

## **More than Books**

### **Doctor Zhivago: the rest of the story**

This year's American History Speaker Series is included as one of the sets of programs in this year's "One Book, One Freeport" effort. Our presenters have all agreed to focus on some aspect of United States history during the period known as The Cold War, circa 1947 – 1991.

"The Cold War as Told in the Battle Over the Novel Doctor Zhivago" is the topic of Dr. Edward Finch's American History lecture scheduled for next Wednesday, March 18, at 7 p.m. Okay, we've all seen the movie: how many of us have read the book? Dr. Finch is going to tell us the rest of the story, including the CIA's role in distributing the novel. I'm hoping he'll also say a word or two about the real Lara.

Along with James Winker, Dr. Finch is an organizer and cofounder of the American History Speaker Series, now in its twelfth year. Dr. Finch has tackled topics in some of his previous lectures that have ranged far afield from his own subject specialty, which is naval history. Series regulars may recall his reconsideration of "Mr. Marigold" AKA Senator Everett Dirksen and his explication of the Don McLean song, "American Pie," along with any number of talks that show how committed he is to local history.

Most recently, Ed and his wife Cathy opened the 2015 "One Book, One Freeport" series with their own experiences, "Growing Up in a Coal Mining Family." That was on February 26, and Ed was right back on March 2 moderating a panel discussion of former MICRO SWITCH employees talking about "MICRO SWITCH, Honeywell, and Freeport in the Space Race." All this said, it doesn't scratch the surface of Ed's contributions to programs and exhibits at the library, the Lindo Theatre, the Stephenson County Museum, the Freeport Art Museum, and elsewhere in Freeport.

This year's "One Book" programs have attracted large audiences of over 100 people. Come early for a good seat and for one (or two) of Sandy Shubert's Best of the Gallery Café Cookies. Refreshments are courtesy of the Freeport Public Library Foundation.

### **MAG Reception**

Six Momentum Art Guild (MAG) members have pooled their talents in the current exhibit at the library's Gallery Café. The show is titled, "On the Wall," and described as a collaboration of artists, elements, and aesthetics. The artists are: Ellen R. Bartels, Carrie Baxter, Roger Goodspeed, Mary Calire O'Neill, Barry Treu, and Cindy Vondran. I am proud to say I own works by three of the six.

The public is invited to an opening reception between 5 and 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 19. Refreshments courtesy of the Library Foundation.

*Library Director Carole Dickerson may be reached by phone at 815-233-3000, ext. 216 or by email at [cdickerson@freeportpubliclibrary.org](mailto:cdickerson@freeportpubliclibrary.org). For more information about "One Book, One Freeport" programs and events, visit [www.freeportpubliclibrary.org/onebook](http://www.freeportpubliclibrary.org/onebook).*