



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **VETERANS INVITED TO READING AND DISCUSSION SERIES AT BEL AIR LIBRARY**

**(Belcamp, Maryland – January 19, 2016)** In a special collaboration, the Harford County Public Library has once again joined the Maryland Humanities Council in offering the Veterans Book Group, a unique program giving veterans an opportunity to read thought-provoking writings and share their ideas and service experiences with a group of like-minded people.

Participants in the Veterans Book Group will come together over the course of five sessions to discuss a variety of books and essays with moderator Karen Arnold, former visiting professor at the United States Naval Academy and independent scholar and facilitator. "It is a wonderful opportunity to share views with a group that has similar experiences, but not always the same perspective on them," said Professor Arnold. "We had such lively discussions the last time that I had to be part of the program again!"

The group begins on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and will meet at the Bel Air Library for a total of five sessions. Each session will run from 6 - 8pm and dinner is included. Books will be handed out at the meeting prior to the scheduled discussion. Should one miss a discussion, the selected readings will also be available at the circulation desk of the Library three weeks before the book's discussion. Participants should plan to attend all sessions.

Session Dates and Readings:

February 17<sup>th</sup>

*Home* by Toni Morrison

March 9<sup>th</sup>

*Wandering Souls* by Wayne Karlin

*The Mailbox* by Audrey Shafer

"Homage to Vietnam" by Pat C. Hoy II essay in *What So Proudly We Hail: Making American Citizens*

*Through Literature*, Amy A. Kass, Leon R. Kass, and Diana Schaub, editors

"The Things She Carried" essay by Cara Hoffman, *New York Times* opinion pages

March 31, 2014

March 30<sup>th</sup>

*I'm Still Standing From Captive U.S. Soldier to Free Citizen My Journey Home* by Shoshana Johnson with M. L. Doyle

April 20<sup>th</sup>

*The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

May 11<sup>th</sup>

*Vanished The Sixty Year Search for the Missing Men of World War II* by Wil S. Hylton

"It is a privilege to be able to partner with the Maryland Humanities Council on this program again," stated Mary Hastler, CEO of the Harford County Public Library.

"Providing opportunities for veterans and other residents to enrich their lives through the reading and discussion of literature is an important part of what Harford County Public Library does for the community."

Veterans Book Group is coordinated by the Maryland Humanities Council and funded by the State of Maryland. The program was created by the Maine Humanities Council to promote understanding of the military experience and to support returning veterans. Veterans Book Group is presented locally in partnership with Harford

County Public Library. Registration is open only until March 3<sup>rd</sup> and is limited. To register, go to [HCPLonline.org](http://HCPLonline.org) or contact the Bel Air Library at 410-638-3151.

Harford County Public Library operates eleven branches located throughout Harford County, Maryland. The Library serves over 181,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of over 3.8 million. Harford County Public Library is committed to connecting people with information and promoting the love of reading within the community.

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