

Get ready to face the sea: Our next “One Book, One Town” event begins in October! By Irene Gillies, Library Director

We will be reading *The Finest Hours: the True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Most Daring Sea Rescue*, by Michael J. Tougias and Casey Sherman, and the authors’ adaptation for young readers.

In the early hours of Monday, February 18, 1952 as a brutal storm whipped up gigantic waves, two oil tankers, the *Pendleton* and the *Fort Mercer* split in two, leaving dozens of men in peril off the coast of Chatham.

The Finest Hours is the gripping, true story of the valiant attempt to rescue the souls huddling inside the broken ships. Coast Guard cutters raced to the aid of the *Fort Mercer*. When it became apparent that the halves of the *Pendleton* were in danger of capsizing, the Guard sent out two 36-foot lifeboats as well. The wooden boats were dwarfed by the enormous seventy-foot seas. Manned by only four seamen, the men aboard were fully aware that they were embarking on what could easily become a suicide mission.

Michael J. Tougias and Casey Sherman have seamlessly woven together their extensive research and first hand interviews to create a spellbinding tale that is overflowing with breathtaking scenes that sear themselves into the mind's eye. It’s an unforgettable tale of heroism, triumph, and tragedy, one that truly tells of the Coast Guard's finest hours.

We are eagerly awaiting the January release of the Disney movie based on the book, much of which was filmed here in Chatham; now is the time to read the book, and bone up on the facts of this true adventure!

Our month-long celebration of these men and others who face danger on the sea will include an illustrated presentation by each author about the book, and the process of transforming the book to a film. There will be talks from the Chatham Station of the U.S. Coast Guard, the fishing community, and more, films about sea rescue, in the past and present, and tours of Chatham Light and the Coast Guard Station. Our youth programs will feature age-appropriate themed storytimes and book discussions, and an exciting Jeopardy! game based on the youth adaptation of *The Finest Hours*.

Get ready, get set, and start reading! The full calendar of events will be posted on our website in late September.