

DIMMICK DIGEST



Official Newsletter of the Dimmick Memorial Library
March/April 2023

From The Director's Desk

BY KARA EDMONDS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Hello friends!

We've had an exciting few months at the Dimmick and Penn Kidder libraries. We held a number of fun STEM events for preschool and middle-grade patrons. We hosted an internationally recognized artist who presented programs on creating art and how art and creativity can affect peace in the world. Also, we are working on a new project to rearrange the DVD, Audiobook, and Young Adult sections! You may wonder why we are enthusiastic about rearranging a few things, but the result of these changes could lead to some new visitors to the library.

Have you ever heard of a "third Place," or a "third space?" The concept of a third space is a sociocultural term indicating a communal space that is distinct from home (first space) or work/school (second space). At the Dimmick, we find that young children have an intuitive grasp of this concept. They walk down the steps to the Children's Library and just start playing and chatting with whomever is there. Adults are also comfortable in the library but seem to get what they need and move along to the exit.

However, tweens and teens--that elusive demographic--who come into the library often seem a bit lost. We want to change that. Adolescence is an already tough time, and not knowing where one fits makes it even more confusing. The adjustments we are making to the Young Adult materials are one step toward providing tweens and teens with a slightly larger area styled for them--an area where teens feel comfortable and especially welcome. A third space is an equitable and respectful low-stress environment with lots of available hours, possibly interactive but with no real structure. We have a table by the window, soft seating scattered around, lap desks, some study materials, and some light creative materials.

We will continue to develop this space and would love feedback. And.... if we build it, will they come?? (That quote ages me significantly. Oh, well. Ask your parents.)

YA Section Gets Incredible Update

If you've visited the library lately, you might have noticed "under construction" signs in the back, towards our audiobook and media centers. After continuing to expand our Young Adult (YA) section in the last few months by adding a plethora of new materials, we've decided to make some changes!

Our whole YA, audiobook, and DVD sections have received an entire overhaul this past month. Staff have been busy weeding out all of our older materials to make room for new things, and we've switched the sections so that we have even *more* room for YA books! Plus, check out our new YA audiobooks section that is set up entirely for young adults!

The update means that our YA section will now be next to our round table, by the back window, so school-aged children/teens can read, hang out, and complete schoolwork in a welcoming, quiet environment.



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
3rd Thursday 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 6PM

Penn Kidder Events:

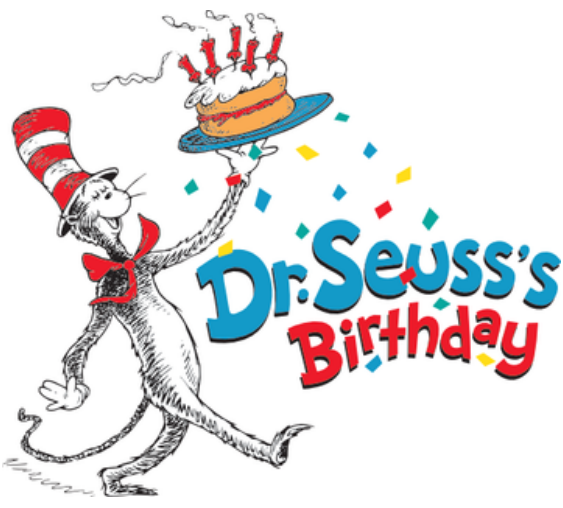
STORYTIME FOR AGES 0-5
Every Wednesday at 11AM

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





Celebrating Dr. Seuss on his 119th Birthday



Dr. Seuss is perhaps one of the most well-known children's book writers of our time--and for good reason. In the 1950s and '60s, many American kids were struggling with how to read and people felt it was because teachers didn't focus enough on phonics. Enter: Dr. Seuss. The director of the Houghton Mifflin's education division gave Dr. Seuss a list of 225 words from a vocabulary list hoping that he would produce a book that kids couldn't put down. The result was *The Cat In The Hat*. The limited vocabulary stories for beginner readers took off quickly with outrageously fun illustrations and limited words. Rhyming made it possible for children to begin to read on their own. Dr. Seuss hoped to make reading exciting, instead of a chore, while supporting important vocabulary through phonics. It's clear from his popularity that he not only achieved this goal, but surpassed it.

Facts About Dr. Seuss

- Dr. Seuss wrote over 50 books during his career.
- Dr. Seuss is a pen name! His real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel.
- Seuss did attend Dartmouth from 1921-1925 but he didn't obtain a Doctorates degree there. He received an "honorary" doctorate degree from the university in 1956.
- His first book was rejected 27 times before it finally went to the printing press.
- Seuss reportedly wrote for eight hours every day.



Dr. Seuss Bday STEM Event

To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd, we held a STEM event for kids aged 4-9. At the event, kids at both the Dimmick and Penn Kidder had the chance to take part in fun hands-on science activities inspired by the classic Dr. Seuss books!

Children got to participate in a Red Fish Blue Fish activity where they learned about solutes and solvents by dissolving candy in different liquids. A candy fish was placed in a jar and the kids were able to see which fish dissolved the quickest. They also were able to participate in simple chemistry with a fizzy Green Eggs and Ham experiment (minus the ham) where we created a fun chemical reaction out of plastic easter eggs, vinegar, and baking soda!

STEM activities like these are important for young children as it helps them learn to explore, investigate, observe, and experiment. Plus, it's fun! The kids also were able to color and try their hand at some Dr. Seuss themed word searches in between experiments.





Explorers of The Deep 4-H Challenge Comes To Library

We've had so much fun holding STEM-centered programs lately, including an Ocean Robot Test Tank, brought to us by our local Carbon County 4-H Extension! The activity was designed, by Rutgers University, to teach kids foundational STEM skills like observational and critical thinking while they ask similar questions to today's oceanographers.

During this experiment, kids learned to "ballast" their ocean robot by adding weights to create the sinking and floating behavior of real ocean robots by learning about buoyancy and density. The experiment also taught the kids all about ocean exploration and the dramatic effect the ocean has on the earth.



The Ocean Robot kit promotes ocean leadership, teaches the mechanics of the glider, and how a glider works "flying" through ocean water. Finally, kids got to "ballast" their robot and prepare it for it's mission.

We had so much fun learning all about the mysteries and adventures of ocean exploration and the children at both the Dimmick and Penn Kidder were able to participate in this exciting event! We look forward to holding more fun STEM-centered activities like this one in the future.



Did You Know?

Our Penn Kidder Branch has added 727 new items in 2022 to our shelves! AND because Penn Kidder and the Dimmick are interconnected, patrons of both libraries have access to High Demand Items from the other. Check that out!



United Nations Artist Comes To Library

In February, we were honored to hold two programs offered by Nigerian artist, the first-place winner of the prestigious United Nations International Art Competition. Ibiyinka Alao considers himself an ambassador for peace. He uses painting, filmmaking, music and storytelling to work for peace around the world. "Ibi," as he asks to be addressed, seemed to become fast friends with everyone he encountered. Early in the day, Ibi shared his artwork during a children's program, emphasizing the importance of celebrating one's unique self. He then taught mini art lessons for both young children and middle-grade students. In the evening, Ibi spoke to a group of adults about his experiences sharing artwork, art presentations, and artist residencies around the world. He shared his artwork and demonstrated how art and community can positively change our lives and our world in an impactful way.



The Ins and Outs of Libby: Access Your Library Without Leaving Your Couch

Did you know that the first week of March is annual read an ebook week? Ebooks are a great resource for those who have limited space to store books, or can't make it to the library regularly. Maybe you might struggle to physically hold a book, or you prefer to change the font and text size to make your book more accommodating. No matter what type of reading you prefer, it's our goal--as your public library--to make reading accessible.

Using Libby, a free app on your personal device(s), you can borrow ebooks, digital audiobooks, and magazines for free from the library. You can stream titles with Wi-Fi or mobile data, or download them for offline use and read anytime, anywhere. One of the really amazing things about Libby is that we have THOUSANDS of free titles that we might not have in physical form at the library, due to space restrictions. Because there's an unlimited amount of space online, we can offer so many more items for you to read.

How to Download the App

Downloading the Libby app is a relatively easy process. We recommend doing this during our open hours so that you can call the Circulation desk if you need additional help. It's also helpful to make sure that you have a solid source of Wi-Fi or cellular service while you're setting up the app.

Step One:

Install the Libby app from your device's app store, or visit libbyapp.com in your internet browser. The app should look like the photo to the right.



Step Two:

In the Libby app, follow the prompts to find your home library and sign in with your library card.

Note: You'll need a library card to access the app, so if you don't have one, be sure to apply online or in person.

Step Three:

Browse the online catalog and borrow a title. Each library has a different selection since the library chooses what titles and formats Libby offers their patrons. Some books might have a longer hold time than others, so be aware of this when placing the hold, as you might have several books on hold that become available at the same time. Note that some books, like classics, often are always available to borrow without any wait time.

Step Four:

Borrowed titles will appear on your Shelf. You'll want to download books that you've borrowed when you're connected to Wi-Fi so you can read them when you're offline. When you're on your **shelf**, tap **loans** at the top of the screen. From there, tap **Read With** to choose the book. Tap **Manage Loan** to see options like **Renew** and **Return**.

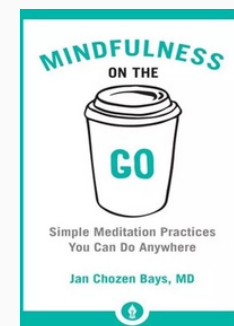
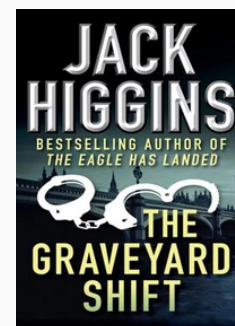
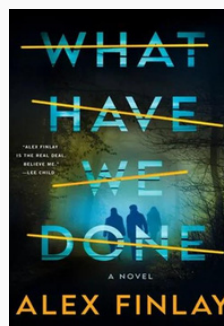
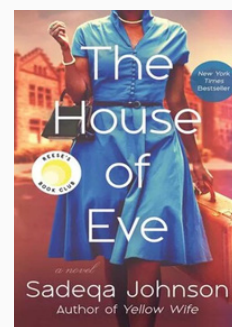
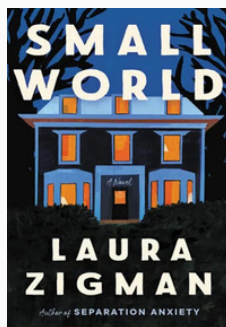
Tips for Using Libby

- All books have a set return time and they return automatically. If your book has other people waiting on the hold list, you won't have the option to renew it. An easy way to bypass this (so you can finish the book) is to put your device on airplane mode for a few hours until you finish reading.
- New books usually pop up at the beginning of the month. If you want to filter through the library to find books that were recently added, or say new audiobooks, you can do that by going to the little house, clicking newly added, then clicking the three lines in the upper right hand corner to filter by subject, format, etc.
- Want to save something to your To Be Read list? Easy peasy! All you need to do is click on the title, and underneath, you'll see an option called **Tag**. Here you'll be able to make a specific list and add books to it, without placing them on hold.





New and Recent Additions Available on The Libby App



WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

SEAMUS HEANEY

POEMS

1965-1975

DEATH OF A NATURALIST
DOOR INTO THE DARK
WINTERING OUT
NORTH

Collected Poems by Seamus Heaney To Read for National Poetry Month

BY JACKIE MALLOY

We're celebrating Irish writers this March and poetry in April for National Poetry Month--that got me thinking about an old favorite of mine. While most readers know Seamus Heaney for his famous *Beowulf*, he's also written some pretty great poetry collections. My personal favorite is *The Tollund Man*, which is a three part poem that talks about the bog people found in the Irish Countryside. Found over 2,000 years after he died, The Tollund Man was a real body that was found, in Ireland, perfectly preserved due to the wetland ecosystem of the bog.

Heaney was particularly interested in The Tollund Man and thought of him as an ancestor of sorts. His poem, *The Tollund Man*, explores The Troubles in Ireland and he compares some of the struggles that the bog man might have undergone to those of the men that fought for Northern Ireland. The poem ends with a somber note that the sacrifice of the Irish people in The Troubles might mean something to benefit the community, just like how the discovery of the bog man provided important information about his community. While this poem is my personal favorite, I highly recommend checking out a full anthology of Heaney's collections--he has so many lyrical pieces that both depict Ireland's history and speak to the soul.

Storytime Themes

- March 21st: Spring
- March 28th: Rocks
- April 4th: Bunnies
- April 11th: Rain, Rain
- April 18th: Earth Day
- April 25th: Library
- May 2nd: Flowers

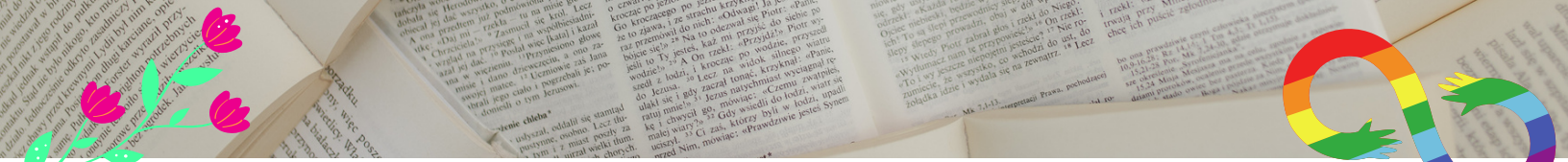
Book Club

The Dimmick Library's book club meets at the Stabin Museum the second Wednesday of every month at 2pm. **April's book choice is *Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson.** Come join our lovely group for a book discussion! For more information, call the circulation desk at 570-325-2131.

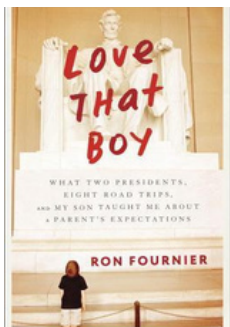
Book Sales

March 18th: 10AM-3PM
April 8th: 10AM-3PM
April 22nd: 10AM-3PM

Plus, keep an eye out for our upcoming antique book sale in May! Follow our Facebook page for more details.



Books To Read For Autism Acceptance Month



Love That Boy by Ron Fournier

This honest and heartfelt memoir is about a father coming to terms with his own parental expectations as he raises his son on the spectrum. Together, the father son duo travel across the US on a road trip meeting not one, but two presidents in the process. Along the way, Fournier discovers that his ego might be getting in the way of having a real relationship with his son. A must-read so compelling that even fiction lovers will enjoy it!

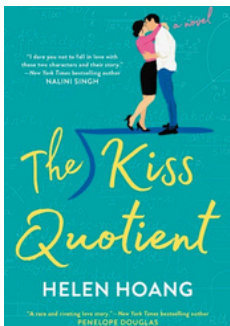
Ketchup Is My Favorite Vegetable by Liane Kupferberg Carter

One of my favorite memoirs of all time, *Ketchup is My Favorite Vegetable* is written by a mother of a child diagnosed with autism. The book explores Carter's fears as a parent while learning about autism, firsthand, and her anxieties as she parents her younger son, Mickey. The book is chock-full of relatable--and at times, hilarious--experiences the entire family has, through Carter's lens as Mickey's mother.



The Kiss Quotient by Helen Hoang

If you're a lover of romance, Helen Hoang is a top trending author right now, and with good reason. She has three popular books out with autistic characters, and the writer also has an autism diagnosis. Her first book, *The Kiss Quotient*, is about a young woman who thinks that math is the whole world. But, her parents have other plans for her--they'd rather Stella spend her time dating. But, Stella doesn't have much experience with the dating world, so she decides to hire escort Michael Phan to teach her. She does all the reserach, comes up with a lesson plan, and decides that this is how she'll find a date worthy of her parent's approval--except things don't go exactly as she planned, and she's catching feelings for her nonsense partnership with her escort.



Cozy 24 Read-A-Thon Comes to Library

This April, we'll be holding our first ever Read-a-Thon! Together, we'll present a cozy aesthetic in the library for our "kick off" event, where readers of all ages can come and hang out (in their comfy clothes, of course!), relax, and read! Here's just a few of the fun things we're planning:

- "Silent" challenges you can complete to compete!
- Prizes for most pages read in different age groups.
- Break-time activities like bookmark making and Scavenger Hunts (yup, even for adults!)
- Soft, comfy places to sit.
- Online challenges and support from our staff as we cheer you on!
- And, of course, snacks! Because, we can't read without them.

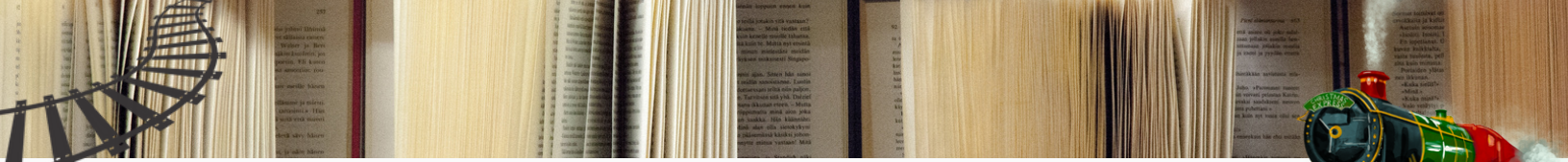
Things You Should Know About Autism

- April is Autism Acceptance month!
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects 1 in 44 kids.
- Boys are nearly 5 times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with ASD.
- The word "autism" is derived from the Greek word "autos" meaning self.
- ASD is a spectrum disorder, which means that every person with autism has different skills, challenges, and needs.
- Adults with autism often struggle to find resources and support, once turning 18.

Upcoming Sensory-Friendly Events At The Library

We have some very cool sensory-friendly upcoming events at the library! Whether you're neurodiverse or you just prefer a quiet activity, these activities might be for you!

- Read-a-Thon: Saturday, April 1st
- Kids Sensory Night: April 19th 6PM
- Teen Bookend Painting: April 28th 4-6PM



What Does Mauch Chunk Mean?



BY CHRIS NORTHINGTON

By far the most popular question asked by visitors to Jim Thorpe is, of course, “Where do I park?” Coming in at a close second, though, is “What do the words ‘Mauch Chunk’ mean?” Unlike the first question, the second one is possible to answer.

We know that Mauch Chunk was the original name of our town(s) until 1943. But few of us can agree on its meaning. Depending on the person being asked, the response could be “Sleeping Bear.” It could also be “Bear Mountain.” So, which one is correct? Technically, neither.

It’s well known that Mauch Chunk was what the Indigenous inhabitants of the area, the Lenape, called present-day Jim Thorpe. This is mostly true. The Lenape didn’t have a written language, so the spellings we have of all their words were contrived by European settlers. They wrote the words as they heard them.

The first time our town’s original name showed up in print was in 1784. Except that, on this occasion, the word was recorded as “Mochunk.” It wasn’t until much later (between 1816 and 1821) that the words Mauch Chunk appeared on maps. But why did this replace “Mochunk?” Sure, it sounds like a flavor of Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream, but it’s still as good a choice as any. Either way, this nicely illustrates the complicated history of our Indigenous-inspired place names.

The interpretation that “Mauch Chunk means Bear Mountain” appears to come from a book by M.S. Henry in 1860. However, his exact translation is “Bear’s Mountain.” (This may or may not be a reference to the Onoko myth I addressed at length in Dimmick Newsletters of 2020.) And there’s no way for us to know where he got his information from.

One thing we can know for sure is that “Sleeping Bear” is, to put it nicely, a completely bonkers idea. If the words Mauch Chunk came from the Lenape, which it did, then it stands to reason their word for “sleep” would be hiding in there somewhere — which it’s not. We know this thanks to the Lenape Language Preservation Project. Their website, The Lenape Talking Dictionary (talk-lenape.org) is the authoritative resource for anyone looking to learn the once near-extinct Unami dialect spoken by the Lenape of the Lehigh Valley. It’s also where you’ll learn what Mauch Chunk really means, once and for all.

Native American place names are, by and large, brief descriptions of the topography or primary animal inhabitant of a given area. (For example, Lackawanna means “sandy river” and Tamaqua means “beaver.”) Mauch Chunk is a bit more complex than this, though. Unami has a feature that doesn’t translate easily into ours. It’s called a locative. The -nk at the end expresses a sense of “being somewhere.” This is a feat that English can’t accomplish without adding more words, like in or at.

A very simplified breakdown is as follows: Mauch Chunk comes from the Unami words for bear (represented by the Mauch) and hill (represented in part by the Chu). The -nk then adds a sense of “location.”

Mauch Chunk therefore means “at the hill of the bears.”

So, in conclusion, if you were to tell a visitor that Mauch Chunk means “Bear Mountain,” then you’re not too far off the mark. But this brings up another set of complications. On the east side of the Lehigh River, we have a hill that we call “Bear Mountain.” Is this the one the Lenape were referring to?

That question will be addressed in the next newsletter. The question of parking, I’m afraid, will still remain unanswered.

New Merch Comes to Penn Kidder

Are you a patron of Penn Kidder? **Have you been wanting library merch to wear around town and show your friends?**

The wait is now over! Thanks to our Friends of the Library, Penn Kidder officially has t-shirts, and sweatshirts with the Penn Kidder branch logo. Shirts comes in a variety of different colors and sizes, so there is something for everyone. Stop on by at Penn Kidder to get your very own library shirt.

Children's Sizes and tote bags are coming soon!

- Kids Tshirts: \$12**
- Adults T-Shirts: \$15**
- Long-Sleeved Shirts: \$20**
- Sweatshirts: \$25**
- Totes: \$15**

The entire sale price of Penn Kidder merch benefits the Penn Kidder Branch.

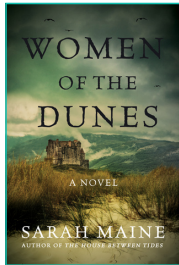


What Are We Currently Reading?



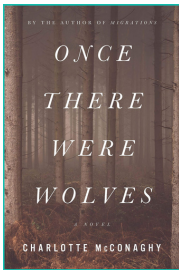
Brenda: *The Book Club* by Mary Alice Monroe

The Book Club explores the power of friendship through five remarkable characters and a monthly book club. Eve's husband's sudden death means she needs something to look forward to. For Annie, a lawyer who started her family later in life, it's a chance to dream of new possibilities. For Doris, it's a support group for her cheating husband. For Gabriella, the "perfect wife," it's a support group. And, for Midge, an artist living her life against the grain, it's a haven of acceptance. Five women from different walks of life embrace the challenge of change as they form new bonds.



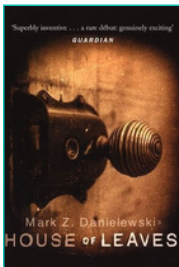
Jackie: *The Women of The Dunes* By Sarah Maine

Libby Snow is an archeologist who has always been obsessed with the legend of Ullaness, a story that's been told in her family for generations--ever since her great-grandmother worked at the estate where the legend supposedly took place. When Libby hears of the ability to work on a project that would give her the opportunity to uncover hidden artefacts from the very same estate, she jumps at the chance. But, what Libby finds in the ancient dunes is a body from the Victorian era, clearly murdered, and potentially connected to her great-grandmother. The story that unfolds is a compelling tale that spans generations, combining historical fiction, murder mystery, Scotland, and even romance.



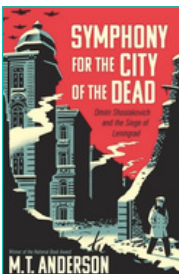
Kara: *Once There Were Wolves* By Charlotte McConaghy

Set in the Scottish highlands, *Once There Were Wolves* follows the story of Inti Flynn, who arrives in Scotland with her twin sister to lead a team of biologists tasked with reintroducing gray wolves into the Highlands. She hopes that not only the wolves thrive, but also her sister, who has gone through some troubling times. When the wolves surprise everyone and do well on their own, Inti lets her guard down. But, when a local farmer is found dead, she knows where the town will lay blame. Determined to protect the wolves, Inti is desperate to find out who the killer is, and she soon realizes he might be closer to her than she thought. An unforgettable story about a woman desperate to save the creatures she loves--if she isn't consumed by a wild that was once her refuge, first.



Cheyenne: *House of Leaves* By Mark Z. Danielewski

A young family moves into a small home where they discover something is terribly wrong: the inside of the house is much bigger on the inside than on the outside. Of course, neither photojournalist Will or his companion, Karen, anticipated the consequences--that is, until their two children wander off and their voices began to return another story: of creature darkness, of an ever-growing abyss behind a closet door, and of that unholy growl which soon enough would tear through their walls and consume their dreams. *House of Leaves* combines horror, fantasy, and thriller to create an inventive and exciting storyline.



Atlas: *Symphony For The City of The Dead* By M.T. Anderson

The true story of a city under siege, *Symphony For The City of The Dead* delivers a heartbreaking account of World War Two and the role played by Russian composer Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony. The Symphony depicts the trapped citizens, Hitler surrounding the city of Leningrad, and the longest standing siege in Western History.



Chris: *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* By Ottessa Moshfegh

The narrator in *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* is young, thin, pretty, a Columbia graduate--she should be happy, shouldn't she? But, there's a dark and vacuous hole in her heart and something is terribly wrong. Through the story of a year spent under the influence of powerful drugs designed to heal our heroine from her alienation from the world, Moshfegh shows us how reasonable and necessary alienation can truly be. Spending a year in extended hibernation under the guidance of one of the worst psychiatrists in literature, *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* is a darkly funny, but necessary comment on mental health.

Support the Library Through Venmo!

Scan the QR code to the left with your phone or mobile device to donate directly to the library!

To use Paypal, you can donate by sending to @dimmickmemoriallibrary.

Want to donate directly to Penn Kidder? Leave us a note when you donate, so we know!

If you need help with electronic donations, please call the circulation desk at either the Dimmick or Penn Kidder or email us at dimmickevents@gmail.com



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