

Friends of the Columbus Public Library's Upcoming Events

By Melodee Pedersen

The Friends of the Columbus Public Library are delighted to present Mr. Joe Starita at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 12th in the Art Gallery, lower level of the library. Mr. Starita will be speaking about his new book, "A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's First Indian Doctor". Inspirational, determined, courageous; these are just some of the words used to describe Dr. Susan La Flesche, who received her medical degree in 1889. If you are not familiar with her story, Joe Starita hopes his new book and its companion, the recent PBS documentary, "Medicine Woman", will change that. It is the story of how Susan went from her birth in a hide teepee on the Omaha Reservation in northeast Nebraska, to becoming valedictorian of her medical school class. After she graduated, she returned to her people on the Omaha Reservation and served over 1,200 patients in an area of over 1,300 square miles. She also built the first hospital on a reservation that was completely privately funded.

Mr. Starita is also a Nebraska native. For the last twelve years, he has been a Journalism professor at UNL. You may remember him from the last time he was in Columbus, speaking about his book, "I Am A Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice." That book led to over 150 speaking engagements for Mr. Starita, including C-Span's Book Talk. He has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize twice. This program is funded by the Friends and by Humanities Nebraska.

Addictive, fun, great deals; these are some of the words that have been used to describe the Friends of the Columbus Public Library's biannual book sales. The next sale is coming up Super Bowl weekend. It begins at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 2nd and continues while the library is open until Sunday, February 5th at 5:00 p.m. Reminder flyers are available at the library's circulation desk. There is always a wide variety of materials available for sale, and this time is no different. Some of them are so special they make it on our "staff picks" shelf. The following are a few of these gems.

"Spymaster: My Life in the CIA" by Ted Shackley is a must-read for any espionage buff. Ted Shackley was a giant in the intelligence world, but did he tell the whole story? You be the judge.

Fans of Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman, or just old movies in general will be thrilled by "The Bells of St. Mary's" by George Martin. It is a novelization of the famous movie, laced with photographs from the film.

The most surprising recent donation was a book called, "Fighting the Traffic in Young Girls: Or, War on the White Slave Trade" by Earnest A. Bell, copyrighted 1910. This classic work has been reprinted many times.

The book sale has something for everyone, but this upcoming sale has an unusually large number of cookbooks and Christian nonfiction books. Come and see what you can find!