

May 2026

ILLUMINATED STACKS

The Stoneham Public Library's official monthly newsletter

Stoneham Public Library

431 Main Street
Stoneham, MA 02180

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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[Stoneham Public Library](#)

THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

Saturday, May 9th @ 9:15

The [Friends of the Stoneham Library \(FOSL\)](#) will hold their monthly meeting in the library's Stoneham Room. All members of the public are welcome to attend to comment and listen to the proceedings. If you are unable to make it in person, a virtual option is available, by which you can join by [clicking here](#)! Or, you can dial in (audio only):

(US) +1 347-384-7785

PIN: 357 135 204#



Monday, May 11th @ 7 pm

The Board of Library Trustees will meet in the library's Stoneham Room. All members of the public are welcome to attend to comment or listen to the proceedings. If you wish to attend but are unable to make it in person, [click here for the virtual option \(Zoom\)](#). You can also call in at:

+1 (646) 931-3860, then type in the following:

Meeting ID: 876 9866 6972

Passcode: 823496



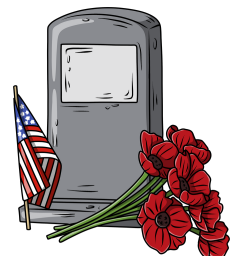
Wednesday, May 13th

The library will be closed all day for a staff meeting



Monday, May 25th

The library will be closed in observance of Memorial Day



A LIBRARY Q/A

Have you ever wondered about some of the services we provide? Perhaps you really would like to know what this means, or whether you can really do that. Here we are going to address, explain, and clarify some of the library- and librarian-related questions posted on [our FAQ page](#), as well as ones that patrons occasionally (and frequently) ask us in person and over the phone. We hope that new and seasoned library users alike will find the following information helpful.

"Do I need to pay to get a library card?"

- The process to obtain a card at the Stoneham Public Library is free for any Massachusetts resident. The borrowing of materials (books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, etc.) is also free. Financial contribution comes partly from Stoneham residents (whom we serve in particular), and who, in turn, are contributing to the community's intellectual and cultural value by maintaining this institution (see "[The History of the Stoneham Public Library](#)"). In fact, this cyclical give-and-return principle is the essence of a public library. All you need to register is a valid form of identification, such as a license (that bears your current address), a passport, or utility bill (for your current address). Similarly, the Stoneham Library does not charge a fee to replace lost library cards. The only monetary transactions are payments for lost or damaged library materials, as well as printing and photocopying services (.15 cents per black-and-white copy, and .50 cents per color copy; cash only).

Interlibrary loans (ILLs)

- Searching for a particular item but can't find it at the Stoneham Library? Don't get discouraged! Even if we do not own your desired title, you (or we on your behalf) can request a copy from another library within our network, or consortium. In the event that none of the libraries in our consortium own that title, you have recourse to the [Commonwealth Catalog](#), where you can request items from libraries across Massachusetts. If your desired title is unavailable at those libraries, ask Anna, our primary reference librarian, and she will conduct a more extensive search to obtain it for you.

Consortium

- In this context, a consortium--or network--is a group of libraries that have agreed to share materials amongst each other. The consortium to which the Stoneham Public Library belongs is the [North of Boston Library Exchange \(NOBLE\)](#), which consists of 17 public libraries and seven academic libraries. When patrons make requests for (or "place holds on") items that are available at other NOBLE libraries, the staff at those libraries receive the requests, search the stacks, and capture titles with holds, which are then shipped out to wherever they need to go. This system is beneficial for a number of reasons. It is accessible and convenient, in that patrons at any library within the consortium have, in a sense, one large, diverse collection at their disposal. It is also economical and practical, in that libraries in a consortium do not have to acquire "every book in the world" (such as older novels or obscure scholarly works) if fellow libraries already have them. Finally, as part of the consortium perk, patrons with an active Stoneham Library card can go to and physically borrow items from any NOBLE library.

"My library card might be expired. What do I do?"

- A Stoneham Public Library library card must be updated every three years. If you have an email on file with us, you should receive a notification that your card is about to expire within 30 days. The process to update your account is short, simple, and easy, and can be done either in person or over the phone. Our staff will prompt you to identify yourself, and to report whether any changes have been made to your legal name, home address, phone number, and other relevant contact information. Once that questionnaire is completed, we will update your account with the click of a button, extending the card's "life-span" for another three years. Failure to update your account will result in "expiration", which lapses your card into inactivity, thereby preventing you from placing holds on items, checking out materials, borrowing items from electronic resources (Hoopla, Libby), and reserving museum passes, until you update your card. If an additional three years have passed from that time, your card will be "purged", or deleted, from the NOBLE system. In that event, we can reinstate your library card (if you still have it), or issue you a new one.

"I got this from one of the book displays. Can I check it out?"

- Absolutely! The purpose of our displays is to highlight the materials in our collection that reflect an upcoming season or holiday, current events, and the literary and artistic interests of our staff. We encourage patrons to browse and borrow items featured on the many displays set up throughout the library each month.

"For how long can I check out an item?"

- The initial loan period for all items at the Stoneham Library is two weeks. In addition, you have two further renewals at your disposal, which gives you, theoretically, a total of six weeks. At the end, or towards the end, of the 14-days, you should receive an email indicating that your item(s) is/are about to be overdue. If you do not receive such notifications, then you may have to ask library staff to opt you in to receive them. If no other patrons are waiting in the request queue, then your item should renew automatically for another two weeks. However, you may be unable to renew your items if another patron has requested the same item as you, or if your card "expired" during the loan period. Under these circumstances, contact the library, and staff can give you an extension, or renew your library card. This process can be done either in person or over the phone, by providing your library card number or some other contact information.

"How many items can I take out at a time?"

- Except for the Library of Things (two Things per patron), we don't have an official limit as to the number of books, CDs, video games, magazines, and DVDs that a patron can borrow at a given time. The best guides here are common sense (i.e., borrowing only as many items that you can consume before the maximum due date) and experience (e.g., knowing whether you are a fast or slow reader).

"I just requested an item. How long will it take to get here?"

- This depends on several factors. If the Stoneham Library is open and the item you seek is on our shelves, one of our librarians can secure it for you as soon as the same day. However, there are times when our staff have searched the stacks for such an item, but are unable to locate it, in which case we count it as missing, and transfer the request to an available copy from another NOBLE library. If you requested an item through the NOBLE interlibrary loan system, the time frame is estimated to be roughly two or three business days, provided that the item is available at that time, the staff at that library capture the hold in a timely manner, and the lending library is open. A brand new release and/or popular title is likely to take longer to get into your hands if other patrons are before you in the queue. If you have been waiting longer than usual for an item, you can ask a librarian at the circulation desk to check the item's status. Lastly, requests made through the Commonwealth Catalog will take longer than those made through the NOBLE interlibrary loan system. To check the status of those items, you can consult the reference librarian.

"Can I get a passport/photo through the library?"

- The Stoneham Library does not currently provide this service. You can [apply for a passport](#) at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall. That application process includes a passport photo.

"Where do I return items?"

- During the library's operating hours, the best place to return Adult and Young Adult materials is at the main circulation desk, and children's materials in the Junior Library. When the library is closed, you can place your items in either of the two blue book drops in front of the building. Our staff empty both containers and check in their contents every morning when the library opens. The hatch on the exterior wall next to the front door is no longer in use.

"This book is overdue. How much do I owe?"

- About four or five years ago, the Stoneham Library did away with its overdue fines policy. The decision was made during a time of economic uncertainty, and it was out of consideration that an item returned late is still an item returned, so there is little reason to charge fines if items have been returned in the same condition as when they were borrowed. If you have an item that is labeled "LONG OVERDUE" (i.e. having the item for six weeks or more), you will see a charge on your account; however, this billing will be erased immediately upon returning that item. Please keep in mind that leniency does not exempt patrons from their responsibility to treat library materials (public property) with care and respect; lost and damaged materials must be compensated for. It is also worth noting that other NOBLE libraries have their own policies, and so they may still charge fines for late returns. If you lost or damaged an item that belongs to the Stoneham Library, you can resolve the issue by contacting David Huygens either in person or through email: huygens@noblenet.org. If the item belongs to another NOBLE library, you should contact the lending library.

"How do I print?"

- There are a few options for printing documents at the library. 1) If you are ready to print from one of our computer stations on the main floor, click the printer button on the document you are working on, configure your settings, and then click the Print button in the print preview box. A dialogue box will appear, indicating the price of your print job, as well as a prompt to insert your initials (first, middle, and/or last name). Once you select OK, tell either the Reference Librarian or the staff at the circulation desk that you wish to print, and they will release it for you. The document(s) can be retrieved at our printer/photocopy machine. 2) For a speedier option, the Stoneham Library's printer is compatible with [Princh](#). This is an app that you can install on your phone, laptop, or tablet, and which enables you to print from your device--even if you aren't at the library! See the Reference Librarian for assistance with this option. 3) The Stoneham Library has recently acquired a QR Print device ([see this article](#)). See the Reference Librarian for assistance with this option. Please note that we only accept cash for printing and photocopying services.

"I lost my library card. Do I have to get a new one?"

- The Stoneham Library has a (relatively new) card system that includes one library card, and a corresponding key chain tag, so if you lose the former, you (hopefully) still have the latter! Also, thanks to the [NOBLE catalog app](#), you can actually present your library card from your cellphone, and we can scan the barcode on the screen as we would a physical card. If you have installed the application, getting a replacement card seems to be unnecessary. Also, the same number and barcode can be found by clicking on Your Library Card when you sign into your account on [Aspen](#). However, that remains your choice; as was stated above, library card replacements are free of charge.

"Who can help me access Libby (or Hoopla) on my phone?"

- Our Reference Librarians are adept at resolving questions about, or issues with, technology and electronics. They will be more than happy to assist you in accessing our digital resources.

"Can I read library books through Kindle even if I do not have a Kindle e-reader?"

- Yes. You can download the free Kindle app onto your cell phone. The same is true for Nook, which is the Barnes & Noble e-reader, as well as other systems. Many e-readers can download the Libby app directly, which our Reference Librarians can also help with.

"How much does it cost to get something notarized?"

- Our notary service is free of charge. Because our staff carry it out, and the library is a not-for-profit town department, staff cannot personally accept money for this service (or any service, for that matter). While you are in no way obligated, you may make a donation in the jar at the main circulation desk, if you feel compelled to do so.

"Can I bring food into a study room?"

- Contact the library Director, Rachel Overbeck, for more information. Call 781-438-1324 or email her at roverbeck@noblenet.org.

"Do you have a fax machine?"

- The Stoneham Library does not provide faxing capabilities. However, patrons are able to scan documents. See the reference librarian for that service. Locations that offer faxing services are:
 - The [UPS store on Main Street](#) in Stoneham
 - [Staples](#) on Washington Street in Woburn
 - [Lucius Beebe Memorial Library](#) in Wakefield
 - [Reading Public Library](#)
 - [Winchester Public Library](#)

NOW SHOWING: FILM PROGRAMS!



How to participate in Stoneham Public Library's film programs.

Currently, we have two film programs at the library: *Film Club*, and *Documentary Wow!*. *Film Club* presents fiction films, including recent, classic, foreign and silent movies. *Documentary Wow!* presents

documentaries, past and present, as well as docudramas and other nonfiction films. You can participate in either one, or both.

Watch the films:

There are several ways to watch each month's films. Every month there's a *Film Club* screening and a *Documentary Wow!* screening. These take place on two different Friday afternoons of each month, at 1:00 PM. ([Check our calendar](#) for dates.) These screenings are free and open to all. They're projected "big screen" style, in the Marcy Room (downstairs at the library).



There are also DVDs, and sometimes Blu ray discs of the month's films, at the circulation desk, if you wish to watch the films at home (ask for them at the front desk as you enter the library). The movies are also often available for streaming, or they're on [YouTube](#). They may also be available on the library's free service, [Kanopy](#) (sign up on the library's website).

Continued on next page...

Join a discussion group on Zoom.

This is an enjoyable way to meet other movie fans and talk about the month's movies. The discussion happens online, on Zoom, on the Wednesday evening following each of the Friday screenings. You can sign up on the library's website.

You can also obtain the link by signing up for the Film Club/Documentary Wow! email list.



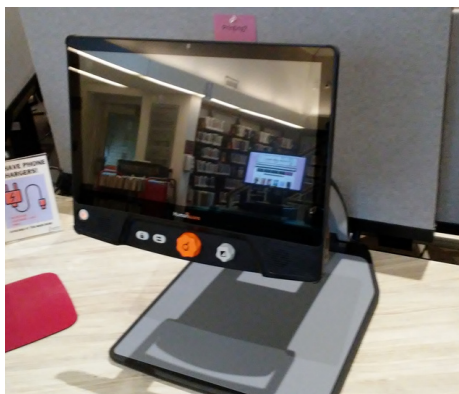
Sign up for the email list. When you come to a screening or a [Zoom](#) meeting, you can let me know you wish to join the email list. Or you can send me an email at huygens@noblenet.org. The emails will have links to the movie (if it is available on YouTube, for example). Emails will usually have extras and special features for each film, including making-of featurettes, interviews with the filmmakers or actors, and interesting backstories. There will also be reminders in advance of the screenings and the Zoom meetings, and a link will be posted a day or two in advance for each Zoom meeting.

So, your participation can be as simple as going to a movie at the library, or watching it at home. Or it may include the Zoom discussion, and/or getting emails that add to your enjoyment and knowledge of each movie.

Any way you look at it, if you enjoy movies, you're sure to find something to interest you at the library!

– Dave Huygens

LOW VISION READER AID

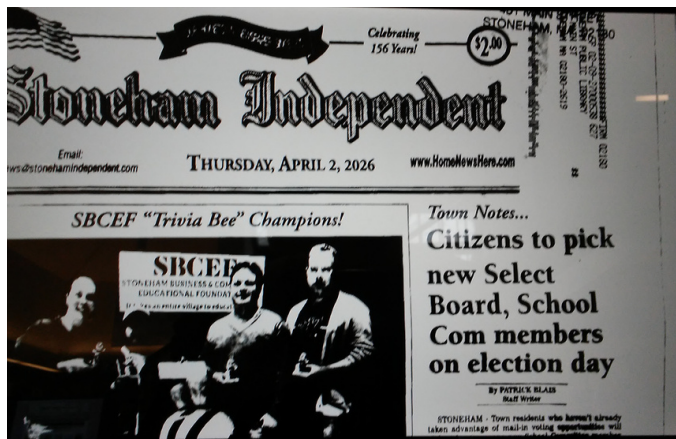


The Stoneham Public Library now has a low vision reader aid! This device is optimal for patrons who have visual difficulties and need to magnify the text in documents with small print. It is located by the computer station closest to the photocopier.

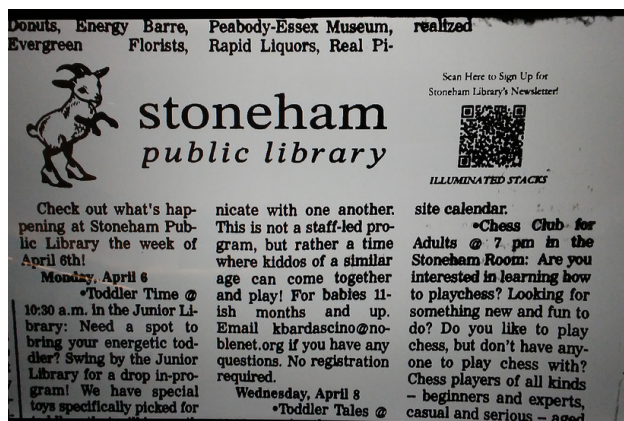
The Humanware low vision reader aid is easy to use. Press the power button on the left side of the panel (out of frame) and place your document underneath the lighted camera.



A projected image of the document will then appear on the screen. You have the option to change the chromatic presentation by pressing the button on the right (see above). This alters the display between black-and-white, color, and white-on-black (photographic negative).



If you wish to focus on a particular aspect of the document you are reading, toggle the orange "magnifying glass" switch (above, center). Rotating this component zooms the camera in and out. The picture (right) is of an image that's been magnified 2.0 times. The maximum zoom increment is 45.0 times! See Anna at Reference to get a personalized crash course in using this machine.



SELF-SERVE CATALOGUE SEARCH

The library's catalogue-only computer station is back in action! Patrons have the choice of searching for and requesting items on their own. This computer is located by the stairs near the reference desk.



QR MOBILE PRINTING

**WE HAVE A
NEW MOBILE
PRINTER**

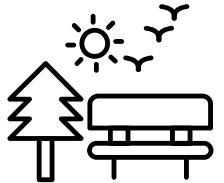


HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

ASK THE REFERENCE DESK!

This device is located next to the catalogue-only station.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- [Town Hall](#): Local government
- [Senior Center](#): Elderly services
- [Chamber of Commerce](#): Public events, social networking
- [Housing Authority](#): Affordable living for low-income residents
- [Circuit](#): Free/low-cost electric transportation within Stoneham
- [Public Schools](#): Education (Grades Pre-K-12) 
- [Stoneham Bank](#): Finances 
- [Middlesex Fells Reservation](#): Outdoor recreation 
- [Historical Society & Museum](#): Local archives, research
- [Stoneham TV](#): Local public-access television 
- [Urgent Care](#): Walk-in clinic 
- [Winchester Hospital](#): Medical (emergency, in-patient) 

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mondays

Monday Night Book Group | May 18th at 6 pm | The Stoneham Room

Join us as we discuss [The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead](#). If you are interested in becoming a member of this group, contact Maureen Saltzman at saltzman@noblenet.org. No registration required.



Drop-in Tech Support @ 10 am | The Stoneham Room

This drop-in program is open to anyone looking for help with technology. Designed as a judgment-free space, library staff are here to assist with any questions you may have about your devices—laptops, tablets, smartphones, and more. We're also happy to help with general tech topics like email, filling out online forms or applications, and anything else you might be curious about. If you have questions about a specific device, please bring it with you if you're able. Questions? Email Anna at apowers@noblenet.org

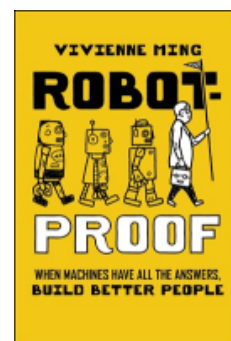


Tuesdays

Virtual Author Talk with Dr. Vivienne Ming

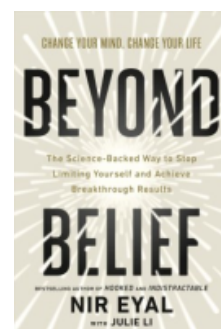
May 12th @ 2 pm on Zoom

Join us for a timely conversation on AI, humanity, and the next steps towards building a better future with self-proclaimed “mad scientist” Dr. Vivienne Ming as we discuss her new book, [Robot-Proof: When Machines Have All the Answers, Build Better People](#). [Register today to take part in the discussion!](#) All SPL Virtual Talks are brought to you by the [Friends of the Stoneham Library!](#) See [upcoming events here](#). See [past event recordings here](#).



Virtual Author Talk with Nir Eyal | May 19th @ 2 pm on Zoom

What if the only thing standing between you and the seemingly impossible... was belief? This is the question posed by bestselling author Nir Eyal in his new work, [Beyond Belief](#). [Register to learn more about how we can unlock our true potential.](#)

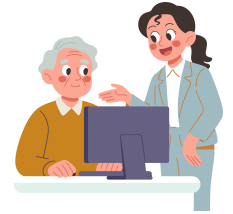


ADULT PROGRAMS

Wednesdays

Drop-in Tech Support @ 10 am | The Stoneham Room

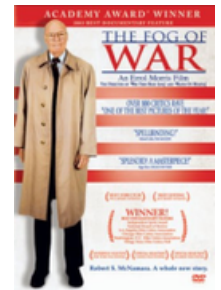
This drop-in program is open to anyone looking for help with technology. Designed as a judgment-free space, library staff are here to assist with any questions you may have about your devices—laptops, tablets, smartphones, and more. We're also happy to help with general tech topics like email, filling out online forms or applications, and anything else you might be curious about. If you have questions about a specific device, please bring it with you if you're able. Questions? Email Anna at apowers@noblenet.org



Documentary Wow! Discussion | *The Fog of War* (2003)

May 6th @ 6:30 pm | Zoom

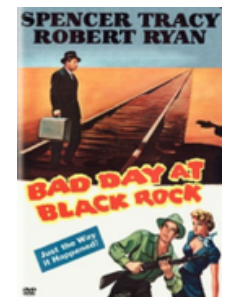
Join us as we discuss this month's Documentary Wow! selection, *The Fog of War* (2003). [Click here to register for this program.](#)



Film Club Discussion | *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1955)

May 27th @ 6:30 pm | Zoom

Join the Film Club to discuss this month's selection, *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1955). Dave will send out the Zoom link on the day of the discussion. [Click here to register for this program.](#)



Thursdays

Chess Club Drop-in @ 7 pm | [Check our calendar for the location](#)

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, either in the Stoneham Room, the Marcy Room, or the Lower Level. 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. If you are interested or have any questions about chess, contact Matthew: msowyrda@noblenet.org or call 781-438-1324.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Mysteries Around the World Book Group | May 7th @ 7 pm

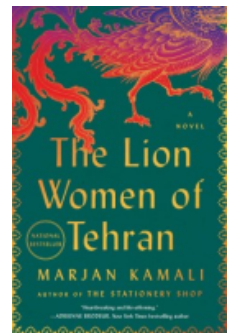
The Marcy Room

Join us as we discuss [The Maidens by Alex Michaelides](#). The Mysteries Around the World Group reads mysteries and meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Stoneham Room, unless otherwise noted. We look forward to welcoming you as a member. No registration required. If you are interested in joining this book group, contact Maureen Saltzman at saltzman@noblenet.org



Virtual Author Talk with Marjan Kamali | May 7th @ 7 pm on Zoom

Join us for an exciting conversation with internationally acclaimed author Marjan Kamali as we delve into the timeless wonder of her New York Times bestselling novel, [The Lion Women of Tehran](#). [Register and submit author questions here!](#)



Embroidery with YuChin | May 14th @ 7 pm | The Teen Zone

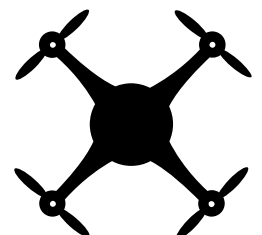
“Embroidery with YuChin” is a monthly workshop held at the Stoneham Library. Beginner and new members are encouraged to join, with hours for new members from 7:45 pm - 8:30 pm. Please stop by to learn more about embroidery. Age limit: 15 years and older. Note: Capacity is limited to six seats and registration is required. Materials will be provided in class by the instructor. Do not attend the workshop if you’re experiencing any sick symptoms.



Sky View: A Presentation of Aerial Photographs May 21st @ 6:30 pm

The Marcy Room

This photography presentation offers images from a unique point of view – the “Sky View”. It includes aerial photographs of historic buildings, houses of worship, parks, light houses, and other colorful sites, illustrating the variety of drone uses in the public sector and highlights FAA’s emphasis on safety. No registration required.



ADULT PROGRAMS

The Enchanted Pages Society Reads: *Ink Blood Sister Scribe*

May 28th @ 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

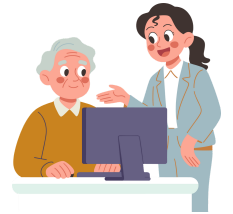
Join our most magical book club, The Enchanted Pages Society, where fantasy lovers unite to explore magical worlds and unforgettable adventures. Dive into spellbinding books, discuss captivating plots, and connect with fellow readers! We meet on the last Thursday of the month! Pick up a copy of this month's title, [*Ink Blood Sister Scribe* by Emma Törzs](#), at the main circulation desk. [Registration is encouraged](#), but not required. People ages 16 and up are welcome. Questions? Contact Anna: apowers@noblenet.org.



Fridays

Drop-in Tech Support @ 10 am | The Stoneham Room

This drop-in program is open to anyone looking for help with technology. Designed as a judgment-free space, library staff are here to assist with any questions you may have about your devices—laptops, tablets, smartphones, and more. We're also happy to help with general tech topics like email, filling out online forms or applications, and anything else you might be curious about. If you have questions about a specific device, please bring it with you if you're able. Questions? Email Anna at apowers@noblenet.org

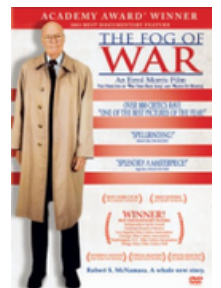


Documentary Wow! Screening | *The Fog of War* (2003)

May 1st @ 1 pm | Stoneham Room

Summary: "The story of America as seen through the eyes of the former Secretary of Defense under President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson, Robert McNamara."

Rated: PG-13 | Run Time: 1h 47m | Genres: Military Documentary, Political Documentary | Directed by: Errol Morris | Starring: Robert McNamara, John F. Kennedy, Fidel Castro



All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required. If you are unable to attend the public viewing, you can pick a copy of the film at the main circulation desk.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Reiki Community Clinic | May 8th @ 11 am-1 pm

Join Laura from Joyful Wellbeing, Judy from Healing and Renewal, and a group of reiki volunteers for a 20 minute reiki session. Relaxation is an essential ingredient for supporting health and well-being and reiki mediation is a lovely way to relax and reset. Three sessions will take place simultaneously. See below for the list of sessions for which you can register:



[11-11:20 am](#) | [11:30-11:50 am](#) | [12:10-12:30 pm](#) | [12:40-1 pm](#)

Friday Movie Matinee | *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1955)

May 15th @ 1 pm | Marcy Room

Summary: "Following World War II, a one-armed stranger arrives in a tiny California desert town, but finds the residents hostile and protecting a terrible secret they want to keep hidden, by violent means if necessary."

Rated: Approved

Run Time: 1h 21m

Genres: Crime, Mystery, Thriller

Directed by: John Sturges

Written by: Millard Kaufman, Don McGuire, Howard Breslin

Starring: Spencer Tracy, Robert Ryan, Anne Francis



All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required.

If you are unable to attend the public viewing, you can pick a copy of the film at the main circulation desk.

YOUTH SERVICES

Mondays

Toddler Time @ 10:30 am | The Junior Library

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



Book Worm Book Club | May 18th @ 4 PM | Junior Library

Calling all readers! Join our new book club for elementary kiddos. We'll chat about what we read and have loads of fun! Grades 2-4. Pick up your book ahead of time at the Junior Circ desk!



Tuesdays

Bilingual Storytime with Esther Gomez (Español)

Tuesday, May 12th @ 10 AM | The Marcy Room

Hello, little explorers! Join us for a joyful bilingual storytime where we'll sing, move, and play our way into Spanish! From fun puppets to parachutes, we'll jump into stories and games that spark wonder. Perfect for babies up to age five, this lively adventure is all about giggles, movement, and learning, as we bring two languages to life—together! [Click here to register / para registrar](#). This program has been generously sponsored by [the Stoneham Business and Community Educational Foundation](#).



Bilingual Storytime with Esther Gomez (Português)

Thursday, May 14th @ 10 AM | The Marcy Room

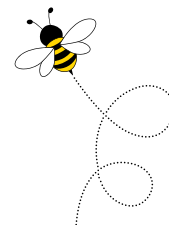
Come have fun with the little ones! In our bilingual Portuguese-English program, babies up to 5 years old will sing, be enchanted by puppets, and dive into stories full of joy. Every moment is an adventure with music, movement, and lots of fun, as we introduce the world in two languages. Come laugh and learn with us! [Click here to register](#).



YOUTH SERVICES

Baby Bumble | Every Tuesday @ 11 AM | Junior Library

This drop-in style program is to encourage our young friends to socialize, play, and communicate with one another. This is not a staff-led program, but rather a time where kiddos of a similar age can come together and play! No registration required. For babies 11 months and up. Questions? Email kbardascino@noblenet.org!



Wednesdays

Toddler Tales | Every Wednesday @ 10:30 am | Marcy Room

Miss Melissa is so excited to welcome our toddler friends for a fun story-time! She'll be sharing some of her favorite stories with you! [Registration is required](#). Questions? Email mjackson@noblenet.org



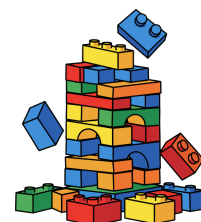
Rock-a-bye Beats | May 27th @ 11 am | Marcy Room

Rock-a-bye Beats is coming back for a visit! Get ready to move and groove to the music. Because space is limited, [registration is required](#). This program is supported by a grant from the [Stoneham Cultural Council](#), a local agency, supported by the [Mass Cultural Council](#), a state agency.



[Lego Builders](#) | Every other Wednesday @ 3 pm | Junior Library

Love a LEGO challenge? Want to show off your bricking building skills? Join us to access our large LEGO collection! This program is aimed towards elementary students, grades 1-6! No registration required.



[Teen Advisory Board](#) | [May 27th @ 4 pm](#) | [Teen Zone](#)

We want to hear from you! Come chat with Katie and let her know which programs you want to have at SPL. The meeting should only last for 30-45ish minutes and counts for volunteer hours. PLUS, TAB members get first access to volunteer opportunities in Youth Services. [Sign up is required](#) so Katie knows who to expect! We'll meet in the Teen Zone on the first floor of the library! Questions? Email kbardascino@noblenet.org

YOUTH SERVICES

Thursdays

Caregiver Chat | Every Thursday @ 10 am | Junior Library

We want to provide a place for parents, nannies, and caregivers of infants to come and chat. Get out of the house, give the baby a new spot to look around, and talk to some other caregivers. This is a drop-in style program for you to meet with other infant caregivers! No registration required.



Alphabet Soup | Every Thursday @ 10 am | Junior Library

Swing by the Junior Library for a pre-k readiness program! Kiddos ages 3-5 can stop in for an educationally focused program. There may be an activity, number or letter of the day, and maybe a story! [Sign up is required](#) as space and supplies are limited.



[Quick Stitch Club @ 3:30 pm | Teen Zone](#)

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! Registration requested, but not required.



Cozy Coloring | May 28th @ 6 pm | Teen Zone

T(w)eens can drop into for a casual coloring sesh after school. We'll have cute and cozy pages to color while you hang out or take a mid-homework break! No registration required.



Fridays

Mothers' Day-themed T&M Craft | May 8th | All day | Junior Library

We will have a Mothers' Day themed take-and-make craft available for pickup. Supplies are LIMITED; these will be given on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last! No registration required.

Babytime | Every Friday @ 9:30 am | Junior Library

Join Miss Katie for a quick babytime program! We'll have bounces, rhymes, and loads of fun! We'll spend about 15 minutes with guided instruction and then we have toys for the babes to play with while the caregivers chat! For babies 0-11mos. [Please register](#) in case we have to cancel! Questions? Email kbardascino@noblenet.org



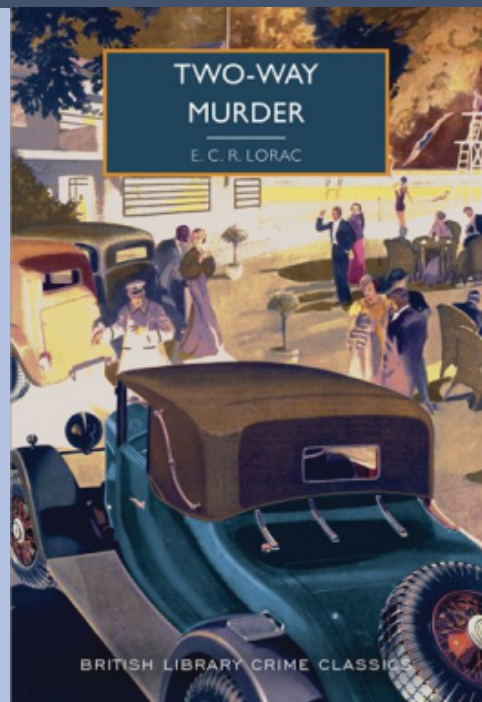
STAFF REVIEWS

[Two-Way Murder by E. C. R. Lorac](#)

A cold midwinter's night, a fog so thick you can cut it with a knife, and a corpse are the main ingredients in this classic murder mystery by E. C. R. Lorac. In *Two-Way-Murder*, ex-military commander Nick Brent and his lawyer friend Ian Macbane are driving to a party in the village of Fordings. After rounding dangerous, mist-covered curves on treacherous backroads, Nick and Ian arrive at their destination, where drink and dance are indulged in—to excess, for some. Hours later, Nick offers a ride home to Dilys Maine, the belle of Fordings, and it is during this trip that they happen upon a man's body lying dead in the middle of the narrow road. Thus begins a tale of small town family feuds and unbridled romantic passions that, when left unchecked, could only ever spell murder for everyone involved.

As with any good mystery or ghost story, atmosphere is the key to bringing the reader into the story's world. Lorac does an excellent job of doing just that. The narrative is set during January, in rural England, and most scenes involve characters driving on long, winding, tree-flanked country roads, upon which heavy mist and fog often descend—especially at night. Add to this an unidentified (and unidentifiable) murder victim--reminiscent of [Whose Body? by Dorothy Sayers](#)--and you have one puzzling mystery novel. Then there is the fact that the investigation is frequently frustrated by the locals, most of whom have little else to do other than spread rumors and cause drama, as tends to be the case with rustic folks (and comfortable suburbanites).

With a flock of red herrings, conflicting accounts, and several different “detectives” on the case, *Two-Way Murder* is an enthralling, old-fashioned crime novel that will keep readers on edge and guessing “whodunit” from beginning to end.



--Matthew Sowyrda

← Lone Pine 53

[Bad Day at Black Rock \(1955\)](#)

When the Streamliner makes a rare stop at an isolated California desert town and a stranger gets off, he's immediately met with suspicion and hostility. The reasons slowly become clear as *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1955) plays out over

a taut 81 minutes. This is a genre-bending classic that's part modern western, part war film, part suspense film, and part social commentary.



Spencer Tracy gives an intense performance as John J. McCreedy, an initially genial one-armed stranger from Los Angeles who soon realizes his life may be in danger as he's threatened and harassed by a couple of bullies (Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine) under the control of the town's unofficial leader, Reno Smith (Robert Ryan). Smith and a group of townspeople, including the sheriff (Dean Jagger), the local doctor (Walter Brennan), and a brother and sister in their 20s (Anne Francis, John Ericson) all seem to be hiding a dark secret--but what is it? Why is McCreedy there? And why don't they want him there?

This film involves you from the opening credits, when the train hurtles towards Black Rock at breakneck speed. Even the landscape (Lone Pine, California) is exciting. The wide-screen, color images in CinemaScope emphasize the town's isolation and give the viewer a distinct feeling of being there. Novelist John O'Hara, writing in *Collier's* magazine, noted that the movie creates a palpable sense of heat, dread and mystery, calling it "one of the finest motion pictures ever made." It also happens to be a very good film to see for Memorial Day. I highly recommend *Bad Day at Black Rock*.

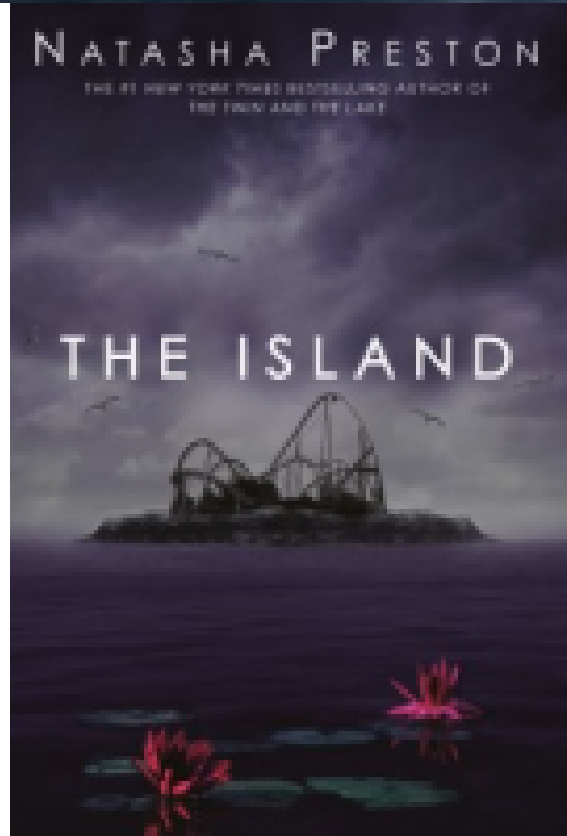
-- Dave Huygens

The Island by Natasha Preston

The Island by Natasha Preston is an action-packed mystery thriller that puts the reader into a setting that feels both beautiful and strangely unsettling at the same time. The main characters are social media-famous teenagers who were invited to a billionaire's private island amusement park to promote it in exchange for a free extravagant getaway. At first, everything seems

normal, but tension builds rapidly as the story goes on, making this book the exact definition of a page turner, and difficult to put down. As the story unfolds, the mood goes from fun and relaxed to suspenseful and intense real fast. Overall, Natasha Preston's vivid imagery and incredible storytelling make *The Island* a story you won't wanna miss.

-- Andrew, Teen Reviewer



The Fog of War (2003).

The Fog of War (2003), winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, is the story of a tense period in American history as seen through the eyes of the former Secretary of Defense in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, Robert S. McNamara. The title is taken from the military concept which refers to the difficulty of making decisions in the midst of conflict.



Through the use of archival footage, recordings of US Cabinet meetings from the 1960s, and new interviews, this riveting film by Errol Morris depicts McNamara's life story, as well as eleven "lessons" the filmmaker derived from his conversations with the former Secretary. For the interviews, Morris used a device he had developed called the [Interrotron](#), in which images of the interviewer and his subject are projected using two-way mirrors to give the audience the impression each is talking directly to the other.

Both the interviews and McNamara's life story are fascinating, with music by Philip Glass ([The Thin Blue Line](#)) adding a haunting quality to the images. This engrossing film draws on decades of McNamara's experience to offer a unique perspective on the Cold War from one of its principal architects. As one critic put it, it's "an insanely timely cautionary tale about American omniscience and the fallible belief that rationality will always win out."

-- Dave Huygens

