

# OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

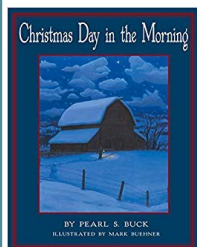
ISSUE 5



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## HOLIDAY STORIES FOR THE GRANDKIDS OR YOUNG AT HEART

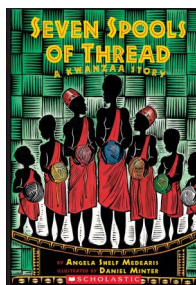


**Christmas Day in the Morning** by Pearl S. Buck A boy surprises his father on Christmas morning by getting up early and milking the cows on their farm.

**Too Many Tamales** by Gary Soto Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for Christmas. Panic ensues when hours later, the ring is missing.

**The Polar Express** by Chris Van Allsburg A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

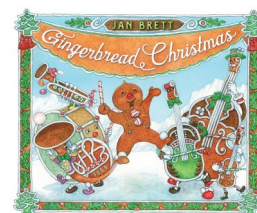
**Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story** by Angela Shelf Medearis When they are given the task of turning thread in to gold, seven brothers put aside their differences and embody the principles of Kwanzaa.



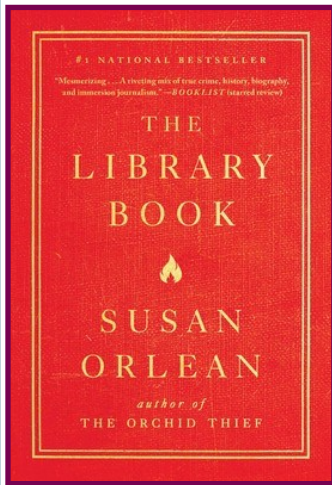
**Oskar and the Eight Blessings** by Simon Richard A young Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany arrives in New York on the seventh night of Hanukkah and receives acts of kindness while exploring the city.

**The Christmas Candle** by Richard Paul Evans Thomas buys a magical candle that changes the way he views his fellow human beings and helps him feel charity for those less fortunate than he.

**Gingerbread Christmas** by Jan Brett Gingerbread Baby and his friend, Matti, take his gingerbread band to the Christmas festival where they are a hit - until the aroma of gingerbread reaches the children.



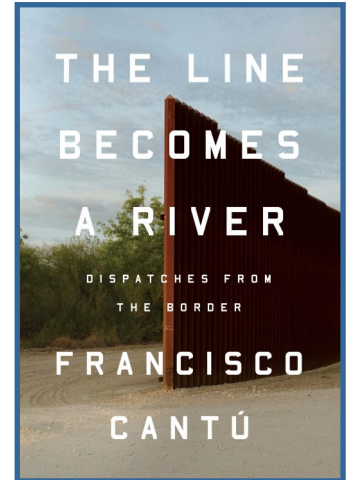
# 2018 TITLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



***The Library Book* by Susan Orlean** Chronicles the Los Angeles Public Library fire and its aftermath and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the actor long suspected of setting the fire. This account showcases the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives, and delves into the evolution of libraries across the world; from their humble beginnings as a metropolitan charitable initiative, to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity.

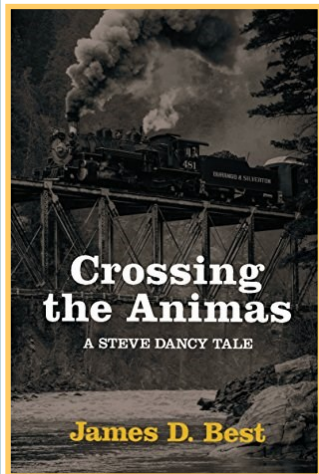
***The Line Becomes a River* by Francisco Cantú** For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican

immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Haunted by the landscape of his youth, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners are posted to remote regions crisscrossed by drug routes and smuggling corridors, where they learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. Plagued by nightmares, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the whole story.

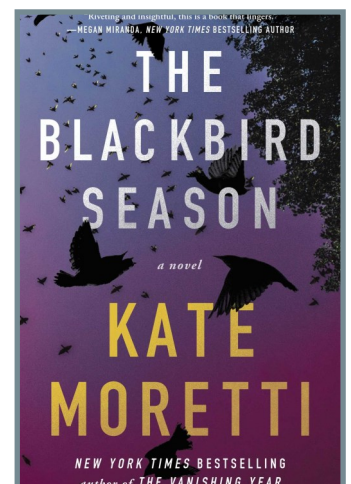


***Song of Silence* by Cynthia Ruchti** Forced to retire from her position as music educator in a small Midwestern school, Lucy watches helplessly as the program her father started years ago is dismantled. Her passion seems lost. Lucy feels her faith's song has gone silent until a young boy and his soundless mother change the way she sees -and hears- everything.

***Crossing the Animas* by James Best** With his new home in Durango, Colorado, and marriage on the horizon, the last thing Steve Dancy wants is trouble. But when a quarrel with a mining tycoon and his henchmen endangers Dancy's fiancée and friends, he has no choice but to fight.

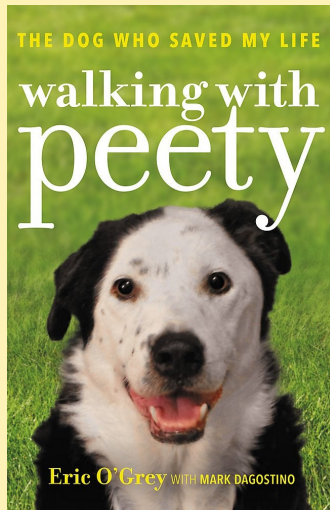


***The Blackbird Season* by Kate Moretti** In a quiet Pennsylvania town, a thousand dead starlings fall onto a high school baseball field. Baseball coach and teacher Nate Winters and his wife, Alicia, are well respected throughout town, until a reporter investigating the bizarre bird phenomenon catches Nate embracing a wayward student, Lucia Hamm, in front of a sleazy motel. Alicia is left to wonder if her husband has a second life and when Lucia suddenly disappears, the police only have one suspect.





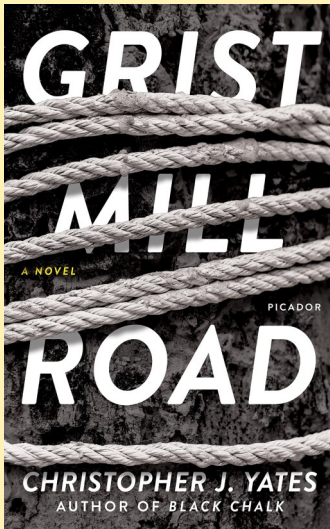
# 2018 TITLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



## ***Walking With Peety: The Dog Who Saved My Life* by Eric O'Grey**

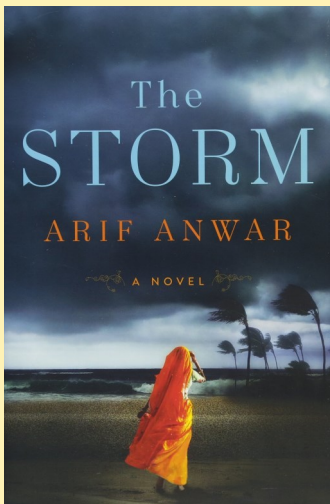
Eric was 150 pounds overweight and depressed. After a lifetime of failed diets and the onset of type 2 diabetes, he went to a doctor who surprisingly prescribed a shelter dog. And that's when Eric met Peety: an overweight, middle-aged, and forgotten dog. The two adopted each other and began an incredible journey together that forever changed their lives.

***Force of Nature* by Jane Harper** Five colleagues are forced to go on a corporate retreat in the wilderness, but one of the women doesn't come out of the woods. And each of her companions tells a slightly different story about what happened. Federal Police Agent Aaron Falk discovers secrets lurking in the mountains, and a tangled web of personal and professional friendship, suspicion, and betrayal among the hikers. But did that lead to murder?



***The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez** When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind – a Great Dane traumatized by the inexplicable disappearance of its master, and by the threat of eviction. But while troubles abound, rich and surprising rewards lie in store for both of them.

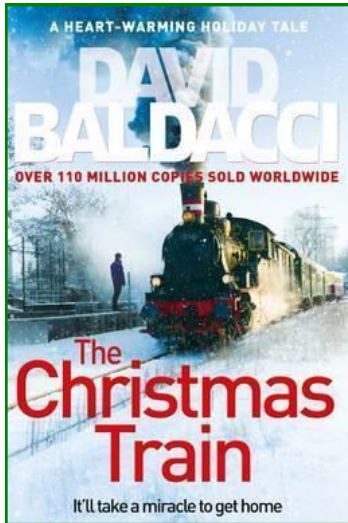
***Grist Mill Road* by Christopher Yates** The year is 1982; the setting, an Edenic hamlet some ninety miles north of New York City. There, among the craggy rock cliffs and glacial ponds of timeworn mountains, three friends are bound together by a terrible and seemingly senseless crime. Twenty-six years later, living lives their younger selves never could have predicted, the three meet again - with even more devastating results.



***Now That You Mention It* by Kristan Higgins** After being hit by a van and breaking up with her boyfriend, Nora Stuart returns home to a tiny Maine community but after fifteen years it seems she's not really wanted there. Balancing loss and opportunity, Nora will discover that tackling old pain makes room for promise and the chance to begin again.

***The Storm* by Arif Anwar** Shahryar, a recent Ph.D. graduate and father of nine-year-old Anna, must leave the US when his visa expires. Shahryar tells Anna the history of his country, beginning in a village on the Bay of Bengal. Their story intersects with those of a Japanese fighter pilot, a British female doctor stationed in Burma during World War II, a Buddhist monk originally from Austria, and a privileged couple in Calcutta.

# HOLIDAY BOOKS



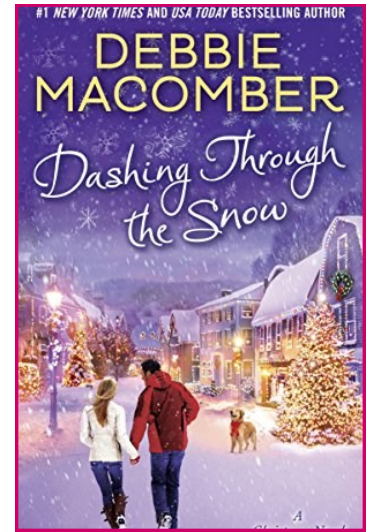
***A Holiday For Murder* by Agatha Christie** The night before Christmas, cruel, tyrannical, filthy rich, Simeon Lee, is found in his locked bedroom with his throat cut. Now Poirot must solve one of his most chilling cases.

***The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci** Disillusioned journalist Tom Langdon must get from Washington to Los Angeles in time for Christmas. Forced to travel by train, he begins a journey of rude awakenings, thrilling adventures, and holiday magic.

***Dashing Through the Snow* by Debbie Macomber** Ashley, a graduate student in California, desperately wants to spend the holidays

with her family in Seattle. Dash, a former army intelligence officer, receives a job interview in Seattle and must arrive by December 23. Neither of them can book a last minute flight and there's only one rental car available. They decide to share the car, but neither anticipates the wild ride ahead.

***New Year's Eve Murder* by Leslie Meier** Lucy and her daughter Elizabeth are ready to ring in the new year in style. Elizabeth has won mother/daughter makeovers in Manhattan from a magazine, but the all-expenses-paid trip is bound to have some hidden costs - and one of them is murder.



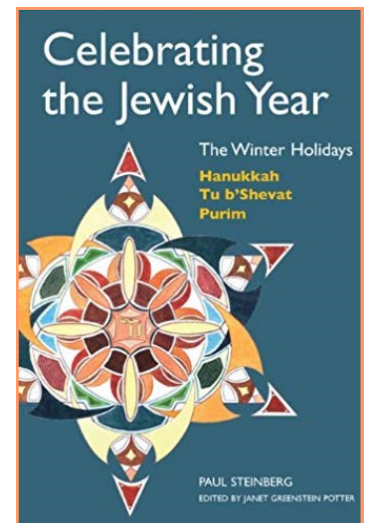
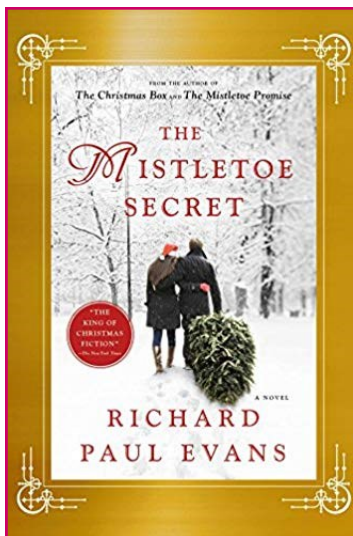
***The Mistletoe Secret* by Richard Paul Evans** A moving story of two people who brave loneliness to find love.

***Politically Correct Holiday Stories: For an Enlightened Yuletide Season* by James Finn Garner** The author sets the record straight on beloved seasonal tales including *A Christmas Carol* and *The Night Before Christmas* freeing them from sexism, ageism, and political imperialism.

***Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays: Hanukkah, Tu b'Shevat, Purim* by Paul Steinberg** Prayers, sources, rituals, and

stories to help understand and celebrate the Jewish holidays.

***A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote** This is the story from Capote's childhood of lovingly making fruitcakes from scratch at Christmas time with his elderly cousin.





# HOLIDAY MOVIES

***The Sweetest Christmas (2017)*** When a struggling pastry chef learns she's made it to the finals of the American Gingerbread Competition, she hopes the publicity will help her new café. When the oven she's supposed to use breaks down right before the contest, she reaches out to her old boyfriend from culinary school.



***Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas (2016)*** Forte, a grumpy pipe organ, has threatened to ruin the holiday festivities! But with a little bit of magic, Belle and her loyal friends deck the halls of the castle, melt the Beast's heart, and give this enchanted tale a holly-jolly ending.



***A Christmas Detour (2015)*** An anxious bride-to-be throws in with a broken-hearted guy and a happily married couple for an emergency ride to NYC, learning about each other and themselves along the way.

***Silent Night (2002)*** A German mother and her son seek refuge in a hunting cabin during WWII. When the cabin is invaded by three American soldiers and three German soldiers, she convinces them to keep the peace on Christmas and share dinner.



***Winter Holiday Stories (2001)*** Includes *In the Month of Kislev* (a Hanukkah story), *The Night Before Christmas* (a Christmas story), and *Seven Candles for Kwanza* (a Kwanzaa story).

***How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966)*** The grouchy Grinch tries to stop Christmas from coming to Whoville, but the Whos teach him the true meaning of Christmas instead.



***A Child's Christmas in Wales (1987)*** Celebrates the wonders of a childhood Christmas when on Christmas Eve, Old Geraint shares his heartwarming stories and memories with his beloved grandson.

***The Bishop's Wife (1947)*** Cary Grant stars as an angel who materializes an answer to the prayers of a harried, young bishop.

***The Man Who Invented Christmas (2018)*** The journey that led to Charles Dickens' creation of *A Christmas Carol*.

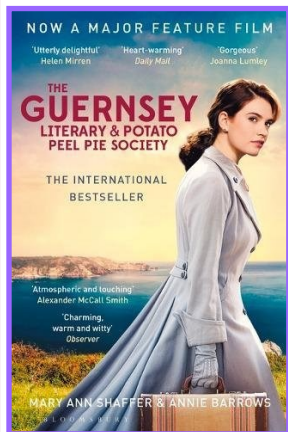
# FROM PAGE TO SCREEN

**The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman** When Germany invaded Poland, bombers devastated Warsaw and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into the empty cages. Antonina kept the unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and its animal inhabitants.



**The Circle by Dave Eggers** When Mae Holland is hired to work for the world's most powerful internet company, she can't believe her luck. The Circle, links users' online data with their universal operating system. But the story of one woman's ambition and idealism soon becomes a heart-racing novel of suspense, raising questions about memory, history, privacy, and democracy.

**Red Sparrow by Jason Matthews** In today's Russia, intelligence officer Dominika Egorova struggles to survive in the post-Soviet bureaucracy. Ordered to become a "Sparrow," a trained seductress, Dominika is assigned to Nathaniel Nash, who handles the CIA's most important Russian mole. The two operatives collide in a duel of spycraft, deception, and forbidden passion.

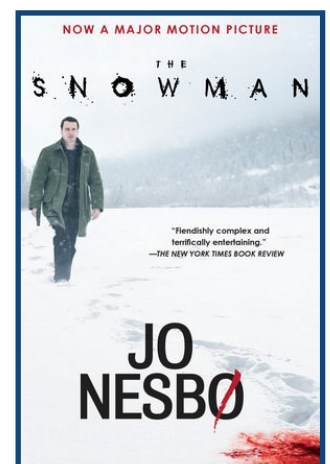


**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer** In 1946, as London emerges from the shadow of World War II, author Juliet Ashton is having a terrible time finding inspiration for her next book. Then she receives a letter from Guernsey Island, and learns of a unique book club formed as an alibi to protect its members from arrest by the occupying Germans during the war. Captivated, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds there will change her life forever.

**The Shack by William P. Young** Missy has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack. Four years later in the midst of his great sadness, her father receives a note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Arriving at the shack, he walks back into his darkest nightmare, but what he finds will change his world forever.

**The Snowman by Jo Nesbo** Harry Hole investigates the disappearance of a woman whose scarf is found on a mysteriously built snowman, a case that is complicated by subsequent abductions and a menacing letter.

**The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood** This look at the near future presents the story of Offred, a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead - an oppressive world where women are no longer allowed to read and are valued only as long as they are viable for reproduction.





# AROUND OUTREACH

Joan suggests ***The Delight of Being Ordinary* by Roland Merullo** – “Anything by Merullo is absorbing and out of the ordinary...hard to put down & takes the reader away.”

Ann suggests ***Wild Edibles* by Sergei Boutenko** – “More and more folks are becoming interested in foraging & wild foods, both from a nutritional and an economic perspective. This is one of the best and most recent books on the subject...lots of recipes too.”

Ann also suggests ***Capital in the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas Piketty** – “This is a huge book in all senses of the word. But if you ever wondered how our economic system of capitalism works, and about the nature of money...this book will give you the answers you seek and a lot more than you really wanted to know.”



Dorothy recommends ***The Shell Seekers* by Rosamunde Pilcher** – “I absolutely love this book. I have read it over and over.”

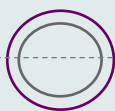
Dorothy also recommends ***The Waiting* by Cathy LaGrow** – “True story about a young girl that is raped, has a child, and is forced to put the child up for adoption. She thinks about that child all her life and finally meets her after 70 years.”

Nancy suggests ***The Locket* by Richard Paul Evans, *Beyond the Foothills* by Essie Summers**, and the ***Red River of the North* series by Lauraine Snelling**

Carol suggests ***Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery** and ***Trail of the Spanish Bit* by Don Coldsmith**

Kate suggests ***What's Become of Her* by Deb Caletti** – “Suspense, and I couldn’t put it down.”

NORTH OLYMPIC  
LIBRARY SYSTEM  
OUTREACH DEPARTMENT  
2210 S. PEABODY ST.  
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362  
OUTREACH@NOLS.ORG  
360.417.8500 x7708



## WHAT IS OUTREACH TO THE HOMEBOUND?

Library staff and volunteers are available to deliver library materials to individuals who are unable to come to the library due to age, illness, or disability. This free service is available on a long or short-term basis. Deliveries are made once or twice per month to people living at long-term care facilities, retirement apartments, or personal homes. Specific titles may be requested, or items can be selected for you based on your interests.

### PICKS & REVIEWS

Please share about some of your favorite reads  
to be published in the next newsletter

AUTHOR

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TITLE

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REVIEW (OPTIONAL)

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AUTHOR

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TITLE

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YOUR FIRST NAME (OPTIONAL)

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*Tear off this page and give it to your volunteer or mail/email it in!*