

DIMMICK DIGEST

Official Newsletter of the Dimmick Memorial Library
January/February 2023

From The Director's Desk

BY KARA EDMONDS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Hi Friends!

I hope 2023 has arrived in your life with energy and enthusiasm for what is to come. After the bustle of the end-of-year activities and holidays, January is a time of planning and preparation at the library. I'm excited to share some upcoming library programs and offerings with you.

Of course, our Summer Reading program happens in...Summer. However, we start brainstorming and discussing plans NOW. This year's nationwide theme is "All Together Now," which focuses on Kindness, Friendship, and Unity. Don't we all need a little more of those things in our life?

We have some other plans shaping up for this year, too. We will have new opportunities and programs at both locations. Medicare information programs. Smoking cessation education. Book art programs! A brand new library card for kids! Hot spots and museum passes available for checkout by patrons. Read on for more details. I hope you will join us for our new programs and opportunities!

Happy Reading!
Kara Edmonds,
Director

What's Happening At Our Libraries?

Get Your Very First Library Card!

Introducing an exclusive, brand-new offering for our youngest community members: "My First Library Card!"

Now children 5 and under can have their very own bright, cheery-yellow card that allows the cardholder to check out up to 20 print materials. Help your little person grow as a reader by providing them with their own connection to the library!

Hot Spots Now Available For Checkout!

Ever have frustrations with spotty internet at home? Would you love to do some work on a road trip but don't have internet access? We have a solution for you! We now have 8 Hot Spots for you to check out. These are available for Adult patrons in good standing. You may check them out for 7 days with 2 renewals. The devices comes with everything you need to charge them up and use. Happy surfing!

Access to Local Museums Soon Available

We will soon have museum tickets you can check out to attend interesting attractions around the area! Get ready for access to "America on Wheels" in Allentown, "Bucks County Children's Museum" in New Hope, "Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum" in Allentown, "Pearl S. Buck House" in Perkaspie, and "Reading Museum" in Reading. Access to these tickets will be available to Adult patrons in good standing at both Penn Kidder and The Dimmick soon!



Dimmick Library Events:

STORYTIME WITH MISS BRENDA

Every Tuesday at 10AM

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30PM

READER'S CIRCLE

2nd Wednesday of every month
from 6:00-7:30PM

DIMMICK BOOK CLUB

2nd Wednesday of every month
at 2PM @ Stabin Museum

COALTOWN CRAFTERS

2nd Thursday of every month at 7PM

Penn Kidder Events:

STORYTIME FOR AGES 0-5

Every Wednesday at 11AM

CLASSICS CLUB

Varying Tuesdays
from 6:30-8:00PM

check Facebook for updated info

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION!**

"The Melodical Sneeze" by Chris Northington





First-Ever Dimmick Staff Art Show is A Huge Success

This year, our library team made the decision to hold a staff art show. If you've visited the library, you might be familiar with our art shows. Every two months, a new artist displays their craft, allowing for different artists to reach the community in a fun and unique way. This is a great way for us to help out budding artists, but it's also a fantastic way to support our library as well.

This time around, we thought it would be a neat idea to let our own talent shine--we have quite a few artists in our midst here on our library staff, but we had no idea that all of our employees were so talented! Each of us were quite surprised every time something new was brought in and it wasn't long before the library walls started to brighten with the color and vibrancy of our personalities.



While it would be difficult to share all of the beautiful things everyone made for the art show, we'd like to take a moment to share a bit about each of the artists on our team and a few photos of what they've made. If you'd like to hear more, be sure to visit us before the end of February to see the beautiful artwork displayed on the library walls and maybe even meet a few of our artists!

Kara

I have been an artist and Maker ever since I was a child. All through life, when I am consistently creating art or craft, I am more fully Myself. I am inspired by color, texture, and everyday beauty. I have always been fascinated by the environments we live in, the spaces around us, and artful objects impacting our daily lives. I want to interact with art and craft and creativity, so my artwork often takes on functionality: blankets we can use, fabric we can wear, pottery we can eat from. Let's not save beauty for special occasions, honey. Bring out the "good plates" and enjoy it every single day!

Kara's artwork is shown to the right.



Bobbi Ann

In the dark world of today, I believe art splashes color back into our lives. Much like music, it seems to tap into the brain--unlike many other experiences. It allows us to express our feelings without speaking. My cartoon-ey art might not speak much on emotions, but for me, it allows me to see brightness in dark corners and to fuel inspiration when the well runs dry. Being a kid was fun, we musn't forget.

Bobbi Ann's artwork is shown the right.



Chris

From an early age, I decided that art made more sense than life. The process of creation and expression has always been my way of decompressing, unburdening, or in some cases, procrastinating. I don't usually start with a plan; I merely stand there with a brush in my hand and see what happens. I allow the process to consume me. Therein, I find a certain tranquil nonexistence, and a freedom that exists nowhere else.

Chris's artwork is shown to the right in his painting, "Fluffly The Village Stomper."



Cheyenne

I created my mushroom art at a period of my life where I just needed to sit down and create. I have always been fascinated with mushrooms and wanted them to look as realistic as possible. I, without any knowledge, went to the store and bought air dry clay and went to work! My mushrooms were create with airy dry clay, fake craft moss, and acrylic paint.

Brenda

The season of spring is my inspiration behind many of my craft pieces, whether it is my wreath-making, wall hangings, or embroidered pieces. To me, spring is a rebirth of nature. Everything is awash in brilliant colors. It is the season of new beginnings.

Atlas

Cross Stitching is a very slow, methodical process. I typically enjoy faster paced activities--media, music, etc. So, I was very suprised when I found myself falling in love with it. I can't, however, lay claim to the designs. Being as new to the craft as I am, I wasn't confident enough to create something from scratch and thus I found inspiration on Etsy. Samxstitch is a seller on etsy who created the patterns I followed and I'd highly recommend checking out their fantastic work. The sun and moon have always been a duo that highly intrigued me, so when I saw the opportunity, I took it. Atlas's moon cross stitch piece is shown to the left.



Jackie

I've always been drawn to details--the little things. Naturally, embroidery is an art form that has found its way into my heart. While I started off small with patches and names, like many others do, it didn't take long before I started thinking bigger. What can we do with textiles? Different textures? The collection I've chosen to display at the Dimmick is a version of these pieces, all inspired by books that I've read and enjoyed at different times in my life. These pieces are brightly colored and vibrant, reminiscent of our imagination when we read.

Gracie

Gracie's 'Nose Art' is inspired by...peanut butter? We're not entirely sure what Gracie was thinking with her pieces, but she picked the colors all by herself! Then her human put the paint on a canvas in dots, placed it inside a ziplock bag for her, and let her lick away at it. She finished the piece off with a paw print for good measure. All of the proceeds from Gracie's artwork will be donated between the Dimmick and her training facility, Mainline Deputy Dog, the nonprofit organization that facilitated Gracie's service dog training.



Large Wreath
by Brenda

Nose Art
by Gracie

Mushroom Sculptures
by Cheyenne

Ezperanza
by Jackie



Notes From A Cataloger: How A Book Gets Added To Our Collection

BY ATLAS SENG

There's a lot that goes into adding a new book to our collection, but first, we have to pick which book we're going to add! We use a lot of different criteria to help decide which books to add, including patron requests, whether it's an award winner or best seller, random donations that seem interesting, the methods are near endless. Most often, we use a mixture of various deciding factors to help us choose what to add to our collection and what to pass on. While we would love to accept every single book, our library is quite small, and that means limited shelf space! We have to be picky to ensure our collection is best suited for the community's needs.

When a book arrives, there's a long process it goes through before it's put on the shelf and is ready for reading. One of the first steps is labeling it with a barcode, an appropriate call number, and anything else it might need! The call number designates what area of the library it's in-- "F" for fiction, "J" for juvenile, etc, as well as the first three letters of the authors name. It also might get a graphic novel sticker, a young adult sticker, a label showing if it's part of a series, or even a colored dot denoting the number of sentences per page to help young readers (or their parents) find books suitable for them.

Once all of the applicable labels have been applied, it's time to protect the book. Library circulation is very hard on the life of the book, so making sure it's as best protected as it can be is crucial to helping it last longer before it becomes too damaged to use and we have to either discard it or buy a replacement. Books wearing out over time is a fact of library life, but it's good to slow the process however possible with things like mylar sheets to wrap the dust jackets in, or specialty archival tape to thicken the covers of paperbacks and keep the corners from bending. Some books are neither paperback, nor have a dust jacket, so they might simply get a clear glossy sticker holding the labels in place.

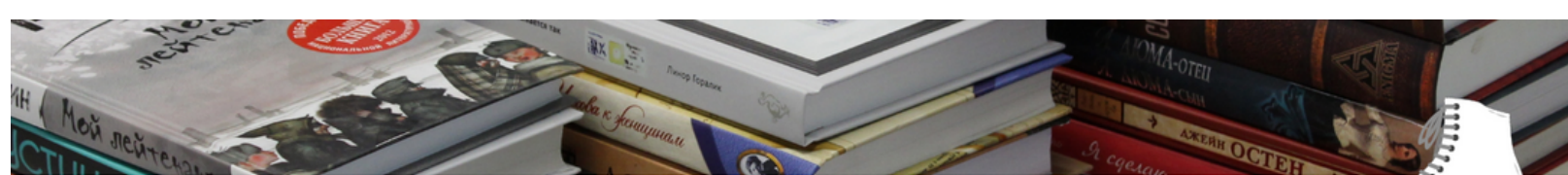
After the book has been suited up and is ready to brave the outside world, it needs a few finishing touches. A few stamps go in the inside, giving the month and year it was added to the collection and the name of the library it belongs to. The copyright information page in the front gets embossed with the Dimmick's name, and a sticker on the spine designates that it's new (and might have a sooner due date than other books!). There are a few special circumstances that might add a few more steps, such as a memorial donation, but those are outliers to the general process.



Finally, the book appears done--it looks like any other you'd take off the shelf--but the work isn't quite over, as it still needs to be added to the system! This data entry is how the computer knows what book is being scanned, how long it can be borrowed for, whether other libraries can borrow it, and more! It's relatively easy, just tedious, but it's the key factor in how patron's can get their books, DVDs, audio books, etc.

All in all, there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes before a book can land in the hands of a patron! One of the best parts of being the cataloger means that I can see how other libraries prepare their books, and how I might improve my craft. After all, there's always room for improvement. Maybe some day, we'll find a way to make books waterproof, to avoid rain damage, spills, and 'I totally didn't drop this in the bathtub while I was reading it' moments, which I've certainly been guilty of!





The Snow Child By Eowyn Ivey---Book Review

BY JACKIE MALLOY



This time of year, I always find myself in a book slump. I set a numerical "book goal" for myself every year, and I'm not sure whether this is the cause of my January book slump or not, but it's definitely something I struggle with. This year, I decided to start off my annual slump by picking up a book that's been sitting on my shelf for literally **forever**, and that book is *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey.

This story follows a middle aged couple as they start their own homestead in Alaska in the 1920s after discovering that they're unable to have children. Wracked with grief, the couple tries to stay busy working the land, but nothing ever really feels...right. When the first snow of the season falls, in a moment of joy, the couple builds a child out of the snow. When they wake up the following morning, they are surprised to find their snow child is gone and, instead, there are little footprints left in the snow. Shortly after, they see a blonde haired girl running through the woods with a little red fox by her side. With no other explanation, the couple is sure that the girl must be something of a fairytale, created from love and snow.

Through the years, Jack and Mabel attempt to tame the child, finding that she prefers living in the Alaskan wilderness, surviving alone. The couple have to accept that the girl is the way she is and they must love her the way she was created--wild. The story follows Jack and Mabel's journey through grief, love, and understanding. I loved the magical realism elements in this book and I found the depictions of the Alaskan wilderness to rival that of Classic American Literature like the famous Jack London.

Though this book is a longer read at over 400 pages, I flew through it in just under a week and I would highly recommend it. I think there's a lot that can be learned from it, but it also had an enjoyable plotline and exciting natural narratives.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover Wreaks Havoc in Library

At the end of December, we decided to have a sleepover for our furry (stuffed) friends here at the library. It's been a while since we've invited them--we were still recovering from the last time they visited us! And yet, when our friends visited, they partied it up like they always do. The stuffed animals did a variety of library-themed activities together, to start, from coloring to reading books to each other in the Children's Section. Some of their favorites were, *I Slightly Want to Go Home* and *I Am Not Sleepy and I Will Not Go To Bed*. As you might have guessed, things got a little crazy after that. The animals partied all through the night, leaving messes throughout the library, knocking down books, and even scanning their butts on our library printer. We had quite the mess to clean up in the morning when their kiddos came to pick them up! Luckily, our library staff kept them all in line that morning, letting them know that if they couldn't behave themselves for pick up, they were going to become service dog Gracie's next chew toy! The stuffed animals were beside themselves, laughing under their breath, but kept it together just long enough for their humans to collect them. We can only imagine what they'll get up to the next time they visit the library!



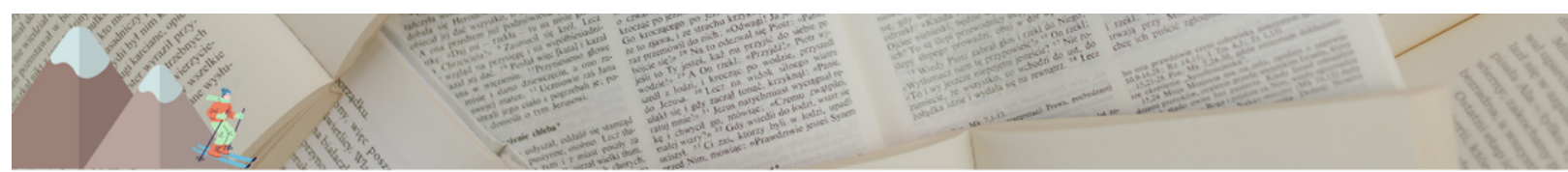
Storytime Themes

- Jan 31st: Hot Cocoa
- Feb 7th: Soup
- Feb 14th: Valentine's Day,
Guest Readers from CCTI
- Feb 21st: Doughnut Day
- Feb 28th: Library
- March 7th: Wind
- March 14th: St. Patrick's Day



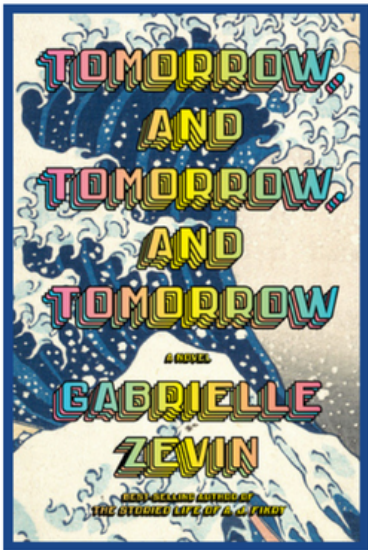
Book Club

The Dimmick Library's book club meets at the Stabin Museum the second Wednesday of every month at 2pm. This month's book choice is *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. Come join our lovely group for a book discussion! For more information, call the circulation desk at 570-325-2131.



Goodreads Choice Awards Books Fly Off Library Shelves

If you're not familiar with Goodreads, Goodreads is a popular literary app/website that helps readers to set book goals and track how many books they read each year. It also helps readers to explore different genres and the website has many different book recommendations. Each year, Goodreads comes up with an awards list that recognizes books in different genres for their popularity. The awards are voted on and chosen by the public and this year, we decided to display the winners (and some finalists, too!) for our January book display! While we don't have *all* the books, many of the books that we don't have we are able to order through our shared cooperative. Below are just a few of the exciting reads that were chosen--definitely worth 'checking out!'



Category

Book Title & Author

Fiction

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

Historical Fiction

Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Fantasy

House of Breath and Sky by Sara J. Maas

Romance

Book Lovers by Emily Henry

Memoir

I'm Glad My Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy

Graphic Novel

Heartstopper by Alice Oseman

February is National Library Lover's Month

Did you know that February is actually National Library Lover's Month? Library month is a time to celebrate the many services that libraries have to offer to patrons, from free computer services, to our fancy shmancy 3D printer (that we're still trying to figure out how to learn how to use), to the thousands of books you can check out!

However, libraries aren't just about books. As a public library, we're also a safe space where anyone can come, free of charge, to hang out, relax, enjoy some peace and quiet, and come out from the cold. We also have so many free programs ranging from children's story-time to recurring events for adults, like our book club.

So, what can you do to support your library during Library Lovers month? Donations are always wholly welcome, but you can also just come visit us--participate, comment or share our post on social media, if you're able. While it might seem silly, even these small gestures can help us get extra funding to further give back to our community! We are also always looking for circulation volunteers if you have a few hours a week to spare, though supporting us can be as small as just walking in our front door on a Saturday book sale and waving hello, too!

If you're a library lover, we want to hear about it. Take a "shelfie" here at the library with your favorite book and tag us on social media telling us all about what you love about the Dimmick!





Books by BIPOC Authors Just In Time For Black History Month

February is Black History Month, a crucial recognition of the importance of African American Culture and many years of adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. The Civil Rights movement has become an important topic in literature over the years, with good reason--it's essential to continue education and social change. So, what does that mean for the library?

Here, at the library, we believe in equality and the importance of sharing diverse materials so that our patrons have the option and the ability to choose to educate themselves and expand their own knowledge about the contributions and accomplishments of others, if they wish.

If you're looking to try something different, try picking up a book by a BIPOC author this month. You might just be surprised by what you find. Here are a few books we'd recommend 'checking out' this February.

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

A literary classic first published in 1952, Ellison's *Invisible Man* is hailed as a masterpiece that has shaped American Literature. The narrator, an unnamed Black man, journeys from the Deep South to the streets and basements of Harlem; Ralph Ellison's nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and even hilarious relief. Suspensful and sardonic, *Invisible Man* is one of the most audacious and dazzling novels of our century.

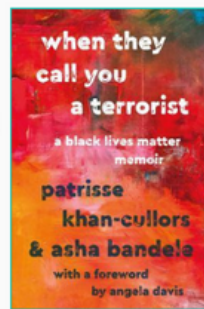


Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez

A nominee for the 2022 Goodreads choice awards, *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez is inspired by true events that rocked the nation, a profoundly moving novel about a Black nurse in post-segregation Alabama who blows the whistle on a terrible wrong done to her patients. Fresh out of nursing school, young Civil Townsend has big plans to make a difference, especially in her African American community. But, when she finds that the family planning clinic where she is hired is mistreating young patients--girls just 11 and 13 years old--she's determined to take matters into her own hands to try to ensure the girls' futures.

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

The Vanishing Half is the story of two identical twin sisters that grew up in a small, southern black community and ran away at age sixteen. This act shapes their daily lives as adults and their families, their communities, their racial identities. One sister lives with her black daughter in the very town she tried so hard to escape. The other sister passes for white and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. Weaving together multiple strands and generations of family from the 1950s to the 1990s, Bennet produces a story that is both riveting and emotional.



When They Call You A Terrorist by Patrisse Khan-Cullors & Asha Bandele

A poetic and powerful memoir about what it means to be a Black woman in America--and the co-founding of a movement that demands justice for all in the land of the free. This memoir is an empowering account of survival, strength, and resilience and a call to action to change the culture that declares innocent Black life expendable. A must read.



Meditation with Michelle

We're excited to share with you a new program that brings mindfulness to the library: Meditation with Michelle. During select evenings, come sit in the wealth of books in our beautiful library and come meditate with our host, Michelle Gallagher. Let the words jump off the pages, into your imagination. Create a new world, space, and time, with with the depth and knowledge of your breath. Sessions will last from 30 to 40 minutes starting at 6 PM. A suggested donation of \$10 is encouraged, a portion of proceeds to benefit the library.



Upcoming Dates:

February 20th from 6PM-7PM

March 20th from 6PM-7PM



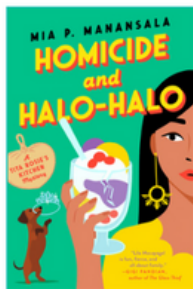
A Psalm For The Wild-Built by Becky Chambers---Book Review

BY CHEYENNE MECKES

Looking for a great short read for the beginning of the new year? Try *A Psalm For The Wild-Built*. A time of trying to create resolutions that do not last, this book teaches that it is okay to give yourself love, rest, and friendship. A monk and robot form a bond that leads them on an adventure into a world of acceptance and 'finding who they are.' While marketed as science-fiction, it is not full of confusing words or world building. The aspect of the character being a monk, and the title, should not steer you away from this non-harmful, religious character and world. An immediate purchase for my personal collection!



New Fiction Titles Take Over Our High Demand Shelf!



Since mid-December, The Dimmick has added 165 new books, audiobooks, and movies to our collection! While this might not seem like as much as our usual 'haul,' we've been busy cleaning out our cataloguing area, making sure new items are added to circulation in a timely manner, and planning our wishlist for what we'll bring into the library in early spring! Be sure to keep an eye on our HighDemand shelves for new titles, or you can request specific materials by asking at the circulation desk.



Support The Library From Your Phone!

We've been hard at work making the library more accessible in a variety of ways. If you've ever come in during a book or art sale and wanted to check out but didn't have enough cash...now we accept Venmo at the library! We also now accept Paypal! Both of these payment methods are available right through your phone. Our specific identification tag for these payment methods is **@dimmickmemoriallibrary**.

If you haven't visited the library in a while, we also now have Square, which is a pretty neat system that's attached to a tablet we have here at the library. Instead of only taking cash, you'll now be able to pay us with a credit card for any amount over twenty five cents. You can donate to us through this system, too, if you'd like.

To get more information about our different payment methods, be sure to talk to one of us at the Circulation desk when you come in for a visit!

