

Reconnecting through reading

Standing Together

Oct. 4, 2016 - March 7, 2017

The movie.

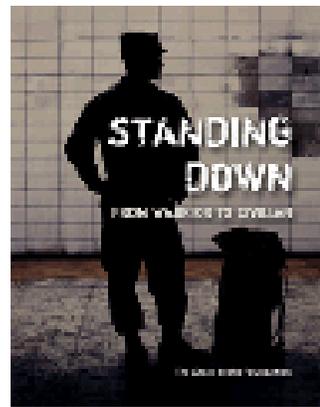
Hunting in Wartime

(contains graphic images)

The book.

Standing Down:

From Warrior to Civilian



Movie premiere: Oct. 4, 6:30pm

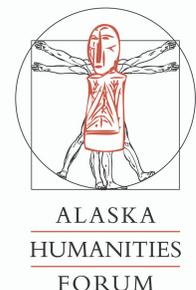
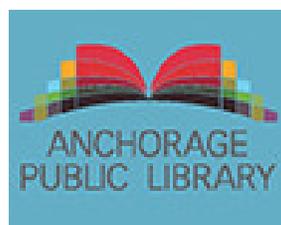
Reading group, 1st Tuesdays: Nov. 8 - March 7, 6:30pm

Chugiak-Eagle River Public Library Community Room

Questions?

Nancy Hemsath, nancyhemsath@gmail.com

Rev. Martin Eldred, graced@mtaonline.net



Standing Together—Veteran's Program

Joy Lutheran is proud and excited to be part of a new project geared to reach out to local veterans. "Standing Together" has been made possible through a grant from the Humanities Forum and in partnership with Joy and the Chugiak-Eagle River Library. It is an effort to reach out to those veterans who may be positively connected through the reading of selected literature and discussion regarding the reading. We have gained the expertise of Fr. Paul Smith, a retired Episcopalian priest and Viet Nam veteran to be our discussion mentor. To serve as a kick-off event for this program, we have been able to secure the rights to the documentary, "Hunting in Wartime" a film that explores the experience of Viet Nam veterans from Hoonah, Alaska (a village of approximately 600 that sent 24 young people to the conflict, 17 of which saw combat. 23 returned home.) The film explores what it was like to grow up Native in Alaska in the 1940's and 50's, what it was like to go from village Alaska to the villages of Southeast Asia, and what it was like to return home to a very uncertain future.

Through the film and subsequent reading group, we hope to bring a place of safety and healing to veterans and families of veterans from any era, as well as any interested civilians who wish to join. As Nancy Hemsath, one of our key members of our outreach writes, "Veterans, active-duty military personnel, and Alaska National Guard/Reserve personnel who have returned from deployment overseas need to re-connect with their communities, who typically have little understanding of what military service in conflict areas entails. Our project will provide a place for Eagle River-Chugiak veterans and community members to share their experiences and re-discover what they share. We will have six group meetings, starting with the film "Hunting in Wartime," and then using readings from "Standing Together" as the starting point for discussing the experience of combat, deployment, and staying home while others serve. The goal is to achieve greater understanding of the experiences of those who have served overseas and those who have remained in our community, so that both groups can better communicate with and relate to one another."

While our target community is those from the Eagle River/Chugiak area, we would also be happy to welcome anyone in the local area who would benefit from joining us.