

Acclaimed author and Kent resident Frank Delaney dies at 74

By Julia Perkins

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Stamford_060508-Friends of the Ferguson host the 27th Book & Author Luncheon at the Italian Center. Authors Bernice McFadden, Frank Delaney and Mickey Sherman chat before the event . Dru Nadler/photo

Fellow co-chairmen Linda Allard, left, Frank Delaney and Diane Meier share a light moment during the Housatonic Valley Association's annual benefit auction at Washington Primary School, Nov. 24, 2013



KENT - Acclaimed author and broadcaster Frank Delaney, 74, died Tuesday at Danbury Hospital after suffering a stroke.

Delaney, best known for his critique of James Joyce's "Ulysses," lived in Kent and often spoke or signed books at local libraries and bookstores. He served as an honorary co-chair for the Housatonic Valley Association auction and volunteered for the New Milford Visiting Nurses Association.

Sally Tornow, director of the New Milford Public Library, said Delaney spoke at the library twice over the years, once to discuss his own book and again to introduce another author.

“He really was such an amazing man, so generous,” she said. “He was such a national leader but he didn’t mind going to little libraries. It was quite impressive.”

Tornow said patrons greatly enjoyed Delaney’s visits.

“He was absolutely engaging and charming,” she said. “He had everyone in the palm his hand.”

The Irishman published dozens of fiction and nonfiction works, including the bestselling “James Joyce’s Odyssey,” five novels on Ireland and “Simple Courage,” which the American Library Association named one of the top books of 2007, according to his website.

Delaney hosted a weekly five-minute podcast, “ReJoyce,” analyzing “Ulysses” in a relatable way. The podcast has more than 300 episodes and has been downloaded more than 2 million times.

Growing up in County Tipperary, Ireland, Delaney spent more than 25 years in England before moving to the United States in 2002.

He has served as the president of the Samuel Johnson Society, president of the UK Book Trust and the literary director of the famed Edinburgh Festival. He was also a judge for the Book Prize and several other literary awards.

A host for the BBC, Delaney helmed the radio program “Word of Mouth,” which delved into the English language.

He created a variety of programs and documentaries on many people, including Joyce, Oscar Wilde, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Ernest Hemingway and Vincent Van Gogh.