

BiblioBites

Friends of DeSoto County Library Association

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Director's note

Dear Folks,

The time has come to say goodbye to our much valued friend and very versatile staff member, Karen Smoczynski. Karen has been such an integral part of the library activities for much longer than any of us have been on staff. She has volunteered as our children's art activity leader for many, many years. She has also been President of the DeSoto County Library Association "Friends" for a good while. Almost five years ago Karen joined our library staff as a part time employee. In that length of time she has served in many capacities from front desk to programming to display development to processing of new materials.

While we will miss Karen very much, we do wish her a bon voyage as she begins her new adventures. We look forward to sharing her travels as she keeps us updated along the way.

Stop by and see Karen this week. Her last day to officially be with us is the last day of March.

Take care,

Linda

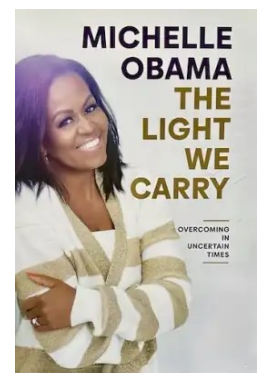


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Linda recommends

In her book *The Light We Carry*, Michelle Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress. Drawing from her experiences as a mother, daughter, spouse, friend, and First Lady, she shares the habits and principles she has developed to successfully adapt to change and overcome various obstacles—the earned wisdom that helps her continue to “become.” She details her most valuable practices, like “starting kind,” “going high,” and assembling a “kitchen table” of trusted friends and mentors.



Publishers Weekly Bestseller Lists March 24, 2023

FICTION

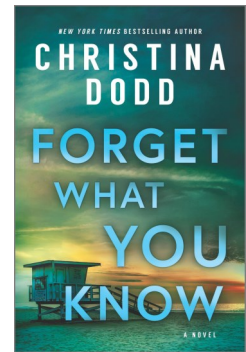
1. *I Will Find You*, by Harlan Coben
2. *Hello Beautiful*, by Ann Napolitano
3. *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus
4. *Storm Watch*, by CJ Box
5. *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*, by Gabrielle Zevin
6. *Worthy Opponents*, by Danielle Steel
7. *Pineapple Street*, Jenny Jackson
8. *Demon Copperhead*, Barbara Kingsolver
9. *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt
10. *A Day of Fallen Night*, by Samantha Shannon

NON-FICTION

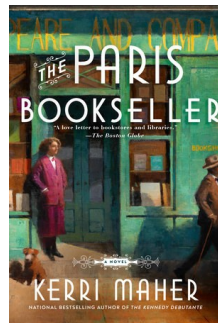
1. *Saved: A War Reporter's Mission to Make It Home*, by Benjamin Hall
2. *The Courage to Be Free: Florida's Blueprint for America's Revival*, by Ron DeSantis
3. *Paris The Memoir*, by Paris Hilton
4. *Spare*, by Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex
5. *How to Grow Your Small Business: A 6-Part Strategy to Help Your Business Take Off*, by Donald Miller
6. *The Creative ACT: A Way of Being*, by Rick Ruben
7. *I'm Glad My Mom Died*, by Jennette McCurdy
8. *Walk the Blue Line: True Stories from Officers Who Protect and Serve*, by James Patterson, Matthew Eversmann, & Chris Mooney
9. *8 Rules of Love: How to Find It, Keep It, and Let It Go*, by Jay Shetty
10. *Good Power: Leading Positive Change in Our Lives, Work, and World*, by Ginni Rometty

Liz likes—Liz Coronado

A car is found at the bottom of a lake with a driver who has been shot in the back of the head. Zoe Phoenix knows very little about her early childhood, and her mother is not very forthcoming with information. Zoe is almost killed in a hit and run accident, and her mother disappears to get some answers about the people who had been in the submerged car, but not before enlisting Zoe's ex-husband to look after her. ***Forget What You Know* by Christina Dodd** was full of suspense, love, loss, humor & thrills! When you get a book and read the first page and are hooked until the last page, it is a delight.



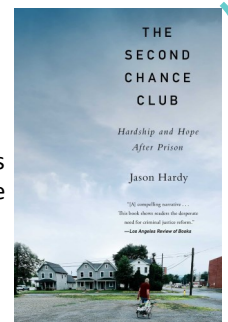
Bookmarked—Jolaine Konstantinidis



***The Paris Bookseller* by Kerri Maher** is a well-researched historical novel that serves as a biography of Sylvia Beach's life from the opening of her famous bookstore and lending library Shakespeare and Company in 1919 to its closing in 1942 when Paris fell into German hands during World War II. In chronological fashion, the author takes the reader through the years when Prohibition and the Great Depression drove many Americans, particularly those in the arts to flee to the "City of Light." Well known expatriates like Hemingway, Fitzgerald, T.S. Elliot, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein and George Antheil became regulars at Sylvia's bookstore, but it is her acquaintance with James Joyce that takes center stage; the publication of his book *Ulysses* is the focus of the novel. While Joyce has been unsuccessful in getting a publisher in America where his manuscript for *Ulysses* has been banned, Sylvia and the group of "Lost Generation" writers who frequent Shakespeare and Company see it as a masterpiece of modernist literature. Sylvia's decision to publish the novel poses the novel's chief conflict as it challenges her financial situation as well as her personal relationship with her closest friend and partner, Adrienne Monnier, a French bookstore owner. The author adheres closely to the true facts of Sylvia Beach's life and her famous bookstore and lists an extensive bibliography including Sylvia's own letters and memoirs, but admits she used her imagination to describe certain scenes and her characters' emotions. I enjoyed learning more about this period in literature and the determination and sacrifices that were made during that time to ensure artistic freedom of expression.

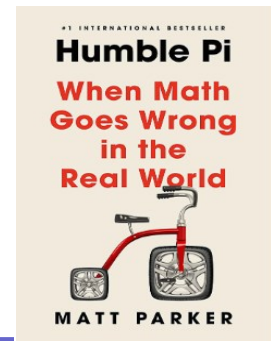
Nonfiction Choice—Karen Smoke

Jason Hardy became a parole officer in New Orleans at a time when Louisiana's incarceration rates were the highest in the US and his department's caseload had just been increased to 220 "offenders" per parole officer, whereas the national average is around 100. Almost immediately, he discovered that the biggest problem with our prison system is what we do—and don't do—when people get out of prison. At the time of his employment there were about 4.5 million probationers and parolees in the US - about double the number of inmates nationwide. Deprived of social support and jobs, former convicts are often worse off than when they first entered prison. He shows us how most offenders, even those with the best intentions, end up back in prison—or dead—because the system systematically fails them. The best Hardy and his colleagues can do is practice harm reduction. But he finds that some of his charges can muster the miraculous power to save themselves. In neighborhoods where the drug dealer dons are revered, taking on a menial job for minimal pay is not attractive. Dealing with addiction by focusing on the individual works only if the person is ready for it. Housing assistance is the most likely thing to turn a person's life around when closely supervised. Our focus should be, he argues, to give offenders the tools they need to re-enter society which is not only humane but also vastly cheaper for taxpayers. ***The Second Chance Club: Hope and Hardship After Prison*** shows us how to solve the cruelest problems prisons create for offenders and society at large.



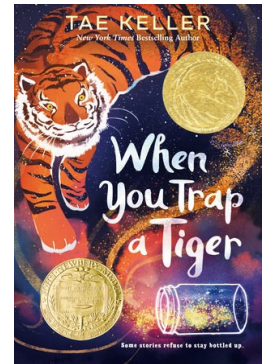
Robert recommends—Robert Andres

If you love math or if you hate math, *Humble Pi: When Math Goes Wrong in the Real World* by **Matt Parker** is for you. While some of the stories are technical and will thrill the math enthusiast, there are many stories of how math missed the mark. Geometry, architecture, computer programming, the space program, and all sorts of other technologies are covered. The book consists of many bite size stories so you can read a bit at a time, to the extent of your interest. An entertaining read.

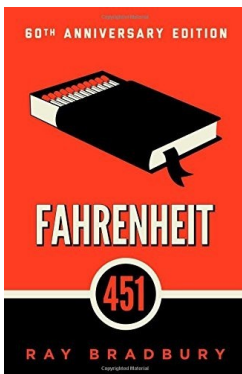


Choice for children—Tonya Bordner

Not only does *When You Trap a Tiger* by **Tae Keller** bring Korean folklore alive, it also tells the of the bond an eight-year-old Korean American has with her **halmoni** or grandmother. Lily and her family moves in with her sick grandmother in the last months of her life. Lily and her older sister relive some of their favorite childhood **memories** and **stories** told by **Halmoni**, who is known around the small town as eccentric and for her herbal remedies. Lily tries to save **Halmoni** by searching out a giant magical tiger that appears and disappears throughout the story. As Lily realizes her grandmother is sick, she goes from feeling invisible to finding her voice and place. This **Newberry Award** winner touches on coming-of-age, cultural differences and losing a loved one.



Student Review—by Alexandria Wilson



Meet Guy Montag, a dedicated 'fireman' who, instead of putting out the fires, actually starts them. Sounds strange right? Yeah, that's what I thought. Book burning. Books are illegal and if you get caught with one your house gets burned down and you go to jail. If you think this sounds controlling, YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT! Montag meets a girl named Clarisse and she changes the way Montag thinks. Now Montag is curious about what makes a book so special, I mean, there's got to be a reason people would sacrifice their homes or even their lives to have them. So Montag looked into this, by reading a book. He meets a cowardly old man, whose name is Faber, who helps him come up with a plan to beat the system-and the government, but he is not careful enough and gets caught. Now he's on the run from the government and a mechanical hound that never misses a target, and to top it all off, war has just been declared. Will Montag make it out alive? Will books ever be legal again? Will the war affect him or Faber? You'll just have to read it to find out. *Fahrenheit 451*, by **Ray Bradbury** is a great read that will have you on the edge of your seat the entire time.

YA Perspective—by Reagan Bordner



In The House in the Cerulean Sea, Linus Baker is a lonely caseworker for a governmental organization which manages orphaned kids who are magical beings. One day, he's given a secret assignment to assess a special orphanage on the island of Marsyas, run by a man named Arthur Parnassus, who has secrets of his own.

Magic, romance, and some (very) chaotic kids, what more could you ask for. I always enjoy a good LGBTQ+ story, especially one from an author who can relate, and who strives to provide an accurate and positive representation in media, like **TJ Klune**. *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is the definition of "found family", a well written, very cute, and witty book.

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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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>DeSoto County Library</i> <i>125 N Hillsborough</i> <i>863.993.4851</i> Partially funded through FL Dept of State grants</p>			<p>Open to our patrons: Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00—6:00 Wednesday & Friday 8:30—6:00 Saturday: 9:00-2:30</p>		<p>1 10:30 Kids' Game Day</p>	
2	3	4 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:15 STEAM Activity	5 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Storytime 11:00 Book Group 3:00 iPads & ebooks 3:15 Art for kids 	6 9:00 @ ARC 3:15 Storytime	7 Library Closed 	8 10:30 Craft-a-Palooza
9	10 Mobile Library	11 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:15 STEAM Activity	12 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Storytime 11:00 Book Group 3:00 iPads & ebooks 3:15 Storytime	13 9:00 @ ARC 3:15 Art for kids	14 1:00 Movie for adults 3:30 Photography Group 	15 10:30 Kid's Movie Day
16	17	18 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:15 STEAM Activity	19 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Storytime 11:00 Book Group 3:00 iPads & ebooks 3:15 Art for kids	20 9:00 @ ARC 3:15 Storytime	21	22
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Association Info—Elizabeth, VP

Hello, Everyone. We have new officers of DCLA. They are as follows:
President—Karen Delaney, vice president—Elizabeth Kenney, secretary—Kari Jackson, treasurer—Susan Barnes, Board members—Karen Bledsoe, Nancy Humphrey, and Martha Morgan. We will sorely miss Karen Smoke (president & editor) and deeply appreciate her heroic work for DCLA. She has trained Reagan Bordner to take over her editing job. Welcome Reagan! Karen, we wish you well on your new adventures. Many thanks to all who donated books, bought books, and tried the raffle at our book sale. We made enough money with the aid of the Modern Woodmen of America's match to help fund the summer reading program. By the way, the raffle winners were Jasmine Coronado and Catherine White.

Our next meeting of DCLA is **May 8th at 5 PM** at the Library. Please join us—everyone is welcomed.