

September 2023

# ILLUMINATED STACKS

The Official Newsletter of the Stoneham Public Library

## **Stoneham Public Library**

431 Main Street  
Stoneham, MA  
02180

### **Adult Services**

(781) 438-1324

Mon, Tue, Thu: 9 am - 9 pm

Wed, Fri: 9 am - 5 pm

Sat: 10 am - 2 pm

### **Children's Services**

(781) 438-1325

Mon, Tue, Thu: 9 am - 7 pm

Wed, Fri: 9 am - 5 pm

Sat: 10 am - 2 pm

**StonehamLibrary.org**

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## **Follow along online**

 @StonehamPubLib

 Stoneham Public Library

# THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

## Holiday Closings

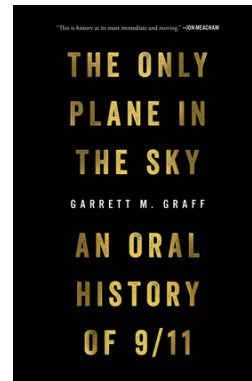
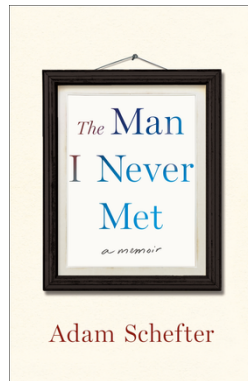
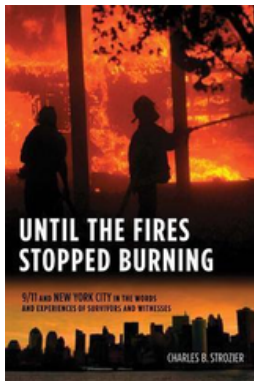
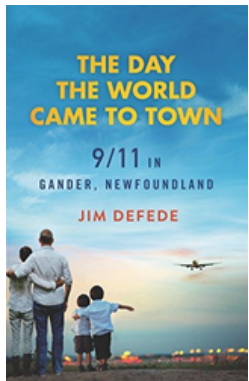
**Labor Day:** Monday, September 4th  
The Library will be closed all day



**Staff Meeting:** Thursday, September 7th  
The Library will open at 12 pm



## September 11th Remembrance



## Stoneham Chamber of Commerce

### Thirty-Ninth Annual Stoneham Town Day

Stoneham Town Common  
Saturday, September 23rd, 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

[Stoneham Historical Society](#) (website)

Monthly Open House and Museum Opening  
Sunday, June 18th, 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.



# ART DISPLAY

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**In the Stoneham Public Library Gallery Hallway**

## Constance Festo Lafond

In September, the library will feature Constance Festo Lafond's beautiful exhibit of paintings. This artist has been creating and showing her work for many years starting in 1985 in Brookline, Massachusetts, where she was a longtime resident and worked out of her home studio. Currently, she maintains an art studio at Porter Mill in Beverly, MA.



Constance is an impressionist painter, and her subjects and painting style vary. Her other artistic interests include photography, abstract expression, and fashion. Many of her images have been put on to her popular custom Le Galeriste clothing line produced in Montreal. Her work has been shown all over New England and is in many private collections. The public is invited to her studio at 95 Rantoul St. in Beverly, Massachusetts every 2nd Saturday of each month and by appointment.

Each month, the library hosts a different local artist! For more information about displaying artwork at the Stoneham Public Library, contact Reference Librarian Maureen Saltzman: **781-507-2483** or **sto@noblenet.org**.

# ADULT PROGRAMS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2  
**CLOSED FOR  
SUMMER  
HOURS**

4  
**CLOSED FOR  
LABOR DAY**

5  
**Adult Creative  
Writing Group  
11:30 am**

6

7  
**THE LIBRARY  
WILL OPEN AT  
NOON**  
**Mysteries  
Around the  
World Book  
Group  
7 pm**

8

9

11  
**Monday  
Meditation  
5:30 pm**

12  
**Queer Reader  
Book Group  
7 pm**

13

14  
**Closing Your  
Garden for the  
Fall  
7 pm**

15  
**Movie Matinee:  
Dazed and  
Confused(1993)  
1 pm**

16

18  
**Monday  
Meditation  
5:30 pm**

19  
**Arty Party  
7 pm**

20  
**Introduction to  
the Stoneham  
Public Library  
11 am**  
**Film Club  
Discussion  
6:30 pm**

21  
**Adult Board  
Game Night  
7 pm**

22  
**Movie Matinee:  
Boyz n the Hood  
(1991)  
1 pm**

23  
**Adult Creative  
Writing Group  
11:30 am**

25  
**Monday  
Meditation  
5:30 pm**  
**Monday Night  
Book Group  
7 pm**

26  
**Mindful Crafting  
with Marianne  
Snow: Pebble  
Portraits  
7 pm**

27

28  
**Meet the Author:  
Peter Crowley  
7 pm**

29

30



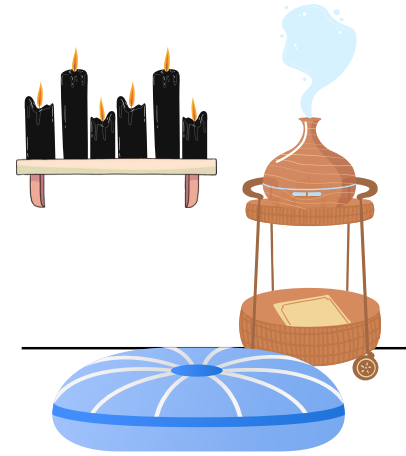
# MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS:

## Mondays

### Monday Meditation

September 11th, 18th, 25th at 5:30 pm | The Stoneham Room

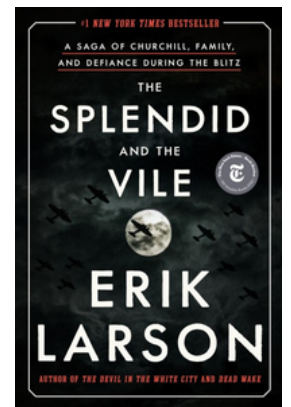
If you want (need?) to slow it down, come to our Monday meditation program. Sit on a cushy floor pillow in a room only illuminated by candlelight, breath in the therapeutic mist from an essential oil diffuser, and take a moment to refocus your mind. Or nap. Napping is definitely allowed. Either way, you'll enjoy some quiet time just for you. **No registration required.**



### Monday Night Book Group

September 25th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

Join us to discuss the latest nonfiction selection by award-winning writer, Erik Larson. *The Splendid and the Vile* is a "fresh and compelling portrait of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz. *The group meets on the last Monday of each month.* We are ready to welcome you to the discussion. **Registration required.**



## Tuesdays

### Adult Creative Writing Group

September 5th at 11:30 am | The Stoneham Room

Interested in writing amongst a group of peers? During the meetings you will have conversations about writing habits, sharing work and giving critique (optional of course!), and have a timed writing portion to work on your latest work in progress or write on a theme. Members should bring pencils, pens, notebooks, loose-leaf paper and/or a laptop for brainstorming and taking notes. **Registration encouraged.**



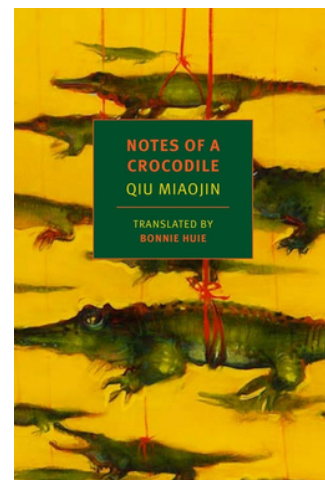
# MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

## Tuesdays

### Queer Reader: An LGBTQ+ Book Club

September 12th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

In this group we read and discuss books by and about the LGBTQ+ community! The September book is *Notes of a Crocodile*, by Qiu Miaojin, one of Taiwan's most innovative literary modernists and its most renown lesbian writer. Published posthumously, *Notes of a Crocodile* is "set in the post-martial-law era of late 1980s Taipei, and depicts the coming-of-age of a group of queer misfits discovering love, friendship, and artistic affinity..." Pick up your copy at the circulation desk! **Registration required.**



## Arty Party

September 19th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

Do you miss the days of arts and crafts when you could get a little messy and just have fun while creating something? Well here's a craft program just for adults! September's craft is felted little succulents! **Registration required. All supplies provided.**



## Wednesdays

### Film Club Discussion

September 20th at 6:30 pm | Zoom

The Film Club will discuss its September choices, *Dazed and Confused* (1993) and *Boyz n the Hood* (1991) on Zoom. Don't miss out on our screenings of the movies on Friday, September 15th and Friday, September 22nd. **Registration required.**



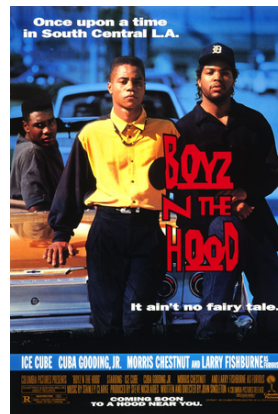
### *Dazed and Confused*

**Released:** 1993

**Directed by:** Richard Linklater

**Starring:** Jason London  
Wiley Wiggins  
Matthew McConaughey

**Rated:** R



### *Boyz n the Hood*

**Released:** 1991

**Directed by:** John Singleton

**Starring:** Cuba Gooding Jr.  
Laurence Fishburne  
Hudhail Al-Amir

**Rated:** R

# MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

## Thursdays

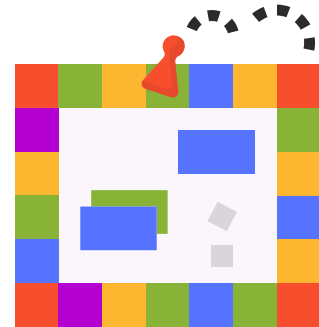
### Mysteries Around the World Book Group September 7th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The Mystery Group meets to discuss *The Dry*, the debut title by Australian writer, Jane Harper. This mystery is described as "A stunner..." and "...a page turner with a shocker of an ending." Sometimes it's the smallest of towns that hide the biggest of secrets. This group meets on the first Thursday of each month. **Registration required.**



### Board Game Night September 21st at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

Join us from 6-8pm to play board games, card games, put together puzzles, etc! There will be an array of games available. Choose what you want to play. It's a great opportunity to meet new people or get together with friends or BOTH! This program is open to anyone 18 or older and occurs every third Thursday. **Registration encouraged.**



## Fridays

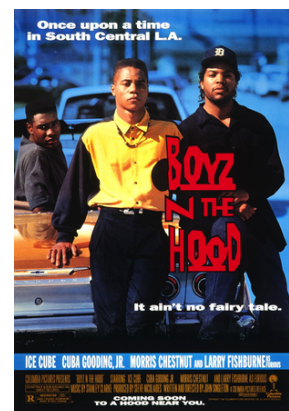
### Movie Matinee: *Dazed and Confused* September 15th at 1 pm | The Marcy Room

One of the film club's selections for September is *Dazed and Confused* (1993). Written and directed by Richard Linklater, *Dazed and Confused* depicts the adventures of high school and junior high students on the last day of school in May 1976. This oft-quoted movie stars Jason London, Wiley Wiggins, and Matthew McConaughey. All Film Club Screenings are free and open to the public. **No registration required.**



### Movie Matinee: *Boyz n the Hood* September 22nd at 1 pm | The Marcy Room

The second of the film club's selections for September is *Boyz n the Hood* (1991). John Singleton's directorial debut, *Boyz n the Hood* follows the lives of three young men living in the Crenshaw ghetto of Los Angeles. Starring Cuba Gooding Jr., Laurence Fishburne, and Hudhail Al-Amir, the film dissects questions of race, relationships, violence, and future prospects. All Film Club Screenings are free and open to the public. **No registration required.**





SEPTEMBER 2023

# SPECIAL ADULT PROGRAMS:

## Closing Your Garden for Fall

Thursday, September 14th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

The days are getting shorter and cooler. Leaves are starting to turn golden, auburn, and crimson. It's time to close our gardens down for the fall, and Jean Anderson is here to show us how! This program includes a seed collecting demo and, if we're lucky, she may even have her local honey available for purchase. **No registration required.**



## Introduction to the Stoneham Public Library

Wednesday, September 20th at 11 am | The Marcy Room

Take this opportunity to learn about the Stoneham Public Library and the services we have to offer. *Made possible by a partnership with the Stoneham Senior Center.* **No registration required.**



## Mindful Crafting with Marianne Snow

Tuesday, September 26th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

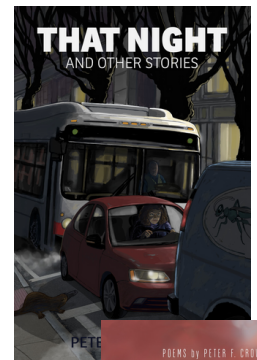
Join Marianne Snow to make Pebble Art. While you create this craft, she will offer guided healing meditation! **Preregistration is required. Space is limited.**



## Meet the Author: Peter Crowley

Thursday, September 28th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

Join us as local poet Peter Crowley talks about his upcoming books *Empire's End* and *That Night and Other Stories*, both due out in mid-October. *That Night and Other Stories* covers a range of topics and styles, including the surreal ("Connected"), straight-forward ("That Night") and symbolism ("Home, At Last"). While some of the stories have simple themes such as a couple's fight ("Somewhere else") and late adolescent love ("First Love"), others depict social justice-related themes like "Accost," "That Night" and "Crusade, or Historic Other." *Empire's End* has a bitter, rebellious and cynical theme running across it, as it was largely written during the Covid pandemic, and some just before, when Crowley was struggling at his current place of employment for a fair salary. However, it also has a light element to it, mixing humor and a bit of absurdity. **No registration required.**



# YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



**Want to register for an event?**  
 Head to [stonehamlibrary.org](http://stonehamlibrary.org)  
 Hit the 'Calendar' tab.  
 Scroll to the day and the event you want.  
 Hit 'Register'!

1  
**Baby Bumble**  
 9:30-11 am

2  
**CLOSED FOR SUMMER HOURS**

4  
**CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY**

5  
**Tales & Tunes Storytime**  
 10:30 am  
 'Discovery Center: Vet' Opens

6  
**Babytime**  
 9:30 am  
**Toddler Tumble** 10 am  
**Switch After School** 3 pm

7  
**LIBRARY OPENS AT NOON**

8  
**Baby Bumble**  
 9:30-11 am

9  
**Lego Club**  
 11:30 am

11  
**Fables & Fun**  
 4 pm

12  
**Musical Mornings**  
 10:30 am

13  
**Babytime**  
 9:30 am  
**Toddler Tumble** 10 am  
**Switch After School** 3 pm

14  
**Toddler Tales**  
 10:30 am

15  
**Baby Bumble**  
 9:30-11 am

16  
**Lego Club**  
 11:30 am

18  
**Fables & Fun**  
 4 pm

19  
**Animal Crossing Club** 3:30 pm

20  
**Babytime**  
 9:30 am  
**Toddler Tumble** 10 am  
**Switch After School** 3 pm

21  
**Toddler Tales**  
 10:30 am  
**PJ Storytime** 6 pm

22  
**Baby Bumble**  
 9:30-11 am

23  
**Lego Club**  
 11:30 am  
**create&calm**  
 11:30 am

25  
**Fables & Fun**  
 4 pm  
**Navigating the College Search**  
 6:30 pm

26  
**Middle Grade Graphic Novel Club** 6:30 pm

27  
**Babytime**  
 9:30 am  
**Toddler Tumble** 10 am  
**Switch After School** 3 pm

28  
**Toddler Tales**  
 10:30 am  
**Bullet Journal Club** 6 pm

29  
**Baby Bumble**  
 9:30-11 am

30  
**Lego Club**  
 11:30 am  
**Half-Day Movie**  
 1 pm

# weekly:

## Mondays

### Fables and Fun at 4pm

Join Miss Melissa for a fun folktale and a themed craft! **For ages 5+.** ✓

## Tuesdays

### Musical Mornings | Sept. 12th at 10:30 am

The wonderful Matt Heaton is hosting a monthly musical program!!! Come join us for a morning of movin' and groovin'! **For all ages. Intended for ages 1.5-5.** ✓

## Wednesdays

### Babytime at 9:30 am

Join Miss Katie for a quick, fun babytime program! We'll have bounces, rhymes, and loads of fun! **For babies 0-12mos.**

### Switch After School at 3 pm

On Wednesdays at 3, our Switch will be on the projector in the Marcy Room. Come play Mario Kart, Mario Party, and more!

### Toddler Tumble at 10 am

We have special toys specifically picked for toddlers that will be available during this program!

## Thursdays

### Toddler Tales at 10:30 am

Miss Melissa is so excited to welcome our toddler friends to the library for a fun storytime! She'll be sharing some of her favorite stories with you! ✓

## Fridays

### Baby Bumble 9:30-11:00 am

This drop-in style program is to encourage our young friends to socialize, play, and communicate with one another. **For babies 11ish months and up.**

## Saturdays

**Lego Club 11-12:30** Come build your Lego dreams during this drop in program! Swing by and hang out with us! **For all ages.**



= Sign up Required



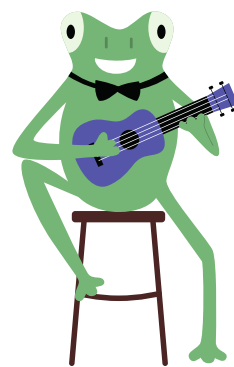
# monthly:

## Tuesdays

### Tales & Tunes

September 5th at 10:30 am

Library Director Rachel is ready to brighten your morning with music! Join her in singing some tunes and listen to a tale or two! **For all ages. Intended for ages 1.5-5.** ✓



### Animal Crossing Club

September 19th at 3:30pm

Do you love all things Animal Crossing? Bring your Switch to show off your island or sit through a tour of Miss Katie's! We'll share tips and tricks along the way! **Ages 6+.**



### Middle Grade Graphic Novel Club

September 26th at 6:30 pm

Join us while we chat about a graphic novel and draw graphic novel panels. Copies are available at the youth services desk. ✓



## Thursdays

### PJ Storytime

September 21st at 6pm

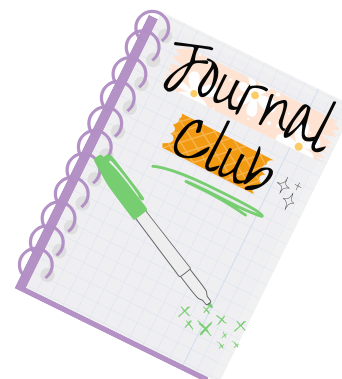
Bring your beloved stuffed animal and wear your favorite pajamas! We'll sing some songs and listen to a few stories!! **All ages welcome; intended for ages 1.5-5.**



### Bullet Journal Club

September 28th at 6pm

Come make a bullet journal with Katie! We'll make a new calendar each month and go over new ideas! Journal and supplies provided. **For teens and tweens.** ✓



= Sign up Required

# special:

## create&calm

**September 23rd at 11:30am**

We'll have a canvas and paint for you to come and create whatever you'd like! Join us for an afternoon of calming music, snacks, and creativity. **Sign up required.**



## Navigating the College Search

**September 25th at 6:30pm**

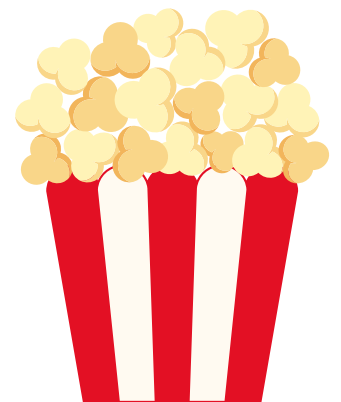
From preparing your college essay to sending your applications, you will be walked through the college process step-by-step. **Sign up required.**

College  
Prep

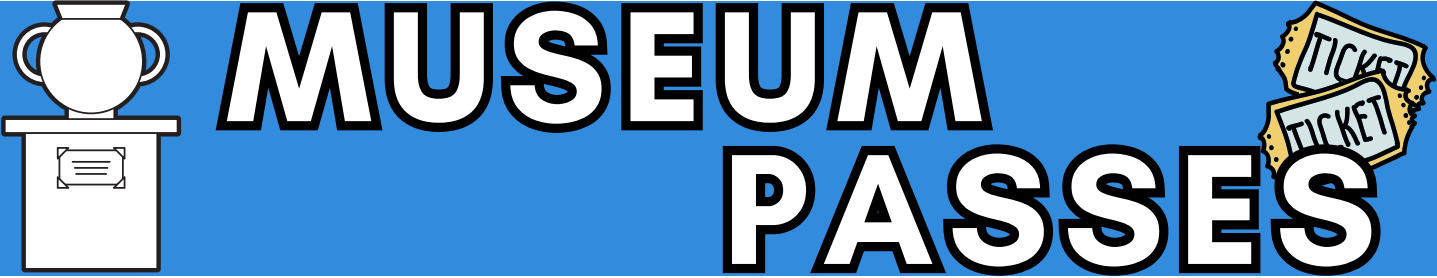
## Half-Day Movie

**September 29th at 1pm**

Need somewhere to hang out on a half day? We'll be showing a movie in the Marcy Room at 1pm! Bring snacks and your friends! **For teens and tweens.**



# MUSEUM PASSES



## Salem Witch Museum



This pass allows the bearer a discounted admission rate for up to six visitors. Please note that this pass must be checked out on the patron's account with a NOBLE card and returned after the visit. Enter...if you dare!

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## Harvard Museums of Science & Culture

The HMSC is a group of four museums that each cover some subject that is of scientific or cultural value. This pass admits up to four people at a 50% discount. Children under the age of three are admitted for free.

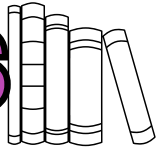




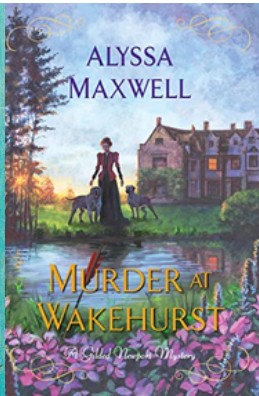
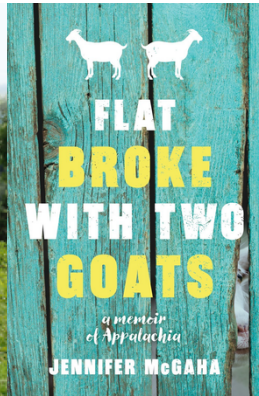
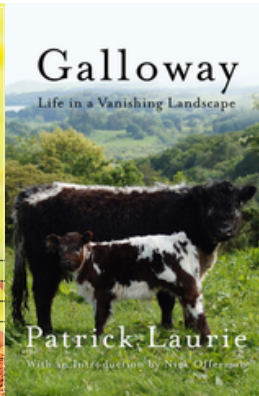
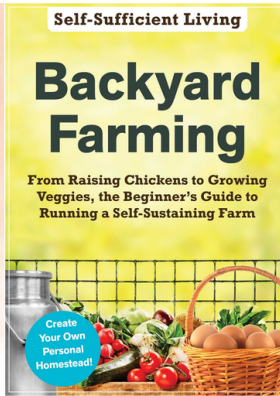
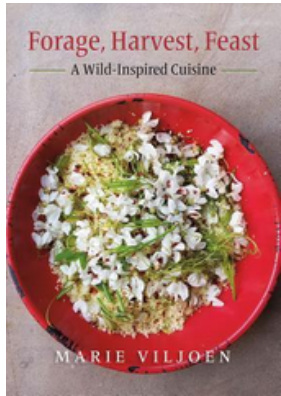
SEPTEMBER 2023



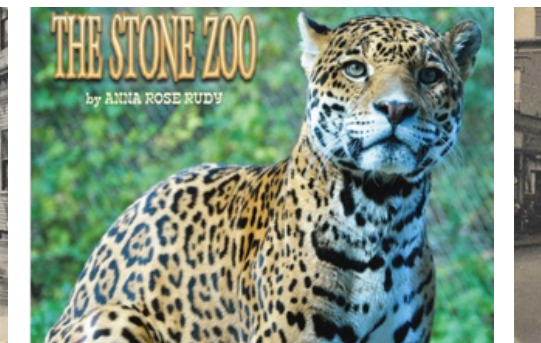
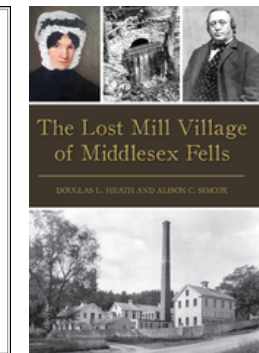
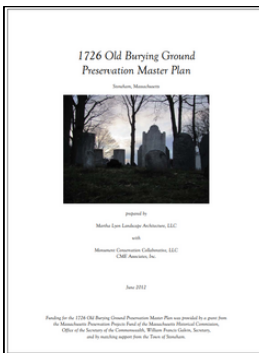
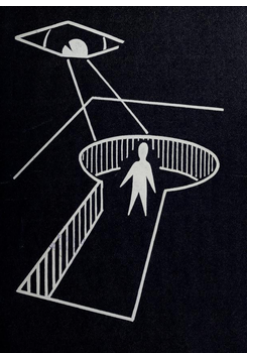
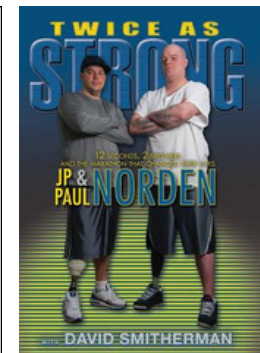
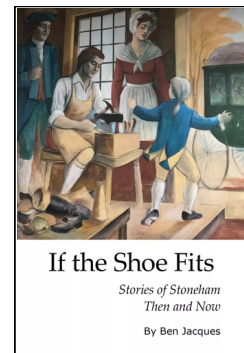
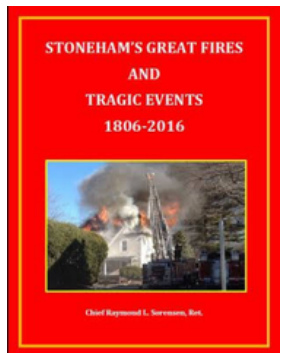
# SEPTEMBER BOOK LISTS



## Autumn on the Way



## Stoneham: Our Town



In addition to in-house materials, the library offers access to:

- digitized issues of [The Stoneham Independent](#) (1874–present)
- digitally archived [annual town reports](#)
- electronic copies of [Stoneham High School yearbooks](#)
- audio recordings from [Stoneham's Oral History Project](#)



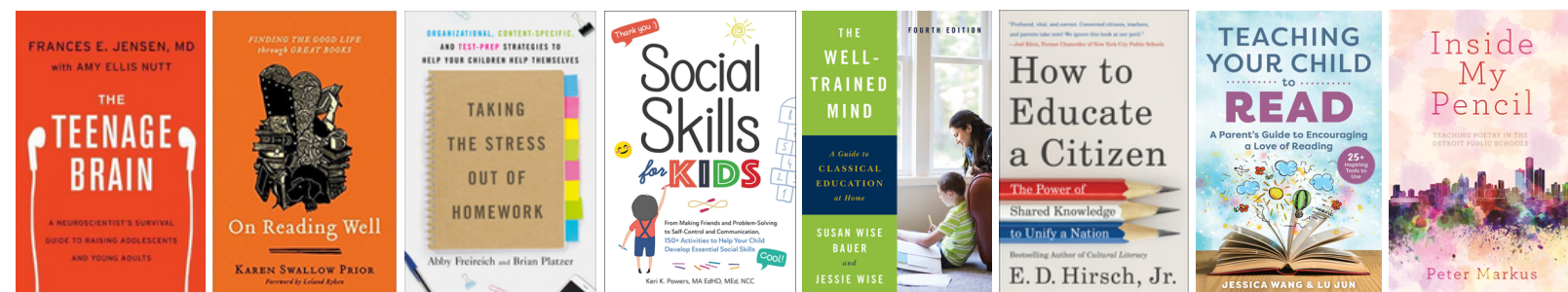
# SEPTEMBER BOOK LISTS CONT.

## Hispanic Heritage Month

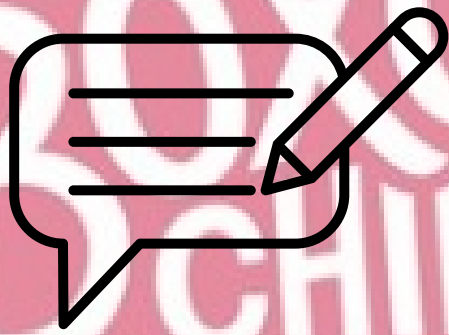


Also, consider using [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), a search engine that helps you to locate genealogical records and explore family history.

## Teachers and Students



The library also provides access to academic resources like [EBSCOhost](https://www.ebscohost.com) and [GALE databases](https://www.gale.com).



# STAFF REVIEWS

## ***The Case of the Missing Library Book!***

**Recommendation | Melissa Jackson**

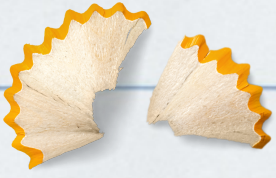
It has been going on all summer! I have been watching the books disappear week after week and I can't quite figure it out - but I love it! *The Boxcar Children* mysteries have been flying off the shelves faster than I can say "This sounds like an adventure!" What is behind this mysterious resurgence in popularity? Actually, there was never a mystery to begin with; the *Boxcar Children* have been a beloved series since Gertrude Chandler Warner first wrote about them in 1924!

At 99 years old, Warner stopped writing in the 1970's about the adventures of the Aldren children - Henry, Jessie, Violet and Bennie - who, after their parents die, run away from their relatives who plan to split the family up and find a boxcar to live in. They find friendship and employment with a local doctor, and eventually are reunited with their grandfather (I mean, who is going to let four kids live in a boxcar forever?). Their grandfather has the boxcar delivered to his home so that the children can keep it as a playhouse. The Aldren children continue their adventures around town and on many trips their grandfather tags along.

These lovely books are defying the odds of their genre and staying on the shelves, continuing to delight children with their adventures. *Publishers Weekly* noted: "One of the most interesting things about the books is that they're not terribly action-packed, like what you'd expect in a modern adventure story. They're more like quiet observations of the Aldens going about their daily lives and taking care of one another. But it's also what has given them such longevity." I asked one of our young patrons who is reading these tales voraciously what he liked about the *Boxcar Children*. He said that they were fun, but not too scary. I think my young friend speaks to the appeal of these lightweight capers. The stories are fun, and the readers, usually grades 2-4, are happily comforted by the knowledge that they have an adventure but will not be too scared.

**Multiple families are clamoring for the tales, and the kids are eating them up. With 160 (!!) books in the series at this count, that sounds like a series with adventure written all over it.**





## *All About Writing*

### **Recommendation | Matthew Sowyrd**

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I have decided to discuss this topic after several meetings of the writing program that I began in May. In this post I intend to garner interest for the program, as well as provide resources to those who might be starting to - or struggling with - creative writing and are looking for advice. My own (largely informal) experience spans from childhood through college, having composed prose and poetry both inside and outside of school. I continue to write in my leisure - though, I admit, not as much as I had written during my school days.

Now, the program is not a "class," for - like Socrates - I am no teacher; at least not by profession. I facilitate activities to entertain the more "casual" participants and challenge those who have loftier goals, initiate discussion, and share excerpts from authors I enjoy, as I try to cover the four "divisions" of creative writing: novels, short stories, poetry, and essays. Furthermore, I welcome participants to bring their favorite authors to the table (so to speak), because exposure to different styles can improve one's writing skills. For I am inclined to agree with Aristotle, who said that much of our lives are spent imitating others, especially in art (*Poetics*, chs. 2, 4). As writers, we tend to "borrow" - perhaps more subconsciously than consciously - from those whom we read most often. In short, our reading informs our writing.

Since April, I have been reading through numerous titles on the subject in an attempt to gather the best points that have been said about creative writing. You will find in [this list that I have compiled](#) that there are different angles from which to tackle the process. These books talk about good writing habits, dissecting poems, outlining stories, and literary elements, among other matters. Also included are the "classics" of literary theory, most notably the *Poetics* of Aristotle and the *Ars Poetica* of Horace. In the former, the Philosopher lays down standards for devices like plot structure and characterization. In the latter, the Poet praises traditional approaches to composition, as well as instructs the writer to wait several years before publishing freshly written work, so that time can age it well (ll. 387-391).

In addition to print materials, I recommend these online sources: [PoetryFoundation.org](#), for all things poetical; [Poets&Writers.org](#), for a directory of literary magazines that you can submit to (see guidelines) and a wealth of information about publishing; and [WritersDigest.org](#), for articles about technique, prompts, genres, and more; the company also publishes books similar to many of those that are featured in the reading list above.



***Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum***  
**Review | Ali Fletcher**

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On days when the summer sun is either too strong or too obstructed by dreary, gray storm clouds to enjoy a day outdoors, there are few places better to while away the hours than the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Located in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, the ISGM is well-equipped to capture the attention of plant lovers, art enthusiasts, and history buffs alike. Stoneham Library Patrons can explore the expertly curated world of Isabella Stewart Gardner's collections by using their library card to reserve passes that admit four adults for \$5 each, and children under the age of 18 for free.

For plant parents and aspiring botanists, the temporary exhibitions are currently showcasing *Presence of Plants in Contemporary Art*, a collection of living displays and videography from artists such as Zheng Bo of Taiwan, artist-activists Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey of the UK, and Australian environmentalist Natalie Jeremijenko. In the museum's courtyard lies the central botanical garden (pictured) where visitors can immerse themselves in Gardner's love of horticulture as a living art. For those interested in classical art, the three floors of galleries circling the courtyard display countless works by artists such as Degas and Matisse, Gardner's personal collection of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, intricate 18th century furniture and 16th century tapestries, and copies of correspondence between Gardner and John Singer Sargent, Benjamin Franklin, and Victor Hugo, among other notable figures. Each room was personally arranged by Gardner and stands exactly the same as it had prior to her death, allowing visitors to ensconce themselves in the rich and luxurious visions that Gardner had spent her life bringing into reality.

Despite its vast collection of precious relics and masterpieces, the Museum is perhaps most famous for being the target of the largest art heist and property theft that history has ever known. For audiences more interested in the seedy underbelly of Boston history, one can visit the ISGM to learn more about how, in March of 1990, two men disguised as police officers managed to break into the museum under the cover of night and steal thirteen priceless works of art, including *Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, the only seascape ever painted by Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn. In many cases, the frames from which these invaluable pieces were taken hang empty on the walls, a haunting reminder of how the whereabouts of these stolen works, precious to both museum-goers and the museum's creator herself, still remain a mystery. Over 33 years later, the \$10M reward being offered to anyone with information that could restore these works to their homes on the walls of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum lies unclaimed.