

January 2024

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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 [@StonehamPubLib](https://www.instagram.com/StonehamPubLib)

 [Stoneham Public Library](https://www.facebook.com/StonehamPublicLibrary)

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

Closings



Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day)



Monday, January 15th (MLK Jr. Day)



Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, January 8th @ 7:00 PM
The Stoneham Room

[Click here to learn more about the trustees and view minutes from their past meetings.](#)



Friends of the Stoneham Library Meeting

Saturday, January 13th @ 12:00 PM
The Stoneham Room

[Click here to learn more about the Friends, such as functions and how to get involved.](#)



**Friends of
Stoneham Library**
#FOSL

ART DISPLAY

Stoneham Public Library Gallery Hallway

MOUNA BASSALI



In January 2024, the library will exhibit the work of artist **Mouna Bassali**. The artist discovered her passion for painting upon retirement. She paints an array of subjects. She loves painting and truly enjoys displaying her artwork.



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

ADULT PROGRAMS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

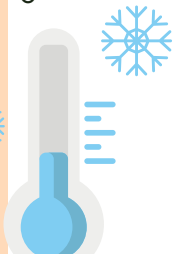
1
Happy New Year
CLOSED

2
Creative Writing Group
11:30 am
Arty Party
7 pm

3

4
Mystery Book Group
7 pm

5

6


8

9
True Crime with Chris Daley: Unsolved Northeast
7 PM

10


11
Board Game Night
7 pm


12

13

15

CLOSED

16


17

18
Craft & Chat
7 pm

19
Movie Matinee: Invasion of the Body Snatchers
1 pm

20
Gentle Yoga
10:30 am

22
Meet the Author: Morgan Baker
7 PM

23
Ceramics Workshop
6:30 pm

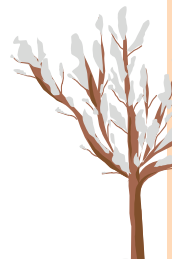
24
Film Club Discussion
6:30 pm

25
Queer Reader Book Group
7 pm

26

27
Movie Matinee: Barbie
11 am

29
Monday Night Book Group
7 PM

30


31



JANUARY 2024

MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS:

Mondays

Monday Night Book Group

Monday, January 29 at 7 PM | The Stoneham Room

The group will discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. This novel is a "luminous portrait of a marriage, a shattering evocation of a family ravaged by grief and loss, and a tender and unforgettable reimagining of a boy whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays of all time". The book group welcomes you to join us. For information please contact: Maureen Saltzman: 781-438-1324; saltzman@noblenet.org



Tuesdays

Adult Creative Writing Group

January 2nd at 11:30 am | The Stoneham Room

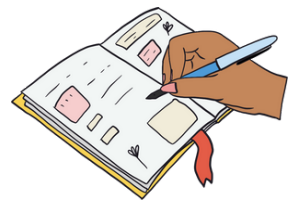
Attendees are invited to bring their own projects to share with the group for critiques. Activities include reading excerpts from established authors, articles about creative writing skills, and writing sessions. All skill levels are welcome. [Registration encouraged.](#)



Arty Party

January 2nd at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

This is a monthly program for adults 18+ to come hang out and make a craft together. January's craft will be bullet journals! All supplies provided. [Registration is required.](#)

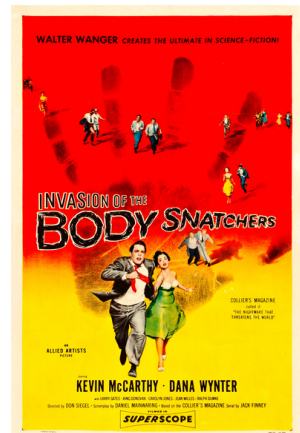


Wednesdays

Film Club Discussion

January 24th at 6:30 pm | Zoom

The Film Club will discuss its January selection, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956). Directed by Don Siegel and starring Kevin McCarthy, it is the story of small-town doctor who learns that the population of his community is being replaced by emotionless alien duplicates.



MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

Thursdays

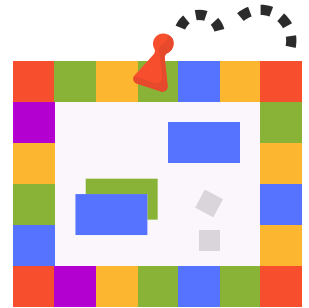
Mysteries Around the World Book Group January 4th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

Our book this month is *The Golden Couple* by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen. "When they glide through therapist Avery Chamber's door and Marissa Bishop reveals her infidelity, all are set on a collision course. Because the biggest secrets in the room are still hidden, and it's no longer simply a marriage that's in danger". For information please contact: Maureen Saltzman: 781-438-1324; saltzman@noblenet.org. The Mystery group always looks forward to welcoming new members.



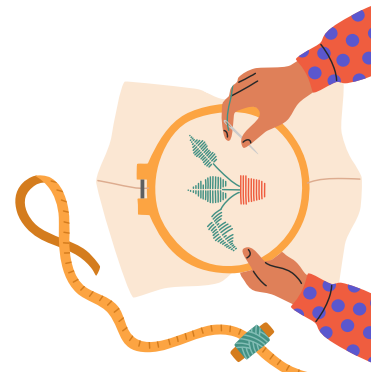
Board Game Night January 11th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

Join us 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. This program is open to anyone 18 or older. [Registration encouraged.](#)



Craft & Chat January 18th at 7 PM | The Stoneham Room

Are you embroidering, crocheting, sewing, or knitting something? Bring your project to the library and chat with other textile crafters while you work! [Registration is not required, but is appreciated.](#)



Queer Reader: An LGBTQ+ Book Club January 25th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The January book is *Carmilla* by J. Sheridan Le Fanu, which tells the story of a feverish friendship between Austrian teenager Laura and her entrancing companion, Carmilla. Carmilla is the original vampire story, steeped in the sexual tension between two young women and gothic romance. Pick up your copy at the circulation desk! Questions? [Registration is required.](#)



MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

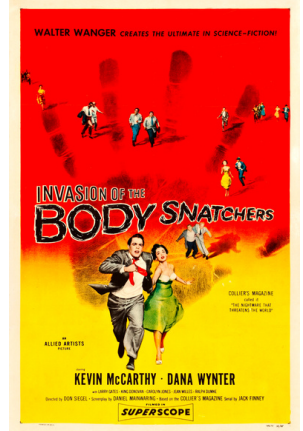
Fridays

Movie Matinee: *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956)

January 19th at 1 pm | The Marcy Room

Come watch *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956). Directed by Don Siegel and starring Kevin McCarthy, it is the story of small-town doctor who learns that the population of his community is being replaced by emotionless alien duplicates.

No registration required.



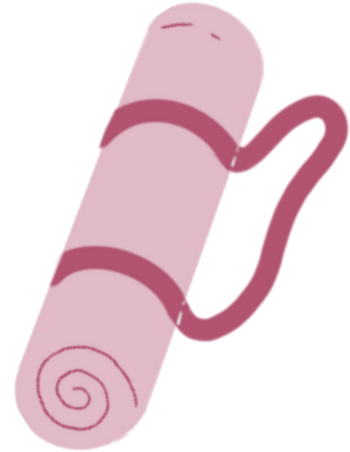
Saturdays

Gentle Yoga with Joanna Kent

January 20th at 10:30 am | The Marcy Room

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 required, space is limited.



Movie Matinee: *Barbie* (2023)

January 27th at 11 am | The Marcy Room

Come watch *Barbie* (2023). Directed by Greta Gerwig, starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, Barbie suffers a crisis that leads her to question her world and her existence.

No registration required.



JANUARY 2024

TRUE CRIME SERIES WITH CHRISTOPHER DALEY

UNSOLVED NORTHEAST

**Tuesday, January 9th
7 PM | The Marcy Room**

The first event in our *True Crime Series* is *Unsolved Northeast*. Christopher Daley will talk about some of the more famous unsolved mysteries in the Northeastern United States, including, but not limited to, the 1930 disappearance of Judge Joseph Carter from New York City, Vermont's mysterious Bennington Triangle, and the 1918 death of Dr. William Dean in New Hampshire.

Christopher Daley has been speaking all over New England for the past 30 years, and virtually via Zoom throughout the United States for the past two years on historical topics of interest, at libraries, historical societies, schools, clubs, and organizations! He is the author of [Murder & Mayhem in Boston : Historic Crimes in the Hub](#) (this title is included in our True Crime Time list, see p. 16).

MEET THE AUTHOR

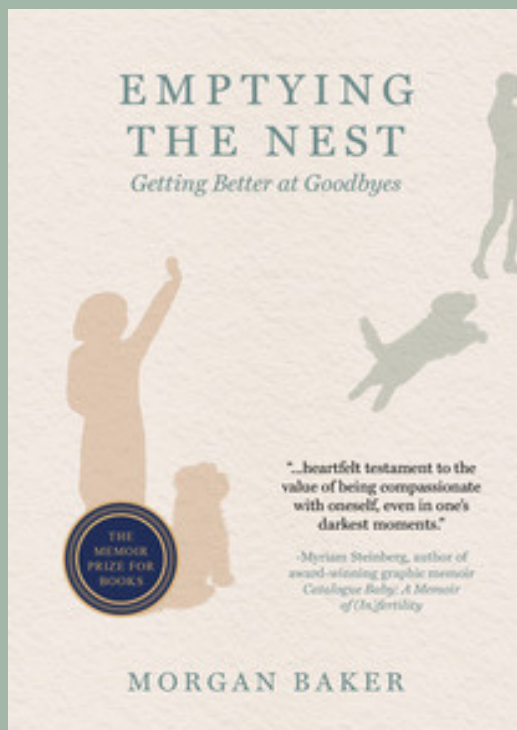
MORGAN BAKER



Monday, January 22nd
7 PM | The Marcy Room

Join us and award-winner author and Emerson College professor, Morgan Baker to discuss what to do when your kids leave home. *Emptying the Nest: Getting Better at Goodbyes* is about reinventing yourself, learning how to

handle loss, and emerging from depression. It was honored with the Memoir Magazine's award for the Family/Relationship category. **No registration required.**



Click the book cover to learn more about this program.

CERAMIC EARRINGS WORKSHOP

Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM

The Marcy Room

Join Avery Bondar for a ceramic earrings workshop, during which you will make your own pair of ceramic earrings! **Registration is required, space is extremely limited.**

Click the image below to register, and to view more information about this program.



INTRODUCING: OUR PODCAST!

The Stoneham Public Library is starting a podcast called *Book Service*. It is going to be a variety show in which the Stoneham librarians will host their own series on topics relating to libraries and literature. These will be presented in the form of narrations, roundtable discussions, and more.



Our first episode is anticipated to be released in January, and will introduce *Haunting the Fireside*, a fall-winter exclusive series featuring short horror story narrations by Stoneham Library staff. That episode will also include a reading of *The Curse*, a legend retold by Alvin Schwartz, which appears in the popular *Scary Stories* trilogy.

JANUARY



MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 	2	3	4	5	6 Chess Club 10:30am
PROGRAMMING BREAK*					
8	9 Musical Mornings 10:30 am	10	11	12	13
PROGRAMMING BREAK*					
15 CLOSED	16	17	18	19	20 Chess Club 10:30am Crochet Club 12pm
PROGRAMMING BREAK*					
22 Crazy Crafts 4pm Quick Stitch Club 4:30pm	23 Toddler Tumble 10 am Silly Storytime 4pm	24 Babytime 9:30 am Switch after School 3pm	25 Toddler Tales 10:30 am Bullet Journal Club 6pm	26 Baby Bumble 9:30-11 am	27 Lego Club 11am
29 Crazy Crafts 4pm	30 Toddler Tumble 10 am Silly Storytime 4pm Graphic Novel Club 6pm	31 Babytime 9:30 am Switch after School 3pm	REMINDER: Please have your snacks before you enter the library. We do not have full time maintenance and we will get bugs from food! Thank you!		

*Youth Services staff will be taking a scheduled break from their regular programs. It is time to prepare for spring programs! We hope that you come by to visit! Our specialty programs will continue as scheduled!

Programming Break : January 2nd- January 20th

Mondays

Crazy Crafts at 4 pm

Join Miss Melissa for a kooky, creative adventure. **For ages 7+** ✓

Tuesdays

Toddler Tumble at 10 am

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

Silly Storytime 4 pm

Get ready to laugh along to some silly stories with Miss Melissa! **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 0-12 months** ✓

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

Jan. 9th at 10:30 am 

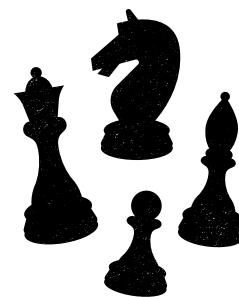
The wonderful Matt Heaton is hosting a monthly musical program!!! Come join us for a morning of movin' and groovin'! **For all ages. Intended for ages 1.5-5.**



Stoneham Chess Club

January 6th & 20th at 10:30 am 

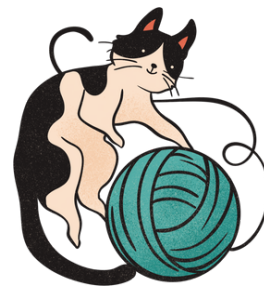
The lovely Murphy family will be hosting a chess club for kiddos of all ages! Join them at the library to learn chess, play chess, and have a wonderful time! Sign up is required so we have an idea of how many kiddos to expect! **All ages welcome; intended for ages 6+**



Crochet Club

January 20th at 12pm 

JC, the crochet master, will be here to guide you through crocheting a beautiful creation. No experience necessary; bring supplies if you have them, but if you don't, that is okay! **Grades 4 and up; sign up requested so we know who to expect!**

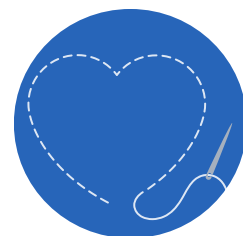


Quick Stitch Club

Jan. 22nd at 4:30 pm 

Teens and Tweens: Join Deb once a month to learn how to embroider your own hoop! No experience required; she'll help you build your skills!

This is a series program; you sign up once for all 5 sessions! The dates for this program will fall on: Monday 1/22, 2/12, 3/11, 4/8, and 5/13!



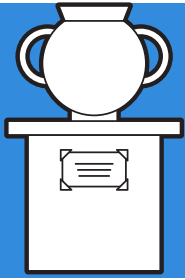
Bullet Journal Club

January 25th at 6 pm 

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.



MUSEUM PASSES



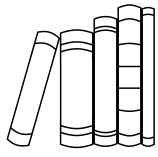
Click the logo to go to the museum's website.

The **Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame** is located in Springfield, MA, and is dedicated to the history of basketball. This pass must be picked up at and returned to the library. It admits up to 3 adults and 3 children at the discounted rate of \$17 per adult, \$15 per senior and \$12 per youth (ages five to 15). Children under five are admitted free. This pass is not limited by date or time.

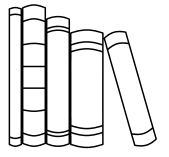
The **Museum of Science** in Boston is dedicated to promoting and educating visitors about science and technology. This pass is an e-voucher, which will be sent to your email. You can print it out or display it to admissions on your device. It admits up to four people at half off the regular admission price. Children under 3 are not included in the count of 4 and are admitted for free. If you have questions or prefer to reserve in advance, you can call 617-723-2500 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily).



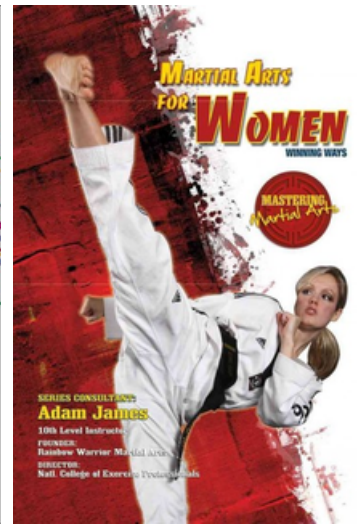
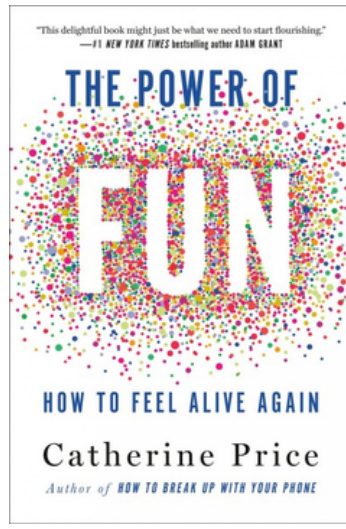
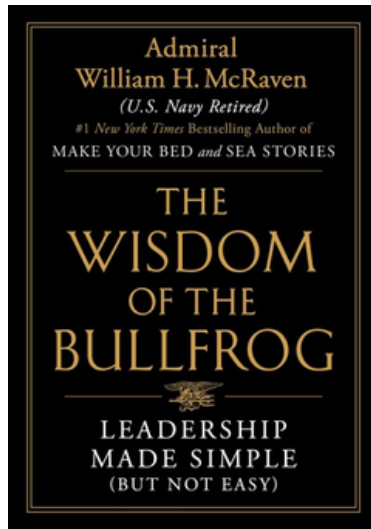
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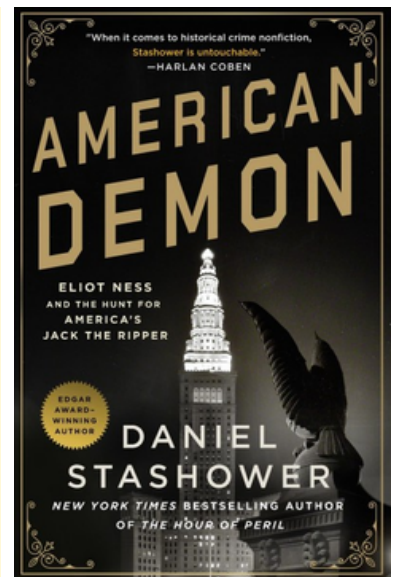
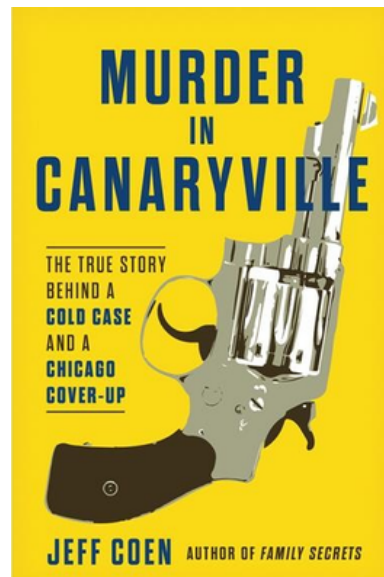
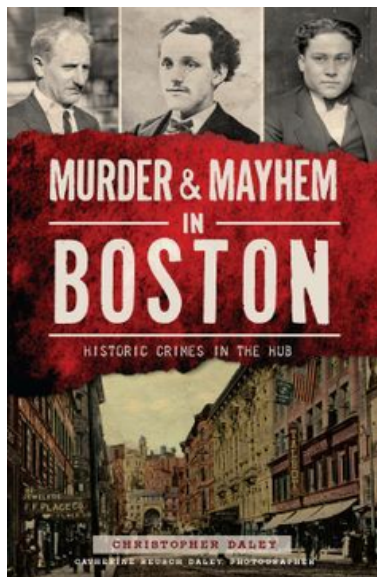
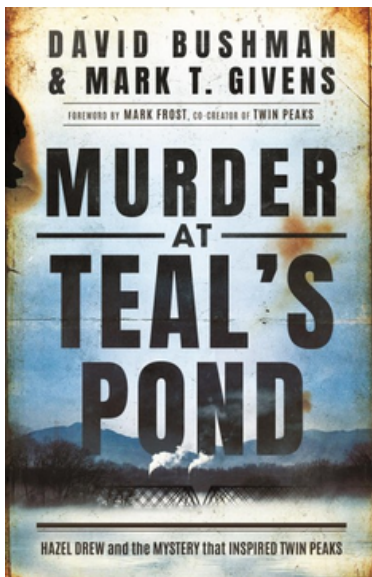
JANUARY BOOK LISTS



Learn and Do More in 2024



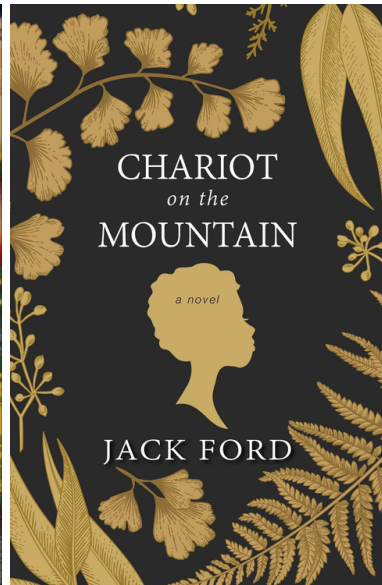
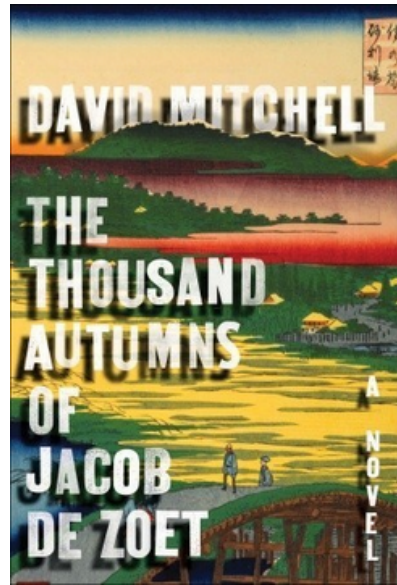
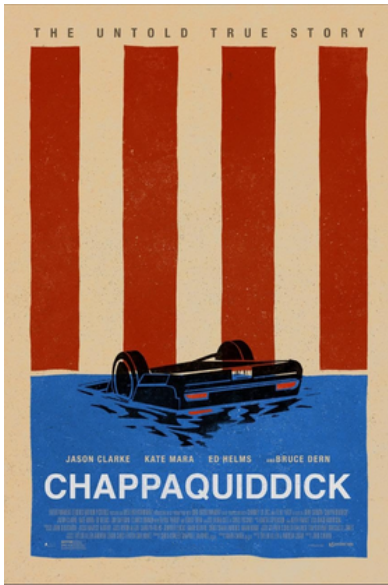
True Crime Time



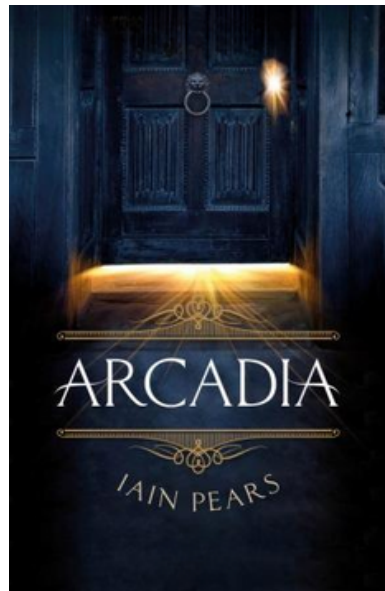
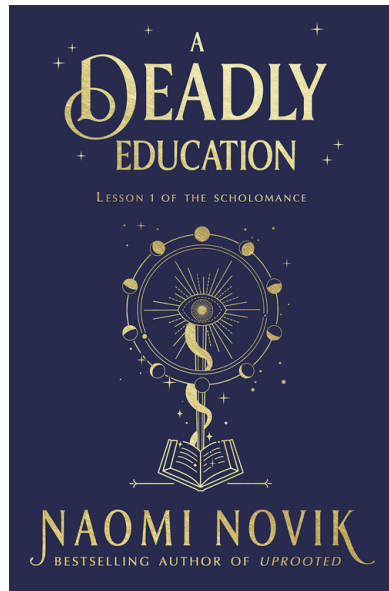
JANUARY 2024

JANUARY BOOK LISTS CONT.

Turn Back the Clocks



New Year, New Worlds

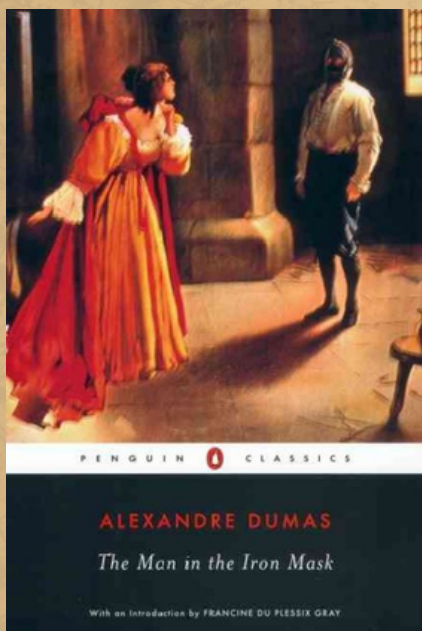
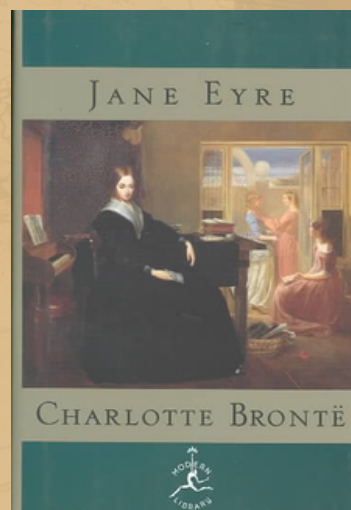




STAFF REVIEWS

Start the Year with an Adventure Recommendation | Melissa Jackson

I enjoy a good adventure story, and credit my mother for starting me on the genre. She was quite sick as a child, and had read quite a bit, keeping her treasured books for us children to read as we chose. It was there in this treasure trove of books that I found *Little Women* and *Jane Eyre*. I also discovered the works of Alexandre Dumas, venturing into the exciting world of *The Three Musketeers*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and *The Man in the Iron Mask*.



I was in my teens at the time, and was enthralled with the drama and excitement of these tales of deception and redemption, all taking place in France with the heroic Musketeers and Noble Counts and mysterious Ladies. The writing is clear and descriptive, the plot moves along and holds your interest. I have read the books to my own children and they really enjoyed them. It is cold and gray outside, so curl up, and go to France for a fun adventure with Alexandre Dumas and his exciting books. They will take you along for a fun adventure!

[Click here to access a list of these titles in the NOBLE catalogue!](#)

***How to Read a Book* | Mortimer J. Adler & Charles Van Doren** **Review | Matthew Sowyrda**

There are times when, as readers, we seek ways that will make us better at reading. At the same time, if we read a certain kind of book, it may also improve our character. These notions, among others, were what drove educators Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren to write *How to Read a Book*. Published in 1940, it achieved bestseller status, was later revised in 1972, and continues to be read today.

The authors stress active, intelligent, and purposeful reading. What this means is to exert honest effort, as well as to be able to discern the value of what you are reading. You may come across a book that gives you trouble, whether it presents ideas that upset you (if it was written by an author with whom you disagree), or, it is one that you are struggling to comprehend - a book of theology, a treatise in advanced trigonometry, a poetry collection. One of the major points the authors make is that, the more challenging a book is for you, the more it is calling for your attention. If you are patient and persistent, you will not be disappointed by the rewards you reap from your labors. Better yet, you can learn a lot about yourself and the world from reading mentally taxing material, more so than from "easy reads" and books by authors with whom you already agree.

Another important point is to treat a book as the middle ground in the relationship between author and reader. An author is someone who poses a question or problem, or has something to teach, and wants to communicate these ideas to the world. The "demanding" reader's job is to sit down with that book, and dig into its pages to discover the meaning that lies within by asking critical questions and taking notes. This becomes, in effect, a conversation between the author and the reader - even if the former is no longer living. Readers should be charitable, in that they refrain from criticism until they have understood the author's meaning.

These tools are just a few among many that are aimed at helping readers to grow intellectually and - in a sense - spiritually. This is a serious and practical must-read for those who feel that they are in need of a reading guide that will help them with their own reading abilities. To top it off, the book is appended with over 100 recommendations, as well as and exercises with which you can practice analytical reading skills. This book - like a stranger, as the saying goes - is a friend you haven't met yet.

