

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., Tues., Thu.: 9 am - 9 pm

Wed., Fri.: 9 am - 5 pm

Sat.: 10 am - 2 pm

Children's Services | (781) 438-1325

Mon., Tues., Thu.: 9 am - 7 pm

Wed., Fri.: 9 am - 5 pm

Sat. 10 am - 2 pm

Contents:

Library Funding at Risk

Message from the FOSL

The Month at a Glance

Books for Sale

Synthesizer (Library of Things)

Adult Programs

Special Programs

- Job Seekers (ages 50+)
- David Rosmarin Author Talk
- Lianne Zhang Author Talk
- Rachelle Bergstein Author Talk

Youth Services

Book Lists

Staff Reviews

[Click here to visit our website!](#)

Follow us on social media:



**A Message from the Friends of the
Stoneham Library**

"Stoneham is facing a critical decision: whether or not to continue funding our library."

The situation today

If nothing changes, our town library may be critically underfunded — losing essential services that thousands of residents rely on every day, from early literacy programs to job search support, senior engagement, and free internet access. It's not just a budget issue. It's a community crisis.

That's why we launched Don't Close the Book on Stoneham — a grassroots campaign to protect our library and the future it represents for our town. We're asking you, our most trusted champions, to lead the way by taking five simple but powerful actions:

Five for the Future

Five small actions. One big impact.

1. Forward this email to at least five friends, family members, or neighbors who care about Stoneham's future.
2. Donate to [our GoFundMe campaign](#): \$5, \$50, or \$500 — every dollar makes a difference.
3. Write to town leaders and let them know: the library matters to you.
4. Volunteer to support the campaign — we need help with signs, flyers, events, and more. [Sign up here](#)
5. Share on social media using #SaveStonehamLibrary and tell the world what the library means to you.

This isn't just about saving a building. It's about preserving free and equal access to knowledge, opportunity, and community.

Let's stand up for Stoneham's future — and show what's possible when neighbors come together.

With gratitude,
Friends of the Stoneham Library

You can also support the library and the Friends by purchasing their merchandise, such as stickers (pictured, right). They are available at the front desk, and are priced at \$1 a piece.



The Month at a Glance

Annual Town Meeting

Monday, May 5th @ 7 P. M.

Town Hall Auditorium

35 Central St., Stoneham, MA



Save the date! Bring your voice to Stoneham's annual town meeting, which will take place on the evening of Monday, May 5th at 7 o'clock. [Click here to view a PDF of the agenda.](#)



The Trustees of the Library

Will meet at 7 PM on Monday, May 12th, in the Stoneham Room. A hybrid option is also available. All members of the public are welcome to attend to comment or just listen to the proceedings.

If you are interested in viewing a meeting virtually, use the following link to join: <https://bit.ly/SPLTrustees> or call in at +1 (646) 931-3860.

Meeting ID: 876 9866 6972

Passcode: 823496

[Click here to learn more about our Trustees,](#)
[as well as to view minutes from past meetings.](#)

Holidays & Special Closures

- Friday, May 16th (Staff meeting)
- Saturday, May 24th and
- Monday, May 26th (Memorial Day)



Books for Sale

We know our

patrons love a good bargain! Those who were used to buying books on sale from the racks on the main and lower floors might like to know that



we have confined the selection to the Lower Level. However, we have decked it out and organized it with a three-stack book shelf!

Also, if you are done reading books that you have purchased from the library -- but don't want to keep them -- you can place them back on the "for sale" shelf for other patrons to buy!

MicroFreak Synthesizer by Arturia

Are you a musician who wants to experiment with electronica and special effects? Are you a podcaster who is looking to expand your program's soundboard? Check out (literally) this MicroFreak synthesizer by Arturia from our Library of Things! [Click here](#) for more information about, and to request, this item.



Adult Programs

Mondays

Art with Erica

May 5th @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room

Join this arts & crafts program for adults 18+, led by local artist, Erica Flores. Come hang out and get creative. This month's craft is farmers market bags. We meet on the first Monday of every month. All supplies



are provided. [Registration required.](#)

Movie Night

Out of the Past (1947)

May 19th @ 6:30 pm

The Stoneham Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Film Club choice, *Out of the Past* (1947).

"A private eye escapes his past to run a gas station in a small town, but his past catches up with him. Now he must return to the big city world of danger, corruption, double crosses, and duplicitous dames."



All film screenings are free and open to the public. Snacks will be provided. Registration not required.

Rated: Approved | Run Time: 1h 37m | Genres: Film Noir, Thriller
Directed by: Jacques Tourneur | Written by: Daniel Mainwaring, James M. Cain, Frank Fenton | Starring: Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer, Kirk Douglas

Tuesdays

Creative Writing for Adults

May 6th @ 11:30 am

The Stoneham Room

Do you like to write? Want to get into writing? Need some inspiration? Whether you're struggling to complete your first novel, trying to make your poetry collection sing to the world, or just want to write for fun, everyone aged 18 and older has the opportunity to share their current writing projects and receive feedback. The group also engages in writing exercises as well as discussions about writing. [Registration is appreciated](#), but not required.



If you are interested, or have questions related to writing, contact Matthew: msowyrda@noblenet.org or call 781-438-1324.

Wednesdays

Documentary Wow! Discussion

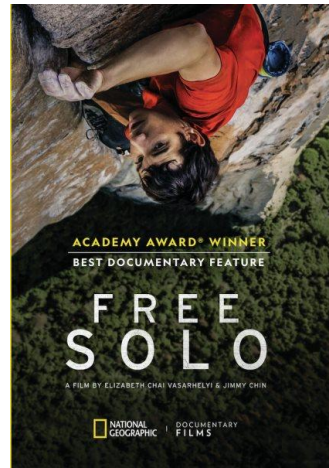
Free Solo (2018)

May 7th @ 6:30 pm

Zoom

Join us as we discuss this month's Documentary Wow! selection, *Free Solo* (2018).

"Alex Honnold faces the biggest challenge of his career, climbing El Capitan in Yosemite National Park. He pursues it "Free Solo", which means climbing alone (solo) and without a rope (free)."



Rated: PG-13 | Run Time: 1h 40m | Genres: Adventure, Documentary, Extreme Sport | Directed by: Jimmy Chin, Elizabeth Chair Vasarhelyi | Starring: Alex Honnold, Tommy Caldwell, Jimmy Chin

See under **Fridays** for our public screenings. [Registration required.](#)

Film Club Discussion

Out of the Past (1947)

May 28th @ 6:30 pm

Zoom

Join the Film Club to discuss this month's selection, *Out of the Past* (1947). Dave will send out the GoToMeeting link on the day of the discussion. [Registration required.](#)



Thursdays

Mysteries Around the World

Book Group

May 1st @ 7 pm

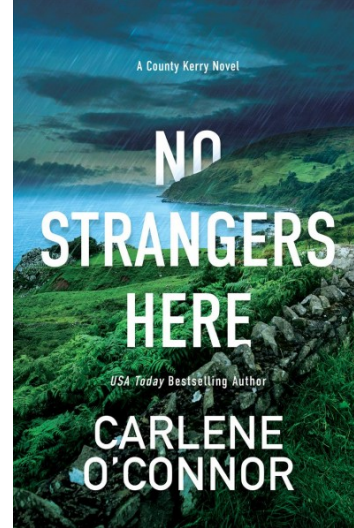
The Stoneham Room

This month's selection is [No Strangers Here](#) by [Carlene O'Connor](#). The book is described as an "intriguing new series introducing Dimpna Wilde, an Irish vet grappling with life, death, family dynamics and the secrets at the heart of this small community in County Kerry

Ireland”.

The Mystery group always looks forward to welcoming new members to the conversation. Registration not required.

For information, contact Maureen:
(781) 438-1324 | saltzman@noblenet.org.



Chess Club for Adults

May 8th @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room



Are you interested in learning how to play chess? Looking for something new and fun to do?

Do you like to play chess, but don't have anyone to play with? Chess players of all kinds -- beginners and experts, casual and serious -- are welcome to attend the Stoneham Public Library's Chess Club for Adults! While some chess boards will be provided, players are encouraged to bring their own. Chess clocks will also be available uponNo registration required.

Contact Matthew:
msowyrda@noblenet.org
781-438-1324

The Enchanted Pages Society

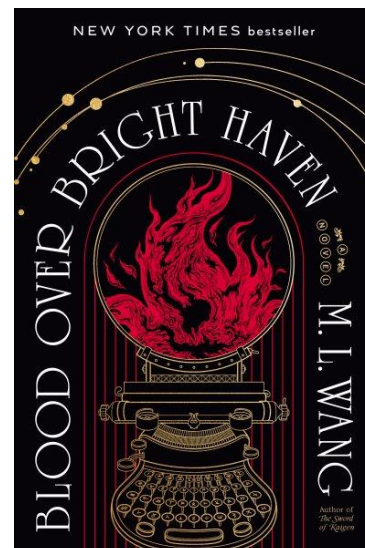
Reads: *Blood Over Bright Haven*

by M. L. Wang

May 29th @ 7 pm

The Stoneham 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 this month's title, [*Blood Over Bright Haven* by M.L. Wang](#), at the main circulation desk. Registration is required. People ages 16 and up are welcome.



[Click here](#) to learn more about this title, and to register for this program.

Questions? Contact Anna:
apowers@noblenet.org.

Fridays

Documentary Wow!

Screening

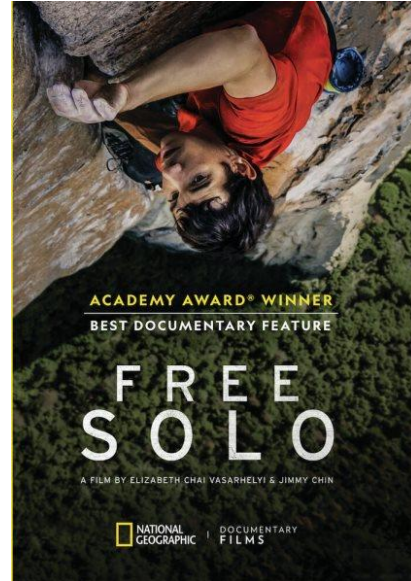
Free Solo (2018)

May 2nd @ 1 pm

The Stoneham Room

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The Stoneham Room

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Directed by: Jacques Tourneur | Written by: Daniel Mainwaring,
James M. Cain, Frank Fenton | Starring: Robert Mitchum, Jane
Greer, Kirk Douglas

Saturdays

Creative Writing for Adults

May 3rd @ 12:30 am
The Stoneham Room

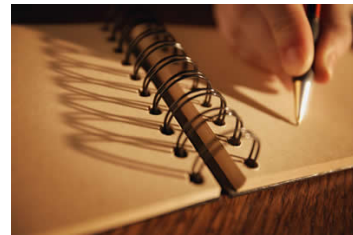


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If you are interested, or have questions related to writing, contact Matthew: msowyrda@noblenet.org or call 781-438-1324.

Bullet Journal Club

May 10th at 10:30 am
The Stoneham Room



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 10:30 am and 12:30 pm and the materials will be set out. **Registration not required.**

Embroidery with YuChin

May 17th at 11 am
The Marcy Room



"Embroidery with YuChin" is a monthly workshop sponsored by Stoneham library. The 1.5 hours event takes place from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm on the third Saturday of each month, though the date may change due to holiday or weather conditions. Since its

inception in October 2024, many members have found it a source of fun and joy. Beginner and new members are encouraged to join, with hours for new members from 11:45 am - 12:30 pm, and registration is required. Please stop by to learn more about embroidery.

Age limit: 15 and older.

Do not attend the workshop if you're experiencing any sick symptoms.

[You must provide your own materials for this program.](#)

Registration required. [Click here to register for this program.](#)

Special Programs

Job Networking Group (Ages 50+)

Wednesday, May 7th @ 9 am (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 21st @ 9 am (Zoom)



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. Activities include presentations, interactive workshops,

guest speakers, access to hiring managers, small group breakout rooms, and one-on-one guidance.

If this program is what you've been looking for, sign up! [Registration required. Click here to view the meeting schedule and to register.](#)

How to Use Anxiety to Thrive with Dr. David H. Rosmarin

Wednesday, May 7th

2 pm | Virtual*



Let's face it: Everyone has anxiety. Furthermore, our incessant quest to rid ourselves of this ubiquitous human emotion worsens it. What if, instead of fighting our anxiety, we could turn it into a strength? In this enlightening online webinar, you will learn how to use anxiety to become more self-accepting, connected to others, and resilient. Author of [*Thriving with Anxiety*](#), Dr. Rosmarin's constructive, compassionate, and evidence-based approach will not make you less anxious. Instead, it will empower you to use anxiety to thrive.

You will learn:

- To rethink anxiety from being a "disease" to being a normal human emotion;
- How to use anxiety to increase our self-compassion;
- How to harness the power of anxiety to enhance emotional intimacy; and
- How can anxiety help us accomplish what we truly want in life?

David H. Rosmarin, PhD, is an Associate Professor at [Harvard Medical School](#), a program director at [McLean Hospital](#), and the founder of [Center for Anxiety](#). Through his work as a clinical psychologist, scientist, educator, author, and keynote speaker, David has helped thousands of individuals and organizations to thrive by embracing the emotion of anxiety. His clinical work and research have been featured in [Good Morning America](#), the New York Times, [the Wall Street Journal](#), the Boston Globe, and [TED](#). [David is available for organization speaking and consultation via his website.](#)

[Click here to register and join the conversation!](#)

***PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL PROGRAM.** See our calendar for more details. This program is funded by [the Friends of the Stoneham Library](#). You will receive the link in the confirmation and reminder emails - make sure to check your spam folder for them if they do not appear in your inbox. The email will be coming from Zoom.

On Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and

Diabolical Thriller with Liann Zhang

Wednesday, May 14th
7 pm | Zoom*



Grab your popcorn, grab your friend, and join us for an propulsive online conversation with author Liann Zhang as she chats with us about her debut thriller [*Julie Chan is Dead*](#).

Julie Chan has nothing. Her twin sister has everything. Except a pulse. Julie, a supermarket cashier with nothing to lose, finds herself thrust into the glamorous yet perilous world of her late twin sister, Chloe VanHuusen, a popular influencer. Separated at a young age, the identical twins were polar opposites and rarely spoke, except for one viral video that Chloe initiated (Finding My Long-Lost Twin And Buying Her A House #EMOTIONAL). When Julie discovers Chloe's lifeless body under mysterious circumstances, she seizes the chance to live the life she's always envied.

Transforming into Chloe is easier than expected. Julie effortlessly adopts Chloe's luxurious influencer life, complete with designer clothes, a meticulous skincare routine, and millions of adoring followers. However, Julie soon realizes that Chloe's seemingly picture-perfect life was anything but perfect.

Haunted by Chloe's untimely death and struggling to fit into the privileged influencer circle, Julie faces mounting challenges during a weeklong island retreat with Chloe's exclusive group of influencer friends. As events spiral out of control, Julie uncovers the sinister forces that may have led to her sister's demise and realizes she might be the next target. *Julie Chan is Dead* is the brilliant, dark, and diabolical debut thriller we've all been waiting for.

Liann Zhang is a second-generation Chinese Canadian who splits her time between Vancouver, British Columbia and Toronto, Ontario. After a short stint as a skincare content creator, she graduated from the [University of Toronto](#) with a degree in psychology and criminology. *Julie Chan Is Dead* is her first novel.

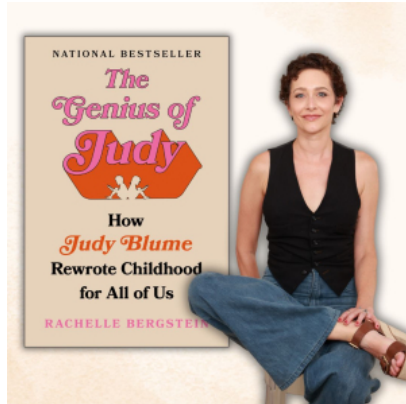
[Click here to register for this program.](#)

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and reminder emails - make sure to check your spam folder for them if they do not appear in your inbox. The email will be coming from Zoom.

How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us with Rachelle Bergstein

Wednesday, May 21st
2 pm | Virtual*



You're invited to an online intimate conversation with bestselling author Rachelle Bergstein as she chats about her newest book [*The Genius of Judy*](#). This book takes an expansive look at Judy Blume's life, work, and cultural impact, focusing on her most iconic –and controversial– young adult novels, from *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* to *Blubber*.

Everyone knows Judy Blume. Her books have garnered her fans of all ages for decades and sold tens of millions of copies. But why were people so drawn to them? And why are we still talking about them now in the 21st century? In *The Genius of Judy*, her remarkable story is revealed as never before, beginning with her as a mother of two searching for purpose outside of her home in 1960s suburban New Jersey. The books she wrote starred regular children with genuine thoughts and problems. But behind those deceptively simple tales, Blume explored the pillars of the growing women's rights movement, in which girls and women were entitled to careers, bodily autonomy, fulfilling relationships, and even sexual pleasure. Blume wasn't trying to be a revolutionary – she just wanted to tell honest stories – but in doing so, she created a cohesive, culture-altering vision of modern adolescence.

Blume's bravery provoked backlash, making her the country's most-banned author in the mid-1980s. Thankfully, her works withstood those culture wars and it's no coincidence that Blume has resurfaced as a cultural touchstone now. Young girls are still cat-called, sex education curricula are getting dismissed as pornography, and entire shelves of libraries are being banned. As we face these challenges, it's only natural we look to Blume, the grand dame of so-called dirty books. This is the story of how a housewife became a groundbreaking artist, and how generations of empowered fans are her legacy, today more than ever.

Rachelle Bergstein is a lifestyle writer, author, and editor, focused on style, pop culture, and families. Her work has appeared in the

New York Post, The New York Times, NPR, and more. She is the author of three books: [*Women from the Ankle Down*](#), [*Brilliance and Fire*](#), and *The Genius of Judy*. She lives with her husband and son in Brooklyn. Find out more at RachelleBergstein.com.

[Click here to register for this program.](#)

***PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL PROGRAM.** See our calendar for more details. This program is funded by [the Friends of the Stoneham Library](#).

Youth Services

Mondays

Baby Bumble

10 A. M. | Junior Room

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.



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!

Questions? Email kbardascino@noblenet.org!

No registration required.

Tuesday

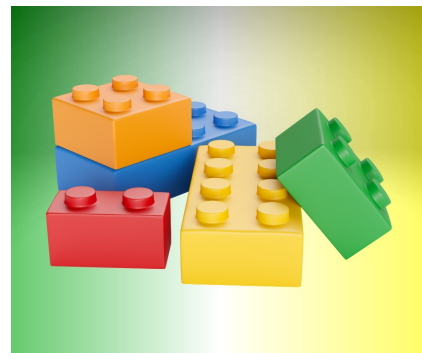
Duplo Club

May 6th @ 11 A. M.

May 20th @ 11 A.M.

Junior Room

Have a kiddo who is too little for Lego club? Join us for a dop-in Duplo club! Build some fun stuff with bigger blocks!



All ages welcome, but the program is intended for younger kiddos.
No registration required.

Quick Stitch Club

[May 20th @ 2:30 P.M.](#)

Teen Zone

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

Sign up is required. Click on the hyperlinks above to register!
Registration opens on Tuesday, May 6th.



Musical Mornings with Matt Heaton

[May 13th @ 10:30 A. M.](#)

[May 27th @ 10:30 A.M.](#)

Marcy Room

Join the wonderful Matt Heaton for some spring fun! He'll bring the tunes, come ready to move and groove! For ages 0-5.

Sign up is required due to limited space. Click on the hyperlinks above to register for each session this month!



Wednesday

Toddler Tales

[May 7th @ 10:30 A. M.](#)

[May 14th @ 10:30 A. M.](#)

[May 21st @ 10:30 A. M.](#)

[May 28th @ 10:30 A. M.](#)

Stoneham Town Hall

25 Central St., Stoneham, MA



Miss Melissa is so excited to welcome our toddler friends for a fun storytime! She'll be sharing some of her favorite stories with you! Registration is required. Click the hyperlinks above to register for each session.

Questions? Email mjackson@noblenet.org

Thursday

Toddler Time

Every Thursday

9:30 A. M. | Junior Room

Need a spot to bring your energetic toddler? Swing by the Children's Library for a drop in-program! We have special toys specifically picked for toddlers that will be available during this program!



Note: Guardians must remain with their child during the duration of the program.

This is a drop-in style program, geared towards toddler socialization and developmentally appropriate play with toys used to foster motor development.

Questions? Email Katie at kbardascino@noblenet.org!

No registration required.

Imagination Station

[May 1st @ 4 P. M.](#)

[May 8th @ 4 P. M.](#)

[May 15th @ 4 P. M.](#)

[May 22nd @ 4 P. M.](#)

[May 29th @ 4 P. M.](#)

Junior Room



Join us after a long day to create a simple craft. Chat with friends

and make something new! Sign-up is required. Click on the hyperlinks above to register for each session.

Intended demographic: Ages 3+

Craft & Chat for T(w)eens

May 8th @ 6 P. M.

Teen Zone



Join Katie in the TeenZone to chat while we craft! She'll have coloring materials or feel free to bring whatever crafty things you're working on!

[Sign up requested, not required.](#) Demographic: teens and tweens.

Email kbardascino@noblenet.org if you have any questions.

Middle Grade Graphic

Novel Club

May 22nd @ 6 P. M.

Teen Zone



Join us in the teen zone for graphic novel club! Do we talk about the book we pick?

Sometimes. Do we chat, color, and have fun? Always! Pick up your copy of the book at the Junior Circulation desk!

For grades 4 and up. [Sign up required.](#)
Questions? Email kbardascino@noblenet.org

Friday

Take-and-Make Crafts

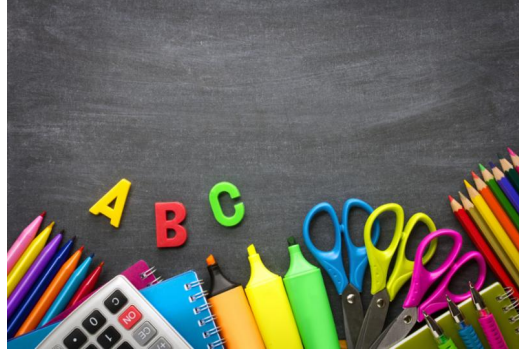
May 2nd (All Day)

May 30th (All Day)

Junior Room

Starting May 2nd, we will have a take-and-make craft available for pickup. Supplies are LIMITED; these will be given on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last! Supplies are available at the

Junior Room circulation desk. Also, [check our online calendar](#) for release dates! No registration required.



Babytime

[May 2nd @ 9:30 A. M.](#)

[May 9th @ 9:30 A. M.](#)

[May 23rd @ 9:30 A. M.](#)

[May 30th @ 9:30 A. M.](#)

Junior Room



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

Questions? Email kbardascino@noblenet.org !

We're excited to see you!

Sign up is requested so that we can email you if we have to cancel!

Click the hyperlinks above to register for each session.

Teen & Tween Craft Collective

[May 30th @ 3:30 P. M.](#)

Teen Zone

Visit the TeenZone to create something cool! Each month will be a chance to make something new!

[Registration is requested](#) so we can get an idea of who to expect, but it's not required! For teens and tweens.

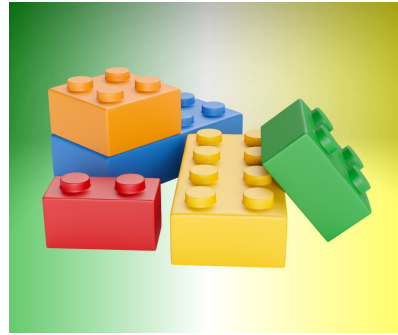


Saturday

Lego Club

11 A. M. | Junior Room

Come join us every Saturday from 11am-1pm for Lego Club! We're excited to see what you can create!



This is a drop-in style program with no direct instruction. Adults must be present and with their child/children.

No registration required.

Questions? Call 781-438-1325 and ask a staff member!

Book Lists



Cinco de Mayo

History, cuisine, and literature of Mexico

Mysterious May

Crime/detective fiction and films



Toil in the Soil

Agriculture/farming, gardening

Staff Reviews

Free Solo (2018)

David Huygens

Free Solo (2018) is an Academy Award-

winning documentary about [Alex Honnold](#), who performed the amazing feat of climbing the 3,000-foot sheer rock face of El Capitan, in California's [Yosemite National Park](#), without a rope. As twelve camera operators recorded [the](#)



[31-year-old's 2017 ascent](#), they had to be careful not to distract Honnold, or endanger him in any way. And the filmmakers, Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, had to face the fact that their subject could suddenly fall to his death on camera.

These factors—and the incredibly suspenseful climb itself—make *Free Solo* one of the most unusual nonfiction films of recent times. So do some of the things we learn about the subject. We're shown Honnold's budding relationship with his new girlfriend. We discover that he grew up in a home where love wasn't talked about, and demonstrations of physical affection were unknown. At one point, he gets an MRI and discovers that there's almost no activity in his amygdala in response to average stimuli. The film also delves into the technical challenges faced by those who've tried to scale El Capitan. And we see Alex doing many trial runs to try to master the most difficult parts of the climb.

The last part of the film is the climb itself, and it's intense. You may find yourself covering your eyes. You may hold your breath. Words can't really describe what it's like. It can almost feel as if you're living through it, at times. It's a visceral, cathartic experience. If you're looking for a film that offers real-life thrills, I highly recommend checking out *Free Solo*.

Subscribing to Art

Melissa Jackson

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

– [Thomas Merton](#)



Museums, galleries, street art, and exhibits by students. Art can reach out to us, move us, incite us, embrace us, and inspire us. When I am looking at a piece of art, my time is well spent and my heart is fully engaged, immersed in discovering the piece before me: the technique, the subject, the time period, and the area where the artist worked. I find it all really fascinating.

Here are two wonderful *and free* art newsletters that I highly recommend. The first is [Hyperallergic](#), a voice on all things art and

culture. This online newspaper carries all the latest on big exhibits, small galleries, artists, museum workers, fashion, archeology, and really good memes. The writing is great and the wide scope of art is impressive.

I also subscribe to [The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#). Their newsletter allows me to see mini tours of exhibits and happenings at their museum. I just saw a lovely tour of the Caspar David Friedrich Exhibit. You can watch it [HERE](#); it's lovely!

For Sale (2024)

Matthew Sowyrda

Are you in the market for a new movie to watch? Can I interest you in some cinematic real estate? I have this one film that's just dying to be sold. In fact, the owners are willing to settle on a low price. Here's the picture: self-centered wheeler-dealer Mason McGinness (Andrew Roth) loses his job for dubious practices, and gets kicked out of the house by his wife (Rachael Lubarsky) when he forgets their wedding anniversary. But get this: luck descends upon the unlucky McGinness when he lands a job as a real estate salesman, and is given the task of selling a mysteriously unsellable property. McGinness seizes the assignment with confidence; however, the longer he stays on, the more it becomes clear that this house doesn't provide the best living space.



It is rare for me to watch a movie classed as "horror", expecting to be properly scared - or at least creeped out - and end up laughing at it. While *For Sale* has the trappings of a quintessential haunted house story - a place with a history of murder, which in turn generates residual hauntings by those who died violently - it has comical elements as well. For instance, when McGinness meets Jim (Erik Alexis), a single father and prospective buyer, he nervously tells him to show the back of his head, because McGinness just met the spirits of two previous owners who had been stabbed to death from behind, and wanted to make sure that Jim wasn't just another ghost. The exchange was quirky, almost Johnny Depp-like, and warrants a good chuckle.

In contrast to Roth's lively performance as an opportunistic businessman, the other actors were awkward and affectless. There is Corinne Britti as an unenthusiastic clairvoyant (or psychic? medium?) named Claire, who McGinness hires to help him find out what the ghosts want, in the hopes of assuaging their spiritual restlessness. Her reaction to the ghostly manifestations is little more than something to the effect of: "Oh look, they're scary ghosts

being scary", which was amusing. Then there is a married couple, played by Maria Christina Perry and Michael Shershenovich, who gaze lifelessly at everything and lack vocal inflection.

The special effects looked cartoony and ridiculous, like high school students using MovieMaker on an iPad. However, Scarlett Clay (voiced by Noella Menon) - the most prominent spirit featured in the film - commanded a spooky presence throughout. Also, while the choice of music is littered with a cacophony of rockabilly and swing music, this creates an unnerving cognitive dissonance that sets up for good (unexpected) jump-scares, or instills a sense of unease and dread in the viewer. For example, when McGinness glides about the empty, sun-filled house, taking photos of the rooms, as upbeat and unassuming music plays in the background, all goes silent when he notices that in one photo, "something" had been standing in the corner behind a door, but is absent when he looks at that same spot in real time. Whatever it was evidently moved on its own, and he doesn't know where it is now...

With all things considered, *For Sale* might just be one of the "best worst" films currently on the market. If you're not sold at this point, I understand; my first impression was anything from a "C" to an "F". But perhaps viewers who like a hilarious yet sometimes eerie haunted house tale (with a moral or two), accompanied by mediocre acting and amateurish CGI, will appreciate the interior design.

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