

September 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

Contents:

The Month at a Glance

Adult Programs

Job Seekers (ages 50+)

Terrarium Workshop

Letter to the Community

Book Lists

Reviews

Follow us online



@StonehamLibrary



@StonehamLibrary



Stoneham Public Library

SEPTEMBER 2024

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

NOTICE

The library will be closed
Monday, September 2, for Labor Day!



Saturday Hours

Please note that, starting Saturday, September 7th,
the library will be open:



Saturdays from 10am - 2pm



Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, September 9th @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room

On the second Monday of each month, the library Director and trustees convene to discuss library-related matters. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

SEPTEMBER 2024

ADULT PROGRAMS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**CLOSED
FOR
LABOR
DAY**

3

**Creative
Writing
11:30 am**

4

**50+ Job
Seekers
Networking
Group
9:30 am**

5

**Mysteries
Around the
World Book
Group
7 pm**

6

**Documentary
Wow! Harlan
County, USA
1 pm**

7

**Gentle
Yoga
10:30 am**

9

10

**Art with Erica
7 pm**

11

**Documentary
Wow!
Discussion
6:30 pm**

12

**Creative
Writing
7 pm**

13

14

**Bullet
Journal Club
10:30 am**

16

**Gentle
Yoga
6 pm**

17



18

**50+ Job
Seekers
Networking
Group
9:30 am**

19

**Read It & Eat
Cookbook
Club
7 pm**

20

**Friday Movie
Matinee:
*The Court
Jester (1955)*
1 pm**

21

23

**Monday
Movie Night:
*The Court
Jester (1955)*
6:30 pm**

24

25

**Film Club
Discussion
6:30 pm**

26

**The
Enchanted
Pages
Society
7 pm**

27

28

**Succulent
Terrarium
Workshop
11 am**

30

**Monday
Night Book
Group
7 pm**



SEPTEMBER 2024

MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS

Monday

Gentle Yoga

September 16th at 6 pm | The Library Lawn

Join us for gentle yoga with Joanna Kent! Joanna utilizes yoga to ground herself and strengthen her mental health. Her goal as a yoga teacher is to empower her students to feel good in their mind and bodies. She believes yoga should be accessible and inclusive to all. Her gentle yoga class includes breathwork, slower paced movements and lots of relaxation! Please bring your own yoga mat.

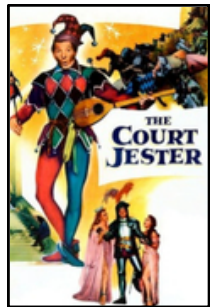
Registration required.



Monday Movie Night

September 23rd at 6:30 pm | The Marcy Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Film Club choice, *The Court Jester* (1955). "A hapless carnival performer masquerades as the court jester as part of a plot against an evil ruler who has overthrown the rightful King." **All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required.**



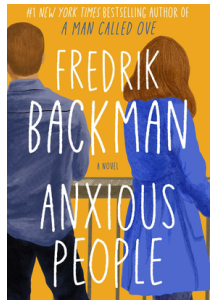
Rated: Approved | **Run Time:** 1h 41m | **Genres:** Adventure, Comedy, Family

Directed by: Melvin Frank, Norman Panama | **Written by:** Melvin Frank, Norman Panama | **Starring:** Danny Kaye, Glynis John, Basil Rathbone

Monday Night Book Group

September 30th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The group's August selection is *Anxious People* by Fredrick Backman, A poignant, charming novel about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they ever imagined. We are ready to welcome you to the discussion. If you have questions, contact Maureen: (781) 438-1324; saltzman@noblenet.org. **Registration not required.**



Tuesday

Creative Writing for Adults

September 3rd 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. If you are interested, contact Matthew at msowyrda@noblenet.org. **Registration not required.**



Art with Erica (NEW!)

September 10th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

Join this arts & crafts program for adults 18+, led by local artist, Erica Flores. Come hang out and get creative. September's craft is decoupage seashells. We meet monthly in the Marcy Room at 7 pm. All supplies are provided. **Registration required.**



SEPTEMBER 2024

Wednesdays

Documentary Wow! Discussion

September 11th at 6:30 pm | GoToMeeting

Join us to discuss this month's Documentary Wow! selection, *Harlan County, USA* (1976). Dave will send out the GoToMeeting link on the day of the discussion. **Registration required.**

Film Club Discussion

September 25th at 6:30 pm | GoToMeeting

Join the Film Club to discuss its August selection, *The Court Jester* (1955). Dave will send out the GoToMeeting link on the day of the discussion. **Registration required.**

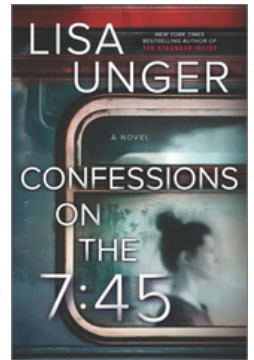
Thursdays

Mysteries Around the World Book Group

September 5th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The group's September selection is *Confessions on the 7:45* by Lisa Unger. This mystery is "expertly plotted and reminiscent of the timeless classic "Strangers on a Train." The book is a "gripping thriller about the delicate facades we create around our lives." We are ready to welcome you to the discussion. If you have questions, contact Maureen: 781-438-1324 or saltzman@noblenet.org.

Registration not required.



Creative Writing for Adults

September 12th at 7 pm | 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, discussing articles about creative writing skills, and writing sessions. All skill levels are welcome. If you are interested, contact Matt at msowyrda@noblenet.org. **Registration not required.**

Read It & Eat: A Cookbook Club

September 19th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

Do you love cooking and trying new recipes? If so, register for "Read It and Eat"! Come by and pick up a copy of the September title *That Sounds So Good* by Carla Lalli Music at the main circulation desk. Select a recipe from the book, and cook it to share with the rest of the group! Contact Anna at apowers@noblenet.org. **Registration required.**



The Enchanted Pages Society (NEW!)

September 26th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

Join our newest book club, The Enchanted Pages Society, where fantasy lovers unite to explore magical worlds and unforgettable adventures. Dive into spellbinding books, discuss captivating plots, and connect with fellow readers! We meet on the last Thursday of the month! Pick up a copy of the September title, *The Serpent & the Wings of Night* by Carissa Broadbent, at the main circulation desk. Contact Anna at apowers@noblenet.org. **People ages 16 and up are welcome. Registration required.**



Fridays

Movie Matinee: Documentary Wow! *Harlan County, USA*

September 6th at 1 pm | The Marcy Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Documentary Wow! choice, *Harlan County, USA* (1976), a heartbreaking record of the thirteen-month struggle between a community fighting to survive and a corporation dedicated to the bottom line. All film screenings are free and open to the public.

Rated: PG | **Run Time:** 1h 43m | **Genres:** Documentary | **Directed by:** Barbara Kopple | **Starring:** John L. Lewis, Carl Horn, Norman Yarborough

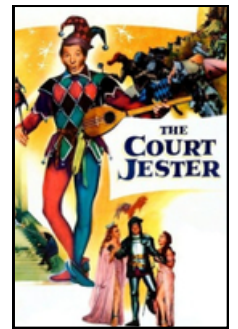


Registration not required.

Movie Matinee: *The Court Jester* (1955)

September 20th at 1 pm | The Marcy Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Film Club choice, *The Court Jester* (1955). "A hapless carnival performer masquerades as the court jester as part of a plot against an evil ruler who has overthrown the rightful King." All film screenings are free and open to the public.



Registration not required.

Saturdays

Gentle Yoga

September 7th at 10:30 am | The Library Lawn

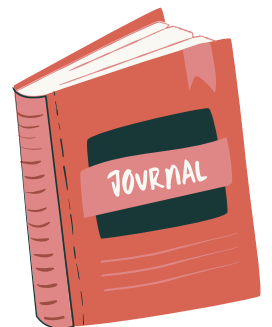
Join us for gentle yoga with Joanna Kent! Joanna utilizes yoga to ground herself and strengthen her mental health. Her goal as a yoga teacher is to empower her students to feel good in their mind and bodies. She believes yoga should be accessible and inclusive to all. Her gentle yoga class includes breathwork, slower paced movements and lots of relaxation! Please bring your own yoga mat. **Registration required.**



Bullet Journal Club

September 14th at 10:30 am | The Stoneham Room

Join us for the Bullet Journal Club for Adults on the second 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 10:30 am and 12:30 pm and the materials will be set out. **Registration not required.**



CALLING ALL JOB SEEKERS 50+!

Are you aged 50 years or older? Still looking to stay in the work force, or to re-enter it at full force? Then the Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group is for you! This networking group is facilitated by Deborah Hope, MBA, PCIC, an experienced executive career coach. Join Deborah on Zoom as you confer with peers in a safe and comfortable environment that is conducive to developing new relationships, skills, and strategies to help in your career transition.

With

Deborah
Hope



Activities include presentations, interactive workshops, guest speakers, access to hiring managers, small group breakout rooms, and one-on-one guidance. Meetings will be held August-December 2024.

If this program is what you've been looking for, sign up! Meetings will be held August-December 2024. Registration required. All meetings are *virtual*. The two meetings this month will take place on **Wednesday, September 4th** and **Wednesday, September 18th** - **both at 9:30 am**.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Succulent Terrarium Workshop

Saturday,
September 28th | 11 am | Marcy Room

Join us for a two-hour hands-on succulent workshop! All supplies provided.

Take home your own glass terrarium with up to five succulents and your choice of potting materials including decorative moss, gravel, and pebbles.

Learn about succulent potting, care, and propagation so you can keep your plants happy and grow new baby succulents in your own home.

Space is limited, registration is required.

SEPTEMBER 2024

BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING

YOUTH PROGRAMMING BREAK!

**FOR THE PREPARATION AND
DURATION OF THE CARNEGIE
WING RENOVATION**

**ESTIMATED AUGUST 17TH
THROUGH MARCH 2025**

youth services

To our wonderful library community,

I would like to update you that the Youth Services department will be having an extended break in programming, beginning August 17, 2024, through March 2025. This timeline is an estimate.

Why is this happening? The library's historical Carnegie Wing (the Junior Library) has received ARPA funds from the town to address interior updates such as abating our current flooring, installing new flooring, fixing water damaged walls and repainting, and installing new custom shelving. This will mean temporarily closing the Junior Room. We are so excited for this refresh to our beloved Junior Library and are so grateful to the community for investing in this much needed update.

Why can't we offer programs? The Youth Services staff has many tasks we need to take care of prior to the temporary closure of our wing and the complete overhaul of our library collection. A small example of these tasks: preparing everything in the Junior Room, including all furniture, toys, books, computers, etc., for storage, choosing items from our collection for a smaller, browsable collection that will be available during our closure, and moving the rest of the collection out of the Junior Library. These time consuming projects will prevent staff from having the time to prepare for and host programs. Once the wing closure is in effect for renovation (start date TBD), the department will be relocated within the library (area TBD) and will have a condensed collection for patrons to browse through. We will lose programming space due to the temporary relocation of our collection.

Our Youth Services staff would like to thank you for your continued support of our library and its programs. We will miss our storytimes and programs, but are so excited to share the many changes to come! Staff will be happy to help you find library programming in the area to support you during our break, to assist you in any way that we can, and to place as many holds as you'd like!

Don't forget to stop in to say hi and get a sticker!

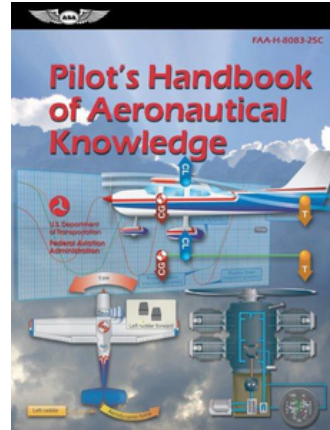
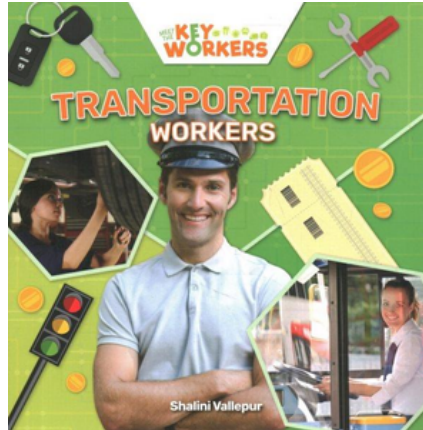
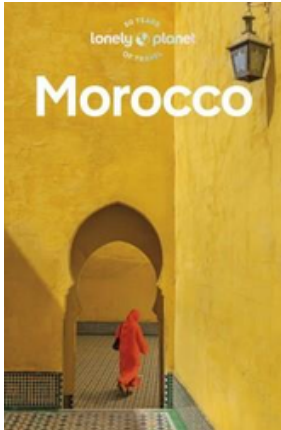
Thank you for your support and understanding,

Kathleen Bardascino
Head of Youth Services
Stoneham Public Library

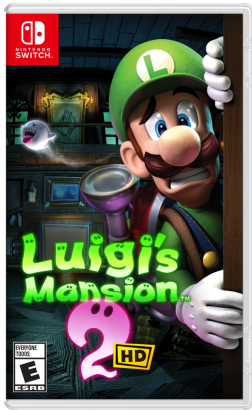
SEPTEMBER 2024

BOOK LISTS

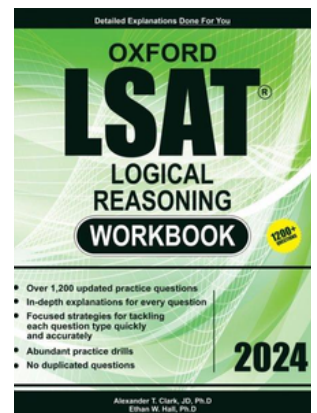
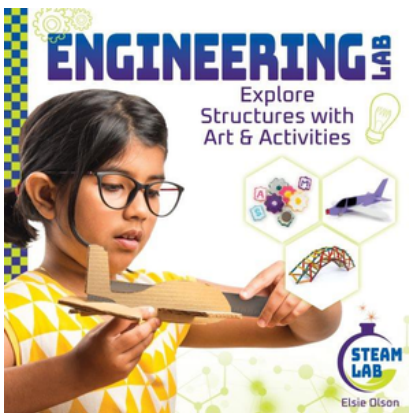
Getting Around



Living. Virtually



Work/Study





STAFF REVIEWS

Harlan County USA (1976)

Review | David Huygens

Harlan County USA is the kind of involving, hands-on documentary that puts you directly into the action--in this case a brutal coal miners' strike in rural Kentucky against a ruthless power company. Barbara Kopple and her team lived among the strikers and used the words of the miners and their wives and families to tell the story, rather than employing narration. The



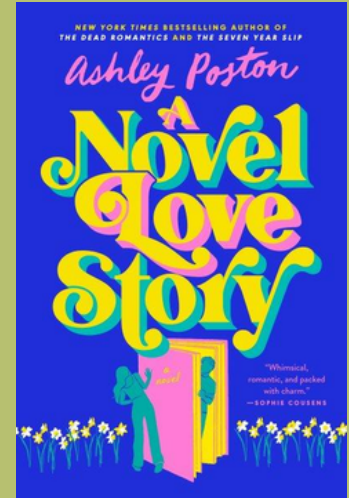
result is a powerful and personal film document, sincere and moving in its immediacy. The strike, which dragged on for a year, got more and more violent, with both sides eventually using guns. The fact that events didn't become even more vicious was attributed to the presence of the cameras and film crew. Nonetheless, one striker was killed, and his funeral is an emotionally harrowing moment in the film.

At the time of the re-release by the Criterion Collection in 2006, critic Roger Ebert wrote: "The film retains all of its power, in the story of a miners' strike in Kentucky where the company employed armed goons to escort scabs into the mines, and the most effective picketers were the miners' wives -- articulate, indomitable, courageous. It contains a famous scene where guns are fired at the strikers in the darkness before dawn, and Kopple and her cameraman are knocked down and beaten. *Harlan County USA* received the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature of 1976, as well as a Special Award from the Los Angeles Film Critics. It was included in a 2014 Greatest Documentaries of All Time list by Sight and Sound. It has a 100% ranking on Rotten Tomatoes.

A Novel Love Story by Ashley Poston

Review | Anna Powers

Ever wished you could step into your favorite fictional world and meet beloved characters? For Eileen Merriweather, that dream becomes a reality. After trying to escape her problems by heading to her annual book club retreat, Eileen finds herself caught in a rainstorm that whisks her away to Eloraton—a charming town from her favorite romance series. Confused yet intrigued, Eileen discovers that Eloraton and its inhabitants seem to be stuck in time. Determined to help them achieve their story-book ending, she sets out to resolve the town's lingering issues. But when she meets the enigmatic local bookstore owner who doesn't fit any character description from the books, Eileen begins to question her own role in this literary world. Could his presence be linked to her unexpected arrival?

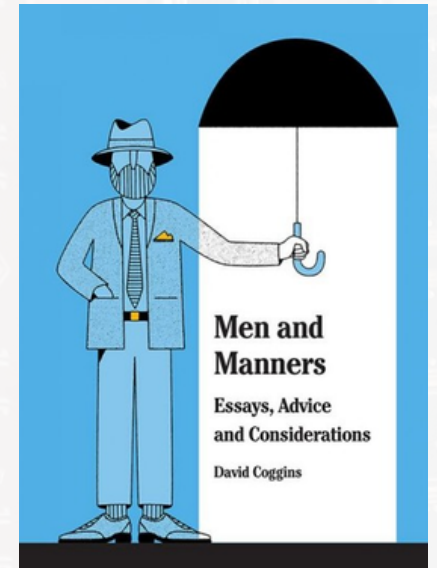


This book is a must-read for book lovers and fantasy enthusiasts alike, this novel offers a magical escape into a world where fiction and reality blur. Ashley Poston's talent shines through her heartfelt, whimsical storytelling, addressing profound themes like heartbreak, imposter syndrome, and loss with charm and insight. This book effortlessly draws you into the lives of its characters, making it impossible not to fall in love with each one and become deeply invested in their intertwined stories. Poston masterfully captures the essence of feeling connected to beloved characters and yearning to be a part of their world. Eileen's journey of love and self-discovery resonates with readers of all ages, offering a universally relatable experience. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking a delightful, feel-good read that not only entertains but also prompts reflection on your own life and dreams. It gently invites you to see the parallels between your real-life story and your ideal fairytale, revealing that they might not be as different as you once thought.

Men and Manners:
Essays, Advice and Considerations
 by David Coggins

Review | Matthew Sowyrda

One of the best things that we can do in the world, especially in a time when good behavior seems to be ignored (or lies dormant), is to cultivate the character in ourselves that is wanting in others. David Coggins, the man of the hour, contributes to the conversation about etiquette with his 2018 publication, *Men and Manners*. The purpose of this book, Coggins states, is to give men of all ages some counsel on how to conduct oneself in the midst of a culture that is clearly lacking in the social graces.



In this nifty volume, Coggins walks the reader through the many ways in which a man can improve himself. He employs a casual style and a gentle wit, and expresses his thoughts through brief articles, anecdotes, and bulleted lists, all of which make for easy reading. He also presents interviews and Q/A input from men's fashion designers, writers, bartenders, and other masculine agents of culture, which add perspective on how to approach a number of scenarios that one might face, in various contexts. Subjects range from proper dress, to how a man ought to act in public as well as in private, to taking up good, respectable interests, habits, hobbies, and skills that will help one to "live life more fully". Coggins argues that we should raise the social bar, so to speak, and expect better, not just those around us, but also - and most especially - of ourselves.

The book is a general appeal to common sense and decency. For some, it is a reminder to "get back on the track" of what the great philosophers refer to as "the good life", seeking the *summum bonum*; for others, it is a soft exhortation to begin that journey. As with all such practical books, the responsibility falls upon the reader, who must make adjustments in attitude and will to make it effective. *Men and Manners* by David Coggins taps into our need to return to the way of the gentleman. Those who enjoy this might want to venture a reading of Baldassare Castiglione's 16th century work, *The Book of the Courtier*, which touches on upbringing and education; and the more recently published book, *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos* by psychologist Jordan Peterson, who goes beyond a person's exterior life, such as physical appearance and possessions, by emphasizing an interiorized approach to self-improvement through philosophy and self-discipline.

The Court Jester (1955)

Review | David Huygens

The Court Jester (1955). Often praised as one of the funniest films ever made, this spoof of Hollywood's adventure films set in the Middle Ages stars an inspired Danny Kaye as Hawkins, a traveling player who wants to be a patriotic fighter, and gets his chance by impersonating a jester in the court of a usurper, King Roderick (Cecil Parker)



A band of outlaws led by The Black Fox wants to restore the rightful king to the throne, an infant bearing a distinctive birthmark on his royal posterior, the Purple Pimpernel. Hawkins and his superior officer, Jean (Glynis Johns), infiltrate the castle after disposing of Giacomo, “King of Jesters, and Jester of Kings”, with Hawkins taking on the role of the jester. Once inside, we meet Roderick’s co-conspirators (Basil Rathbone, Michael Pate) and a self-confident princess (Angela Lansbury). She's betrothed to the gruesome Griswold (Robert Middleton) in a political alliance, but finds Hawkins very attractive. The princess is attended by Griselda, a witch (Mildred Natwick), who casts a spell on Hawkins that depends on a snap of the fingers to bring him into or out of a trance. With each snap of anyone’s fingers, he becomes a dashing, bold lover and fighter, then a sniveling coward and bumbler, then back again.

The expert screenplay and direction is by Norman Panama and Melvin Frank, who had scripted the previous year’s massive hit (also featuring Danny Kaye) *White Christmas*. Several bits from *The Court Jester* are still repeated by many today: “Get it?” “Got it.” “Good.” -- and the tongue-twisting instructions about which goblet holds the poison or not: “The pellet with the poison’s in the vessel with the pestle, the chalice from the palace has the brew that is true.”

One hilarious situation builds on another as Hawkins is put through the preparations for becoming a knight so he can take on the evil Griswold in a jousting match, followed by a clever sequence where the little people who are Hawkins’s friends from the traveling carnival come to his rescue. *The Court Jester* is a colorful delight, a comedic gem from start to finish, and a perfect vehicle for the acting, singing, dancing, romancing, clowning and sword fighting talents of its brilliant star, Danny Kaye.