

Illuminated Stacks

The official newsletter of the Stoneham Public Library

Stoneham Public Library

431 Main Street Stoneham, MA 02180

[Please note our reduced operating hours:](#)

Adult Services | (781) 438-1324

Mon., Thu.: 10 am - 9 pm

Tues., Wed., Fri.: 9 am - 5 pm

Children's Services | (781) 438-1325

Mon., Thu.: 10 am - 7 pm

Tues., Wed., Fri.: 9 am - 5 pm

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

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When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.

-- G. K. Chesterton



The Month at a Glance

Closures/Holidays

The Stoneham Public Library will be closed on Monday, September 1st, in observance of Labor Day.



The Trustees of the Library

Will meet at 7 PM on Monday, September 8th, in the Stoneham Room. A hybrid option is also available. All members of the public are welcome to attend to comment or listen to the proceedings.

If you are interested in view the 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

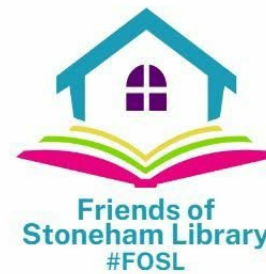
Passcode: 823496

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

The Friends of Stoneham Library (FOSL)

Will hold their annual meeting at 9:15 am on Saturday, September 13th, at the Woburn Public Library. Refreshments will be provided!

All members of the public are welcome to attend to comment and listen to the proceedings.



[Click here to learn more about our Friends group,](#)
[and to learn about how you can get more involved.](#)

The Stoneham Public Library offers fast and convenient portable printing services with Princh. Follow the steps below for your chosen medium, and have your document ready to print in minutes! Here's how to do it:

Print via Email

Great for phones and laptops/tablets

1. Save the file(s) to your device
2. Open your preferred email app
3. Compose a new email
4. Attach the file(s) to the email (IMPORTANT! Files as links in the body of the email won't work)
5. Add the printer's email addresses to the "To" field:
 - For black & white, add
stoneham-bw@ewprints.com
 - For color, add
stoneham-color@ewprints.com
6. Send the email (an email subject is not required)
7. You will receive a submission confirmation email from Princh when the print job is ready
8. Go to the print release station and follow the posted instructions

Print via Web Browser

Great for laptops/tablets

1. Open a web browser and go to print.princh.com

2. Enter Printer ID 109319 or scan the QR code



3. Click to select and upload a file

4. Tap  to choose black & white or color, number of copies, and page range (Use “Preview” to confirm your print job appears correct), then tap “Accept” to proceed

5. Repeat steps 3 & 4 to send additional files in the same print job

6. Check the “Accept Terms and Conditions” box and tap “Continue”

7. Enter your email in the pop-up, then tap “OK”

8. Go to the print release station and follow the posted instructions

Print via Princh App

Great for frequent use on phones

1. Download the Princh app for iOS or Android from your app store, open Princh, and follow any setup prompts
2. Go to the file that you want
3. Find the print function:
 - For Android phones, tap  and select Print, then select Princh from the list of printers
 - For iPhones/iPads, tap  and scroll to select "Print with Princh"
4. Follow prompts as directed by app
5. Enter Printer ID 109319 or scan the QR code 
6. Choose black & white or color, number of copies, and page range (Use "Preview" to confirm your print job appears correct)
7. Tap "Print" and check off "I Accept the Terms and Conditions"
8. Tap "Continue" to proceed
9. Enter your email address in the pop-up, then tap "Submit Print Job"
10. Go to the print release station and follow the posted instructions

Testing Manuals

Getting ready to take the ASVAB? The GRE? The LSAT? We are currently (re)building our collection of test manuals, so that patrons who are studying for exams will have what they need to prepare themselves. You can find these materials on the shelf next to the Reference Desk.



"Autumnal" Museum Passes

With autumn just around the corner, we'd like to recommend some [museum passes](#) that suit the season!

[Davis Farmland](#)

Take a trip to Sterling, Massachusetts, for some family-friendly fun at Davis Farmland! While the place is open year-round (and weather permitting), the best things to do there this time of year include apple-picking, hayrides, and the Davis Mega Maze. After reserving a date and time for your visit, you must pick up the pass at the library, but you do have to return it. The pass admits up to four people and grants a \$5 discount. Children under two are always free.



[Historic New England](#)



Learn about a plethora of historically significant properties throughout all six states in New England! Places include -- but are certainly not limited to -- the Eustis Estate Museum (MA), Casey Farm (RI), and the Rundlet-May House (NH). After reserving a place, date, and time, you must pick up the pass at the library, but you do not have to return it. The pass admits up to two people per party, but anyone under 18 goes in for free. Prices vary depending on venue.

[Massachusetts State Parks](#)

Explore the great outdoors at over 150 locations across the state! Hit the trails for a foliage-filled hike in Harold Parker State Forest (North Andover), Maudslay State Park (Newburyport), and Walden Pond (Concord) -- just to name a few! Once you reserve a date for your visit, you must pick up the pass from the library and return it after use. The pass admits one car for free at your selected location.



[Trustees of the Reservations](#)



Take your pick for a day-trip from over 100 historically and naturally significant sites in Massachusetts! Points of interest include Halibut Point Reservation (Rockport); the Charles W. Ward Reservation (Andover); and

Naumkeag, Stockbridge's gilded-age-style mansion. The pass admits up to two adults and two children at a cost that is equivalent to a Family Membership admission price, which means that you save approximately \$80 at any Trustees property that charges a fee! The pass must be reserved and picked up at the library, but does not have to be returned.

Adult Services

Mondays

Monday Night Book Group

September 29th @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room



The Monday Night Book Group reads novels and the occasional nonfiction selection. The group meets on the last Monday of each month, in the Stoneham Room, at 7PM, unless otherwise noted. We are ready to welcome you to the discussion. No registration required.

For information, contact Maureen:
saltzman@noblenet.org.

Wednesdays

Documentary Wow! Discussion

American Experience:

The Gilded Age (2018)

September 10th @ 6:30 pm

Zoom

Join us as we discuss this month's Documentary Wow! selection, *American Experience: The Gilded Age* (2018). [Click here to register for this program.](#)



Film Club Discussion

The Lady Eve (1941)

September 24th @ 6:30 pm

Zoom

Join the Film Club to discuss this month's selection, *The Lady Eve* (1941). Dave will send out the Zoom link on the day of the discussion. [Click here to register for this](#)

[program.](#)



Thursdays

Chess Club for Adults

Every Thursday @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room OR
The Teen Zone



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! This is a drop-in style program, and takes place every Thursday at 7 P. M in either the Stoneham Room or the Teen Zone. While chess boards will be provided, players are encouraged to bring their own. Chess clocks will also be available.

No registration required. Age demographic is for individuals who are 18 years or older. See [our calendar](#) or our programming board in the library lobby for each evening's location.

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

Chess Club Drop-in

Every Thursday @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room OR
The Teen Zone

This drop-in program is for anyone looking to play chess with others. **There will not be a staff member leading the meeting.** Meetings will take place at 7pm on every Thursday of the month in the Marcy Room, except the



Thursday on which Chess Club for Adults is held. While some

chess boards will be provided, players are also encouraged to bring their own boards.

No registration required. Age demographic is for individuals who are 18 years or older. See [our calendar](#) or our programming board in the library lobby for each evening's location.

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

Mysteries Around the World

September 4th @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room

Mysteries Around the World is a book group that reads mysteries and meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7PM in the Stoneham Room, unless otherwise noted. This month's selection is [Good Girl, Bad Girl by Michael Robotham](#). We look forward to welcoming you as a member. No registration required.



Questions? Contact Maureen Saltzman at sto@noblenet.org or (781) 438-1324.

Embroidery with YuChin

September 18th @ 7 pm
The Teen Zone



"Embroidery with YuChin" is a monthly workshop held at the Stoneham Library. The 1.5 hour event takes place from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm on the third Thursday 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 7:45 pm - 8:30 pm. [Registration is required.](#)

Age limit: 15 and older.

Please stop by to learn more about embroidery. Note: Materials are not provided for this program. Do not attend the workshop if you're experiencing any sick symptoms.

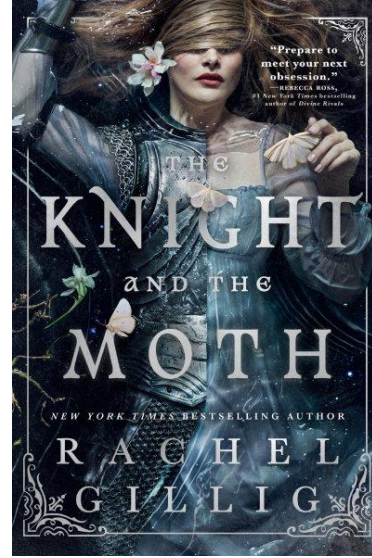
The Enchanted Pages Society

Reads: *The Knight and the Moth* by
Rachel Gillig
September 25th @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room

Join our most magical 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, [*The Knight and the Moth* by Rachel Gillig](#), 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

American Experience:

The Gilded Age (2018)

September 5th @ 1 pm

The Stoneham Room

This month's selection is *American Experience: The Gilded Age* (2018).

"As national wealth expands in the U.S. disparities among the nation's population spark debates that continue to rage in modern day America."



All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required. Due to budget cuts, we can no longer provide snacks. See Dave's review of the documentary in the Staff Reviews section below.

Rated: TV-PG | Run Time: 1h 54m | Genres: Documentary, History, Biography | Directed by: Sarah Colt | Written by: Mark Zwonitzer | Starring: Oliver Platt, David Nasaw, Nell Irvin Painter

Friday Movie Matinee

The Lady Eve (1941)

September 19th @ 1 pm

The Stoneham Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Film Club choice, *The Lady Eve* (1941).

"A trio of classy card sharks targets a socially awkward brewery heir, until one of them falls in love with him."

All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required. Due to budget cuts, we will no longer be able to provide snacks. See Dave's review of the film in the Staff Reviews section below.

Rated: Approved | Run Time: 1h 34m | Genres: Comedy, Romance | Directed by: Preston Sturges | Written by: Monckton Hoffe, Preston Sturges | Starring: Barbara Stanwyck, Henry Fonda, Charles Coburn



Special Programs

Author Talk with Hannah Nicole Maehrer

Wednesday, September 3rd @ 2 pm (Virtual)*



Embrace your dark side (and your best evil laugh) and join us in conversation with Hannah Nicole Maehrer, creator of the New York Times bestselling [Assistant to the Villain](#) series. Full of humor and heart, this magical office comedy about a sunshine assistant and her grumpy evil boss is one you won't want to miss out on. With the third book in the series, [Accomplice to the Villain](#), out August 5, 2025, you

need to [register today](#) to learn what tricks are up this author's sleeve!

Hannah Nicole Maehrer—or as TikTok Knows her, @hannahnicolemae—is a fantasy romance author and BookToker

with a propensity for villains. When she's not creating bookish comedy skits about Villains and Assistants, she's writing to Taylor Swift songs. Her biggest passions in life include romance, magic, laughter, and finding ways to include them all in everything she creates. Most days you can find her with her head in the clouds and a pen in her hand.

***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.

Author Talk with Jefferson Fisher

Wednesday, September 10th @ 2 pm (Virtual)*

Join us (and be ready to take notes) for an afternoon virtual conversation with communication expert Jefferson Fisher, as we chat about his book, [*The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More*](#). No matter who you're talking to, *The Next Conversation* gives you

immediately actionable strategies and phrases that will forever change how you communicate. Jefferson Fisher, trial lawyer and one of the leading voices on real-world communication, offers a tried-and-true framework that will show you how to transform your life and your relationships by improving your next conversation.



Jefferson Fisher is a board-certified Texas trial lawyer and founder of [Fisher Firm](#). With his extensive experience as a trial lawyer, Jefferson understands the art of persuading and communicating effectively in high-conflict situations. He is one of the most sought-after names in functional thinking for modern-day communication. Known for his practical videos and authentic presence, Jefferson has amassed over 9 million social media followers-making him the most followed litigation attorney in the world in less than a year, all from inside his vehicle. Jefferson's followers include high-profile names such as Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Jesse Williams, Dr. Andrew Huberman, Sarah Silverman, Lewis Howes, and many more. Jefferson is on a mission to be a messenger of positivity in

the world and help people learn to talk to each other again - one conversation at a time.

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

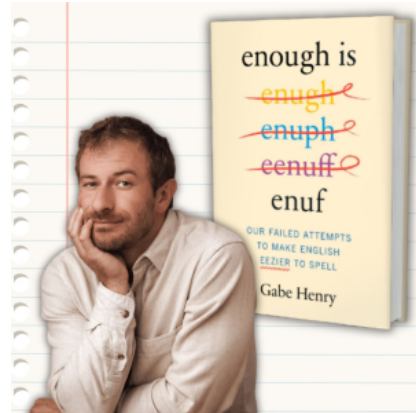
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Author Talk with Gabe Henry

Wednesday, September 17th @ 2 pm (Virtual)*

Have you ever wondered why the English spelling of words is sometimes... well... just weird? Come on a surprisingly hilarious journey with us and author Gabe Henry through the history of the English language, while we discuss troublemakers like [Mark Twain](#) who broke all the rules. [In *Enough is*](#)

[Enuf](#), Gabe Henry humorously traces the “simplified spelling movement” from medieval England to Revolutionary America, from the birth of standup comedy to contemporary pop music, and explores its lasting influence in words like color (without a U), plow (without -ugh), and the iconic '90s ballad “Nothing Compares 2 U.” Finally, Henry brings us to the digital age, where the swift pace of online exchanges now pushes us all 2ward simplification.



Gabe Henry is the author of three books including the poetry anthology, [Eating Salad Drunk](#), a humor collaboration with [Jerry Seinfeld](#), [Bob Odenkirk](#), Mike Birbiglia, Margaret Cho, and other titans of comedy. [Eating Salad Drunk](#) was featured in [The New Yorker](#) in February 2022 (“A Smattering of Haiku for the Burnout Age”) and ranked one of [Vulture](#)’s Best Comedy Books of 2022. Henry’s work has been published in [TIME](#), New York Magazine, The New Yorker, the Weekly Humorist, [US News & World Report](#),

and more. He has spent more than a decade exploring the strange and forgotten history of simplified spelling, which, by his own admission, has only made him a worse speller. He lives and works in New York. Learn more at www.gabehenry.com.

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

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Youth Services



The Junior Library renovation is starting!

The Junior Library renovation is finally starting up again! The Junior Room will be in its new (temporary) location, the Marcy Room until the renovation is complete!

For more information on what led to the renovation, [please visit this page on our website.](#)

To keep up with the progress of the renovation, and for frequently asked questions, [please visit this page on our website.](#)

Book Lists

Classy Listening

Classical music in CD and electronic-audio formats



Hoppy Days!

Titles to beer in mind for this year's Oktoberfest

Tarts & Crafts

Baking / Hobbies (quilting, sewing, etc.)



Staff Reviews

The Lady Eve (1941)

Dave Huygens

Charles "Hopsy" Pike ([Henry Fonda](#)), heir to a brewery fortune, is sailing home to the US from an expedition up the Amazon to study his



passion: snakes. All the women on the ship are making a play for the handsome bachelor, but it's Jean Harrington ([Barbara Stanwyck](#)), a beautiful con artist traveling with her cardsharp father (Charles Coburn), who gets Hopsy to fall for her--then discovers she's falling in love with him herself. This is only the beginning of the twisted and hilarious tale of love and vengeance that writer-director [Preston Sturges](#) spins in his classic romantic comedy, *The Lady Eve* (1941).

In 1940, Sturges, then a screenwriter, was growing more and more dissatisfied with how directors were interpreting his material. So he made an offer to Paramount. He would direct his own screenplay, *The Great McGinty*, for ten dollars. Hollywood didn't allow writers to direct their own scripts, but the studio decided to take a chance on Sturges. For the first time in history, the credit, "Written and directed by," appeared on a movie screen. The film was a hit with audiences and critics, winning the Academy Award

for Best Original Screenplay. Its success paved the way for a string of amazing comedy films whose brilliance has rarely been equaled: [*Sullivan's Travels* \(1941\)](#), [*The Palm Beach Story* \(1942\)](#), [*The Miracle of Morgan's Creek* \(1944\)](#), [*Hail The Conquering Hero* \(1944\)](#), and [*Unfaithfully Yours* \(1948\)](#).

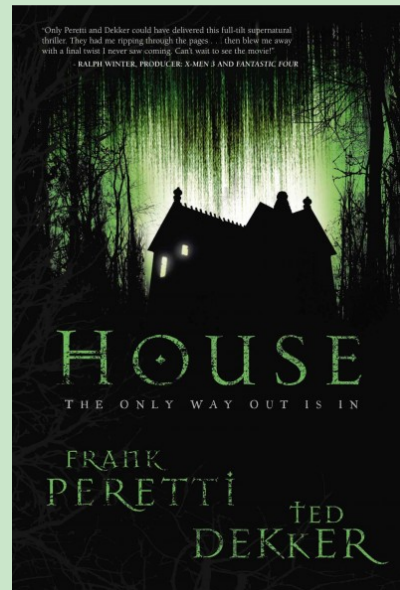
There are many theories as to why Sturges flamed out so quickly — unable to write or direct another hit after the 1940s. But film fans are grateful for the unmatched wit and entertainment value of the ones he did make. Of those, many consider *The Lady Eve* to be the best of the lot. It's a film [Pauline Kael](#) called "A frivolous masterpiece...a mixture of visual and verbal slapstick, and of high artifice and pratfalls...it represents the dizzy high point of Sturges's comedy writing." I think you'll agree.

[*House* by Frank Peretti and Ted Dekker](#)

Matthew Sowyrda

In *House*, Jack and Stephanie are on their way to a marriage counselling session when their tires are flattened by a sheet of metal spikes planted on a heavily wooded dirt road in rural Alabama. The stranded, quarreling young couple walk up to a nearby house, The Wayside Inn, where they find another couple, Randy and Leslie, who had succumbed to the same trap outside. Soon, the four travelers meet the owners: Betty, her husband Stewart, and their Lurch-like adult son, Pete -- whose behavior might make one think of the demented, dysfunctional families from *The Old Dark House* (1932) and *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (1974). During an uncomfortable dinner, the party of seven is interrupted by an assailant who fires a gun at them from the yard, rams a truck into the front door, and destroys the locks on all the doors to prevent an easy escape. To top it off, the man throws into the house a tin can wrapped with a note that lays out the rules for some sort of sick game: one person must die by the following morning, or else he will kill everyone inside. From that point forward, instincts and broken human nature work to influence each character's decisions about matters of life and death, as they engage in a battle between Good and Evil in an accursed house that's home to a host of secrets.

While I like haunted house stories, and while there were some creepy images, this one gets a bit confusing. It is also not exactly a "literary" novel; the styles of Peretti and Dekker are not much different from those of typical contemporary authors, especially in the thriller and horror genres. The pacing is fast, the chapters short, the descriptions sparse, and the action scenes splattered with



echoic flare (*Boom! Crack!*) --all ingredients that make up generic, popular modern fiction.

The novel's only distinguishing factor is the authors' raising of and attempts at answering tough philosophical and theological questions. Similar to the works of Stephen King, the violence is caused by a Satan-like character, and a seemingly hopeless situation compels the characters to ask: "Where is God in the midst of suffering? Where is light in the darkness of the world?" Peretti and Dekker created suitable circumstances for such inquiries, which are related to what in philosophy is termed "[the problem of evil](#)"; however, I think that their "reply" (in the form of a character they introduce much later in the story) felt too much like a last-minute *deus ex machina*, and the other characters' response to it seemed contrived. Examples of literature that present a more realistic approach to this subject are *The Book of Job* from the Old Testament and [The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky](#).

Nonetheless, I will say Peretti and Dekker know how to use literary devices. The concept that every character has some personal flaw in need of correction is reminiscent of [Agatha Christie's novel, And Then There Were None](#). Here, we see Jack, Stephanie, Randy, and Leslie as four metaphorical pilgrims who enter a house -- which could represent the world, or even the Self -- where they must re-live and confront a psychologically and spiritually damaging traumatic experience that shaped their respective personalities and worldviews, such as the premature death of a loved one, or childhood abuse. The cold, dark, labyrinthine basement serves as an allegory for the human mind after the Fall, with all of its illusions, constantly altering form, and its anxiety-inducing "realness" of the worst aspects of ourselves that we tend to deny out of fear or pride. In consequence, the latter keeps us from making the effort to reform our vices and repent of our sins. *House* illustrates that warfare is waged not only on a physical level, but that it also takes place on psychological and spiritual planes.

[The Gilded Age](#) [\(2019\)](#)

Dave Huygens

In the closing decades of the 19th century -- the era that became known as The Gilded Age--the

population of the United States doubled in a single generation. The nation became the world's leading producer of food, coal, oil, and steel, and attracted vast amounts of foreign investment. As national wealth expanded, the division between the upper and lower classes became an economic gulf unprecedented in American life.



The PBS documentary, *The Gilded Age* (2019), tells the story of that era by focusing on several historical events and personalities: a lavish society ball, the rise of [Andrew Carnegie](#) and [J. P. Morgan](#); the career of progressive politician [William Jennings Bryan](#), the phenomenon of child labor, the march of [Coxey's Army](#), etc. All the segments illustrate an overarching theme: the rise of wealth disparity and the role of government--does it exist to benefit business interests, or to serve the people?

Directed by Sarah Colt, narrated by Oliver Platt and featuring numerous historians and writers, *The Gilded Age* is also visually splendid, making use of hundreds of photos and illustrations of the era-- an era that uncannily mirrors the present in many key ways. This is an absorbing, enjoyable, and thought-provoking historical documentary.

Stoneham Public Library | 431 Main Street | Stoneham, MA 02180 US

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