Life’s Simplest Pleasure is a Good Book

Who doesn’t love a good page-turner? From a New York Times’ bestselling author to a semi-finalist of the William Faulkner Creative Writing Competition, the Hutton House Lectures is pleased to introduce our students to an extraordinary literary experience. For the Winter term, Hutton House has assembled a group of compelling authors who will present lectures in a wide variety of genres, including fiction and non-fiction. The format of each lecture is an interactive conversation with the author. We encourage you to purchase the book in advance to stimulate your critical thinking and analysis of the text.

The following is a snapshot of two authors who will be speaking this Winter. In upcoming editions of the Hutton House newsletter, we will feature additional writers.

For the Love of a Child: My Life, My City & My Mission by Harvey Weisenberg
January 28 and February 4, 2019 | 10 a.m.

A lifelong resident of Long Beach, Harvey Weisenberg is a Renaissance man. He has been a lifeguard, coach, police officer, restaurant owner, special education teacher, and elementary school assistant principal. He also is a seasoned politician who spent 13 years serving on the Long Beach City Council and 25 years as a New York assemblyman. At the age of 69, he posed in a Speedo on a billboard on Rockaway Turnpike to draw attention to the need for sun protection when he became concerned about the lack of expiration dates on sunblock lotions.

Weisenberg is best known for groundbreaking legislation for special needs families. In 2018, he published the novel, For the Love of a Child, which chronicles his family’s journey to care for a son, Ricky, now 60, who was born with cerebral palsy, severely disabled, and unable to speak or cry.

“John is a book about unconditional love,” Weisenberg said, and making families who have children with disabilities aware that they are “a gift, a blessing.” He adds, “So many people don’t want to know about special people, but if they only knew the love that’s there, the unconditional love that you get from a special child – it’s more than anybody could ever imagine.”

Book is available at https://www.amazon.com/Love-Child-Life-City-Mission/dp/0757004806

Half the Child by William J. McGee
February 11, 2019 | 10 a.m.

William J. McGee was born in New York City and received an MFA in Fiction from Columbia University. He teaches creative writing on the university level and is an award-winning investigative journalist and columnist. He is the former editor-in-chief of Consumer Reports Travel Letter and writes a monthly travel column for USA Today. His journalism and essays have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Time.

Half the Child is a novel published in 2018. The fictional character is Michael Mullen, an air traffic controller at New York City’s LaGuardia Airport who is fighting to keep his young son Ben in his life. Throughout the course of four consecutive summers as Ben ages from 2 to 5, Michael risks his health, finances, career and relationship to ensure that the bond between father and son is not severed by a prolonged custody battle and even abduction.

Half the Child was a semi-finalist in both the 2017 James Jones First Novel Competition and the 2017 William Faulkner Creative Writing Competition.


Book is available on Amazon in print and Kindle editions at https://www.halfthechild.com
One enjoyable aspect of the holiday season is the sending and receiving of greeting cards. At LIU Post, there is one famous room on campus dedicated year-round to holiday cheer. Located on the first floor of Winnick House – originally the home of cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post and financial wizard E.F. Hutton – is a former guest bathroom wallpapered with the family’s 1931 holiday cards, all 620 of them! The cards display vibrant colors and images of angels, stagecoaches, carolers, cathedrals, and snowmen. Several images reflect the favorite pasttimes of the Gold Coast of Long Island in the 1920s – sailing, horseback riding and sleigh riding. One card features a horseback rider surrounded by bloodhounds and a handwritten note to Mr. Hutton that reads, “To the old Maestro of the Mounds,” referring to Mr. Hutton’s organized fox hunts.

Several well-known people sent the cards, including Colby Mitchell Chester, a United States Navy admiral; Edgar Rice Burroughs, the American author of Tarzan of the Apes (1914); Dr. George Frank Sammis, a co-founder of the Long Island Society of Anesthetists (1905); Frederick Byron Cooper, Jr., president of the New York Firm of Provision Brokers; and Harry D. Blakemore, a Broadway performer in The Traveling Salesman (1916) and Fury (1923).

To learn more about the Christmas Card Room, please see LIU Post’s Campus Historian Rita Langdon, dean of the School of Professional Studies, in Room 102 of Lorber Hall or email rita.langdon@liu.edu.