

# BiblioBites

Friends of DeSoto County Library Association

January 2023

Volume 12, Issue 1

## Director's note

Dear Folks,

Welcome to 2023! Whether we were blown in by Ian or slid in Elliott's ice, we have arrived! We are already at work here at the library planning for great things to come in our new year. We certainly hope you will choose to spend at least a small portion of your time with us.

Are you looking for a new challenge in your reading? Do you want to stretch beyond your go to genre? Then come check out some of the reading challenges designed by book lovers to help you expand your horizons. You just might find a new author that makes your top ten list.

If you have new goals to meet, hobbies to try or fitness activities to undertake, we have books to support your new endeavors.

May your new year be blessed beyond measure.

Come see us,

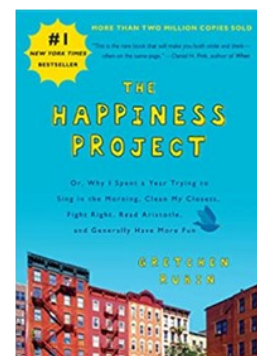
Linda

## Linda recommends

"An enlightening, laugh-aloud read. . . Filled with open, honest glimpses into [Rubin's] real life, woven together with constant doses of humor." —Christian Science Monitor

The Happiness Project is the result of Gretchen Rubin's year-long experiment to discover how to create true happiness. Drawing on cutting-edge science, classical philosophy, and real-world examples, Rubin delivers an engaging, eminently relatable chronicle of transformation. This special 10th Anniversary edition features a Conversation with Gretchen Rubin, Happiness Project Stories, a guide to creating your own happiness project, a list of dozens of free resources, and more.

Gretchen Rubin had an epiphany one rainy afternoon in the unlikeliest of places: a city bus. "The days are long, but the years are short," she realized. "Time is passing, and I'm not focusing enough on the things that really matter." In that moment, she decided to dedicate a year to her happiness project.



HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!

Inside this  
issue:

Publishers  
Weekly 2

Liz likes 2

Bookmarked by  
Jolaine 2

Robert  
recommends 3

Choice for  
children by 3

YA perspective  
by Reagan 3

Calendar 4

Nonfiction choice  
by Karen 4

Library Info 4

### BOOK SIGNING—At the DeSoto County Historical Society meeting

***We Are the Troopers: The Women of the Winningest Team in Pro Football History*, by Stephen Guinan**

Thursday, Jan 12, 11:30 a.m., **Family Service Center**. Bring your lunch—beverages and dessert provided. Program at Noon.

Meet **Nancy Erickson**—An outstanding athlete, she had already been hired to direct Arcadia's Recreation Department when she had a chance to try out for the Toledo Troopers. The City of Arcadia held the job for her until she played her first and only season. She will have copies of this book to sell & sign after she tells us more about this amazing team, and her work here in Arcadia. The Education Amendments of 1972 commonly known as Title IX helped Nancy to start girls sports teams of all kinds in Arcadia. Many will remember Nancy as the H & R Block representative in town.

## Publishers Weekly Bestseller Lists

December 29, 2022

### FICTION

1. *The Boys from Biloxi: A Legal Thriller*, by John Grisham
2. *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus
3. *Fairy Tale*, by Stephen King
4. *Demon Copperhead*, by Barbara Kingsolver
5. *Dreamland*, by Nicholas Sparks
6. *Triple Cross*, by James Patterson
7. *Mad Honey*, by Jodi Picoult, Author and Jennifer Finney Boylan
8. *Tom Clancy: Red Winter*, by Marc Cameron
9. *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*, by Gabrielle Charbonnet Zevin
10. *A World of Curiosities*, by Louise Penney

### NONFICTION

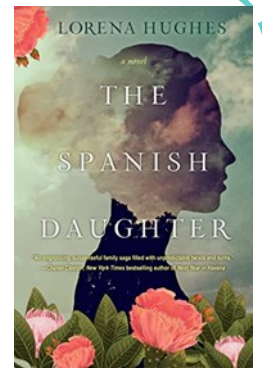
1. *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times*, by Michelle Obama
2. *Faith Still Moves Mountains: Miraculous Stories of the Healing Power of Prayer*, by Harris Faulkner
3. *Go-To Dinners: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook*, by Ina Garten
4. *Guinness World Records 2023*, by Guinness World Records
5. *I'm Glad My Mom Died*, Jennette McCurdy
6. *Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing: A Memoir*, by Matthew Perry
7. *Radio's Greatest of All Time*, by Rush Limbaugh with, Kathryn Adams Limbaugh and David Limbaugh
8. *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*, by Jon Meacham
9. *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story*, by Bono
10. *The Simply Happy Cookbook*, by Steve Dooc and Kathy Doocy

## Liz likes—Liz Coronado

As a child in Spain, Puri always knew her passion for chocolate was inherited from her father. But it's not until his death that she learns of something else she's inherited a cocoa estate in Vinces, Ecuador, a town nicknamed "París Chiquito." Eager to claim her birthright and filled with hope for a new life after the devastation of World War I, she and her husband Cristóbal set out across the Atlantic Ocean. But it soon becomes clear someone is angered by Puri's claim to the estate.

When a mercenary sent to murder her aboard the ship accidentally kills Cristóbal instead, Puri dons her husband's clothes and assumes his identity, hoping to stay safe while she searches for the truth of her father's legacy in Ecuador. Though freed from the rules that women are expected to follow, Puri confronts other challenges at the estate: newfound siblings, hidden affairs, and her father's dark secrets. Then there are the dangers awakened by her attraction to an enigmatic man as she tries to learn the identity of an enemy who is still at large, threatening the future she is determined to claim.

I picked *The Spanish Daughter* up from my TBR pile where it has sat for almost two years, and after reading it I wish I would have read it sooner. I was absorbed by this wonderful novel of mystery and family drama. The background of a Spanish family in a foreign country was exotic and kept my interest. I loved the back story of chocolate making. I liked this book. It was a quick read and light, but I couldn't put it down. **Lorena Hughes** told a good mystery story that is sweet, endearing, and with nice historical context.

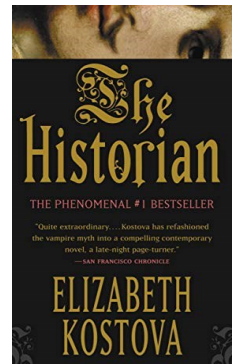


## Bookmarked—Jolaine Konstantinidis

**Elizabeth Kostova's** debut novel *The Historian* was inspired by stories her father told her of Vlad the Impaler, otherwise known as Dracula. Mixing those memories with ten years of research on the subject, the result is an historical adventure of monumental scale, minus the gore of traditional Dracula tales.

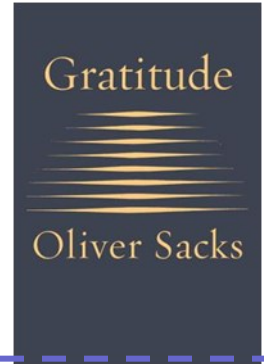
The novel begins with a note to the reader by an unnamed narrator, the young daughter of a scholar on a quest to understand their family roots. Much like the statement of Bram Stoker who wrote Dracula in 1897, Kostova's fictional narrator prefaces her work by assuring her audience that the account she is committing to paper has been carefully researched using credible sources such as letters, interviews, and historical documents. She also credits the help of many scholars who are featured as characters in her novel as she travels through Eastern Europe, Istanbul, and Bulgaria in search of answers to questions of her identity. In her journeys, the history and society of the different regions is depicted. The facts about Vlad III and how the power struggle between Christians and Muslims has affected history throughout time is the basis for the knowledge the scholars collect. On their quest to destroy Dracula's reign of chaos on modern society the scholars rely on maps, codes and clues they find along the way. Ultimately, the novel is largely about good vs. evil and how the past deeds of Dracula still affect the present politically and socially. The novel is filled with many wise quotes by the narrator, for example: "As you know, history is full of evil deeds. And maybe we ought to think of them with tears, not fascination."

Other works by **Elizabeth Kostova** include *The Swan Thieves* (an art history mystery) and *The Shadow Land* that deals with the mystery surrounding the culture and landscape of Bulgaria. All are meticulously researched and written in beautiful prose.



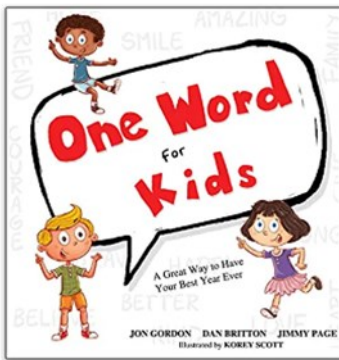
## Robert recommends—Robert Andres

I've read some of **Oliver Sacks** books in the past. For a time there you couldn't get around him. He was very popular and the stories were very unusual. He worked with persons who had sustained some damage to the creative hemisphere of their brain and thus processed the world in uniquely different ways. *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat* was probably his most well known work. In the very small biography **Gratitude** he looks back on 80 years of work and life, but with a very virulent cancer diagnosis, has little time to look forward. The book consists of four simple essays. Each essay is only a few pages in a small format book printed on beautiful paper. Gratitude is addressed, but it isn't the whole story. It felt a lot more like reading a letter from an old friend.



## Choice for children—Tonya Bordner

The new year is here! Nearly three months ago, I was welcomed into the library family as the **Children's Library Manager**. My entire world shifted, everything from my daily schedule and routines to being called Ms. Tonya instead of Ms. Bordner. I've enjoyed **growing my knowledge**, **meeting new people**, being surrounded by **books**, and searching out family **engagement** activities.



With the new **mission** field before me, I felt the need for a new mission statement. As a teacher, I chose an acronym, **ELL** - Empower with Learning, Love and Leadership. My new mantra, or rather word, found me pretty quickly, and this brings me to the book review in the **new** year.

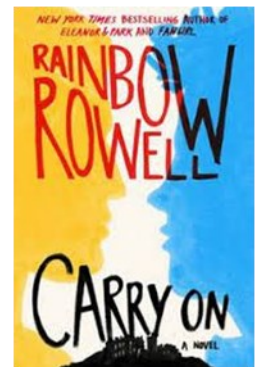
**One Word for Kids** by **Jon Gordon, Dan Britton and Jimmy Page** is a story of a student who is in search of **one word** that will give him **direction**. In his search, he realizes the word finds him, and it becomes his **motivating factor** and gives him **purpose** each day.

The new year is the perfect time to not only reflect on your one word but to reflect with your child on theirs. This book is a tool to help you do so. I've had many words since reading the adult version of this book, **One Word That Will Change Your Life**.

My **one word** currently is **engagement**.

## YA perspective—Reagan Bordner

Whenever I see **Rainbow Rowell's** books on our shelves, they always catch my attention, so I decided to pick one up. **Carry On: The rise and Fall of Simon Snow** is a story that follows the final year of magical schooling for Simon Snow, the "Chosen One" of the Magical world, prophesied to defeat the Insidious Humdrum, an evil force that has been wreaking havoc on the World of Mages for years. This book is part of a series, but **Carry On** could be read as a standalone book, if series are not your thing. It also connects to one of her other books, **Fangirl** and makes multiple references to different songs (the title itself is a reference to *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen). I have read the first two books in the series and thoroughly enjoyed them. If you are a fan of magic, romance, and witty conversations I would recommend you give this book a try.



## BOOK SALE—Saturday January 28

**DeSoto County Library Association** will hold a week long **BOOK SALE** event starting Saturday, January 28, 2023 that will run through Sat. Feb 4.

Donations for the sale may be brought in the week prior—starting on Sat., Jan 21.

Books will be priced \$1 hardbacks, 50¢ paperbacks, and 25¢ children's books.

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**LIBRARY HOURS**

Tuesday & Thursday:

9:00—6:00

Wednesday & Friday

8:30—6:00

Saturday:

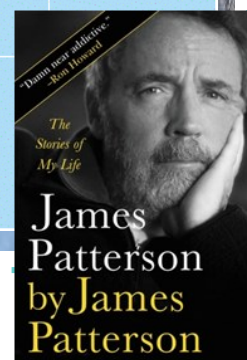
9:00-2:30

Closed Sunday and Monday

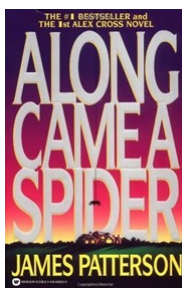


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:15 STEAM Activity	4 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Storytime 11:00 Book Group 3:00 iPads & ebooks 3:15 Art for kids	5 9:00 @ ARC 3:15 Storytime	6	7 10:30 Kids' Game Day
8	9 Mobile Library	10 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:15 STEAM Activity	11 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Storytime 11:00 Book Group 3:00 iPads & ebooks 3:15 Art for kids 	12 9:00 @ ARC 3:15 Storytime	13	14 10:30 Legos
15 	16	17 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:15 STEAM Activity	18 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Storytime 11:00 Book Group 3:00 iPads & ebooks 3:15 Art for kids	19 9:00 @ ARC 3:15 Storytime	20 1:00 Movie for adults 3:30 Photography Group	21 10:30 Kids' Movie Day
22	23	24 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:15 STEAM Activity	25 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Storytime 11:00 Book Group 3:00 iPads & ebooks 3:15 Art for kids	26 9:00 @ ARC 3:15 Storytime	27	28 10:30 Craft-a-Palooza
29	30	31 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:15 STEAM Activity				

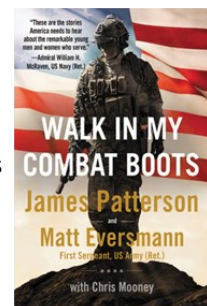
**James Patterson—by Karen Smoke**



**James Patterson** is a PW (prolific writer). He is also a PM (publishing mogul) He writes a lot of MM-P/DS (murder mystery, police/detective stories), and coauthors many other books. I tend to overlook the PW's in our library...figuring anyone who commands more than ten feet of shelf space doesn't need my attention. When I saw his autobiography, *James Patterson by James Patterson: The Stories of My Life*, (yes that is the title, and yes **JP** is the author), I decided to crack it. His background is in advertising and marketing. No surprise there. He likes to tell stories, and encourage others to tell theirs. The book is a collection of stories...I'm not sure if the book should be classed as fiction or bio.



I then looked into some of his other writings. *Along Came a Spider* is his first Alex Cross novel. I'm not into MM-P/DS, so I only lasted about 75 pages. Next I went for one of his NF books, *Walk in My Combat Boots: True Stories from America's Bravest Warriors*, by **JP** and **Matt Eversmann** with **Chris Mooney**. I'm going to list it as a MR (must read). It is both heart-lifting and gruesome. At a time when many of us are not sure we can trust our government, it sheds some positive light on our military, who do a lot more



than fight wars. Put it on your list for 2023. Next, I plan to read some of the books he writes for younger readers under the imprint **Jimmy**.