

BiblioBites

DeSoto County Library

May 2024

Volume 13, Issue 05



Happy
Memorial
Day



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Director's note

Dear Folks,

What a whirlwind of activity we have had in DeSoto County as Remake Learning Days quickly come to an end. So very many different organizations have stepped up to provide activities and opportunities for families to work, learn, and play together. We owe a huge thanks to the Patterson Foundation for their financial and organizational support of this festival of learning.

Meanwhile we will take a deep breath and begin to finalize summer activities. Ms Tonya and Ms Liz worked very hard to bring another Florida Humanities grant to DeSoto County. There will be some very special events because of their work and the generous support from Florida Humanities.

As we look forward to our **Adventures Begin at Your Library**, we will be saying Bon Voyage to Ms Tonya as she starts her new adventures.

Come see us,

Linda

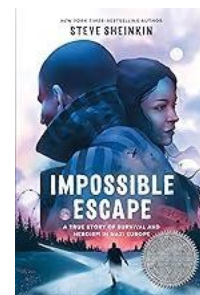
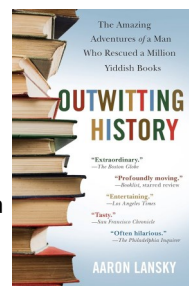
Linda recommends

Outwitting History & Impossible Escape

Two tales of Nazis and Jews during the Holocaust. One young man who works to save a culture and a language. One young man who escaped and worked to bring freedom to many others.

From three-time National Book Award finalist and Newbery Honor author **Steve Sheinkin**, a true story of two Jewish teenagers racing against time during the Holocaust—one in hiding in Hungary, and the other in Auschwitz, plotting escape. This is the true story of one of the most famous whistleblowers in the world, and how his death-defying escape helped save over 100,000 lives.

In 1980, a twenty-three-year-old student named **Aaron Lansky** set out to rescue the world's abandoned Yiddish books before it was too late. Twenty-five years and 1.5 million books later, he's still in the midst of a great adventure.



Publishers Weekly
Bestseller Lists
April 26, 2024

FICTION

1. *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah
2. *A Calamity of Souls*, by David Baldacci
3. *Forth Wing*, by Rebecca Yarros
4. *The Familiar*, by Leigh Bardugo
5. *Iron Flame*, by Rebecca Yarros
6. *Table for Two: Fictions*, by Amor Towles
7. *Toxic Prey*, by John Sandford
8. *James*, by Percival Everett
9. *The #1 Lawyer...*, by James Patterson & Nancy Allen
10. *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride

NON-FICTION

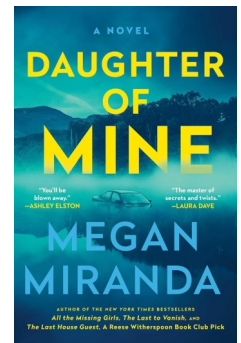
1. *The Anxious Generation...*, by Jonathan Haidt
2. *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin
3. *Seriously, So Good: Simple Recipes for a Balanced Life*, by Carissa Stanton
4. *Love, Mom: Inspiring Stories Celebrating Motherhood*, by Nicole Saphier
5. *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder*, by Salman Rushdie
6. *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*, by Anne Lamott
7. *The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook*, by Hampton Sides
8. *Briefly Perfectly Human: Making an Authentic Life by Getting Real about the End*, by Alua Arthur
9. *Financial Literacy for All: Disrupt Poverty, Alleviate Struggle, Grow the Middle Class, and Start Building Wealth*, by John Hope Bryant
10. *My Beloved Monster: Masha, the Half-Wild Rescue Cat Who Rescued Me*, by Caleb Carr

Liz Likes— Liz Coronado

Her father was the town detective. Her mother its most notorious criminal. Now the secrets of Mirror Lake are coming to the surface...and changing everything.

When Hazel Sharp, daughter of Mirror Lake's longtime local detective, unexpectedly inherits her childhood home, she's warily drawn back to the town—and people—she left behind almost a decade earlier. But Hazel's not the only relic of the past to return: a drought has descended on the region, and as the water level in the lake drops, long-hidden secrets begin to emerge...including evidence that may help finally explain the mystery of her mother's disappearance.

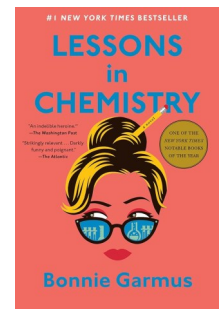
This is the eighth book I've read by **Megan Miranda**, and I think it's safe to say she has reached auto-read status. Megan excels at creating dark, cozy small towns, and *Daughter of Mine* is true to form. The descriptions of the town are so vivid, it's almost as if it's a character in the novel. Each chapter begins with the date, time, and the number of days without rain. As the drought continues, the tension rises until the mystery breaks wide open with the advent of rainfall. I was on the edge of my seat as Hazel tried desperately to identify the person responsible for the sinister attacks on her family, and, like Hazel, I didn't know who to trust. The path to the climax was as twisty as the dirt roads climbing up and down the mountains. I trusted absolutely no one in this book aside from Hazel. It felt as though everyone was hiding something. I may have been wrong more than once about *what* was being hidden, but the number of people keeping secrets in their small town was not to be underestimated. It kept me guessing the whole way through and each reveal often led to more questions. The setting felt atmospheric and haunting, which I always appreciate in a mystery/thriller novel. It adds to the vibe in a way that allows me to really get drawn into the story.



Bookmarked—Jolaine Konstantinidis

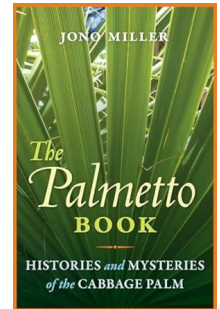
Bonnie Garmus's debut novel *Lessons in Chemistry* takes place in the early 1960s when women like Elizabeth Zott (a bright graduate student in chemistry) were rare, underpaid, and underappreciated. In her position as assistant in a male dominated lab she is often delegated secretarial duties or minor projects with sexual overtones. Her work as a doctoral candidate is underestimated and she is only "allowed" to pursue her research in "abiogenesis" (don't ask) due to the interest of an anonymous, generous donor to the Hastings Research Institute. In the meantime, her career and personal life become entangled when she falls into a loving friendship relationship with Calvin Evans, a brilliant, renowned chemist. Together with their dog, Six-Thirty (don't ask), they enjoy each other, their mutual interests in chemistry, and the meals Elizabeth makes as her contribution to the household. After all, both agree that cooking is chemistry! This period of living in harmony, however, is cut short when her arrangement with Calvin ends abruptly and E. Zott winds up losing her job at the institute and takes a more "gender appropriate" job as host of a TV cooking show. *Supper At Six* gains top ratings when people nationwide start tuning in and paying attention to the lessons in chemistry Elizabeth cooks up. Armed with the knowledge of science involved in cooking, women begin to perceive their role as homemaker in a more challenging and powerfully elevating light.

Lessons in Chemistry has earned its own top ratings as a reminder of the hurdles women have had to overcome particularly in the various fields of science. STEM advocates will love it; I enjoyed it also for its humor and characters that are believable mainly because they are imperfect. You can watch a trailer of the movie based on the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1PuK8mxASE> but I would suggest reading the novel first.



Robert recommends—Robert Andres

Sometimes you can learn a lot about something by reading about a related topic. The Palmetto palm, source of swamp cabbage, is clearly a big part of Florida history. New at the library we have the book "**The Palmetto Book: Histories and Mysteries of the Cabbage Palm**", published in 2021, by **Jono Miller**. The book tells of the nature and growth preference of the cabbage palm. The palm was harvested for food and raw materials (such as thatching and biodegradable flower pots), planted for decorations, and has even ended up on at least one flag. There are interesting illustrations and a variety of Florida facts throughout the book. Recommended!



Choice for children—Tonya Bordner

The illustrations are vivid, the words captivating with rhyme and the message they convey is pure MAGIC. **The Magical Yet**, written by **Angela DiTerlizzi** and illustrated by **Lorena Alvarez Gómez**, is a must read and an important reminder for ALL ages!

Weekly, I meet people, mostly children but not all, at the library who are learning something new, acquiring a skill, trying to find a job, bettering themselves in some way, studying for a profession or looking for a resource. In one way or another, they are on their way somewhere...and aren't quite there yet.

Here's a few words from the book:

"Be patient.

Yet can't do it all overnight.

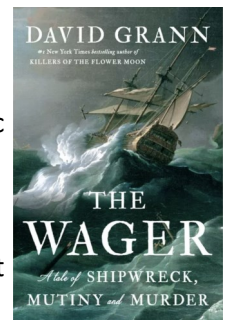
Some things take days, months,
or years to get it right."



This is my last book review as your DeSoto County Children's Library Manager. My last day is May 4. I've so enjoyed the last year and a half as you've been on your journey's somewhere. Keep going, you'll get there. I'm grateful!

Fran Recommends —by Fran Kovach

The Wager provides a compelling triple insight: the harrowing fate of HMS Wager and her crew, an immersive portrayal of life at sea during the 1740s amid the challenges of navigation, and a critical analysis of how empires have been built on deceit, wishful thinking, bigotry, and bureaucratic self-preservation. It serves as a stark reminder that the manipulation of facts to serve imperial interests is not a relic of the past but a continuing reality. The narrative draws disturbing parallels between the events of the 1740s and the foundations of modern societies, particularly highlighting how the United States was constructed on the exploitation of enslaved people and the displacement of indigenous populations. This pattern of colonial ambition and disregard for indigenous cultures has been a hallmark of European empires and continues to influence contemporary conflicts.



David Grann doesn't just recount a gripping tale of adventure and survival; he provides a mirror reflecting our current societal structures, urging us to confront uncomfortable truths about our history and its ongoing impact. His work suggests that understanding and acknowledging these truths is crucial for untangling the myths that empires have woven, offering a chance for genuine reconciliation and a more informed perspective on present-day issues. Grann's narrative is an invitation to examine the past not as distant and unrelated events but as the foundation upon which our current world is built, challenging us to confront and learn from these truths if we dare.

**Friends of DeSoto
County Library
Association**
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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 pick—Reagan Bordner

Icarus Gallagher is a thief. He steals priceless art and replaces it with his father’s impeccable forgeries. For years, one man—the wealthy Mr. Black—has been their target, revenge for his role in the death of Icarus’s mother. To keep their secret, Icarus adheres to his own strict rules to keep people, and feelings, at bay: Don’t let anyone close. Don’t let anyone touch you. And, above all, don’t get caught.

Until one night, he does. Not by Mr. Black, but by his mysterious son, Helios, now living under house arrest in the Black mansion. Instead of turning Icarus in, Helios bargains for something even more dangerous—a friendship that breaks every single one of Icarus’s rules.

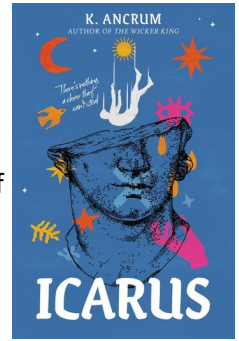
As reluctance and distrust become closeness and something more, they uncover the bars of the gilded cage that has trapped both of their families for years. One Icarus is determined to escape. But his father’s thirst for revenge shows no sign of fading, and soon it may force Icarus to choose: the escape he’s dreamed of, or the boy he’s come to love. Reaching for both could be his greatest triumph—or it could be his downfall.

Icarus by **K. Ancrum** is perfect for fans of Adam Silvera and Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe.

Needless to say, this story had me on the edge of my seat the entire time, waiting for it all to go wrong, waiting for Icarus to fall. What else can you expect when it is a story whose two main characters are named after “the boy who flew too close to the sun” and “the Greek God of the sun”?

The way this book was written was different from any other book I have read, and I wasn’t sure what to think at first, but I ended up loving it.

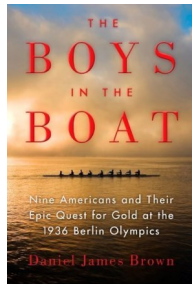
I won’t give any hints about the ending, so if you’d like to know what happens, you’ll just have to give this book a read!



DCLA Update—by Elizabeth, VP

Hello, Everyone,

The DeSoto County Library Association board will be meeting **Wednesday, May 1st at the Library at 12 noon**. We will be updated on the Library’s summer reading plans and programs. Please come—join us—give us your input. We look forward to seeing you.



I just finished **Daniel James Brown’s The Boys in the Boat**. The subtitle *Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* basically says it all. It’s in part mesmerizing, enlightening, and yet some events seem as if they are occurring now—scary.



DeSoto County Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 12:00 Friends' meeting 3:30 All Faiths	2 9:00 @ ARC 2:00 Internet Basics 3:00 Cybersecurity 3:30 Circuit Building	3 4:00 Teen Program	4 11:00 Tech Day
5	6	7 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 Storytime	8 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art	9 9:00 @ ARC 11:00 Adult Crafting 2:00 Android Basics 3:00 Email 3:30 STEAM	10 3:30 Photography Group	11 11:00 Craft-a-Palooza
12 	13 Mobile Library	14 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 STEAM	15 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art	16 9:00 @ ARC 2:00 Zoom Basics 3:00 Windows 10 3:30 Kids' Activity	17 1:00 Movie for adults 	18 11:00 Movie
19	20	21 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 Storytime	22 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 All Faiths	23 9:00 @ ARC 3:30 Storytime	24 4:00 Teen Activity	25 11:00 Legos
26	27	28 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 STEAM 	29 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art	30 9:00 @ ARC 3:30 Storytime	31	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; background-color: #fce4d6;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>DeSoto County Library</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>125 N Hillsborough</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>863.993.4851</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Partially funded through FL Dept of State grants</p> </div>

Open to our patrons:

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00—6:00

Wednesday & Friday 8:30—6:00

Saturday: 9:00-2:30

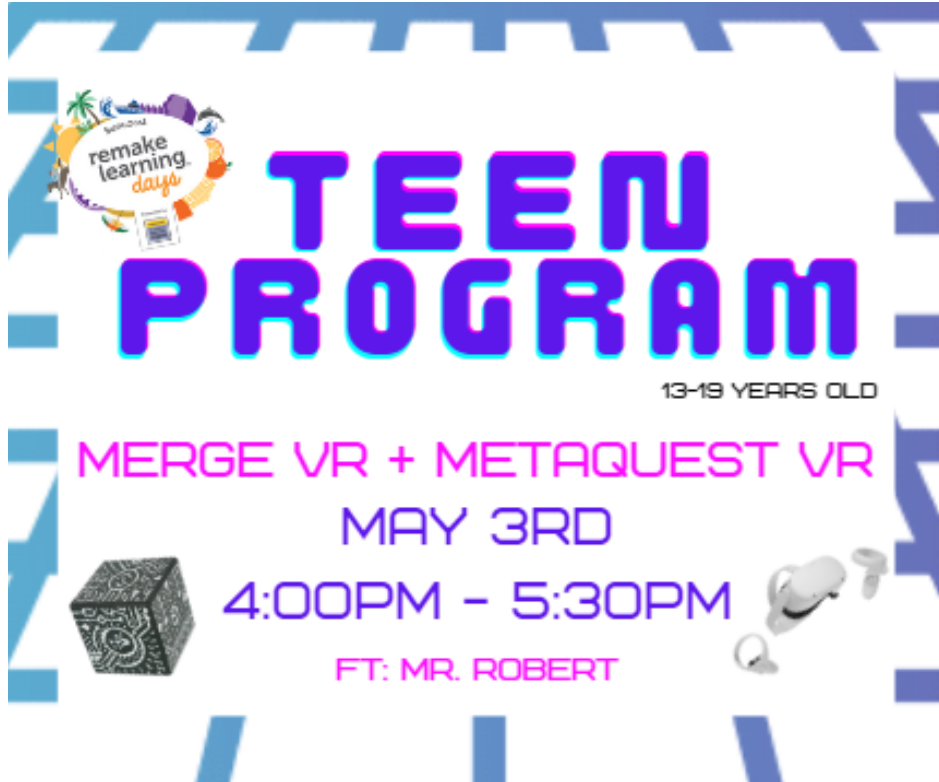
DeSoto County Library Children's Activities 125 N. Hillsborough Ave. Arcadia, FL 34266

MAY

2024

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.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
29 	30	1 All Faiths Food Bank Very Hungry Caterpillar inspired Snacks Book giveaway 3:30 p.m.	2 Circuit building 3:30 p.m.	3 4 p.m. TEEN PROGRAM! Ages 13-19 Virtual Reality with Merge VR	4 Technology & toys! 11 a.m.	5
6	7 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	8 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m.	9 STEAM 3:30 p.m.	10	11 Mother's Day Craft a'Palooza 11 A.M	12
13	14 STEAM 3:30 p.m.	15 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m.	16 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	17	18 MOVIE 11 AM 	19
20	21 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	22 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m.	23 STEAM 3:30 p.m.	24 TEEN Ages 13-19 PROGRAM! 4 p.m.	25 LEGO CHALLENGE 11 A.M	26
27	28 STEAM 3:30 p.m.	29 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m.	30 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	31	1 Summer Reading program Kick-off 11 a.m.	2



TEEN PROGRAM
 13-19 YEARS OLD

MERGE VR + METAQUEST VR
 MAY 3RD
 4:00PM - 5:30PM
 FT: MR. ROBERT