

**Greenwood Lake Public Library presents Fergus M. Bordewich, Historian and  
Author of “Bound for Canaan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad,  
America's First Civil Rights Movement”  
Saturday, August 19th  
1:00 – 2:00 PM**

Greenwood Lake Public Library is very pleased and honored to welcome Fergus M. Bordewich, American historian and author of several non-fiction books, including “Bound for Canaan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad, America's First Civil Rights Movement”. Published in 2005, it tells the in-depth story of the Underground Railroad and those long-forgotten heroes who made it happen. Author Colson Whitehead calls Bordewich’s book, “an eloquent and thorough history of the railroad” and credits him with the “solid foundation” he needed to put together his bestselling novel, “The Underground Railroad”. Whitehead’s novel has gone on to win the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and this year’s Orange Library Association’s (OLA) OrangeReads book choice.

Born in New York City in 1947, Bordewich grew up in Yonkers, New York. His mother was the executive director of the independent advocacy group, Association on American Indian Affairs, and, at times, travelled with her son to Indian Reservations around the country. He has earned degrees from both the City College of New York and Columbia South. In the 1960’s, Bordewich worked at various occupations including voter registration for the NAACP in the segregated south, a roustabout in Alaska’s Arctic oil fields, and New York City taxi driver. It was in the early 1970’s that Bordewich’s writing started to take shape as he developed into an independent historian and journalist. He traveled extensively during this time working as an editor and writer for the Tehran Journal in Iran (1972-1973), a press officer for the United Nations (1980-1982), and an advisor to the New China News Agency in Beijing (1982-1983). Over the years, along with “Bound for Canaan”, he has written “Cathay: A Journey in Search of Old China” (1991), “Killing the White Man’s Indian” (1996), “The Looming Conflict: Radicals, Rebels, and the Road to the Civil War” (2008), “Washington: The Making of the American Capital” (2008), “America’s Great Debate” (2012), and “The First Congress” (2016). He has also published the memoir “My Mother’s Ghost” in 2001. In 1994, he collaborated on an adaption of an old Chinese tale with Illustrator Ming-yi Yang entitled “Peach Blossom Spring”. He has written many articles for such publications as the Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, New York Magazine, and Reader’s Digest. He often speaks at universities and forums, as well as radio and television shows, primarily about 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century American history. He currently resides in San Francisco with his wife Jane.

Advanced registration in person at the library or by phone is required  
Greenwood Lake Public Library, 79 Waterstone Road, Greenwood Lake, NY