New Paltz Community Foundation and Family of New Paltz hold open house celebration on September 13

To celebrate the completion of the renovations to the buildings of Family of New Paltz, the New Paltz Community Foundation and Family of New Paltz are holding an open house celebration at Family of New Paltz, located at 51 North Chestnut Street, from 3 to 5 p.m. this Sunday, September 13, 2015.

The renovations to the main Family of New Paltz building and the Andrew Babb Memorial Building on the same property were paid for by donations of individuals, businesses and civic organizations in the community. The donations resulted from a fund drive conducted by the New Paltz Community Foundation.

During the open house, a plaque will be unveiled, which thanks donors for their contributions. Light refreshments will be served.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to RSVP to Eileen Glenn at (845) 256-1945 or Kathy Cartagena at (845) 255-7957.

Orange (is the New Black) is the new One Book Selection

The One Book/One New Paltz Committee has chosen Piper Kerman’s memoir, Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison, as its featured book for the fall of 2015. A full calendar of events will take place from Sunday, November 15 through Sunday, November 22.

In the book, Kerman recounts how some poor choices following her college graduation led her into transporting drug money for a friend. While she soon changed the direction of her life, her past nevertheless caught up with her some years later when she was found guilty of money laundering. The book focuses on the 13 months she spent in the federal correctional facility in Danbury, Connecticut.

One Book programming will focus not only on Kerman’s story but also associated issues relating to our nation’s flawed criminal justice system, whose drug laws disproportionately target minorities. The program will benefit from the participation of many local residents who have had direct experience working with the criminal justice system.

A sampling of discussion leaders and presenters include: David Miller, a former prison superintendent; Beretta Calderone, a former corrections officer and a technical adviser to the Netflix “Orange” series; Susan Slusnick, local dancer and teacher, who will show her film “The Game Changer,” about her work teaching dance to prisoners along with a performance; and Barbara Rosenblat, who was found guilty of money laundering. The book will include discussions of a number of short stories in journals and anthologies, receiving literary awards as well as a nomination for the National Book Award.

Dancing with Diana at Inquiring Minds

LOCAL AUTHOR JO Salas will read from her novel Dancing with Diana on Friday, September 18, 7 p.m., at Inquiring Minds Bookstore in New Paltz. Inspired by a real-life incident, Dancing with Diana tells the story of Alex, a young man in a wheelchair and the survivor of severe school bullying, who dances with the future Princess Diana when they are both teenagers.

Salas, who is better known locally as the cofounder of Playback Theatre, has published a number of short stories in journals and anthologies, receiving literary awards as well as a nomination for the Pushcart Prize. Dancing with Diana is her first novel, published in May 2015 by Goddell Press.

Inquiring Minds Bookstore is located at 6 Church Street in New Paltz.

Clothing swap for success

The Gardiner Library will hold a used book sale on Saturday, September 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New Paltz ReUse and Recycling Center, located at 3 Clearwater Road. Participants are asked to bring sorted, clean, dry and odor-free clothing and empty bags to take home your new wardrobe.

For additional information, call (845) 255-8456 or recycling@townofnewpaltz.org.

Gardiner Library book sale September 11-13

The Gardiner Library will hold a used book sale on Friday September 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. with a Saturday-only entry fee of $5. The sale continues on Saturday, September 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, September 13 from noon to 4 p.m. The sale will include books from every genre, including a large section of antiquarian books, many of which may be of interest to collectors. There will also be an array of big picture and art books, novels, non-fiction, children’s books, how-to, history and literature. All proceeds support the library.

The sale will take place in the library community room located at 133 Farmer’s Turnpike. For further information, call 255-1255 or visit www.gardinerlibrary.org.

Volunteer for the Highland Library book sale

Friends of the Highland Library will sponsor their annual fall book sale on Saturday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, September 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the community room of the Highland Fire Department.

Sal Sorbelo and his team will be at Guardian Storage on Friday, September 25 at 3 p.m. to load the books and bring them to the firehouse. Additional help to load the truck is needed, as well as someone with a large van or truck to take books from the storage shed at the library and bring them to the firehouse. In addition, organizers will need volunteers at the firehouse to set up tables and empty the cartons.

Volunteers will also be needed on Sunday, September 27 at 1:30 p.m. to pack the cartons to be discarded or brought back to the storage unit.

To volunteer, call Angela Giacco at 843-4666 or e-mail highlandlibraryfriends@gmail.com.