

February 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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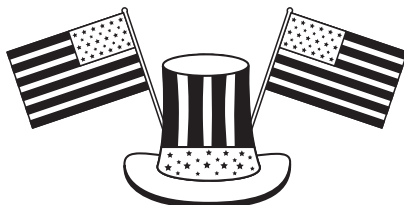
 [@Stoneham.Library](https://www.instagram.com/Stoneham.Library)

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

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

Closings

Monday, February 19th (Presidents' Day)



Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, February 12th @ 7:00 PM

The Stoneham Room

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



Stoneham Historical Society & Museum

Monthly Open House

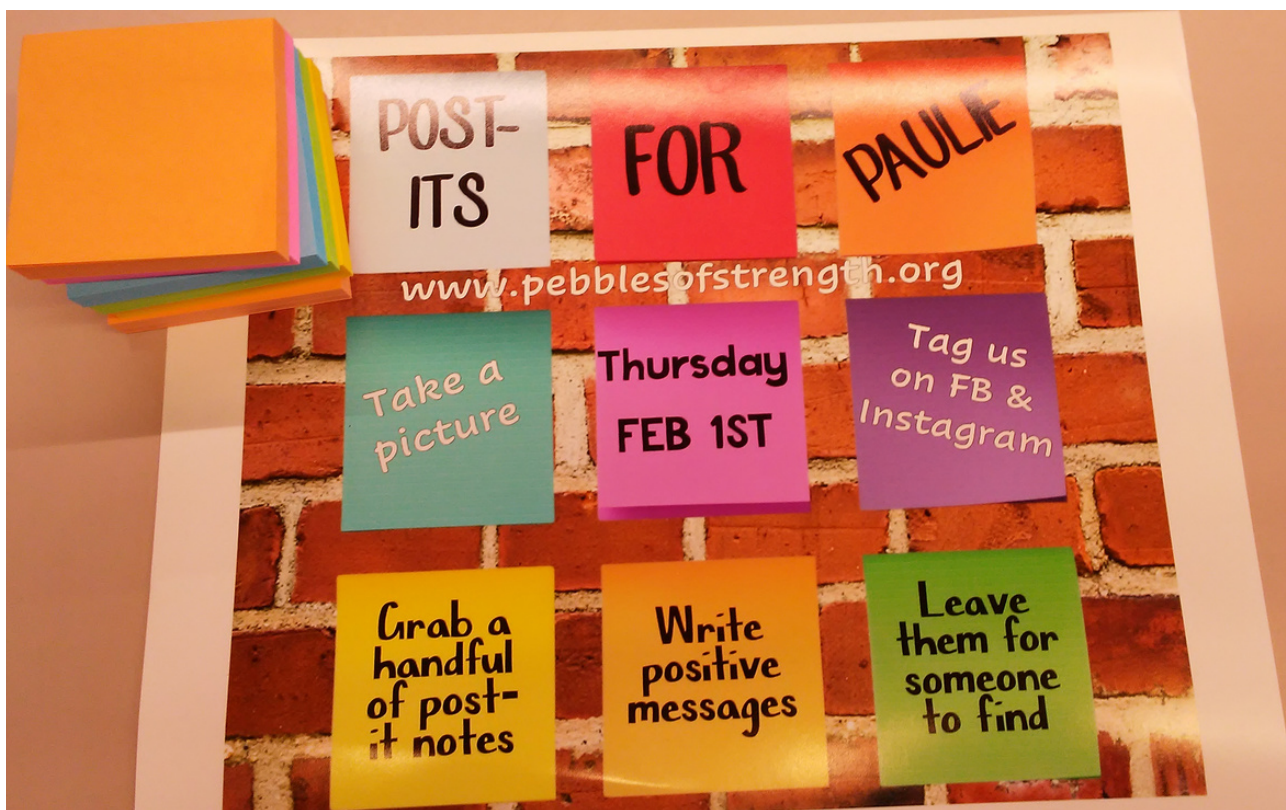
Sunday, February 18th @ 2 PM

36 William Street, Stoneham, MA

FROM THE CIRC. DESK

Pebbles of Strength

“Together, we envision a world where open dialogue and understanding can save lives and offer hope to those in crisis.”



For more information, visit: www.pebblesofstrength.org

Contact: Heidi Bilbo

(781) 572-0888

pebblesofstrength@gmail.com

ADULT PROGRAMS



MONDAY

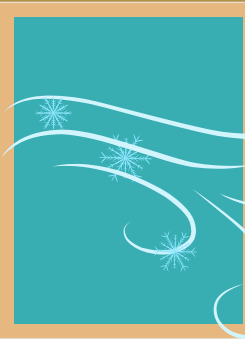
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1
Mystery Book Group
7 pm



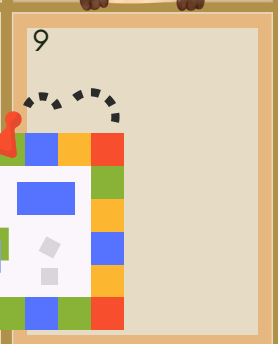
3
Bullet Journal Club for Adults
11 am

5

6
Creative Writing Club
11:30 am

7

8
Board Game Night
7 pm



10

12
Movie Matinee: Intruder in the Dust
6 pm

13
True Crime w/Chris Daley
7 pm



15
Read It & Eat: A Cookbook Club
7 pm

16
Movie Matinee: Intruder in the Dust
1 pm

17
Gentle Yoga
10:30 am



20
Tax Talk with Katrina Luca, CPA
7 pm

21
Film Club Discussion
6:30 pm

22

23

24
Movie Matinee: A Haunting in Venice
11 am

26
Monday Night Book Group
7 pm

27

28

29
Queer Reader Book Group
7 pm
The Softer Side of Celtic
7 pm

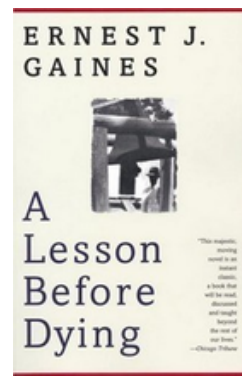
MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS:

Mondays

Monday Night Book Group

Monday, February 26th at 7 PM | The Stoneham Room

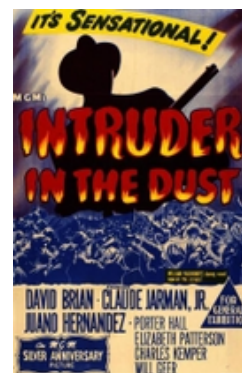
This month the group will read Ernest J. Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*. [For more information, click here.](#) We are ready to welcome you to the discussion. No registration is required. If you have questions, contact: Maureen Saltzman: 781-438-1324; saltzman@noblenet.org. If you have questions, contact: Maureen Saltzman: 781-438-1324; saltzman@noblenet.org.



Movie Matinee: *Intruder in the Dust* (1949)

Monday, February 12th at 6 pm | The Marcy Room

Join us to watch *Intruder in the Dust* (1949), based on **William Faulkner's** novel by the same name. Ben Maddow adapted the novel for the silver screen. The film was directed by **Clarence Brown** starred **David Brian, Claude Jarman Jr., and Juano Hernandez**. "In 1940s Mississippi, two teenage boys and an elderly woman combine forces to prevent a miscarriage of justice and clear a black man of a murder charge." Rated approved. Runtime is 1h 27m. **No registration required.**



Tuesdays

Adult Creative Writing Group

Tuesday, February 6th 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.](#)



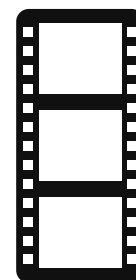
ATTENTION: Arty Party is CANCELED for February.

Wednesdays

Film Club Discussion

Wednesday, February 21st at 6:30 pm | Zoom

The Film Club will discuss its February selection, *Intruder in the Dust* (1949) on Zoom. David will send out the Zoom link on the day of the discussion. Also, [see Dave's review below for an in-depth look at the film's historical context and critical reception!](#)



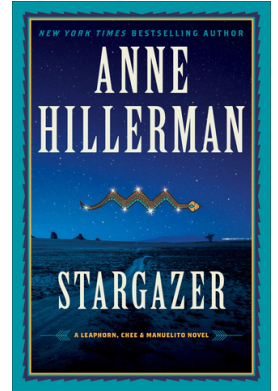
MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

Thursdays

Mysteries Around the World Book Group

Thursday, February 1st at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The group will meet to discuss Anne Hillerman's novel, *Stargazer*. "Murder, deception, Navajo tradition, and the stars collide in this enthralling entry in New York Times bestselling author Anne Hillerman's Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito series, set amid the beautiful landscape of the American Southwest." [For more information about this program, click here.](#) If you have questions, contact Maureen Saltzman at saltzman@noblenet.org

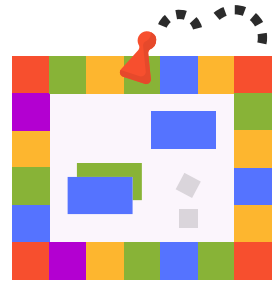


Board Game Night

Thursday, February 8th 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.](#)

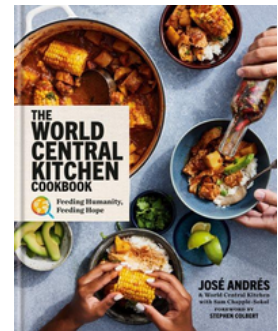


ATTENTION: We have said goodbye to Craft & Chat and are welcoming a new program in its place. Check out Read It & Eat, below!

Read It & Eat: A Cookbook Club

Thursday, February 15th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

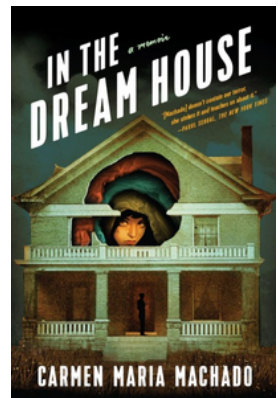
Do you love cooking and trying new recipes? If so, register for "Read It and Eat"! This month, select a recipe from Jose Andres's book, *The World Central Cookbook: Feeding Humanity, Feeding Hope*, and cook it to share with the rest of the group! If you have questions, contact Anna Powers at apowers@noblenet.org. [Registration required.](#)



Queer Reader: An LGBTQ+ Book Club

Thursday, February 29th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The February book is *In the Dream House* by Carmen Maria Machado. "In this extraordinarily candid and inventive memoir, Machado tackles a difficult subject with wit, inventiveness and an inquiring spirit, as she uses a series of narrative tropes to create a unique piece that is destined to become an instant classic." Pick up your copy at the circulation desk! If you have questions, contact Lily Mysona at lmysona@noblenet.org. [Registration is required.](#)



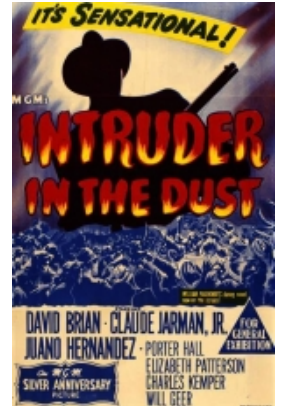
MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

Fridays

Movie Matinee: *Intruder in the Dust* (1949)

Friday, February 16th at 1 pm | The Marcy Room

Join us to watch *Intruder in the Dust* (1949), based on **William Faulkner's** novel by the same name. **Ben Maddow** adapted the novel for the silver screen. The film was directed by **Clarence Brown** and starred **David Brian, Claude Jarman Jr., and Juano Hernandez**. "In 1940s Mississippi, two teenage boys and an elderly woman combine forces to prevent a miscarriage of justice and clear a black man of a murder charge." Rated approved. Runtime is 1h 27m. **No registration required.**



Saturdays

Bullet Journal Club for Adults

Saturday, February 3rd at 11 AM | The Mezzanine

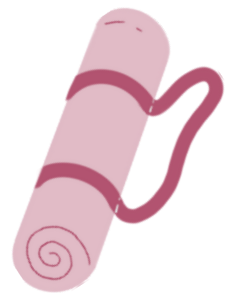
Join us for the Bullet Journal Club for Adults on the first Saturday of each month! We will have stencils, markers, washi tape, and stickers for you to use (supplies are not take home, please leave them at the library). Bring your own journal and imagination! This is a drop-in style program, meaning a staff member will not be leading it. You can come any time between 11 and 1 and the materials will be set out. **No registration required.**



Gentle Yoga

Saturday, February 17th at 10:30 AM | The Marcy Room

Join us for gentle yoga with Joanna Kent! Her class includes breathwork, slower paced movements, and lots of relaxation! Please bring your own yoga mat. [Registration is required as space is limited.](#)



Movie Matinee: *A Haunting in Venice*

Saturday, February 24th at 11 AM | The Marcy Room

Join us to watch *A Haunting in Venice* (2023), based on Agatha Christie's mystery novel, *Hallowe'en Party*. **Michael Green** adapted the novel for the silver screen. The film was directed by **Kenneth Branagh**, and stars himself, alongside **Michelle Yeoh** and **Jamie Dornan**. "In post-World War II Venice, Poirot, now retired and living in his own exile, reluctantly attends a séance. But when one of the guests is murdered, it is up to the former detective to once again uncover the killer." Rated PG-13. Runtime is 1h 43m. **No registration required.**



TRUE CRIME SERIES: "VIVA L'ANARCHIA": THE SACCO-VANZETTI CASE

**Tuesday, February 13th at 7 PM
The Marcy Room**

Christopher Daley will talk about the saga of Italian anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, who were convicted in a Dedham, Massachusetts courtroom in 1921 for the robbery and murder of a paymaster and his guard in South Braintree.

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, and clubs. He is the author of [Murder & Mayhem in Boston: Historic Crimes in the Hub.](#)



TAX TALK WITH KATRINA LUCA, CPA

Tuesday, February 20th at 7 PM
The Marcy Room

Join us as Katrina Luca, a certified public accountant, discusses understanding new tax rules, knowing which tax credits and deductions are right for you, how to save on taxes in the long run, income tax filing tips, and business tax filing tips. Just in time for tax season! **This seminar is free and open to the public. No registration required.**

Katrina Luca has 10 years tax experience at CPA firms, filing income taxes for small businesses and individuals in many states. She spent 4 years at IBM as International tax consultant, and has 7 years of experience in family financial planning and tax planning. She has been a public speaker at public libraries and schools. Katrina is fluent in English, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese and Hakka.



FEBRUARY

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



1
Toddler Tales
10:30 am
Storytime with Serenely Guided Foundation 6 pm

2
Baby Bumble
9:30 am

3
Lego Club 11 am

5
Crazy Crafts
4 pm

6
Toddler Tumble 10 am
Silly Storytime 4pm

7
Babytime
9:30 am
Switch after School 3pm
Valentine Craft 3:30pm

8
Toddler Tales
10:30 am

9
Baby Bumble
9:30 am

10
Lego Club 11am

12
Crazy Crafts
4 pm

13
Musical Mornings
10:30 am
Silly Storytime 4 pm

14
Babytime
9:30 am
Switch after School 3 pm

15
Toddler Tales
10:30 am
Kiddo Creations 6 pm

16
Baby Bumble
9:30 am

17
Chess Club
10:30 am
Lego Club 11 am

19
CLOSED

20
Queen Elsa Storytime 11 am
Silly Storytime 4 pm

21
Babytime
9:30 am
Switch after School 3 pm

22
Toddler Tales
10:30 am
History at Play: Christa McAuliffe 6 pm

23
Baby Bumble
9:30 am

24
Chess Club
10:30 am
Lego Club 11 am
Crochet Club 12 pm

26
Crazy Crafts
4 pm

27
Toddler Tumble 10 am
Silly Storytime 4 pm
Graphic Novel Club 6 pm

28
Babytime
9:30 am
Switch after School 3 pm

29
Toddler Tales
10:30 am
Bullet Journal Club 6 pm



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!

weekly:

Mondays

Crazy Crafts at 4pm ✓

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 4pm ✓

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 0-12mos.**

Switch After School at 3 pm

On Wednesdays at 3, our Switch will be on the tv in the TeenZone. Come play Mario Kart, Mario Party, and more! **For teens and tweens**

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!

Feb. 15th: Kiddo Creations at 6pm ✓

We will have all of the supplies that you need along with a sample for you to see! Katie will be there to walk you through what you are making and to help you along. **All ages welcome, intended for 3-5.**

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:

Quick Stitch Club

Monday, Feb. 12th 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!**



Musical Mornings

Tuesday, Feb. 13th at 10:30 am

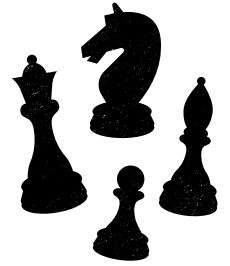
The wonderful Matt Heaton is hosting a monthly musical program!!! Come join us for a morning of movin' and groovin'! **For all ages. Intended for ages 1.5-5.**



Stoneham Chess Club

Saturday, Feb. 24th at 10:30 am

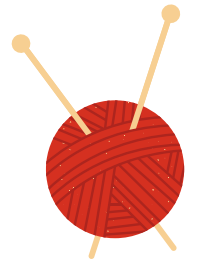
The lovely Murphy family will be hosting a chess club for kiddos of all ages! Join them at the library to learn chess, play chess, and have a wonderful time! Sign up is required so we have an idea of how many kiddos to expect! **All ages welcome; intended for ages 6+**



Crochet Club

Saturday, Feb. 24th at 12 pm

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+**



Graphic Novel Club

Thursday, Feb. 29th at 6 pm

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



Bullet Journal Club

Thursday, Feb. 29th 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.

CHALLENGER:
Soaring with Christa McAuliffe™

**FEB 22ND
AT 6PM**

Pictured: Judith Kalaora

Photo Credits: Jim Henderson & Al Conant Photography

HISTORY AT PLAY

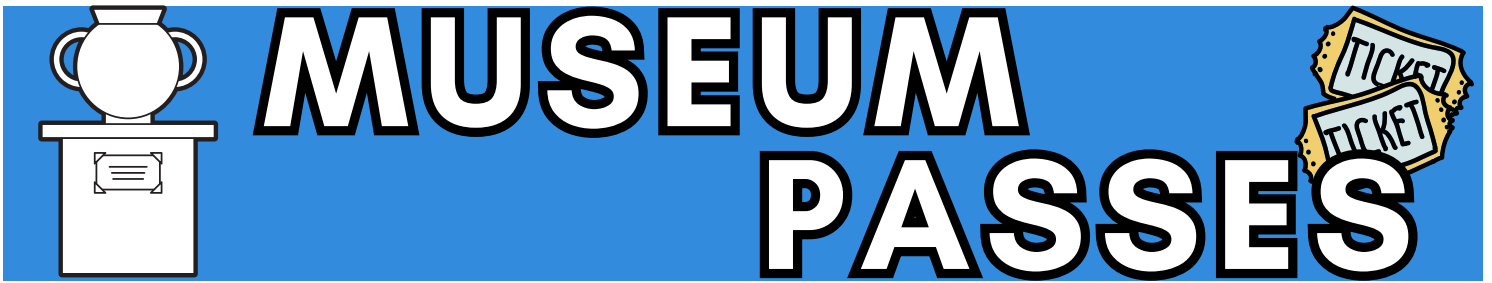
SIGN UP REQUIRED

"Discover the true story behind the incredible teacher, the American pioneer, and the internationally recognized heroine in a program made possible due to the generosity of the Bob Jolly Charitable Trust. The performance has been approved by the McAuliffe and Corrigan Families."- History at Play TM

This performance is for all ages! The program will be abridged to 60 minutes for the attention spans of our younger patrons, but will interest everyone.

CAREGIVERS: Please see the Educator Prep Kit [here](#) before the program. The performance will discuss the Challenger tragedy, so we suggest that kids are prepped with some information prior to the program.

Sign up is required. [Click here to register for this program.](#)

A blue banner with the text "MUSEUM PASSES" in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. To the left is a white icon of a museum pedestal with a vase on top. To the right are two overlapping yellow ticket icons with the word "TICKET" written on them.

MUSEUM PASSES



New England Aquarium

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

The New England Aquarium is home to thousands of aquatic animals, from the giant Pacific octopus to Northern fur seals to little blue penguins. This pass is an e-voucher, which can be either printed out or displayed visibly on your device. It allows up to four people at 50% the regular admission price. Review the Aquarium's website before your visit to ensure a safe and accessible experience.

The USS Constitution Museum is a part of the Boston National Historical Park, and is located in the Charlestown Navy Yard near the ship USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides") at the end of Boston's Freedom Trail.

This pass is an e-voucher, and admits up to 9 people for free. Please note that the ship and museum have different hours. For details, please visit the museum's website.

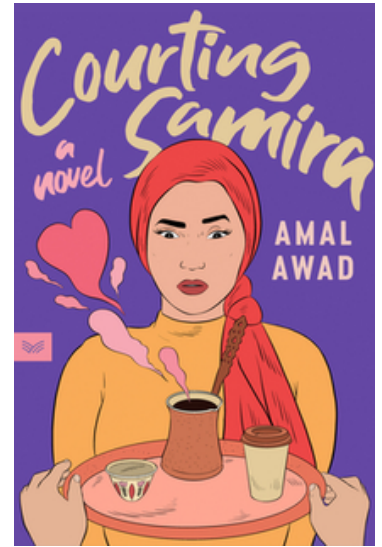
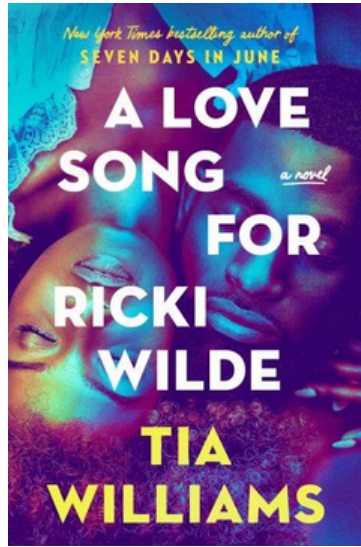


USS Constitution Museum

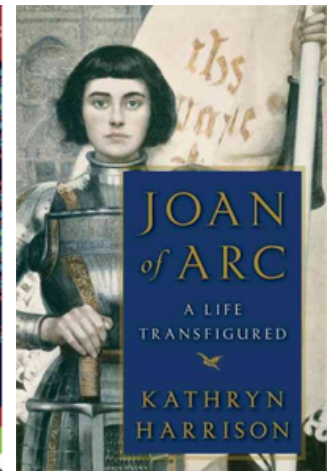
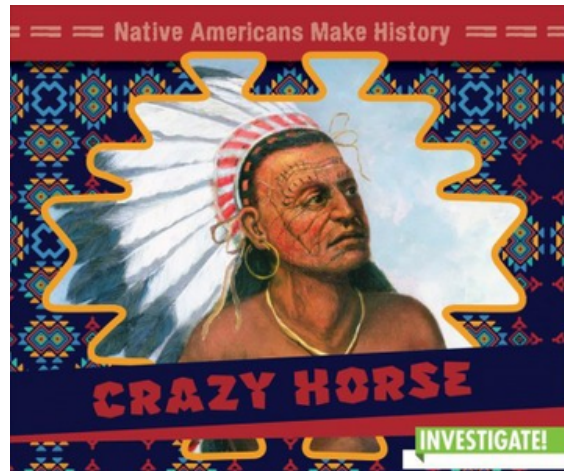
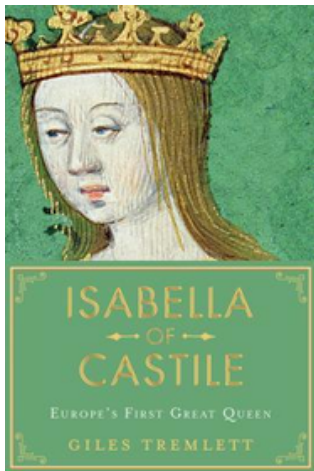
Click the logo to go to the museum's website.

FEBRUARY BOOK LISTS

Lovers and Friends



Studies in Leadership



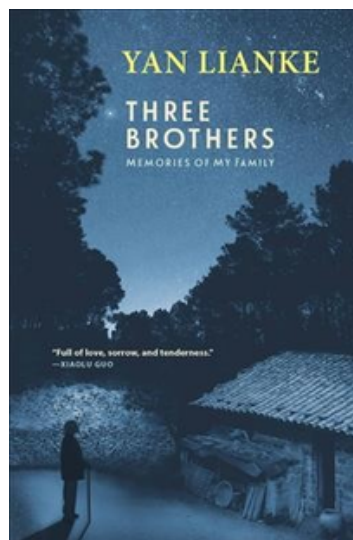
FEBRUARY 2024

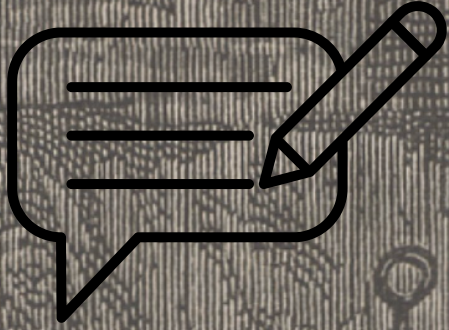
FEBRUARY BOOK LISTS CONT.

A Wall of Sound



Chinese New Year





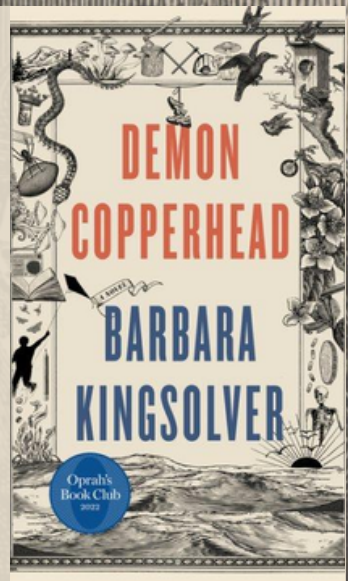
STAFF REVIEWS

***Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver** **Review | Melissa Jackson**

I must have a thing for *David Copperfield*. *Demon Copperfield* by Barbara Kingsolver is the second adaptation I have read recently, and I have also seen the 2019 film remake, *The Personal History of David Copperfield*. I am not alone in enjoying this story.

Kingsolver's reimagining of the Dickens classic is a rollicking tale of a boy's journey from rags to riches to rags to... (you get it!) won this year's Pulitzer prize for fiction! Kingsolver has found a perfect setting for our young lad Damon (nicknamed Demon) to start his life story: born in Virginia's coal country to an addict mom. Plucky, with a sass mouth and a warm heart, I am rooting for this kid from the first page. I cheer on the characters who surround Damon with kindness, who see his talent and intelligence, who offer nothing but their hearts. Damon in return holds on to their humanity like a candle in the darkest night of his childhood. When people who try to crush him come into the story, I am just enraged and can't wait until they get their comeuppance! Like journeying through the Appalachian mountains themselves, we travel through the hills and valleys of the young man's life; the safe and happy peak followed by something, or someone sending Damon back into the gully (oh no!).

Read *Demon Copperhead*, or *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt, a 2014 retelling of *David Copperfield* set in Manhattan and Las Vegas (also a Pulitzer prize winner, by the way!). Watch the movie, or just read the OG *David Copperfield* by Dickens - they are all fantastic!



[Here is a list of the available titles that were mentioned in this review!](#)

***Intruder in the Dust* (1949)**

Review | Dave Huygens



Celebrating Black History Month, Stoneham Public Library will be presenting the 1949 film version of William Faulkner's acclaimed novel, *Intruder in the Dust*. The film is a crime

drama centering on Lucas Beauchamp, a proudly independent black farmer accused of murdering a local white man, Vinson Gowrie. While a lynch mob gathers, a lawyer, a couple of teenage boys, and an elderly lady attempt to prove Beauchamp's innocence.

Veteran MGM director Clarence Brown (born in Clinton, Massachusetts, but raised in Tennessee) asked his bosses to buy the Faulker novel for him as soon as he read it. Though it wasn't the usual MGM fare, Brown was a respected and successful director whose hits ranged from sophisticated romantic and historical dramas to family films. MGM paid \$50,000 for the property, and Brown was given the go-ahead to produce and direct on location in Faulkner's home town of Oxford, Mississippi.

As one of the lead actors, Brown chose Claude Jarman, Jr., who'd been discovered by him for *The Yearling* (1946) (special Academy Award). David Brian was borrowed from Warner Bros. to play the town lawyer. Character actress Elizabeth Patterson (*I Love Lucy*) was cast as elderly Miss Habersham. Will Geer (*The Waltons*) was given the role of the sheriff. And, as Lucas, Juano Hernandez was chosen for his first mainstream film role.

The film earned Hernandez a Golden Globe nomination for "New Star of the Year," and was listed by the New York Times as one of the best of the year. Faulkner said Hernandez was "a fine actor - and man, too," and called the film "a fine job." Author Ralph Ellison (*Invisible Man*), in comparing *Intruder in the Dust* to three other race-related films that had been released in 1949 (*Pinky*, *Lost Boundaries*, and *Home of the Brave*), said that it was "the only film that could be shown in Harlem without arousing unintended laughter, for it is the only one of the four in which Negroes can make complete identification with their screen image."

***Lovely War* by Julie Berry**

Review | Anna Powers

Many copies are available in print and electronic format!

Lovely War by Julie Berry managed to be a combination of all my favorite genres wrapped into one - romance, historical fiction, and Greek mythology. The story follows two couples' love stories in the midst of the Great War. I instantly became enthralled in this book because of its unique format; unlike any other historical romance I have read, it's told through the perspectives of famous Greek Mythology figures. Aphrodite recounts these turbulent and addictive love stories to Hephaestus and Ares, with the help of Hades and Apollo to explain the unfortunate circumstances for which she is on trial.



This book does a great job of telling war stories through people of different genders, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The first couple, James and Hazel, met right as James was leaving to fight in France. They have a challenging time being in the right place at the right time, and question if their innocent love can survive the devastating things that come with war. The second couple, Aubrey and Colette, meet while they are on base in France. What started as a friendship and mutual love of music soon blossomed into a longing romance between an African-American soldier and a refugee Belgian orphan. Both Aubrey and Colette not only experience the traumas of war but also face additional adversity as a mixed race couple during a time in which not many accepted them. Although different in many ways, both couples have an unshakeable love for their partners and are willing to jump over any hurdle to make that love last.

Although the mythological narratives appear to be random, I think that it does a fantastic job framing the greater themes within the mortals' stories - love, war, greed, and guilt. The book is categorized as Young Adult, but I believe this to be a timeless story that can be read by adults of all ages. This book is for you if you are looking to read about the lengths that love is willing to travel in times of tragedy, and learn that even the Goddess of Love herself sometimes cannot grapple with the twists and turns of an epic love story or two.

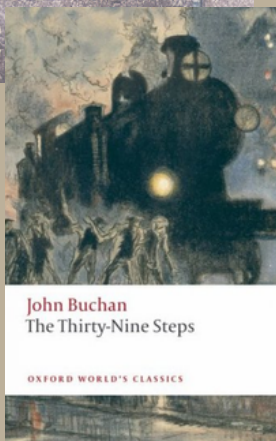
Spies, Lies, and Treacherous Ties

Recommendation | Matthew Sowyrda

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***The 39 Steps* | John Buchan**

While on vacation in England, Scotsman Richard Hannay befriends an American journalist who tips him off about a secret organization that is plotting to assassinate a national leader. When the American is murdered, Hannay is charged with homicide and finds himself embroiled in a political intrigue that is beyond his ken. With no choice but to flee from the police, as well as from members of the ring of sinister spies, he races against time to expose the conspiracy as it looms over his conscience. This gripping cat-and-mouse page-turner takes readers from the dark streets of London, through the Scottish Highlands, and down to the southern coast of England. Fans of *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1934) and G. K. Chesterton's *The Man Who Was Thursday* are bound to enjoy this novel.



***A Man Lay Dead* | Ngaio Marsh**

Nigel Bathgate's first weekend visit to a wealthy Englishman's luxurious estate proves to be a harrowing one. After his cousin is stabbed in the back with an ancient dagger during a party game, Scotland Yard's Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn arrives to investigate the murder. Everyone is a suspect, and no one is allowed to leave the grounds until the crime has been solved. The manorial setting and intricate narrative will be familiar to readers of Agatha Christie's *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* and A. A. Milne's *The Red House Mystery*.



***The Power and the Glory* | Graham Greene**

In the years following Mexico's Cristero War, during which Catholicism had been effaced from most of the country through the murder of clergy and destruction of churches, one priest has miraculously survived the onslaught. Hunted by the state militia, yet bound to fulfill his office, the priest goes from village to village in the hope of saving what souls he can while he lives, struggling to maintain what faith he has left, and trying to reconcile with his sins. In this heartrending and inspirational novel, Greene forces his characters (and readers) to confront weighty questions of faith, free will, human frailty, and redemption.

