

WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR...

The FOL, founded in 1966, is the library's longest-serving volunteer organization. We are dedicated to strengthening the ties between the library and the community through fundraising, programming, outreach, and advocacy. The FOL is a 501(c)(3) that provides key financial support to all library departments. These are just some of the popular programs and services we fund:

- Free Museum Passes
- 100 WiFi Hotspots to Borrow
- Library of Games and Gadgets
- Equipment for Podcast Studio
- 3D Printers and Cricut Maker
- Adult Lectures and Author Events
- Tutor.com Online Homework Help
- Free SAT/ACT Prep
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- Adult and Teen Book Clubs
- Pride Month Programs
- Children's Great Library Card Adventure
- ESOL and Citizenship Classes
- Children's Chess Program
- Lunar New Year Festival
- SoundSwap Concerts
- Teen Late Night Study Hall
- Banned Books Week Programs
- Loanable Kindles and Chromebooks
- CPR in Spanish
- Virtual Reality Headsets

FOL BOARD

President, Pamela O'Connell; Vice President, Nancy Wright;
Vice President, Margaret DeSiervo; Treasurer, Mary Alice Kohs;
Secretary, Lauren Smith; President Emerita, Amy G. Bass
Directors: Sara Edelson, Cara Hristoforatos, Rebecca Hughes Parker,
Dilia Kamensky, Stephanie Meberg, Karen Sloan, Fern Treiber,
Ellen Zimmerman
Emeritus Board: Carol Hiller, Eleanor Rybecky, Selma Willner

fol@pwpl.org | pwpl.org/fol | 516.883.4400 x1108
Facebook and Instagram

FRIENDS OF THE
PORT WASHINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY



One Library Drive
Port Washington, NY 11050

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 487
Hicksville, NY

CURRENT OCCUPANT OR

YOUR INVITATION TO THE
55TH ANNUAL BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON



FRIENDS OF THE
PORT WASHINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

55TH ANNUAL RICHARD DODGE WHITTEMORE

BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

FEATURING

ILYON WOO

*Author of the nonfiction bestseller
Master Slave Husband Wife, one
of The New York Times 10 Best
Books of 2023*



IN CONVERSATION WITH

KELLY McMASTERS

Essayist, author and professor



FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

11AM–2:30PM

THE GARDEN CITY HOTEL

45 Seventh Street, Garden City
Valet and Self-Parking

ILYON WOO

Master Slave Husband Wife
(Simon & Schuster)



Ilyon Woo with just her second book has reached a level of acclaim few writers of history achieve. *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom* tells the remarkable true story of Ellen and William Craft, who escaped slavery in 1848 through daring, determination, and disguise, with Ellen passing as a wealthy, disabled White man and William posing as “his” slave. It is one of the most inspiring self-emancipation stories in American history and already a classic in the literature of slavery.

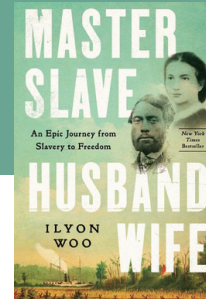
The book has been named one of *The New York Times* 10 Best Books of 2023, a Top 10 Book of 2023 by *People*, and a best book of the year by *The New Yorker*, *Time*, NPR, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Boston*, Chicago Public Library, and Oprah Daily.

Woo is also the author of *The Great Divorce: A Nineteenth-Century Mother’s Extraordinary Fight Against Her Husband, the Shakers, and Her Times* (2010). Her writing has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, and *The New York Times*. She has received support for her research from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Antiquarian Society, among other institutions. She has been featured on such programs as NPR’s *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and CBS *Sunday Morning*.

She holds a BA in the Humanities from Yale College and a PhD in English from Columbia University, where she first came upon the story of the Crafts. She lives in Cambridge, Mass.

MASTER SLAVE HUSBAND WIFE

What the critics are saying



“A narrative of such courage and resourcefulness it seems too dashing to be true. But it is. . . . The story is so richly dramatic, and Ms. Woo so skilled at spinning it out, that at times it’s a genuine nail-biter.”
The Wall Street Journal

“Woo’s immersive rendering, which conjures the Crafts’ escape in novelistic detail, is . . . a feat — of research, storytelling, sympathy and insight.”
The New York Times 10 Best Books of 2023

“It’s an edge-of-your-seat drama that will leave many wondering why the duo’s remarkable story has been so overlooked by history.”
Time Magazine Must Reads of 2023

“A gripping adventure . . . suspenseful and wonderfully told. A captivating tale that ably captures the determination and courage of a remarkable couple.”
Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Woo’s history draws from a variety of sources, including the Crafts’ own account, to reconstruct a ‘journey of mutual self-emancipation,’ while artfully sketching the background of a nation careering toward civil war . . . they deserve a permanent place in the national consciousness.”
The New Yorker Best Books of 2023

“Woo’s biography of the Crafts . . . is meticulously sourced, with every description, quotation and line of dialogue coming from historical materials . . . Yet the author’s prose is novelistic, immersing readers in the escape.”
Smithsonian Magazine 10 Best History Books of 2023

KELLY McMASTERS

Essayist, bestselling author and editor, professor



Kelly McMasters is an accomplished essayist, professor, mother, and former bookshop owner. She is the author of the Zibby Book Club pick *The Leaving Season: A Memoir-in-Essays* (2023) and co-editor of the ABA national bestseller *Wanting: Women Writing About Desire* (2023). Her first book, *Welcome to Shirley: A Memoir from an Atomic Town* (2008), was one of Oprah’s top 5 summer memoirs and is the basis for the documentary film “The Atomic States of America,” a 2012 Sundance selection. It tells the story of her hometown, Shirley, Long Island, and the environmental catastrophe of a nearby leaking nuclear laboratory. She also co-edited the anthology *This Is the Place: Women Writing About Home* (2017).

Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *Literary Hub*, *The Paris Review Daily*, and *The American Scholar*, among others. She holds a BA from Vassar College and an MFA in nonfiction writing from Columbia’s School of the Arts and is the recipient of a Pushcart nomination and an Orion Book Award nomination.

McMasters has taught at The New School, NYU’s Gallatin School, Franklin & Marshall College, and in the undergraduate writing program and Journalism Graduate School at Columbia University, among others. She is currently an Associate Professor of English and Director of Publishing Studies at Hofstra University. She lives in Port Washington.