



BAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 4
Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, March 5
Pet crafts 3:30pm

Wednesday, March 6
Yoga Night 6pm
Music time w/ Mr. Rob 10:30am
Lego fun 3:30pm

Monday, March 11
Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, March 12
Leprechaun crafts 3:30pm
Maureen Stanton Speaking Event 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 13
Over the Moon Stories 10:30am
Lego Fun 3:30pm

Tuesday, March 19
ET crafts 3:30pm

Wednesday, March 20
Title Waves Book Group 6pm
Kids Yoga 10:30am
Lego fun 3:30pm

Monday, March 25
Preschool playtime 10:30am

Tuesday, March 26
Spring crafts 3:30pm

Wednesday, March 27
Over the Moon Stories 10:30am
Lego Fun 3:30pm

Footnotes / / a column by Shane Billings

BOOK BLURBS//MOON TIGER BY P. LIVELY//SWEET TOOTH BY I. MCEWAN//LOVE BY T. MORRISON

In anyone's life story, there are countless memories that will not be given their due. *Moon Tiger*, the beautiful Booker Prize winner (1987) by Penelope Lively, challenges the very nature of memory and autobiography. As Claudia Hampton lies dying in a hospital bed, she decides to tell the story of her life, as well as a history of the world. Lively poses the question: how much of what we remember is accurate, and how much is shaped by our own desires as well as the many events that have unfolded *since* the memory we are reconstructing? Lively's writing is descriptive, penetrating, and poignant throughout. The scenes from Claudia's time in Cairo, when she met the love of her life, are particularly vivid. A masterful novel in every way, *Moon Tiger* speaks to the histories within all of us.

The word that best sums up Ian McEwan for me is brilliant. The man's books are super smart, well-written, and multifaceted, leaving little doubt as to why he's one of the most revered authors in contemporary fiction. His last effort, 2010's *Solar*, was quite entertaining but seemed in some ways a slight effort in spite of itself (a slight effort from McEwan still being a cut above most everyone else). With *Sweet Tooth*, the McEwan machine came roaring back on a full tank. The novel is many things: a tale of secret agents and espionage; a reflection on reading fiction; a love story; a bit of a mystery; a Cold War drama. McEwan takes us back to London in 1972, and the historical detail is impressive. Sabrina Frome (pronounced like "plume") is his first female protagonist since *Atonement*, and what an intriguing, well-rounded character she is. McEwan writes vivid, believable female leads. *Sweet Tooth* grabs you by the lapel and doesn't let up until its surprising, unique, and very McEwanesque finale.

Toni Morrison is perhaps the only writer about whom I can say "our greatest living author" without second thoughts. Like *Paradise*, *Love* revolves around a cast of unforgettable women, whose lives themselves revolved around Bill Cosey, the owner of Cosey's Hotel and Resort. Different chapters focus on the experiences of May, Christine, Heed, Junior, and Vida, but they gel together to form a complete history of Cosey, the man and the myth. Although just as fragmented as *Paradise*, *Love* is not nearly as confusing. At the conclusion, it becomes apparent that, like Morrison's masterpiece *Sula*, the story is ultimately about the friendship between two women. As far as novels in the post-*Beloved* period of Morrison's career, *Love* didn't receive the same level of praise as *Paradise* or *A Mercy*, but without a doubt, it can take pride of place alongside Morrison's magical best.

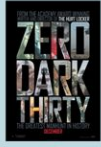
Screen It! New DVD at the library:
Robot & Frank
directed by Jake Schreier



A brief movie review by Richard Fortin

This film is surprisingly unexpected, even as the plot unfolds. Jake Schreier's directorial debut is simple and charming, shot over twenty days in upstate New York. Schreier cloaks his film in science fiction, which works to complicate the sensitive and smart drama that gently disentangles. A sorrowful yet hilarious study on sacrifice and aging, *Robot & Frank* features harrowing characters, who awkwardly integrate advanced technology into their lives. At times it's hard to tell if the individuals struggle more with the integration of their aging family member, or the not-too-far-off high-tech devices that drive the film. The movie certainly has a familiar feel and is the type of release that gets overlooked, but should be required viewing for cinema lovers.

Coming Soon in DVD



Hitchcock directed by Sacha Gervasi

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
directed by Peter Jackson

Killing Them Softly directed by Andrew Dominik

Les Misérables directed by Tom Hooper

Life of Pi directed by Ang Lee

Lincoln directed by Steven Spielberg

Rise of the Guardians directed by Peter Ramsey

Wreck-It Ralph directed by Rich Moore

Zero Dark Thirty directed by Kathryn Bigelow

Debut Author Spotlight

NEW BOOK AT THE LIBRARY:
Ghana Must Go by Taiye Selasi

Estranged from his children, pining for his ex-wife, and atypically barefoot in the dream home he designed himself, Kweku Sai, the prodigal surgeon pride of Ghana, dies of a heart attack. This happens in the first tightly coiled sentence of Taiye Selasi's debut novel *Ghana Must Go*, and then continues to happen over the next 90 pages: a staggering, fragmented introduction that launches the book's big themes of family, loss, migration, and beauty.

It's a multiplicity of relationships that makes *Ghana Must Go* so engaging. The family construct is the architecture supporting all the novel's themes and actions. Selasi's prose style, unruly with sentence fragments, reflects not just the broken, shattered heart that seizes up in Kweku's chest, but also the fragmented state of the family itself. The chronology follows suit. In particular, the pages that topple Kweku wander through time, they swirl around his adoration for his lost family, and boil with huge and gorgeous epiphanies.

Literary Favorites

NEW BOOK AT THE LIBRARY: *Benediction* by Kent Haruf

Kent Haruf's new novel, *Benediction*, returns to the setting of his earlier *Plainsong* and *Eventide*, the small town of Holt, set on the sunswept high plains of eastern Colorado. The writing fits the landscape: The description is spare, and it is at first hard to judge the story's proportions. Haruf is a plain-spoken stylist; his sentences have the elegance of Hemingway's early work. The picture they paint works by accretion and juxtaposition. As Haruf's precise details accrue, a reader gains perspective: This is the story of a man's life, and the town where he spent it, and the people who will try to ease its end.

The central character is Dad Lewis, the 77-year-old owner of Holt's hardware store, dying of cancer. There's no suspense as to that ending: It is summer when the story begins, and Lewis won't live to see fall. What emerges between these characters is not the web of interrelated past histories and secrets one would find in a Southern novel. Instead, the stories of these varied lives remain isolated, one here, one there. Only in their angles and distances from one another does the sweep of life on the plains become apparent.

Lakes Region Forum at Bailey



March 12 at 6:30pm: Killer Stuff and Tons of Money feat. Maureen Stanton



The Library will host Maureen Stanton in the historic Reading Room of the library as part of the Lakes Region Forum. Stanton's new book "Killer Stuff and Tons of Money: An Insider's Look at the World of Flea Markets, Antiques, and Collecting" has received universal critical acclaim, and is the winner of the 2012 Massachusetts Book Award in nonfiction. Stanton gives an insider's look at a subculture replete with arcane traditions and high drama, an inspiring account of a self-made man making his way in a cutthroat field, and a treasure trove of tips for those who seek out old things themselves. Stanton's essays and memoirs have been published in many literary journals. She has received the Iowa Review Prize, a Pushcart Prize, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and a Maine Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship. She earned her M.F.A. from Ohio State University and her B.A. at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She also taught creative nonfiction and literary journalism at the University of Missouri, and now teaches creative writing at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. "Killer Stuff and Tons of Money," which has been described as "utterly engaging" by The Washington Post, was listed as a favorite book of the year by the Chicago Sun-Times. The talk will be followed by a book signing, with books available for sale from Apple Valley Books.

Bailey's Most Wanted

Last Month's Most Requested Items



1. Downton Abbey Masterpiece Classic Series
2. Alex Cross, Run by James Patterson
3. Calculated in Death by J. D. Robb
4. Suspect by Robert Crais
5. Until the End of Time by Danielle Steel
6. Notorious Nineteen by Janet Evanovich
7. Bad Blood by Dana Stabenow
8. The Racketeer by John Grisham
9. Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn
10. The Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling

Notable Coming Soon

You by Austin Grossman
Benediction by Kent Haruf
Dark Tide by Elizabeth Haynes
Double Feature by Owen King
The Accursed by Joyce Carol Oates
A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki
The Burgess Boys by Elizabeth Strout

