@gustavus.edu.



Geraldine Brooks's *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*

Book Review: *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks

MIM SPONBERG KAGOL, Reviewer

Author Geraldine Brooks says that this book is a work of fiction inspired by the true story of the villagers of Eyam, Derbyshire, England. While hiking in the English countryside in the summer of 1990, during a stint as a correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*, she came upon a sign pointing the way to the Plague Village. Upon investigating, she found a historical account of how the Bubonic plague, *Yersinia pestis* or Black Death, devastated the people who lived there in 1666.

A museum in the village provided information enough to spark her writer’s imagination: actual names of some of the inhabitants, anecdotes such as how flea-ridden cloth brought in by an itinerant tailor may have contaminated the village, and the story of the rector of Eyam. In fact, he was a heroic and saintly man; in the novel, he is tormented, and a darker side emerges. He persuades the villagers that it is their Christian duty to prevent

this horrible disease from spreading throughout the countryside, and the village submits to a quarantine. Anna Firth, a young widow and mother of two, provides a convincing narrative from her vantage point as maid in the rector’s household, trusted friend to the rector’s wife, Elinor, and respected member of the small community.

English poet John Dryden coined the Latin phrase “annus mirabili,” or year of wonders, to describe the year the English faced not just the Plague, but also the Great Fire and a war with the Dutch. Brooks co-opts it to describe the amazing events the villagers faced in their year of quarantine: grotesque deaths as the infection turned the lymph nodes into necrotic tissue and then invaded the blood stream, killing with fever, hemorrhage, and thrombosis; heartbreaking deprivation and hunger; suspicion and mistrust; betrayal and greed; and great and redeeming love.

At just over 300 pages (not including an Afterword, an interview with the author, and questions for discussion), this book is a fine read: dramatic, thought-provoking, and illuminating. In a cover blurb, the *New York Times Book Review* says it offers “a glimpse into the strangeness of history that simultaneously enables us to see a reflection of ourselves.” Brooks herself says, in comparing the plague year to the events and aftermath of September 11, 2001, in our own country, “Love, hate, fear. The desire to see your children live. . . . The human heart remains the human heart, no matter how our material circumstances change as we move together through time.”

COMING EVENTS

DULUTH MEMBERSHIP TEA

Thursday, September 12
6–9 p.m.
Northland Country Club
Reservation information on page 4

READING IN COMMON

Public Lecture & Book-Signing
A Pearl in the Storm,
Tori Murden McClure, author
Thursday, September 19
7 p.m.
Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus College
No reservation needed

FALL MEMBERSHIP TEA

Monday, September 23
10:30 a.m.
President's Home
Gustavus Adolphus College
No reservation needed

49TH NOBEL CONFERENCE: THE UNIVERSE AT ITS LIMITS

Tuesday & Wednesday,
October 1 & 2
9:30 a.m.
Lund Center Arena
Gustavus Adolphus College
gustavus.edu/nobelconference

A ROYAL AFFAIR

Saturday, November 16
5:30 p.m.
Radisson Blu Mall of America
Invitation will be mailed in September

CHRISTMAS IN CHRIST CHAPEL

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday,
December 6, 7, & 8
3:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus College
Ticket information to follow

ST. LUCIA LUNCHEON: featuring Dave Kenney, author of the College's two Sesquicentennial histories

Thursday, December 12
11 a.m.
Alumni Hall
Gustavus Adolphus College
Invitations will be mailed in October

Life in the Library—A season of reflections and resolutions

DAN MOLLNER, Head Librarian

For many in the education world, summer is a time of self-reflection, correction, and renewal. It is a bit like the time between Christmas and the New Year when thoughts turn to what went well and what didn't go so well during the previous year. We endured quite a bit of self-reflection, soul searching, and examination of our work during the spring semester with both the College's reaccreditation review and the much more focused decennial departmental review of the Library.

A departmental review is a long process—ours began in the fall with discussions about what we wanted to highlight and where we wanted advice from professional colleagues. Barbara Fister wrote a wonderful self-study of the department drawing on data gathered from every unit in the library, from surveys and interviews and our assessment plans. (If you are interested in a detailed description of the tremendous variety of work that goes into the creation of a modern academic library, you can find the 2013 Self-Study on the library Web page under Publications. You may be surprised at what goes on here!) This study along with other documentation was given to our reviewers, one from Wisconsin and another from Texas, who visited campus in early April.

The reviewers were free to discuss any aspect of our program and had a general charge from Provost Mark Braun to examine questions he may have had, but they were also asked to focus on a half dozen questions we created. The questions addressed our instruction priorities, our collections, our support of new information formats, how to improve our physical and virtual library, trends in scholarship, and trends in student and faculty information needs. It was quite a list and made for some wonderful conversations. I suspect our reviewers learned a lot about their own institutions as well, as one often does by contrast and comparison when participating in such an exercise.

As I am writing this article in the first week of June, we have just received our reviewers' report. It will make for inspiring conversation in our staff meetings next fall. Some of the report will be well-received, other portions will be more of a challenge to accept (does anyone ever like all of the “constructive criticism” they receive?), and there will be portions with which we just simply disagree. However, all of it will be useful for renewing our priorities, setting goals, and engaging in additional conversations with students, with faculty, with the College administration, with our GLA supporters, and among ourselves about how to best serve campus research needs. We'll make some resolutions for the new year that starts in September, too—resolutions we intend to keep more faithfully than those normally made in the waning of December.

Such reviews are excellent instruments for self-examination and assessment and for making plans for correction.



Royal Affair continued

donations of gift cards to use in a special silent auction package. We hope to receive cards redeemable at retail stores, restaurants, entertainment venues (e.g., movie theatres), and service providers (e.g., oil changes or dry cleaning). Any amount is welcome: \$25, \$50, or more. They can be mailed to Dana Lamb, Gustavus Adolphus College, 800 College Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082. Gustavus will send you a letter to acknowledge your gift.

Dress for the event will be “cocktail attire.” Loosely translated, that means dark suits for men and “dressy” clothes for women.

Watch your mail for an invitation in early September! For more information, please go to gustavus.edu/gla. We encourage you to contact classmates and family members to organize a table.

As always, our goal is to increase the endowment for the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College. The library depends on our support for a variety of needs, and we are eager to help. Please join us for a gala night of fun, friends, and fundraising!

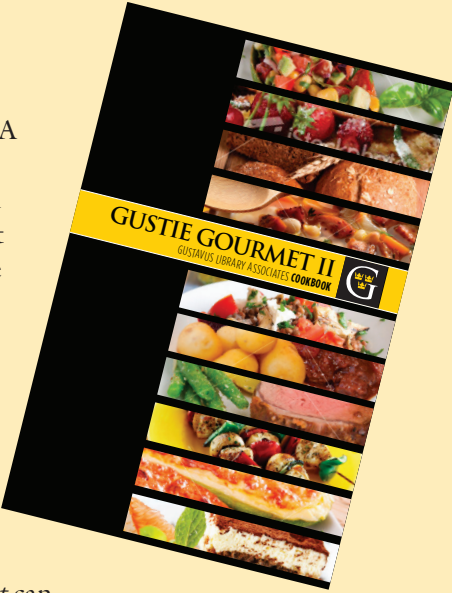
Recipe for a Cookbook

Take a half dozen or so GLA board members with fine culinary skills and a passion for good food. Stir in about a hundred friends who have a favorite dish to share. Carefully blend together with a seasoned designer, a typist, and proofreaders . . . and *Voila!* . . . the *Gustie Gourmet II*.

Of course, many of your favorites from the original *Gustie Gourmet* can be found in this cookbook edition. New recipes include a slow-cooker Sweet and Sour Stew, Hootenanny Pancakes, and a tasty Cuban Chicken Fricassee.

The cookbook will be published in late October and will be available at Gustavus Library Associates' gala event, A Royal Affair, at the Radisson Blu Mall of America on Saturday, November 16, 2013.

Watch for more information this fall on the GLA website (gustavus.edu/gla) about how and where you can buy *Gustie Gourmet II*.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GLA is Duluth Bound!

We are delighted to announce our 2013 membership event in Duluth, Minnesota! Join us Thursday, September 12, from 6–9 p.m. at Northland Country Club for a casual social evening of mingling, fun, food, and beverages. Spouses and friends are encouraged to attend this friend-raising event. If that's not enough, you will also have the opportunity to meet with several GLA board members who will talk about the GLA legacy and the impact it has had on the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library at Gustavus. Your \$9 ticket covers your admittance as well as a hot dog bar with creative toppings and a build-your-own nacho station. A cash bar will be available.

Please order your ticket at gustavustickets.com, or call Dana Lamb at **507-933-7550** for assistance. See you there!

Keeping Up

Spring 2013 Author Day guest **Peter Geye**'s most recent book, *The Lighthouse Road*, is now out in paperback.

The Cydonian Pyramid, the second book of the Klaatu Diskos trilogy, a young-adult series by spring 2005 Author Day guest **Pete Hautman**, was released in May by Candlewick Press. (You should read the first book, *The Obsidian Blade*, first . . .)

Mary Logue, spring 2005 Author Day guest along with her partner, Pete Hautman, is the author of the *Star Tribune*'s first serialized book, *Giving Up the Ghost*. The serialization began in

the June 9 Variety section and is slated to run each day for seven weeks. You can catch up online or buy an e-book version formatted for iPad, Kindle, or Nook.

David Johnson, former dean of the faculty at Gustavus, has been exploring his family's Jewish roots, a heritage he learned only as a teenager. His interest in family history, his love of travel, and his keen sociological observations combine in *Shtetls to Shipsides* to offer insights into religion, ethnicity, immigration, discrimination, and plural identities. The book is available at the Book Mark.



The membership committee is still smiling after personalizing nearly 400 membership letters. (L to R) Lynn McGinty, Barb Larson Taylor, Marlys Nelson, Ginny Bakke, Dana Lamb, Kris Ohle, Mim Kagol, Sheryl Johnson, Michelle Twait, and Victoria Huff. Tobias Twait was the chief letter-folder.

GLA Membership Team

Look at this crew—GLA Board members signing personal notes on every single membership request to join Gustavus Library Associates!

Diligent allocation of GLA membership gifts ensures that every academic discipline will benefit. In this way, your membership gift touches every student and academic department on campus. It truly promotes our mission of “learning, literature, and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library.”

Membership is open to all who care about young people, libraries, education, and Gustavus Adolphus College. Throughout the year, members of GLA

receive advance notice of and invitations for social and educational events on campus and in the Twin Cities, including Books in Bloom, Author Day, the Festival of St. Lucia, and our signature gala, A Royal Affair.

Thank you for your support of Gustavus Library Associates and for your interest in providing each generation of Gustavus students the academic resources necessary for success.

Visit gustavus.edu/gla to join by credit card. This GLA membership year begins on June 1, 2013, and closes on May 31, 2014.



Designer Tom Rosen of Minneapolis created this miniature monastic garden to interpret philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein's book *Philosophical Investigations*.



Peter Geye, Author Day speaker, autographs books for Spring Author Day attendees on April 16, 2013.

Books in Bloom will bloom again: A 2013 recap

MARISA M. SCHLOER, Books in Bloom Committee

Books in Bloom continues to expand its presentation and reach new visitors in its third year. This year's event attracted more than 750 visitors to the College, with over 30 percent of these visitors experiencing this event for the first time and many on the Gustavus campus for the first time. They meandered throughout two floors of the library given over to the exhibition and were astonished by the details included in many designs.

With 30 blooms this year, we were able to raise \$15,000 for Gustavus Library Associates' endowment, in addition to the sales of notecards. We were also able to secure three new memberships, thanks to the diligence of current GLA supporters. All of the operating expenses were covered by presenting sponsorships. This year we were blessed to have authors again during Saturday's hours.

This year's event was dedicated to its founder, Marlys C. Johnson, who had passed away in March. This event and the funds that it brings to the endowment would not have been possible without her vision. Thank you, Marlys!

Author Day guest charms audience

MIM KAGOL, Author Day Chair

Minneapolis writer Peter Geye was GLA's Author Day speaker April 16 at Edina Country Club. Both of his well-received novels, *Safe from the Sea* and *The Lighthouse Road*, delve into the lives and loves, past and present, of those who dwell along Minnesota's rugged North Shore. Geye charmed an audience of 90-some guests as he read from Hemingway's Nick Adams stories and his own works to suggest how writers explore the human condition. Attendees were pleased to learn that he is at work on a third novel and that he loves to visit and share in discussions with local book clubs.