

JULY 2026

ILLUMINATED STACKS

The Stoneham Public Library's 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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THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

Friday, July 3

The library will be closed in observance of Independence Day--the 250th anniversary!



Saturday, July 11 @ 9:15 am

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, July 13 @ 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**



toneham Public
Library cordially
invites you to...

A Mid- Summer Faire

Join us on the 18th of
July at 6 o'clock for a
dreamy night of magic
and revelry!

ADULT SERVICES

Programs by Staff

Tech Support | Mon./Wed./Fri. @ 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



Chess Club Drop-in

Every Thursday @ 7 pm | [Check our calendar for the location](#)

Chess players of all ages and skill levels are welcome to attend this drop-in program. Chess boards will be available for those who do not have their own. Clocks are also available upon request. If you have questions, email Matt at msowyrda@noblenet.org.

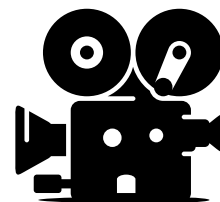


Documentary Wow! Screening: *Crip Camp* (2020)

July 10 @ 1 pm | Stoneham Room

"Down the road from Woodstock, a revolution blossomed at a ramshackle summer camp for teenagers with disabilities, transforming their lives and igniting a landmark movement."

Rated: R | Run Time: 1h 46m | Genres: Documentary, History | Directed by: James Lebrecht, Nicole Newnham | Written by: James Lebrecht, Nicole Newnham, David Radcliff | Starring: James Lebrecht, Lionel Je'Woodyard, Joseph O'Connor



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

Documentary Wow! Discussion: *Crip Camp* (2020)

July 15 @ 6:30 pm | Zoom

Join us as we discuss this month's Documentary Wow! selection, *Crip Camp* (2020). [Click here to register for this program.](#) David will send out the Zoom link prior to the discussion.



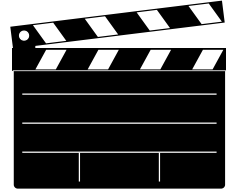
ADULT SERVICES

Programs by Staff (continued)

Friday Movie Matinee: *CODA* (2021)

July 17 @ 1 pm | Marcy Room

"When the family's fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her musical passion and her fear of abandoning her deaf parents."



Rated: PG-13 | Run Time: 1h 51m | Genres: Coming-of-Age, Teen Comedy Directed by: Sian Heder | Written by: Sian Heder, Victoria Bedos, Stanislas Carre de Malberg | Starring: Emilia Jones, Marlee Matlin, Troy Kotsur

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

Film Club Discussion: *CODA* (2021)

July 22 @ 6:30 pm | Zoom

Join the Film Club to discuss this month's selection, *CODA* (2021). Dave will send out the Zoom link on the day of the discussion. [Click here to register for this program.](#)



The Enchanted Pages Society

July 30 @ 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, *This Kingdom Will Not Kill Me* by Ilona Andrews, at the main circulation desk. [Registration is encouraged](#), but not required. People ages 16 and up are welcome. Questions? Contact Anna: apowers@noblenet.org.



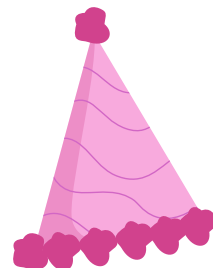
ADULT SERVICES

Special Programs

Mid-Summer Makers

July 6 @ 7 pm | The Teen Zone

Calling all fairytale lovers! Are you gearing up for our Mid-Summer Faire on July 18th? Or maybe you can't go but this theme is right up your alley? Come make some floral/greenery crowns and princess cone hats with us! Supplies are limited, so [registration is required](#). *This session is for adults.*



Art with Erica

July 6 @ 7 pm | The Teen Zone

A program for adults 18+ to come hang out and make a craft together. Erica Flores, local artist, will lead the group in making a piece of art. We meet on the first Monday of the month, in the Marcy Room, at 7 PM. All supplies are provided. Space is limited, so [registration is required](#). July's craft will be patriotic door signs.



Community Reiki Clinic

July 10 @ 11 a.m. | The Stoneham Room

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 wellbeing and reiki mediation is a lovely way to relax and reset. Three sessions will take place simultaneously. Register for your desired session through [our website calendar](#).



Embroidery with YuChin

July 16 @ 7 pm | The Teen Zone

Beginner and new members are encouraged to join this monthly embroidery workshop, with hours for new members from 7:45 pm - 8:30 pm. 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.



ADULT SERVICES

Special Programs (continued)

Yoga Flow | July 27 @ 6:30 p.m. | The Marcy Room

This 60-minute class is ideal for beginners. It opens with some breath work and a gentle warm up followed by flowing poses for strengthening, stability and flexibility. Breathing and functional movement are focused on throughout the class. Because yoga is an individualized practice, participants are encouraged to focus on their own bodies and needs - to always do what feels good for them! It is always advised that participants consult with their medical provider prior to starting any new exercise regime. Please bring your own yoga mat. Registration is not required.



Virtual Author Talks

Virtual Author Talk with Karen Slaughter

Tuesday, July 14 @ 7 pm | Zoom

Join us for a thrilling evening with acclaimed author Karin Slaughter as we chat about her *North Falls* series, consisting of [*We Are All Guilty Here*](#), in which two teenage girls vanish in rural Georgia, and her upcoming sequel, [*The Secrets We Hide*](#), which welcomes readers back to North Falls, a small town with big secrets... [Register now to take part in the discussion, and for an exclusive sneak peek of *The Secrets We Hide*, coming out August 11, 2026!](#)



Virtual Author Talk with Reyna Grande

Thursday, July 16 @ 7 pm | Zoom

In her ambitious new memoir, [*Migrant Heart: Essays About Things I Can't Forget*](#), beloved bestselling author Reyna Grande illuminates the hidden cost of the American Dream and the complex journey of healing that follows survival. [Register today for this virtual talk if you identify as a seeker, a dreamer, or “anyone who believes in the enduring, transformative power of finding one’s voice.”](#)

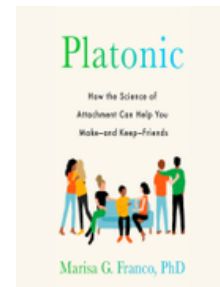


ADULT SERVICES

Virtual Author Talk with Dr. Marisa Franco

Tuesday, July 28 @ 2 pm | Zoom

Join us in virtual conversation with bestselling author Dr. Marisa Franco, one of the world's leading experts in human connection. Her book, [*Platonic: How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make—And Keep—Friends*](#), explores the science of different attachment styles and how they impact our relationships—often in ways we don't realize! [Register today to learn more about how to harness the science of human connection to create cultures of belonging.](#)



Displays & Lists

Main Floor

Book it to the Beach

Beach reads!



[Summer Literary Roadtrip](#)

Travel to all 50 states this summer ... through reading!



Summertime Madness (AV Alcove)

Take home a summer-themed movie to beat the summertime blues!



Nonfiction Mezzanine

[All-Natural](#)

Earth science



[America the Beautiful](#)

Celebrating American culture through history, literature, art, music, film, and landscapes



[Gooooooood Eatin'!](#)

Cookbooks (on the "buffet counter" book shelf!)



YOUTH SERVICES

Weekly Programming

Bubble Babies

Tuesdays @ 9:30 | Library Lawn

Who doesn't love bubbles? Bring your baby, whether they're walking or just learning to open their eyes, to our lawn. We have tons of bubble sets for you to use and for the little ones to see some new faces! This is a drop-in program to encourage child and caregiver socialization, there is no staff instruction. If it rains, we cancel! Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission [here](#).



Little Sprouts

Wednesdays @ 10 a.m. | Library Lawn

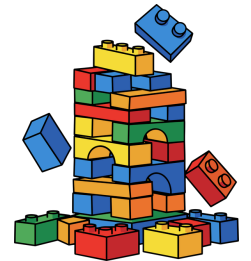
Join Melissa on the library lawn for some stories, songs, and fun! Feel free to bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. Don't forget your sunscreen and water (though the lawn is mostly shaded!) If there's rain, we'll move inside! No registration required.



Lego Club

Wednesdays @ 3 p.m. | Junior Reading Room

Are you a master Lego builder? Or maybe just someone who likes to create? Spend the afternoon making your creations in the library! No registration required.



Farmer's Market Storytime

[Select Thursdays @ 4 pm | Town Common](#)

We'll be visiting the Stoneham Farmer's Market on the Town Common! Join us for some storytime fun in the sun! If it rains, we cancel! No registration required.



Junk Journal

[Select Thursdays @ 6 pm | Teen Zone](#)

Have plans for the summer? Start a junk journal with us! We have fun paper, stickers, and supplies for you to use. Registration requested, but last minute drop-ins are welcome! Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission [here](#).



YOUTH SERVICES

Weekly Programming (continued)

Toddler Turnout

Fridays @ 10 am | Library Lawn

It's the end of the week and your toddlers still have energy! Bring them to our library lawn for a drop-in playtime. We'll have chalk, games, bubbles, and more for them to explore with new friends! Drop-in playgroup with no direct instruction. If it rains, we cancel! Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission [here](#).



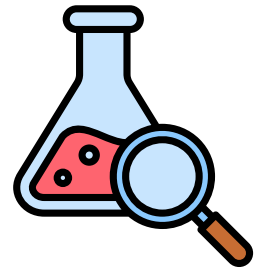
Special Programs

STE(A)M Lab w/ Dr. Deb

[Thursday, July 2 @ 3 pm | Marcy Room](#)

[Thursday, July 9 @ 3pm | Marcy Room](#)

Space is limited, sign up is required. For kids 6+! Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission [here](#).



Craft Quest

[Monday, July 6 @ 3:30 pm | Marcy Room](#)

[Monday, July 20 @ 3:30 pm | Marcy Room](#)

Are you ready to enter on a quest to creativity? Be ready to brave the chaos of glue and paint! For ages 7+. Supplies limited, sign up required! Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission [here](#).



Mid-Summer Makers | July 6 @ 5 pm | Marcy Room

Calling all fairytale lovers! Are you gearing up for our Mid-Summer Faire on July 18th? Or maybe you can't go but this theme is right up your alley? Come make some floral/greenery crowns and princess cone hats with us! Supplies are limited, so [registration is required](#). *This session is for children.*

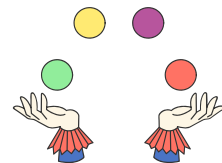


YOUTH SERVICES

Special Programs (continued)

Jenny the Juggler | Tuesday, July 7 @ 1 pm | Marcy Room

Jenny is coming to visit us with her juggling extraordinaire! Get out of the summer heat, join us, and have some fun! Space is limited, [sign ups are required](#)! Kiddos of all ages welcome. Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission [here](#).



Little Planters

Tuesday, July 7 @ 3:30 pm | Marcy Room

Who doesn't love bubbles?? Bring your baby, whether they're walking or just learning to open their eyes, to our lawn. We have tons of bubble sets for you to use and for the little ones to see some new faces! This is a drop-in program to encourage child and caregiver socialization, there is no staff instruction. If it rains, we cancel!



STEM Club

[Friday, July 10 @ 3 pm | Marcy Room \(Slime\)](#)

[Friday, July 24 @ 3 pm | Marcy Room \(Soda Volcanoes\)](#)

Unleash your inner scientist! Wear clothes that can get messy from glue or goo! Supplies are limited, so sign ups are required! For kiddos 8+!



Teen Trivia Night: Weird but True!

Monday, July 13 @ 3:30 pm | Marcy Room

We know that you've been storing your Weird but True facts in your brain for a purpose! Now's your chance! Sign up with up to three friends (teams of four) for a chance to win a gift card each! Feel free to bring your own food for dinner to keep your brain fueled to answer questions! [Sign up is required](#); when signing yourself up, please include your teammates under the same registration! Tweens welcome! Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission [here](#).



YOUTH SERVICES

Special Programs (continued)

Young Artists' Studio (Elementary)

[Monday, July 13 @ 5:30 pm | Library Lawn](#)

[Monday, July 27 @ 5:30 pm | Library Lawn](#)

Develop a love for visual art while building creativity and original thought! Kids who are 6 to 8 can join this amazing art group, hosted by Melis! Sponsored by the Stoneham Business Community Educational Foundation. Supplies limited. Ages 6-8.



Young Artists' Studio (Middle Grade)

[Monday, July 13 @ 6:30 pm | Library Lawn](#)

[Monday, July 27 @ 6:30 pm | Library Lawn](#)

Develop a love for visual art while building creativity and original thought! Kids who are 6 to 8 can join this amazing art group, hosted by Melis! Sponsored by the Stoneham Business Community Educational Foundation. Supplies limited. Ages 9-11.

Petit Artiste

[July 14 @ 4 pm | Marcy Room](#)

[June 28 @ 4 pm | Marcy Room](#)

Bring in your little artist to create something new! Kiddos ages 1-4 can come in to make a simple craft. Staff will be there to lead your and your kiddo through a toddler-friendly art project. Supplies are limited, sign up is required! Wear clothes that can get paint or glue on them!



Fashion Forward | Wednesday, July 29 @ 3:30 pm | Marcy Room

Join us to curate, construct, and showcase your own design! This is a series program; sign up once to attend all of the dates (7/29, 8/5/, 8/12). [Sign up required](#). For t(w)eens. Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission



DIY Tie Dye | Thursday, July 30 @ 5 pm | Library Lawn

Get ready to be creative and messy! We're having a tie dye party! Bring something you'd like to dye, a tshirt, socks, pants. White or light colors work best! Supplies are limited, [registration required](#)! Tweens welcome. Generously sponsored by the Friends of Stoneham Library! Learn more about them and their mission





STAFF REVIEWS

Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (2020)

Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (2020) begins in 1971 at Camp Jened, a summer camp in upstate New York for teens with disabilities. To the kids who spend their summers there, the camp is a revelation. They can be themselves, make friends, learn about life, and be accepted for who they are. The first part of the film (directed by former camper Jim LeBrecht, and Nicole Newnham) is a sometimes moving, often humorous look back at the Camp Jened experience.



The second half of *Crip Camp* explores the activism that had its roots in those summer days and nights in the mountains of New York State. After the government failed to enforce Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (which included important provisions to ensure the rights of disabled people), several former campers were part of a sit-in that became the longest in US history. Cut off from medical supplies, food, and outside communication for 26 days, the protestors finally forced HEW Secretary Joseph Califano to sign Section 504 into law. It was a landmark civil rights victory that led to the creation of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990.

Today, some people might take wheelchair ramps or automatic doors for granted, but they had to be fought for, along with other measures that ensured the rights of the disabled. This film tackles that history, but it also captures our hearts by featuring the personal lives of the campers, who tell their own stories on-camera with honesty and humor. Produced by Barack and Michelle Obama and nominated for a Best Documentary Oscar, *Crip Camp* is an inspiring and joyous experience.

– Dave Huygens

[Leave it to Psmith by P.G. Wodehouse](#)

The English literary tradition has given birth to a lengthy lineage of legendary writers--Chaucer, Shakespeare, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Dr. Johnson, Tolkien. And then there is P. G. Wodehouse, who is quite possibly the funniest luminary in all of literature, having achieved fame for his satires about 20th century upper class life, caricatures of loveable, scatter-brained aristocrats, and tales of romantic endeavors gone wrong (or, sometimes, gone unexpectedly right). The present novel, *Leave it to Psmith*, is a monumental installment in the wonderful world of Wodehouse.



Within the fictional walls of fictional Blandings Castle, idler Frederick Threepwood conspires with his uncle, Joseph Keeble, to steal the expensive diamond necklace of Keeble's wife, Lady Constance, in exchange for a hefty sum of cash. Perhaps he can woo the castle's new librarian, Miss Eve Halliday, while he's at it. A pipping idea, what? But once it dawns on him that theft might be too nuanced for his undeveloped intellect to handle, Freddie enlists the help of an opportunist named Psmith (the 'P' is silent, of course, like in "psychology"), who is willing to take on any job for his clients--as long as it has nothing to do with fish.

During a chance meeting with Psmith in a London gentleman's club, Freddie's equally absent-minded father, Lord Emsworth, mistakes him for a Canadian poet whom Lady Constance invited to Blandings Castle for the weekend. But to be fair, his lordship is much too preoccupied with disproving the horticultural theories of his Scottish gardener, Angus McCallister, to be concerned that the chap he has befriended is really an amateur crook who's out to pinch his sister's precious article. In any event, the crafty Psmith assumes the role of McTodd and hitches a trainride to the castle; however, he soon encounters a pair of petty, bumbling criminals who are also trying to pilfer Connie Keeble's much-coveted necklace. From that point forward, all manner of trouble and buffoonery breaks loose, including--but not limited to--thieves posing as poets, a butler who is in the habit of complaining about stomach ailments, flowerpots being tossed through windows, and Lord Emsworth's growing fear that his secretary is insane.

I say, *Leave it to Psmith* is a laugh-out-loud farce that's teeming with memorable characters and subtle, witty English *humour*. Wodehouse never fails to maintain a balance of exaggeration and realism, so as to create amusing, absurd situations without plunging the plot into cynical, anarchic rubbish. Fans of [The Pink Panther movies](#), and [Airplane! \(1980\)](#) will love the non-stop hilarity and preposterous escapades, making readers wish the story--and thus the laughs--would never end. If you enjoy this book, and would like to read more from this author, then I recommend [Blandings Castle and Elsewhere](#), [My Man Jeeves](#), and [Uncle Fred in the Springtime](#).

-- Matthew Sowyrda

CODA (2021)

In *CODA* (2021), seventeen-year-old Ruby Rossi has a lot of responsibility to deal with. As the voice and interpreter for her deaf parents and older brother, she's essential to their fishing business in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Ruby is the only hearing member of her family, and they need her to translate for them on the docks and in other key situations.



But Ruby is beginning to feel torn, because she's discovered--with the help of her high school music teacher--that she not only loves to sing, but that she might actually have enough talent to pursue a degree at [Berklee College of Music](#), in Boston. The conflict between Ruby's dreams and the reality of her family's situation forms the basis of CODA (which stands for Child of Deaf Adults).

The plot of the film is not as simplistic as it sounds, since many other conflicts are at play. The fishermen are rebelling against the company that sells their catch. A misunderstanding develops between Ruby and the boy she likes in her music class. And her music teacher becomes increasingly frustrated with Ruby's inability to be completely committed or on time for her lessons.

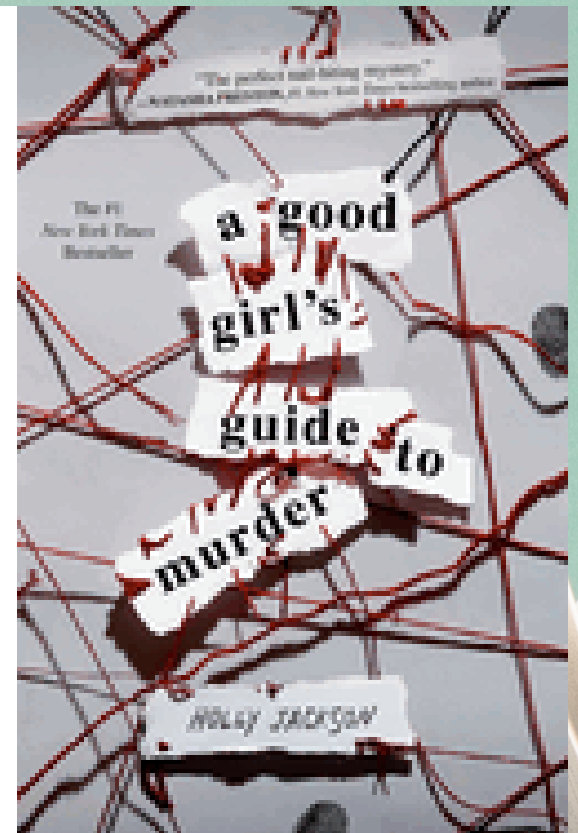
This isn't to say the movie is all drama--or even heavy. There's a lot of warmth and humor to balance things out, and the main characters are immensely likeable. As Ruby, Emilia Jones carries the lead role with ease, and there are great performances by Marlee Matlin and Troy Kotsur as her parents (Kotsur won an Academy Award), as well as Eugenio Derbos as music teacher "Mr. V," Daniel Durant as Ruby's brother Leo, and Ferdia Walsh-Peelo as Miles, Ruby's duet partner and potential boyfriend.

Written and directed by Sian Heder (based on a 2014 French film, *La Famille Belier*), and photographed on Cape Ann by Paula Huiobro, CODA won the Academy Award for Best Picture and is an uplifting film that works on every level.

-- Dave Huygens

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder
by Holly Jackson

Holly Jackson's *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is a fast-paced YA mystery that follows Pip Fitz-Amobi as she reopens a closed murder case and starts uncovering secrets the whole town has tried to bury. The story is clever and addictive because it mixes a school project with real danger, and Pip's determination makes her a strong main character. Jackson has the ability to keep the reader guessing.



If you enjoy suspense, crime and thrillers, this is a must-read book series.

-- Maisie, Teen Reviewer