

# BiblioBites

DeSoto County Library



December 2024

Volume 13, Issue 12



## Director's note

Dear Folks,

Here's hoping you had a wonderful season of Thanksgiving.

If you didn't find time during November to share how grateful you are for the people in your life, then congratulations, you have a second chance in December. What better gift could we give others than a little of ourselves? Let's remember to share with others how they have made our lives richer during 2024.

The library staff received a gift of thanks from one of our local churches to let us know we are valued. Every staff member was impacted by their thoughtful gift. As I reflected on that later, I was led to think about the number of people with whom I have not shared how blessed I am to know them.

Among that group, I would certainly number our patrons and volunteers who bless us with their presence and their efforts. From ages 5 to 95, our patrons are so gracious in sharing a smile, a kind word, a word of encouragement, a donation for us to share.

Thank you for enriching our lives and allowing us to serve you.

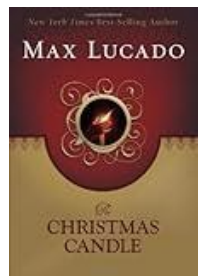
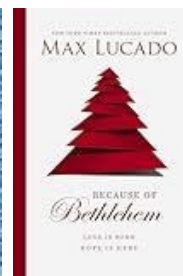
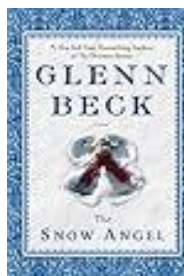
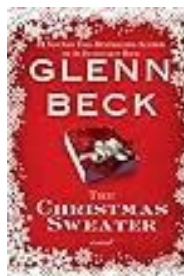
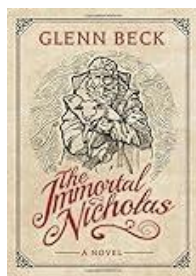
May you be blessed this Christmas season and beyond in 2025.

Come see us!

Linda

## Linda recommends

It wouldn't be December without featuring some well-loved tales from Christmas. In their own ways, both **Glenn Beck** and **Max Lucado** share with us the core of Christmas. They help us turn our hearts toward the true spirit of the season.



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Publishers Weekly  
Bestseller Lists  
November 22, 2024

**FICTION**

1. *The Book of Bill*, by Alex Hirsch
2. *The Grey Wolf*, by Louise Penny
3. *In Too Deep*, by Lee Child & Andrew Child
4. *Counting Miracles*, by Nicholas Sparks
5. *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah
6. *Under the Oak Tree: Volume 1*, by Suji Kim
7. *The Waiting: A Ballard and Bosch Novel*, by Michael Connelly
8. *Iron Flame*, by Rebecca Yarros
9. *Things We Never Got Over (Collectors Edition)*, by Lucy Score
10. *Things We Left Behind (Collectors Edition)*, by Lucy Score

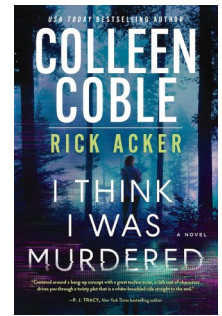
**NON-FICTION**

1. *Melania*, by Melania Trump
2. *Turkuaz Kitchen: 75 Recipes for Savory and Sweet Doughs*, by Betül Tunc
3. *Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions*, by John Grisham & Jim McCloskey
4. *The Anxious Generation...*, by Jonathan Haidt
5. *Confronting the Presidents: No Spin Assessments from Washington to Biden*, by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard
6. *Good Energy: Fix Your Metabolism to Feel Better Today and Prevent Disease Tomorrow*, by Casey Means
7. *War*, by Bob Woodward
8. *Be Ready When The Luck Happens*, by Ina Garten
9. *The Message*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates
10. *Revenge of the Tipping Point: Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering*, by Malcolm Gladwell

**Liz likes—Liz Coronado**

In a world dominated by technology, where do we put our trust? With AI and the virtual popping up everywhere, we have ever-changing questions of right and wrong. Like, what harm could there be in communicating with a lost loved one?

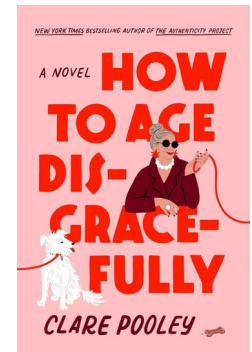
*I Think I Was Murdered* is written by the dynamic duo of **Colleen Coble** and **Rick Acker**. This edge of your seat thriller had me riveted from the very beginning. The concept for this book is very relevant in the age of artificial intelligence. Honestly, with the way technology evolves, this may not be that futuristic at all. When a young widow keeps a bot on her phone that has her dead husband's voice on it, she asks it to tell her something she doesn't know. It answers by saying he thinks he was murdered. With the help of an old friend, who happens to be a handsome restaurateur, they look for answers. Action, suspense and romance ensues. Katrina truly grieved the death of her husband and a chatbot offered the perfect responses when she needed to feel a connection to him. But her reliance became a crutch until it spouted the title, which was genius. I was wondering how anyone in their right mind would “think” they were murdered. Great premise and I can't wait for more from these two.



**Bookmarked—Jolaine Konstantinidis**

Still in need of an entertaining page turner, I chose *How to Age Disgracefully* by **Clare Pooley**. Choosing novels involving seniors might have something to do with my own aging process, but a trend does seem to have developed among writers creating a “geriatric genre” following in the footsteps of Fredrik Backman’s *A Man Called Ove* and *My Grandmother Told Me to Tell You She’s Sorry*. Whatever the case, these novels can be uplifting for readers of any age (and, by the way, one of the members of the library staff has recently become a grandmother at a very young age, dispelling any preconceived ideas about grandmotherly qualities and characters). Similarly, the senior (over 70) characters in *How to Age Disgracefully*, do not fit the mental mold one tends to hold of the aged population.

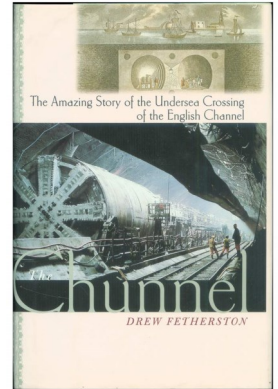
Much of the novel’s setting is a Senior Citizen’s Social Club organized by a middle-aged empty nester, Lydia, trying to occupy this confusing time in her own life. The meetings take place in a rundown activity center which also houses a daycare center and AA group, thus, a hub for quite a diverse group of people, not unlike a public library. Lydia prepares crafts and activities for her small group of older individuals which she expects will entertain them, but she learns she has greatly underestimated their interests and vitality. When the future of the community center becomes threatened, it is the senior citizens who protest and take charge led by the main character, AKA “Daphne” whose mysterious background only seems to surprise and warm the reader to her more. All the characters are flawed in some way which leads to the novel’s realism, but the adventures they embark upon keep the story light and humorous. There is a Christmas play choreographed by Art, a mediocre actor, which adds appeal just in time to put one in the holiday spirit! In fact, the book might be a perfect gift for someone to open!



## Robert recommends—Robert Andres

### **Chunnel**, by **Drew Fetherston**

One of the great engineering projects of our time is the digging of the "Chunnel" between England and France. The project had been in the works for untold years before - it had forever been a dream to travel and trade across the English Channel more quickly and easily. The process of organizing the political will and the financial resources to build the underground and underwater tube was a herculean undertaking. If you have enjoyed watching the progress we have made recently (think return to space) you may find the Chunnel a fascinating adventure.

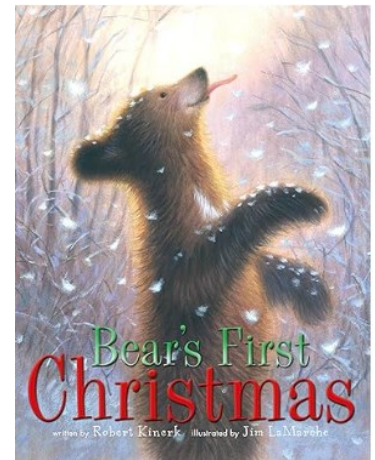


## Choice for children—Ama Burns

### **Bear's First Christmas**. Written by **Robert Kinerk**

In the dark of winter, deep in the woods, a lone bear is awakened from his winter sleep by a soft and mysterious sound. Under the stars the bear finds his way step by step through the snowy forest, making friends along his route. Then the bear discovers a place in the woods that glows magically with something he and his friends could never have imagined -- their first Christmas.

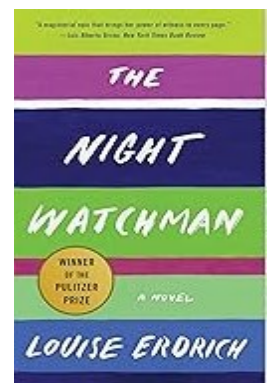
This is an adorable book about finding the magic of Christmas in unexpected places. Read it with your family while snuggling in front of your glowing Christmas tree. Afterward, sing your favorite Christmas songs.



## Fran Recommends –by Fran Kovach

**"The Night Watchman"**, by **Louise Erdrich** was the 2021 Pulitzer Prize winner in Fiction. This historical fiction novel is based on the experiences of Erdrich's grandfather. The story is of the night watchman and tribal chairman, Thomas Wazhashk and his efforts to combat the movement for Indian termination in 1953. This movement threatened to disregard existing U.S. Native American treaties and would lead to the dispossession of Native American lands, posing a significant challenge to the rights and identities of Indigenous peoples.

Other characters in the novel explore topics such as human trafficking and government run schools for Native Americans more interested in eradicating cultural identity than education. Many random side stories appear that are quite intriguing. For instance, one of the characters becomes employed as a mermaid similar to the Weeki Wachee variety!



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DeSoto County Public  
Library is partially  
funded through a grant  
from Florida Department  
of State.

LIBRARY HOURS  
Tuesday & Thursday:  
9:00—6:00  
Wednesday & Friday  
8:30—6:00  
Saturday:  
9:00-2:30  
Closed Sunday and Monday



### Editor's Choice—Reagan Bordner

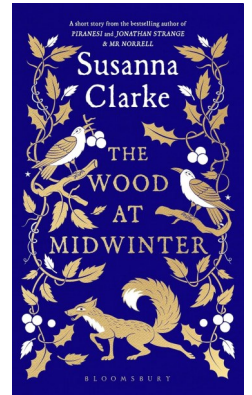
*'A church is a sort of wood. A wood is a sort of church.  
They're the same thing really.'*

Nineteen-year-old Merowdis Scot is an unusual girl. She can talk to animals and trees-and she is only ever happy when she is walking in the woods.

One snowy afternoon, out with her dogs and Apple the pig, Merowdis encounters a blackbird and a fox. As darkness falls, a strange figure enters in their midst-and the path of her life is changed forever.

In this magically weird tale, the narrative is small (as it is a short story), but **Susanna Clarke** proves that even the tiniest stories hold significant value. The blend of whimsy and eeriness creates a uniquely magical atmosphere that draws readers in.

The cover, along with the illustrations throughout *The Wood at Midwinter*, are beautiful, enhancing the overall experience.

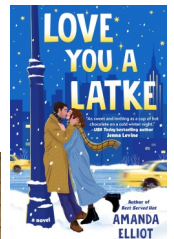


### DCLA Update—by Elizabeth, VP

Hello, Everybody,

The DeSoto County Library Association will be having their **book sale Saturday, January 25th from 9am to 2pm at the Library.** More details in next month's BiblioBites.

**Amanda Elliot's Love You a Latke** is a different Christmas time tale. A Hanukkah festival instead of a Christmas one in a small town—and the Jewish festival has already passed...?! Loved it. And then there is **Hazel Gaynor** and **Heather Webb's Christmas with the Queen**. A chef, a BBC young reporter, and Queen Elizabeth II as narrators—intriguing, tasty, and secrets—can't miss. Enjoy!





# DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 7:30 Walk & Talk 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Crocheting with Connie 3:30 Kids STEAM Day	4 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art 	5 2:00 Android 3:00 Email basics 3:30 Kids Storytime	6 2:30 Big Brother Big Sister-Christmas Craft	7 11:00 Craft a'Palooza 6:00 Christmas Parade 
8	9	10 7:30 Walk & Talk 10:30 Toddler Time 3:30 Kids STEAM Day 	11 11:00 Book Group 12:00 Friends of the Library meeting 3:30 Kids' Art	12 2:00 Android 3:00 Email basics 3:30 Kids Storytime	13  3:30 Photography Group	14 11:00 Santa @ the Library 
15	16	17 7:30 Walk & Talk 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Crocheting with Connie 3:30 Kids STEAM Day	18 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art	19 11:00 Crafting for Adults <b>Library closes at 12:00</b>	20 1:00 Movie for Adults 4:00 Teen Program	21 11:00 Lego Building
22	23	24 <b>Library Closed</b> 	25 <b>Library Closed</b>	26 3:30 Kids Tech Time	27 2:30 Big Brother Big Sister-Christmas Craft	28 11:00 Family Movie Day
29	30	31 7:30 Walk & Talk 10:30 Toddler Time 3:30 Kids STEAM Day	<p><b>Open to our patrons:</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday: 9:00—6:00</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday &amp; Friday 8:30—6:00</b></p> <p><b>Saturday: 9:00-2:30</b></p>		<p><b>DeSoto County Library</b></p> <p><b>125 N Hillsborough</b></p> <p><b>863.993.4851</b></p> <p>Partially funded through FL Dept of State grants</p>	

2024  
DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. BIC STEAM 3:30 p.m.	4 ART with MS. Karen 3:30 p.m.	5 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	6 Big Brothers Big Sisters. Story and Craft 2:30 pm	7 11 A.M Craft a'Palooza Christmas Parade 6:00 pm
8	9	10 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. BIC STEAM 3:30 p.m.	11 ART with MS. Karen 3:30 p.m.	12 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	13 Teen Program 4:00 p.m.	14 Santa's Workshop 11am - 1pm
15	16	17 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. BIC STEAM 3:30 p.m.	18 ART with MS. Karen 3:30 p.m.	19 Library closes at 12:00	20 Teen Program 4:00 p.m.	21 11 A.M Christmas LEGO CHALLENGE
22	23	24 Library Closed MERRY Christmas	25	26 3:30 p.m. Tech Time	27 Big Brothers Big Sisters. Story and Craft 2:30 pm	28 11 A.M Family Movie Day RISE GUARDIANS
29	30	31 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. BIC STEAM 3:30 p.m.	<h2 style="margin: 0;">DeSoto Library Children's Calendar</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">863 - 993 - 4851</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">*Activities subject to change</p>			

T&Th: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
W&F: 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat.: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

# Teen Program

Ages 13 - 19

## DIY Gift Tags & Painted Wooden Ornaments

📅 December 20th  
🕒 4:00pm - 5:30pm  
📍 DeSoto County Library



125 N Hillsborough Ave.  
 Arcadia FL 34266  
 863 - 993 - 4851

