

Stoneham Public Library

Newsletter



June 2020

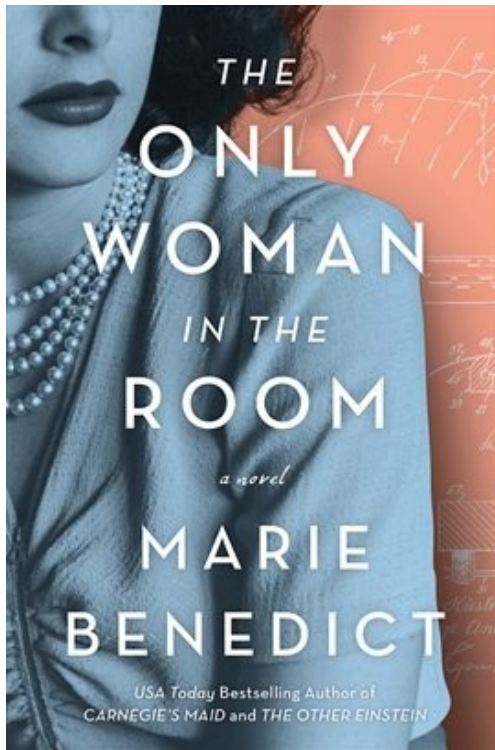
LIVING IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD



We have been living in a different world since the middle of March. Everyone is learning how to use Zoom and other virtual meeting platforms. It has been a difficult time, yet has provided us with new learning opportunities. The Library has seen a big increase in ebook and audiobook usage. We have a one stop shopping area on our web page for all your virtual needs at

VIRTUAL LIBRARY OPEN 24/7
CHECK OUT OUR DATABASES
AND TUTORIALS

Monday Night Adult Book Group,



Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side, understanding more than anyone would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star.

But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: she was a scientist. And she knew a few secrets about the enemy. She had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis...if anyone would listen to her.

A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication, *The Only Woman in the Room* is a masterpiece.

Maureen Saltzman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Monday Night Book Group Meeting

Time: Jun 29, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82070637529?pwd=d0dZdTlFUkM0bEJkZTZUbmJQQTRDZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 7063 7529

Password: 872341

One tap mobile

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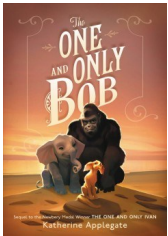
+13017158592,,82070637529#,,1#,872341# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US

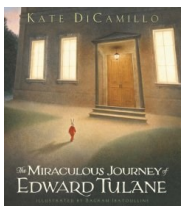
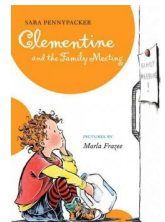
Junior Room Book Reviews

By Pat Callahan



"The One and Only Bob" is a newly released book, May 2020, by the author of "The One and Only Ivan". The earlier book, "Ivan" told the sometimes sad story of a caged gorilla named Ivan. During his long incarceration, Ivan makes several fast friends who made his life bearable. His story is ultimately hopeful. The mood of "The One and Only Bob" is much more upbeat than "Ivan". In "Bob", Katherine Applegate tells the amusing story of Bob the dog. Ivan and Ruby the elephant from the previous book play important roles in this second book, although "Bob" can be read as a stand-alone story. Bob is an adopted shelter dog with a big personality. He describes his interesting interactions with his family both human and non-human, domesticated and wild. Bob, his human family and his animal friends are all directly affected by a hurricane with it's wind and water damage. In the aftermath of this tornado, we witness Bob's role in several rescues and close-calls. By the end of the story, Bob's family is expanded in new and different ways. While Applegate's first book, "The One and Only Ivan" can be enjoyed by readers of all ages, "Bob;" fun upbeat story will be enjoyed mostly by readers in early midgrades who like animal stories, adventure stories, and humorous stories

"Clementine and the Family Meeting" is #5 in the Clementine series. Clementine is a high energy character who is sometimes challenged to contain her excitement. Her clever parents seem to just naturally understand her and design activities and gifts that touch her heart. This series of books are set in Boston. Clementine acknowledges her "fruit" name by saying: "One way that I am like my fruit name is that I have a lot of sections. Right now, a couple of Clementine sections are worrying...". Since Clementine is not quite sure if she likes her fruit name, she continually calls her younger brother, a toddler, by different vegetable names. She sure does know the names of a lot of different vegetables. In the family meeting mentioned in the title, Clementine's mom announces that she is pregnant. Her Mom's description of having a baby as it: "is like having a wonderful secret, it's as if all the noise in the world is turned into music", displays the entire family's poetic use of language. Between Clementine's antics and her hilarious description of her activities will keep you reading right through this short early chapter book!



Most readers are aware of "Because of Winn-Dixie", the Mercy Watson books, and "The Tale of Despereaux" by Kate DiCamillo, but please do not overlook the magical experience of "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane". Edward Tulane is a haughty china rabbit who is spoiled by his owner, Abilene, who ends up going on the adventure of a lifetime. In this book, Kate DiCamillo takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the depths of the ocean to the net of a fisherman, from the top of a garbage heap to the fireside of a hobos camp, from the bedside of an ailing child to the bustling streets of Memphis. Along the way, we are shown a true miracle that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again. One of the long-time junior room librarians recommends this book to anyone who asks for "a good book". By taking 30 years of experience into account, I checked this out for myself. She is right! This book will touch your heart. "Edward Tulane" is a wonderful read-alone or bedtime read-to for ages 7 and up (be prepared with tissues for the sad parts.)

David Huygens reviews music available through Hoopla

Popular singers, songs, and orchestral works available through Hoopla

The term singer-songwriter is generally used to describe musicians who write and compose their own material, often accompanying themselves on guitar or piano, but any kind of arrangement is possible. Since the singer writes the songs, there's a personal element and intimacy unique to the genre.

Hoopla has a very large number of singer-songwriters to choose from, including Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Carole King, Neil Diamond, and Joan Baez. The tradition continues in more recent times with Norah Jones, David Gray, Lewis Capaldi, and many more.

Today, **Joe Brooks** is 33 years old, and lives in Los Angeles. When he was only 17, in his native Southampton, England, he broke through on the old social platform, MySpace, with a song, Superman, that became enormously popular and led to an eventual EP, Maybe Tomorrow, and sold out tours. In 2009, he signed with Lava/Universal and released his first full-length album, **Constellation Me**. Despite high hopes, the album didn't do particularly well, and Joe parted with the label. He went on to do some brilliant work, nonetheless, on future releases like The Boy & The Broken Machine, A Reason To Swim, and I Am Bones. Available through Hoopla, Constellation Me shows off Joe's great voice, amazing songwriting skills, and innate musicality. Songs include Superman, Hello Mr. Sun, World At Our Feet, and These Broken Hands Of Mine.

Another great singer-songwriter, **Jon McLaughlin**, a singer-pianist from Anderson, Indiana, recorded his fifth studio album, **Like Us**, in 2015. It contains the singles, Before you, and I Love You Anyway. Jon is also heard on the soundtrack of the Disney film, **Enchanted** (2007), on which he sings the Oscar-nominated song, So Close (by Alan Mencken and Stephen Schwartz).

One Man Band is a great album of live performances by **James Taylor**, recorded live at the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, MA. The recordings feature James on guitar, accompanied by piano, organ, and bass - with pre-recordings by the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. The 19-song playlist includes most of his famous hits, spanning five decades, including Something In The Way She Moves, Shower The People, and Fire And Rain.

The period before singer-songwriters took off in the public imagination is sometimes referred to as the Tin Pan Alley era. The name originally referred to a specific area of Manhattan, West 28th Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, where most of the popular music publishers and songwriters in America were to be found between 1885 and the 1930s. Some extend the term to include the entire era of pop music in the US until the 1950s, when rock & roll came in (centered in The Brill Building).

Perhaps the most famous of all the songwriters of this era was **Irving Berlin**. A great album of Berlin standards was recorded by two wonderful singers in 1958: **Billy Eckstine & Sarah Vaughan Sing The Best Of Irving Berlin** combines the smooth voices of these two masters in such Berlin favorites as Cheek To Cheek, Isn't This A Lovely Day, Now It Can Be Told, and I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm. Artists ranging from Fred Astaire to Patti Lupone also have Berlin collections available from Hoopla, and there are numerous soundtrack recordings and Broadway cast recordings to choose from.

A classic album of **Cole Porter** songs is **The Cole Porter Songbook**, by sax great **Charlie Parker**. Another one is **Anita O'Day Swings Cole Porter** - and it really swings, with Billy May and his brassy orchestral sounds. Oscar Peterson, Julie London, Mabel Mercer, and Nat King Cole also have Cole Porter collections available from Hoopla.

The great **Johnny Mercer**, in addition to being a hitmaking songwriter, was a terrific singer. You can hear him on two albums, **Accentuate The Positive**, and the **Capitol Collector's Series**. There are also Mercer albums by Bing Crosby, Sylvia Syms, Susannah McCorkle, Margaret Whiting, and Judy Garland (a great love of Mercer's, about whom he reportedly wrote the song, That Old Black Magic).

Frank Loesser also sings his own music and accompanies himself on piano in the excellent **An Evening With Frank Loesser**. The unique team of **Ricard Rodgers** and **Lorenz Hart** are represented by Tony Bennett, Dawn Upshaw, and Bobby Short, on tribute albums.

George Gershwin is represented as both a classical composer and pop songwriter on **The Gershwins In Hollywood**, with the **Hollywood Bowl Orchestra** conducted by John Mauceri (1992), featuring performances by **Gregory Hines** and **Patti Austin**. Orchestral works include the New York Rhapsody (now called the Second Rhapsody) from the 1931 Janet Gaynor musical, *Delicious*. Songs (with lyrics by George's brother, **Ira Gershwin**) are from some of the Astaire-Rogers musicals of the 1930s, as well as from *The Goldwyn Follies* (1938), the last score completed by George before his untimely death at age 38 (which includes two enduring standards, *Love Is Here To Stay*, and *Love Walked In*).

One of the most well-known and popular of the recorded songbook collections is that of the mighty **Ella Fitzgerald**. Ella recorded albums of standards by some of pop-theatre-film's most respected composers, including Berlin, Porter, Rodgers & Hart, etc. The Gershwin album is called **Ella Sings Gershwin - The Classic Song Book**. Backed by Nelson Riddle and his Orchestra, Ella performs 59 songs in her inimitable style, including *S'Wonderful*, *That Certain Feeling*, and *They All Laughed*.

Leonard Bernstein conducts the **Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra** on a thrilling live recording of Gershwin's immortal *Rhapsody In Blue*, in which Bernstein is also the soloist. He also performs a terrific encore on *Prelude For Piano No. 2*. The performances were recorded at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. (**Gershwin: Rhapsody In Blue; Prelude For Piano No. 2 / Bernstein: Symphonic Dances From "West Side Story"**)

Bernstein's music is the focus of **Bernstein: The Essentials**. The package includes most of the Massachusetts native's well known works, including theatre music from *Candide*, *West Side Story*, and *On The Town*, music from the ballet, *Francy Free*, and a symphonic suite from the film, *On The Waterfront* (1954). The symphonic works include the popular *Symphony No. 2*, *The Age Of Anxiety*. On *Hoopla* you can also find Bernstein's musicals, in original cast and soundtrack recordings.

Aaron Copland's distinctive music is heard in **Essential Works**. The album includes *Fanfare For The Common Man*, *Rodeo*, *Appalachian Spring*, *Billy The Kid*, and more. Another Copland recording is *Piano Works*, featuring soloist **Robert Silverman**.

Ferde Grofé became popular for his *Grand Canyon Suite*, but he also composed a *Mississippi Suite* and a *Death Valley Suite*. These orchestral tone poems are heard in a fine album featuring the **Capitol Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by the composer, and the **Hollywood Bowl Orchestra**, conducted by Felix Slatkin. The album is titled **Great American Grofé**.

Book Review by Matthew Sowyrda

I recently finished the longest novel I have ever read. The book in question: *Remembrance of Things Past*, by Marcel Proust, a classic in which the author chronicles -- in seven lengthy volumes -- vital events in the life of his narrator from childhood to middle age. It is through him that the anonymous main character, who in essence is Proust himself, recounts the details of his past with astounding precision and vividness in search of meaning in his life. As he consults his memory, he reflects on several aspects of life itself, such as art, friendship, love (usually unrequited, but sometimes successful), the unstoppable passage of time, and, most prominently, the nature of memory.

The novel is a study of the necessity for self-examination, but also an invitation for the reader to examine his or her own life. Proust composes the narrative with what can be best described as “stream-of-consciousness” writing, which suits the realistic impression that he tries to create in his pages. Every volume is rife with long, winding passages of the narrator’s experiences, as well as his thoughts on each moment as it occurs. These include his recollections of a lonely childhood in the quiet Parisian suburbs, the inspirational French countryside, his jealous-fueled suspicions of the lovers in his youth, and his misgivings toward the snobberies of the aristocratic society of which he was a part.

The novel possesses an interesting structure. It does not consist of conventional elements like “protagonist,” “antagonist,” “conflict,” and “resolution.” Rather, it is a lineation of the narrator’s observations of the world around him, which entails social changes in the waning of the aristocratic class at the turn of the 19th century, as well as changes in individual people over time--specifically, how those he had known as a young man are practically rendered unrecognizable in later years.

I think there are two especially crucial volumes out of the seven to be considered. The first of these is *Swann’s Way*. It is in the opening lines where the narrator sets in motion the purpose of the novel: that he is struggling to recall the people, places, and events in his past. However, his memory is accelerated by an instance of tasting a *madeleine*--a small tea cake--which offers him a glimpse of his childhood. This allows him to explore with clarity his past experiences, whereby he introduces key characters, describes his solitary early years growing up in the French aristocracy, and expresses his dream of becoming a writer. It is through his poetic, melancholic prose that we see the narrator is given to sensitivity and nostalgia.

The second crucial volume is the last -- *The Past Recaptured*. Here, the narrator comes to a close with his story; now in middle age, he decides to revisit the people with whom he has long been out of touch. On his way to a gathering hosted by a female friend-lover from his boyhood, now a woman high in society, he is lost in his thoughts centered on his failure to become a writer. When he is knocked off his balance by an oncoming car, he is relieved of his sorrowful musings, and is then thrown into a second, more intense meditation about his entire life up to that point. The pensive feelings are replaced by a realization that he is spiritually tasked with writing a book about his past so that he may derive meaning from his own experiences. Consequently, he develops his theory on art: that all people are capable of creating great works, inasmuch as one takes the time to examine one’s own unique experiences. It follows that this requires one’s ability to reflect with effort, and possession of a mature outlook to accurately translate those experiences into a work of art.

Remembrance of Things Past is partly psychological, partly philosophical, and partly poetic. It is a moving compendium of a person’s life, and reading Proust is arguably a life-changing experience. From him and his work we may learn that all of us have a story to tell to the world, that we may look at ourselves, and in so doing, like a ripple effect, we show others that life itself has meaning with respect to individual experience--in our happiness, our grief, our actions, our idleness, our loves, and our losses.

***Swann’s Way* (the first book of *Remembrance of Things Past*) is available through Hoopla.**

Attention all Gardeners!



Send us pictures of your gardens during the quarantine. Anyone been doing new gardens? Our own Kris Cavaleri has started a new garden seen below, and Debbie Cunningham has a picture of her garden above. Send pictures to dcunningham@noblenet.org and we'll post to our web site.

