

December 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

RECENT NEWS

The Library is ready to introduce two staff new members to the Stoneham community: Anna, who will join the Adult Services team; and Deb, who will join the Junior Services team. Drop in and give them each a greeting! Both have a variety of abilities and interests that they can infuse into future programs.

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

Closings

Saturday, Dec. 23rd

Monday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day)



Around Town

[Holiday Parade](#) (Stoneham Chamber of Commerce)

Saturday, Dec. 9th, 11 AM-1:30 PM



Stoneham Historical Society.

[December Monthly Open House and Museum Opening](#)

36 William St., Stoneham, MA | Dec. 17th | 2-4 PM

ADULT PROGRAMS

MONDAY

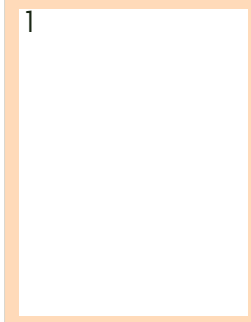
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

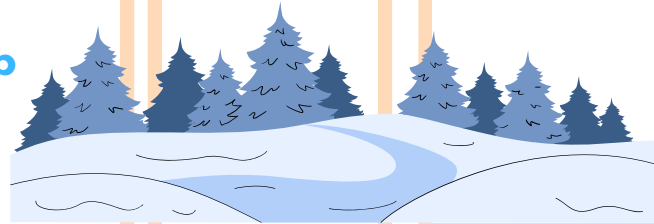
SATURDAY



5
Adult Creative Writing Group
11:30 am



7
Mystery Book Group
7 pm



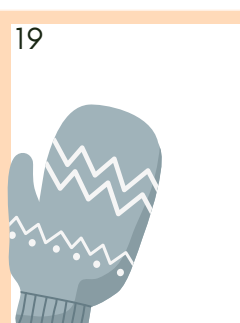
12
Arty Party
7 pm



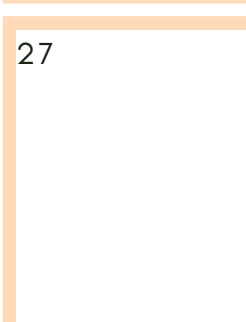
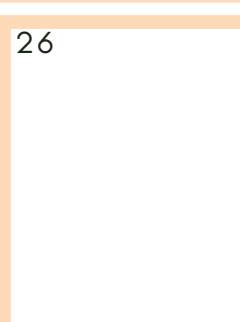
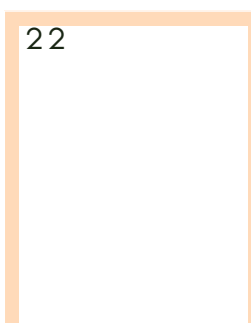
14
Board Game Night
7 pm

15
Movie Matinee
1:00 pm

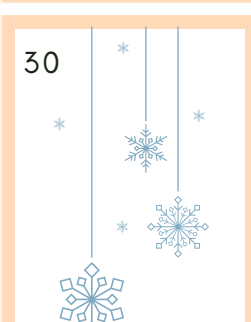
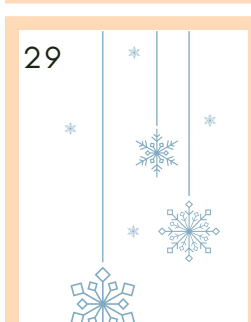
16
Gentle Yoga
10:30 am



20
Film Club Discussion
6:30 pm



28
Queer Reader Book Group
7 pm



MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS:

Tuesdays

Adult Creative Writing Group

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

Attendees are invited to bring their own projects to share with the group for critiques. Activities include reading excerpts from established authors, articles about creative writing skills, and writing sessions. All skill levels are welcome. [Registration is encouraged.](#)



Arty Party

December 12th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

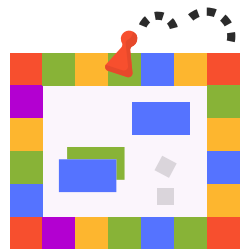
Do you miss the days when you could get a little messy and just have fun while creating something? Well here's an arts and crafts program just for adults! December's craft will be essential oil candles! **Space is limited.** [Registration is required.](#) **All supplies will be provided.**



Board Game Night

December 14th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

Join us from 7-8:30pm to play board games, card games, put together puzzles, etc! An array of games will be 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.](#)



Wednesdays

Film Club Discussion

December 20th at 6:30 pm | Zoom

The Film Club will discuss its December selection, *White Christmas* (1954), directed by Michael Curtiz, and stars Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera Ellen. It tells the tale of a successful song-and-dance team, Wallace and Davis, becoming romantically involved with a song-and-dance sisters Betty and Judy - all while trying to save a Vermont Inn just in time for Christmas. David will send out the Zoom link on the day of the discussion. Also, don't miss the public screening on Friday, December 15th at 1:00 PM. [Come join the conversation!](#)

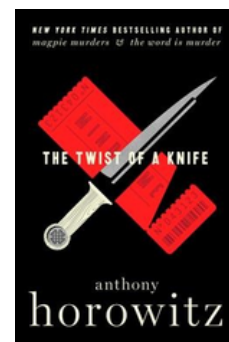


MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

Thursdays

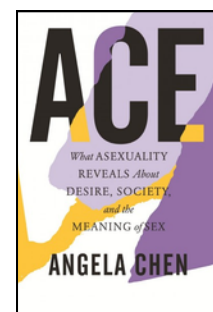
Mysteries Around the World Book Group December 7th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The group will discuss Anthony Horowitz's novel, *The Twist of a Knife*. "When the critic who gave his new play scathing reviews is found stabbed in the heart with his ornamental dagger, author Anthony Horowitz is arrested by an old enemy out for revenge, and the only man who can help him is his estranged partner in solving crime, Daniel Hawthorne." If you have any questions, contact Maureen Saltzman at saltzman@noble.net or (781) 438-1324.



Queer Reader: An LGBTQ+ Book Club December 28th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The December book is *Ace* by Angela Chen. "An engaging exploration of what it means to be asexual in a world that's obsessed with sexual attraction, and what we can all learn about desire and identity by using an ace lens to see the world." Pick up your copy at the circulation desk! If you have any questions, contact Lily Mysona at (781) 507-2489 or lmysona@noble.net. [Registration is required.](#)



Fridays

Movie Matinee: *White Christmas* (1954) December 15th at 1 pm | The Marcy Room

After leaving the Army, Bob and Phil become a song-and-dance duo. They fall for song-and-dance sisters Betty and Judy. When the foursome arrives at a Vermont inn to perform a Christmas show, Wallace and Davis are surprised to find their former commander owns the place! A series of romantic mix-ups ensue as they all help to save the inn. Join the Zoom discussion on Wednesday, December 20th at 6:30 PM!

No registration required.



NOVEMBER 2023

SPECIAL ADULT PROGRAM:

Gentle Yoga



Instructor:

Joanna Kent

**The Marcy
Room**

Saturday, Dec. 16th

10:30 AM

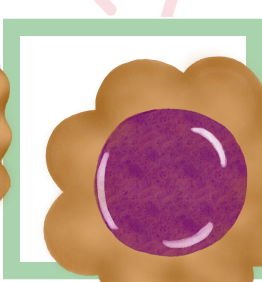
Join us for gentle yoga with Joanna Kent! Joanna has been practicing yoga for five years and became a certified yoga teacher this year. She utilizes yoga to ground herself and strengthen her mental health. Joanna's goal as a yoga teacher is to empower her students to feel good in their mind and bodies. She believes yoga should be accessible to and inclusive for all. Her class includes breathwork, slower paced movements, and lots of relaxation!

Please bring your own yoga mat.

[Registration is not required, but appreciated.](#)

DECEMBER

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



1
Baby Bumble
10-11 am

2
Lego Club
11-12:30

4
Fables & Fun
4pm

5
Toddler Tumble
10 am

6
Babytime
9:30 am

Switch after School
3pm

7
Toddler Tales
10:30am

8
Baby Bumble
10-11 am

9
Lego Club
11-12:30

11
Fables & Fun
4pm

12
Toddler Tumble
10 am

Recycle Craft
3:30pm

13
Babytime
9:30 am

Switch after School
3pm

14
Toddler Tales
10:30am

PJ Storytime
6pm

15
Baby Bumble
9:30-11 am

16
Lego Club
11-12:30
Chess Club
10:30 am
Frosty Movie
Day 12:30

18
Fables & Fun
4pm

19
Musical Mornings
10:30 am

Recycle Craft
3:30pm

20
Babytime
9:30 am

Switch after School
3pm



22
Baby Bumble
9:30-11 am

23

CLOSED

25

26
Toddler Tumble
10 am

27
Babytime
9:30 am

Japanese Folktales
1pm

28
Toddler Tales
10:30am

Bullet Journal Club
6pm

29
Baby Bumble
9:30-11 am


30
Lego Club
11-12:30



weekly:

Mondays

Fables and Fun at 4pm

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

Tuesdays

DAY CHANGE!

Toddler Tumble at 10 am

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

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!

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 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 am Come build your Lego dreams during this drop in program! Swing by and hang out with us! **For all ages.**



= Sign up Required

monthly:

Musical Mornings

Dec. 19th 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.**



Recycle Craft: Gingerbread House

December 19th at 3:30pm 

Join Deb in making a fun winter craft! We'll be recycling materials into a wonderful gingerbread home! **For ages 6+.**



PJ Storytime

December 14th at 6pm 

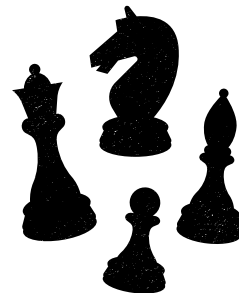
Bring your beloved stuffed animal and wear your favorite pajamas! We'll sing some songs and listen to a few stories!! **All ages welcome; intended for ages 1.5-5.**



Stoneham Chess Club

December 16th at 10:30am 

The lovely Murphy family will be hosting a chess club for kiddos of all ages! Join them at the library to learn chess, play chess, and have a wonderful time! Sign up is required so we have an idea of how many kiddos to expect! **All ages welcome; intended for ages 6+**



Bullet Journal Club

December 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. Click a logo to register for that program.

special:

FROSTY MOVIE DAY



**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 16TH
12:30-1:30**


SIGN UP REQUIRED.

Frosty Movie Day


Saturday, December 16th 12:30-1:30

Join us for a showing of Frosty the Snowman! Wear your favorite jammies and bring your stuffie! We'll have treats for the movie and a craft to complete afterwards. Space is limited, so sign up is required! All ages are welcome.

For all ages. [Sign up required.](#)



MUSEUM PASSES



Click the logo to go to the museum's website.

The coupon code covers the cost of up to 25 tickets per mainstage show. There is no ticket limit per person. This pass is not a reservation. You must reserve a ticket for a specific day and time prior to the performance you wish to attend. Tickets can be reserved on the theatre's website or by phone (781-279-2200). Your tickets are only valid for the date and time you reserve.

This pass admits up to four people (adults or children) at half price per person. It is an e-ticket, which will be sent to your email. It is only valid for use on the date for which you reserve it. You must reserve your visit on the museum's website after receiving the pass.



Click the logo to go to the museum's website.

DECEMBER BOOK LISTS

Charity: The Greatest Virtue



Winter Wildcard



DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER BOOK LISTS CONT.

Published: 2023*



*Massachusetts Center for the Book challenge

Trivial Randomosity.





STAFF REVIEWS

Christmas at Pemberley

Recommendation | Melissa Jackson

The holiday season brings forth my love of all things Victorian. I am sure that in Charles Dickens' London things were not warm and cozy, but I like to imagine that at Christmas the gloom and stench lifted to reveal warm fires, parties, carols, and roast goose. Would I cook a goose today? No! But it sure sounds delightful when Scrooge has one brought to the Cratchit family table in *A Christmas Carol*. Reading this classic or watching the movie is a favorite holiday tradition of mine. Another fun tradition that I embrace is reading the works of authors who have poked their heads into the cupboards of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* in order to take the characters on Christmas journeys, to the delight of readers everywhere. Here are some fun Pemberley holiday reads and watches.

My top recommendation is *A Darcy Christmas* by Amanda Grange. Out of the three novellas contained therein, my favorite involves Darcy and old Scrooge himself. Next is *Pride, Prejudice, and Mistletoe* by Melissa De la Cruz, which is a modern update on Austen's novel, with Darcy being female and Bennett being male - fun! *Christmas at Pemberley* has been performed as a play in the area, but is also on DVD as part of a Hallmark three-set movie. Finally, I couldn't write about a *Pride and Prejudice* spin-off without mentioning *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P. D James. Yes, it is a murder mystery, but sometimes Christmas needs a little bit of darkness to make it merry and bright.

The candles are lit and the carriages are arriving. The house is decorated with greens and bows, and the tables are filled with delicious treats. The music is playing and the punch is being served. Sit yourself down with a cup of cocoa and a cookie, and enjoy the party. Happy holidays everyone!

[Click here for a list of recommended titles!](#)



A Medley of Music-makers

Recommendation | Matthew Sowyrd

The ancient playwright Sophocles wrote: “O for mortals, what Power there is in songs / What greatest happiness / That can make bearable this short narrow channel of life” (fragment 568). Many people, I am sure, will agree that music, with its singular power of harmony, touches the soul and the heart. Once the right melody has entered into those two places, one is unlikely to forget its speech-defying effect, as stated in *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994). In the words of Percy Shelley, “Music, when soft voices die, / Vibrates in the memory.”

One tune may call things out of the past; another may enable us to imagine things that are neither past nor present, but are scenes from the listener’s mental film reel, so to speak. [The latter case suggests that, while music is primarily an auditory experience, there seems to be a visual component as well.](#) Perhaps the structure of musical compositions carries a “cinematic” quality, much like when we read a novel. This has become evident to me especially through listening to classical music, a genre that customarily relies less upon lyrics and more upon instrumental arrangement in order to convey the narrative, as with Tchaikovsky’s *1812 Overture*, for instance. Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* is the strongest example that comes to my mind, particularly the tremolo violins that commence Movement I, which seem to imitate the angelic choir that sang moments before the Creation; and Movement III, whose opening measures are like morning sunlight filtering in between close-standing trees, and the string section’s sweet swells stir up some poignant image – a reconciliation between estranged friends, or one of Proust’s penetrating passages on art, memory, and life.

Like baseball in sports, so have I a soft spot for the guitar when it comes to music. As of late, I have succumbed to the infectious and seductive personality of the Spanish guitar, especially through the work of John Williams (the guitarist, not the composer). His renditions of such pieces as Isaac Albeniz’ fiery, exotic *Asturias (Leyenda)*, Francisco Tarrega’s crowd-silencing *Recuerdos de la Alhambra*, and Domenico Scarlatti’s spirited *Sonata K. 380* are exceptional performances; the best of the best, in my opinion.

[Click this hyperlink to access a list of my recommendations from NOBLE’s collection.](#)

[Items are in CD and electronic format \(Hoopla\).](#)