

It's That Time of Year

The time of year when you think about toiling in the soil / Page 3

Poetry in Motion

Writer and MWSU dancers bringing his words to the stage / Page 5

Moving On

What to do with all of his books weighs heavily on collector / Page 7



Where in the World?

Library fundraiser will be a test of participants' knowledge of geography

You may know how to spell *nasturtium*, but do you know the capital of West Virginia?

How much someone knows about the world and its features – and not how to spell some of those foreign names – will be challenged Saturday, March 23, when the library's second Annual Library Fundraiser Bee turns its attention to geography.

Questions about physical geography – *what's the longest river in the world?* – but not political geography – *who is the president of Venezuela?* – will be the subject of the adults-only event that begins at 6 p.m. in the Belt Branch Upper Story.

Up to 10 teams of four to eight adults will take questions through eight rounds. Some questions will be addressed by individuals and others will be team activities.

Teams can purchase mulligans to earn and retain points if they answer a question incorrectly.

The entry fee is \$10 per team member and \$5 for spectators, who can purchase mulligans to



Emotions ran the gamut last year at the first Annual Library Fundraiser Bee, which was a spelling bee for adults in the Belt Branch Upper Story. **BELOW LEFT:** A rendition of the library-made quilt to be raffled as part of this year's bee.



help teams. Because beer and wine will be sold, spectators and participants must be 21 or older.

Last year's spelling bee was a success for both the participants and its sponsors, the Friends of the Library and the Rolling Hills Library Foundation, raising \$1,200 for the Foundation's endowment fund.

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Community Centered

Libraries strive to provide the public what they're looking for

Last fall, we did a survey of library users. We had 663 responses, and almost all were positive in their support and use of our libraries. Some of these answers were overwhelming in their love of Rolling Hills Library and our services. I am very proud of our staff and how well we serve our communities.

Being a two-county district, it made me even more proud that we can fill the needs of our very different patron groups, both urban and rural. I began to think about what the word "community" means and how it is that we have been able to create that feeling for our users. Merriam-Webster.com provides an extended definition of community as a unified body of individuals, such as a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society; joint ownership or participation; and fellowship.

This is what a library feels like to me – a group of people who come together with common interests for participation and fellowship. But the interesting thing is that when you look at library users, we show that all ages, races, and genders have a love of reading and literacy and want to be a part of a community together. Rich or poor, native born or immigrant, barely able to read or highly educated, we all come together in this one place to share access to information and services. There is no other place where you can go and spend an extended period of time without the expectation of spending money.

Communities that care about themselves and their members always look for ways to do better. This is what we do in libraries, too; books are great, but we are not satisfied with being a one-trick pony. We want to be whatever our communities need us to be, to help them reach their goals and make better lives. Physical, digital, books, videos, meeting rooms,

folding tables, or fishing poles, we strive to bring you what you need.

Libraries are communities within communities. We want to be that place, that institution where everyone feels safe and supported. We have no agenda beyond YOUR agenda, helping you be the person you want to be and live the life you want to live. This physical place called "library" is also an intangible fellowship; we succeed when our shared community succeeds.

Michelle Mears, *Rolling Hills Library Director*
mmears@rhcl.org

Other ways to reach and follow us


Text the library at **816-287-9828** using these keywords, and we'll help with your account:

Status for account information **Renew all** to renew everything on your account


Renew due to renew overdue items **Help** for a list of available commands

or text anything else to start a conversation with a librarian.

 www.goodreads.com/group/show/397463-rolling-hills-library

 facebook.com/RollingHillsLibrary

 twitter.com/RollingHillsLib

 www.instagram.com/Rolling_Hills_Library

 www.pinterest.com/rollinghillslib

Browse

a quarterly publication from Rolling Hills Library that is sponsored by the Friends of Rolling Hills Library

Rolling Hills Library

www.rhcl.org

Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt., St. Joseph
816-232-5479
HOURS: 9-9 Mon-Thu
9-6 Fri-Sat/1-5 Sun

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main, Savannah
816-324-4569
HOURS: 9-6 Mon, Wed, Fri
9-8 Tue, Thu/9-5 Sat/1-5 Sun

Business Office

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-236-2106

Bookmobile & Outreach

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-205-7100

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Library Director

Alan Stolfus

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Savannah

The board generally meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Friends of the Library

The Friends support the library through volunteer and fund-raising efforts. The Friends board meets monthly.

Rolling Hills Library Foundation

The Foundation strives to provide financial support for large endeavors and future growth of the library by seeking substantial gifts from patrons and supportive foundations.



International Women's Day Tea & Movie

Celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations with a cup of tea with your friends at **10-11 a.m. Friday, March 8, at the Savannah Branch**. Then come back at 3:30 p.m. to watch "Hidden Figures," a movie about three African-American women who served as the brains behind sending John Glenn into orbit. Popcorn and soda served!

Money Talk\$

Financial programs will present advice for kids, parents, seniors

In recognition of April being Financial Literacy Month (and Money Smart Week from March 30 to April 6), the Belt Branch is offering several programs to help all ages develop healthy financial habits.

Parents can get advice for teaching their children about money and how to develop good money habits in a program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, that will present information from several authors who have written about money. Parents also will make and take home a piggy bank. To attend this program, sign up in advance on the library's events calendar.

Financial advisor Joshua Royeton will discuss some risks seniors may encounter when planning for their futures and offer tips on strategies for preparing for the unexpected in a Classy Seniors program at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 4. No sign-up is needed to attend this program.

Two programs on Tuesday, April 23, will talk to youths directly about money and how to handle it. At 4 p.m., kids ages 5 and older will make piggy banks, play a money game and learn tips on saving and earning money. At 7 p.m., teens will be given information about money, personal finances and college financing and make their own wallets. Teens must register in advance for their program on the library's events calendar.

April has been celebrated as Financial Literacy Month since 2004.

Digging In

Forget the cold weather – gardening season is almost here

With winter in its final throes, it's time to start thinking about and planning to plant this year's garden. The library is offering several programs in March to get you on your way.

In "Vegetable Gardening 101" at **6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at the Belt Branch**, University of Missouri Extension horticulturist Tom Fowler will

offer information for growing all kinds of vegetables for the new gardener.

You can use free online software to plan and print a customized plan for your garden in the computer classes "Digital Garden Planning" at **4 p.m. Monday, March 11, at the Savannah Branch and at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at the Belt Branch**. Basic computer skills are required. Sign up in advance on the



library's events calendar.

Families and adults can make garden wreaths in two craft classes at the Savannah Branch. The programs are planned for **6 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, and at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 19**. All supplies are provided. Sign up in advance on the library's events calendar.

Family members who

want to make their own wreaths must register separately so adequate supplies are available.

At **6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at the Belt Branch**, master gardener Sharon Weiser will discuss garden design principles and what to think about BEFORE you sit down to design this year's garden in a program open to everyone.

Family programs to feature funny dads, Star Wars, painting

Forget those programs just for adults or kids or seniors. These are for families.

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle turns 50 this year, and families can celebrate by recreating the butterfly using mixed media. **6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4, Belt Branch**.

Dads seem to know how to read one story the best, complete with silly sounds, so they're in the spotlight for a "Rad Dads" event. **6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4, Savannah Branch**.

Families can create a painting of animals that might be found in an Easter basket, such as bunnies, chicks, ducks ... and what else? **6 p.m. Thursday, April 11, Savannah**.

Star Wars is a force that brings families together. Enjoy an evening of games, challenges and a light dinner. Families in costume will be posted on Facebook, and whoever garners the most votes wins a prize. **5-7 p.m. Thursday, April 18, Belt Upper Story**.

Families can paint landscapes out in the great outdoors. Supplies will be provided but bring a big bottle or bucket of water to wash out brushes. **5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, Duncan Park in Savannah**.

All of these programs – except the Rad Dads program – require advance sign-up on the library's events calendar.



Summer Snacks

Step up your culinary game with some new ideas for fresh, healthy summer snacks. We'll make – and eat – a variety of dishes, so come hungry to this adult program. Sign up in advance sign up on the library's events calendar.. 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, Belt Branch

A Look Ahead

Summer 2019 will take readers to the stars & beyond with books

Space, for this summer anyway, is not the final frontier – it's the focus of the 2019 Summer Reading Program with the theme "A Universe of Stories."

Kids of all ages, teens and adults can sign up for the two-month reading promotion starting Monday, May 13, at all three library branches. Summer classes and events are planned for Monday, June 3, through Friday, July 26.

Several events in May will give families a chance to sign up early and to build excitement for the summer.

A Mom's Morning Out event at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Belt Branch will promote the summer program along with new ideas to keep kids busy while they're out of school. Moms can visit with each other while enjoying brunch and crafts. Sign-up for this program begins April 27 on the library's events calendar.

The very popular Touch-a-Truck events are returning again this year to the Belt and Savannah branches. The events are planned for 3-5 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at the Belt and 3-5 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at Savannah. Children will be able to see and explore vehicles from local fire and law enforcement agencies, city street departments, businesses and industries.

The summer's major events will be on Mondays and start with local biologist Jonn Casey bringing his collection of reptiles to the library on June 3. He will perform at 11 a.m. at the Belt and at 4 p.m. at Savannah.

Senior Moments

From educational to recreational, the library has several programs lined up this spring specifically for seniors.

At the Belt Branch, the Classy Seniors program series will have programs on history, finances and exercise:

- Sarah Elder from St. Joseph Museums will discuss some of the well-known and not-so-well-known figures from local history in the program "Women of St. Joseph" at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 14.

- Financial advisor Joshua Royeton will discuss risks seniors may encounter when planning for their futures at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 4. No sign-up is needed for this program.

- Robyn Klawuhn from Ad Astra Running store will talk about a run/walk method of getting fit for all



Because of the large crowd that came out, some bingo players had to sit inside the main part of the Savannah Branch at the January bingo session.

ages and abilities at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 23.

The Savannah Branch will continue offering evening bingo sessions for adults after a large crowd turned out for the January session. The spring sessions will be at 6 p.m. Tuesdays, March 19 and April 16, and will feature various gifts as the game prizes.

Bee quilt on view, tickets being sold at Books Revisited

From Page 1

"When you do a fundraising event, you don't want to make it feel like you're there just for the money. You want people to have fun," said library Director Michelle Mears, who wore a bee costume at the spelling bee and plans to wear it again this year.

"We got a lot of comments like 'Are you going to do this next month?' They wanted us to do a spelling bee every month!"

As part of the fundraiser, the library is selling raffle tickets for a bee-themed quilt that was pieced together by library staff members and quilted by Quilts by

David. The quilt is on display at Books Revisited until the night of the bee for the public to see and purchase tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn that night.

Teams can register and pay their fees at Books Revisited. Spectator tickets also can be purchased at the bookstore or at the geography bee.

If spelling is more of your thing than geography, don't worry. Plans are for spelling to be the bee's theme in even numbered years while geography, history and trivia rotate through the odd years.

Spell that e-x-h-i-l-a-r-a-t-i-o-n.



Rolling Hills LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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Compiled by:

Michelle R. Mears, Library Director

February 2019

Locations & Operating Hours

Administrative Offices

1912 N. Belt Hwy.
St Joseph, MO 64506
816-236-2106
M-F 9 am to 5 pm

Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt Hwy.
St Joseph, MO 64506
816-232-5479
M-TH 9 am to 9 pm
F-SAT 9 am to 6 pm
SUN 1 pm to 5 pm

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main St.
Savannah, MO 64485
816-324-4569
M-W-F 9 am to 6 pm
T-TH 9 am to 8 pm
SAT 9 am to 5 pm
SUN 1 pm to 5 pm

Bookmobile

1912 N. Belt Hwy.
St Joseph, MO 64506
816-205-7100
Mon-Sat
Visits as Scheduled

Introduction

This annual report reflects the activities of Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, serving Andrew and Buchanan counties, for the 2018 calendar year and the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.



Our library staff is the primary reason for our success, and none of this would be possible without them. A user survey in late 2018 revealed our patron satisfaction level is at 93%. We are proud of our customer service and of the facilities and collections we provide to our communities.

Library Programs

Summer Reading Program 2018 included all ages with a “Libraries ROCK!” theme about music and movement. We continued our brief sign-up system to make it faster and easier to enroll and again allowed participants to set their own reading goals for the program. Reading incentives in the form of a mid-point prize and imprint items were supplemented by drawing tickets for gift baskets and gift cards. There were 3,006 registrations for summer reading (an increase of 25% over the previous year!), with 1,308 participants completing the program and getting a free book or voucher for the Friends’ bookstore.

In the fall of 2018, the library hosted a second exhibit from the Minnesota Children’s Museum titled “Curious George: Let’s Get Curious.” This early literacy exhibit was focused on STEM/science learning as well as creative play. Volunteers helped keep the exhibit open 36 hours per week for 15 weeks, and we had 5,350 visits.



Library Collection & Digital Resources

The library collection is being well managed, given our space restrictions and price increases from publishers. We continued to add digital items while keeping the physical collection within 2% of the previous year total. More downloadable resources were added in 2018, including a new service called Hoopla that added movies and music to our online offerings. Many of these resources are moving towards a per-use model of pricing rather than a one-

copy-one-user model the way digital collections have been acquired up to now. Some also give a 7-day pass for library cardholders to “binge” watch all they want from online services like Acorn TV (British and Australian shows) or Stingray Qello (recorded concerts and documentaries).

Community Outreach

Our biggest and proudest facilities improvement was the acquisition of a new bookmobile in May 2018. The Bookmobile & Outreach department jumped right in to add more schools and stops this year. The Bookmobile visits communities in both counties every month including many area schools. The first Book Box was deployed in Amazonia in 2018, with more to come in 2019. This will replace the Community Collections deposited in post offices and banks throughout the district with a more visible and hopefully more used collection. The STAR program for homebound delivery of library materials grew to nearly 60 members by the end of 2018, with a mix of mailed and delivered materials.



Friends of the Library, Books Revisited, & the Library Foundation

The Friends of the Library had another banner year with over \$50,000 in sales at the bookstore in 2018. Our own Jennifer George entertained members at the Friends’ annual meeting in July 2018 with songs and guitar and ukulele playing. Friends partnered with the St. Joseph Museums for a fundraising trip down to Bentonville, Arkansas, called Art in the Ozarks. The Friends ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$84,353.44.

The Rolling Hills Library Support Foundation, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri, continued to grow the library endowment. The Foundation and the Friends hosted an adult spelling bee as their first joint fundraising event in March 2018. It raised \$1200 for the endowment. The Support Foundation ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$109,864.77.

Future of the Library

2019 will be a very busy year for the library. District residents will be asked to vote on a levy renewal in August. The next early literacy exhibit is scheduled for September and will come from the Magic House in St. Louis. Overall, Rolling Hills Library will continue to provide outstanding library services both in-person and online.

To Engage the Community in Literacy and Life-Long Learning!



FINANCIALS & STATISTICS

FY 2018 Revenue

Local Tax Income	\$2,721,021
State Aid	\$23,752
Grants	\$18,454
Donations	\$27,850
Rental Income	\$91,666
Other	\$92,728

TOTALS \$2,975,471

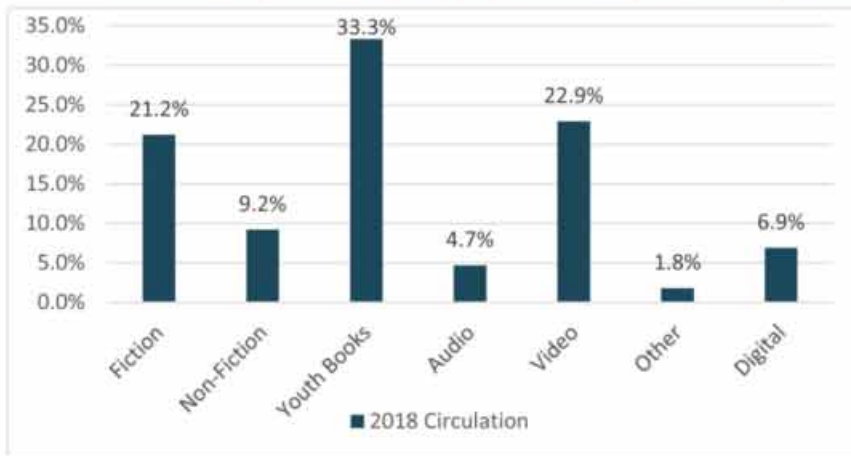
FY 2018 Expense

Personnel & Benefits	\$1,210,838
Debt Service	\$1,008,924
Collection/Materials	\$226,346
General Operations	\$419,862
Building Operations	\$165,248
Other/Capital Improvements	\$242,977

\$3,274,195

Figures from Fiscal Year 2018, from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018. Audit completed November 30, 2018, by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP of St. Joseph, MO.

Statistics reported are for the calendar year ending December 2018, unless labeled "FY2018."



Population of Service Area: **41,428**
 Active Registered Borrowers: **18,200**
 2018 Circulation (Physical & Digital): **365,788**
 Library Collection: **156,315**
 Number of Reference Transactions: **3,962**
 Computer Usage: **29,171**
 Number of Programs Offered: **682**
 Program Attendance: **21,771**
 Bookmobile & Outreach Stops: **325**
 Meeting & Study Room Usage: **1,992**

179,005
Library Visits

OVER 29,000
public computersessions

MORE THAN 340,000
items checked out

25,354 eBOOKS, eAUDIOS, & VIDEOS
downloaded

21,771 PEOPLE
attended
682 LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Total Value of FY2018 Library Programs & Services:
\$ 8,224,350

Every tax dollar invested =
\$3.02 RETURN ON INVESTMENT



Creatures by Theresa

Children and families can learn about popular pets and how to care for them from Theresa Harrington, who operates Creatures by Theresa, a small animal rescue organization. Come see what creatures Theresa will bring! **3 p.m. Thursday, March 21, Belt Branch Upper Story**

Craft Classes

Four sewing classes planned for youths, adults in March, April

If you miss the days when almost every home had a sewing machine or you would like to try sewing for the first time, opportunities exist in March and April at the Belt Branch.

Kids ages 8 and older can make marble mazes in classes at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, and at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14. Younger kids are welcome but will need adult supervision. Marble mazes are small, fabric bags with a maze sewn into them for users to push a marble contained in the bag through. The mazes can make car trips or long waits at the doctor's office pass more quickly.

Two Make-and-Take classes will have adults making aprons and lunch bags using material provided by the library unless adults want to bring their own fabric. The apron class is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, and the lunch bag class is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 30.

No sewing experience is needed to attend these classes, but please sign up on the library's events calendar.

Library receives grant for new computers for kids

For many preschoolers, a visit to the library means a chance to play the educational games available on computers in the children's area. A \$12,786 grant through the Missouri State Library awarded this past fall to Rolling Hills Library now allows kids to check out computer tablets loaded with similar educational games.

The library received the technology

mini-grant to replace two aging children's computers (one each at the Belt Branch and the Savannah Branch) and to purchase eight LiteracyGo tablets. The library provided \$4,262 in matching funds.

Children can use the tablets at the library or check them out for three weeks. They come in a padded cloth bag and are outfitted with a rubber case for easier han-

dling and protection, a tablet stylus, cleaning cloth and charger.

The grant is supported by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act and administered by the state library. The institute is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,000 museums, and its mission is to create strong libraries and museums.

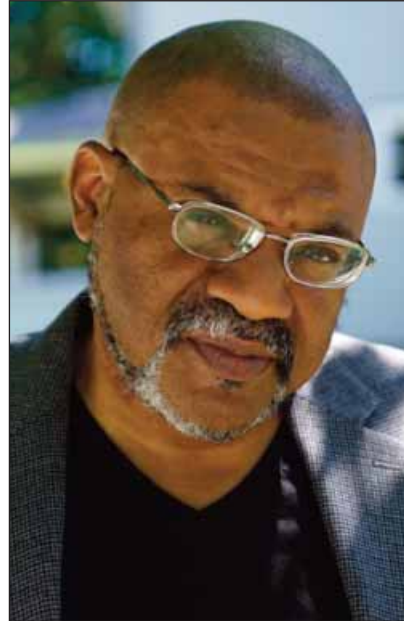
Verse & Twirl

Event will combine modern dance with readings by poet

Award-winning poet Kwame Dawes is coming to St. Joseph in March for a special performance of his works, and Rolling Hills Library is helping sponsor the event.

Dawes, an English professor at the University of Nebraska and editor-in-chief of the university's literary journal, *Prairie Schooner*, will read his works while Missouri Western dancers perform choreography inspired by his poetry. The free performance will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, in the Potter Hall Theatre at Missouri Western State University. A reception will follow to celebrate the 2019 edition of *The Mochilla Review*, Missouri Western's literary journal.

Born in Ghana in 1962, Dawes moved with his family in 1971 to Jamaica. He



Kwame Dawes, a professor of English at the University of Nebraska, will read his poetry in a performance March 6 at Missouri Western State University.

graduated from the University of the West Indies in 1983 and then studied and taught at the University of New Brunswick, where he earned a doctorate in comparative literature.

From 1992 to 2012, he taught at the University of South Carolina as an English professor, poet-in-residence and was director of the South Carolina Poetry Initiative. He won the 1994 Forward Poetry Prize, Best First Collection for his "Progeny of Air" and in 2009 won

an Emmy Award for a documentary project about HIV/AIDS in Jamaica that combined poetry, photography and music.

Rolling Hills Library is one of four sponsors of the event, including Missouri Western, the Prairie Lands Writers Project and St. Joseph Public Library.



Now Batting for the Mustangs ...

With Opening Day just nine days away, learn how Mustangs general manager Ky Turner and manager Johnny Coy put together this year's team. The first 25 people at this program will get free tickets to Opening Day! 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, Belt Branch

Library Lessons

Mystery is lacking in this history and civics primer on the role of libraries

Upon picking up "The Library Book," I thought I would be reading an in-depth examination of the 1986 fire that destroyed more than 400,000 books at the Los Angeles Central Library. The fire burned for more than seven hours and caused millions of dollars' worth of damage to the building.



Book Review

Investigators declared the case arson, and a suspect was sought. Enter Harry Peak, a bumbling ne'er-do-well actor with a history of lying. Peak admitted to setting the fire and then denied setting it in his next breath. Then he changed his story again. And again. And several more times. He was arrested and then let go. Peak sued the city in civil court, and the case was settled in his favor without anyone ever knowing if he really did start the fire.

It is this slim story that author Susan Orlean weaves into a history of the Los Angeles Public Library and libraries in general. She begins with some of the more colorful LAPL characters, like Mary Foy, who at 18 years old became the head librarian but had to be walked home after work by her father because of her tender age. Charles Lummis was a journalist hired as director on the strength of his popularity and who in turn hired a man to roam the library and answer questions as the "Human Encyclopedia."

Orlean addresses how dangerous the written word can be to people in power, including the Nazis, who burned more than 100 million books. One Chinese emperor in 213 B.C. erased history by burning manuscripts he didn't approve of. She goes on to explain how libraries have changed from being simple book



The Central Library was built in 1926 and is a landmark in downtown Los Angeles.

repositories to community centers.

But throughout all of this she weaves the thin story of Harry Peak and how he might or might not have set the fire. As a library worker of nearly 30 years, I found the library history lesson interesting, but as a person who enjoys well-researched mysteries, I would have to give this book a pass. If Orlean had stuck to a more linear timeline and confined her story of Peak to a chapter or two, I think this would have been a much more enjoyable book.

– *Gena Fisher, Belt Branch public services assistant*

- Lady of a Thousand Treasures by Sandra Byrd
- The Cast by Danielle Steel
- Strawberry Hill by Catherine Anderson
- Lies, Love and Breakfast at Tiffany's by Julie Wright
- Under the Midnight Sun by Tracie Peterson

New Love Stories @ the Library

- The Proposal by Jasmine Guillory
- Bad for You by Abbi Glines
- Tempest by Beverly Jenkins
- Love Scene, Take Two by Alex Evansley
- Josh and Hazel's Guide to Not Dating by Christina Lauren
- The Lost Words Bookshop by Stephanie Butland
- Someday by David Levithan
- Dance of Thieves by Mary Pearson
- Arms of Mercy by Ruth Reid
- The Last Rodeo by Delores Fossen
- Blind Kiss by Renee Carlino
- To Have and to Harley by Regina Cole
- The Hope of Azure Springs by Rachel Fordham
- The Kiss Quotient by Helen Hoang
- The Governess Game by Tessa Dare
- Fight or Flight by Samantha Young
- Touched by You by Elle Wright



Spring Murder Mystery Event

Just before the annual meeting of Worldwide Prestige Inc. where he was planning to show how he had saved the firm, CEO Eric Wilde is missing. Why would he disappear and who would benefit from it? Join us for a light meal and acting out this corporate chaos. Sign up sign up on the library's events calendar. 5:45 p.m. Thursday, April 11, Belt Branch Upper Story

When our resident book hoarder decides to move, he can't put off the need for ...

Lightening the Load

"Nothing in the world – not a ton bricks – feels as heavy as books being moved." – from **The Last Bookaneer** by Matthew Pearl

By Hans Bremer

Books Revisited manager & library volunteer coordinator

Sundays in late January are strategically calm. The major holidays have given way to a lackluster NFL Pro Bowl and naps that last the majority of an afternoon. Unless, of course, you decide to uproot. Vacate. Move.

I did just that, I decided to move. But that was early last November, when there was time to finish before the turkey was carved. I could downsize my personal library in the process, eliminate those tubs of dogeared catalogs, unused bibliographies and sheaves upon sheaves of creased railroad stock certificates. A simple chore of early winter cleaning ... NOT.

Surveying the thousands of periodicals, novels, tribal histories and leftist treatises overwhelmed me. I stalled in my stacks. I turned my attention to one son's Star Wars toys and memorabilia. I boxed it and carted it to our new (and smaller) loft the same day I did my other son's smattering of athletic signatures, basketballs, baseballs and sports cards. Each time, I returned to our old abode and glanced at the bookshelves in the den, the living room, kitchen and basement. My stomach wrenched.

November lapsed into December. Adding a second month to the struggle allowed us to sift through our clothes, pans and baking dishes, rusty bicycles and rickety furniture. Every mass seemed to shrink except the library. I began to summon my shelves to help, but what I received in return were reasons not to cull:

"My library was to me an utterly private space that both enclosed and mirrored me."

Did I share with Alberto Manguel the concept that my



library mirrored my rotund self? And, if so, what did that mean as I continued to borrow a friend's pickup to pack my life to its next destination?

I don't have to tell you that December unraveled into January. This January. Today. But I have come to understand that I'm a collector at heart, and a book hoarder down to my heels. That uttered, I have come to terms with my affliction, and I'm nearing the end of what I, now, deem The Great Bibliographic Exodus of 2018-2019. I've managed to downsize, box and redistribute my wealth in books, ephemera and art.

How did I do it? I donated. I am, after all, the manager of Books Revisited. I handed over the extra copies of J. Frank Dobie and Frederick Jackson Turner. I gave away prints to colleagues, bookstands to fellow collectors, and I sat among my books to consider what I really would re-

Please turn to Page 8

Books Revisited
The Friends of the Library Bookstore

Offering used books, music and more! 1908 N. Belt 205-7125
Hours: 9-6 Monday-Friday, 9-5 Saturday & 1-4 Sunday

Downsizing brings a feeling of contentment

From Page 7

reread on those Sundays in late January 2020. In the end, it was easier than I had thought, and the downsizing was cleansing in a rather Great Plains, Buddhist book-seller kind of way.

Now, Super Bowl LIII is on the horizon, and January is slipping through the chill towards February. Books Revisited has been refreshed with a bundle of new, bookish wares, and friends and colleagues smile at their luck. I'm smiling, too. My dolly is cornered in the pantry like the scratched orange coat tree it was meant to be.

Blue-ribbon recipe

Berries, nutty filling make this Bundt cake one to remember

Barb has been supplying dessert recipes to the library newsletter since 2011. Thanks, Cake Lady. Now, here's a nice cake for Easter dinner or any Monday morning at work.

Blueberry Coffee Cake

1 cup butter
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 cup sour cream
½ teaspoon vanilla
2 cups flour (less 2 tablespoons)
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
1 cup fresh blueberries

Filling

½ cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ cup chopped nuts

Grease and flour a Bundt pan while pre-heating oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter and sugar then add eggs. Fold in sour cream and vanilla and then add dry ingredients. Mix well. Fold in berries.

Pour 1/3 of batter into pan. Sprinkle with half of the filling. Add 1/3 more of the batter then add remaining filling. Add remaining batter over the top of the filling and swirl gently with spatula.

Bake at 350 degrees for 60 minutes. Cool in pan for at least 15 minutes before taking cake out of pan.



Barb Dalrymple • The Cake Lady

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