

The Ellington Reader

NOVEMBER 2020

Ellington Farman Library

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LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY	11-7
TUESDAY	11-7
WEDNESDAY	11-7
THURSDAY	11-7
FRIDAY	CLOSED
SATURDAY	10-1
SUNDAY	CLOSED

Autumn Brings Wonderful Combinations!

I will admit that Autumn is my favorite time of year. You can't beat the colors of Autumn and the chill that is so welcoming after the hot days of summer. I would be downright negligent if I didn't mention the foods of the season, pumpkin pies and breads, stews in the crockpot and of course every food associated with the Thanksgiving holiday! Let's not forget fresh pressed apple cider, apple pie and acorn squash. I even like the clothes of the season. I love pulling my sweaters out of the closet, strutting around in my high-top boots and confess to having a passion for warm leather jackets.



The library has had a lot of fun Fall moments throughout the years. My favorite times have to be the pumpkin decorating programs we have offered free to the community. I was always a little leery of the possible mess involved in carving, painting or decorating pumpkins with young children. Their smiles and pride as they held up their finished pumpkins was enough to offset any mess that was made. Take a look on page four at some throwback pumpkin decorating pictures from 2016. This year Halloween came on a Saturday and the library was not open during the trick or treating hours. In past years we always took pictures of any young person (and some not so young!) that came in the library wearing their costume. Another chance for creativity to partner with fun. Leftover candy that would mysteriously show up on the circulation desk was always a welcome find.

As a librarian I particularly like placing the focus on children's books that promote gratitude and thankfulness. We'll be placing them on some more prominent shelves in the children's room by the time you read this newsletter. Be looking for them as a way to help teach your children the meaning behind the holiday.

November brings us a solemn occasion also, Veteran's Day. If you believe in promoting literacy and strengthening family unity then check the USO's United Through Reading Program (UTR). Their mission is to unite military families facing physical separation by facilitating the bonding experience of reading aloud together. They help do this by having deployed parents read children's books aloud via DVD for their child to watch at home. If you are looking for a way to honor all veterans and their families then visit this website: www.unitedthroughreading.org. Maybe you would like to join them in their vision that all children will feel the security of caring family relationships and develop a love of reading through the read-aloud experience. After 30 years, UTR has helped more than two million military mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, older siblings, and children sustain bonds and fostered literacy by sharing stories across even the greatest distances. (*United Through Reading® is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public benefit organization.*)

Mouth watering food, lots of opportunity for creativity, beautiful colors and numerous ways to foster the love of reading combine to make this the beginning of a wonderful Holiday season!

Judith Whittaker, Library Director



KEEP INFORMED OF
NEWS OF THE LIBRARY BY
FOLLOWING US ON
FACEBOOK and our
Website:
ellingtonlibrary.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WILL MEET NOV 30 AT
7PM IN OUR COMMUNITY
ROOM

NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

ADULT FICTION

Butterfly Lampshade
Outsider
Only Good Indians
Sisters
The Lost and Found Bookshop
Christmas Day in the Morning
Robert P. Parkers Grudge Match
Shamed
Devolution
Pretty Things
Pull of the Stars
The Joy of Falling
The Water Keeper
Nemesis Manifesto
Home Before Dark

Aimee Bender
Linda Castillo
Stephen Jones
Daisy Johnson
Susan Wiggs
Pearl S. Buck
Mike Lupica
Linda Castillo
Max Brooks
Janelle Brown
Emma Donoghue
Lindsay Harrel
Charles Martin
Eric Van Lustbader
Riley Sager

ADULT NON FICTION

White Fragility
Splendid and the Vile
The Wild Out Your Window
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent
Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains
Killing Crazy Horse
Rage
The Forest Unseen
Visions of Earth
The Answer Is
Down From the Mountain

Robin Diangelo
Erik Larson
Sy Montgomery
Isabel Wilkerson
Kerri Arsenault
Bill O'Reilly
Bob Woodward
David George Haskell
National Geographic
Alex Trebek
Bryce Andrews

JUNIOR FICTION

I, Cosmo
The Queen Bee and Me
Because of Mr. Terupt

Carlie Sorosiak
Gillian McDunn
Rob Buyea

JUNIOR NONFICTION

The Talk

Wade Hudson

YOUNG ADULT

They Wish They Were Us
Midnight Sun
Serpent and Dove

Jessica Goodman
Stephanie Meyer
Shelby Mahurin

EASY READ CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Power of One
When the Storm Comes

Trudy Ludwig
Linda Ashman

DVD's:

These should be available Nov 3

Dora and the Lost City of Gold
21 Bridges
Terminator: Dark Fate
Black and Blue
Arctic Dogs

The Lighthouse
Motherless Brooklyn
Jexi
Countdown

WE ALL LOVE *Saving Money!*

Would you be willing to receive our monthly newsletter by email in a PDF attachment format? Our library could save paper and toner printing costs if we could email our newsletter and not have to print as many copies as we have been. We average 50 printed copies a month. The newsletter is usually 6 pages in length. If we print double sided that's roughly 150 pieces of paper per month or 1,800 photo copies a year that we could be saving! If you want to help the library save printing costs by receiving the newsletter by email then all you have to do is send a quick email to: info@ellingtonlibrary.org

Please use "Email newsletter" in the subject line. That's it! We'll use whatever email address the request was sent from. We hope to start 2021 with this cost saving measure. Please be assured there will always be a printed copy of the newsletter available if you request one at the circulation desk.

We have seasonal coloring pages available for your children to take home. They are on the small table located in the Children's Room. Please help yourself to some and we hope your children enjoy some creative fun at home!

HOLIDAY HOURS

Holiday hours and closings are as follows:
Weds. Nov.25th
OPEN 11AM-3PM

Thursday November 26
CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING



Book Highlights of the Month

ADULT NONFICTION: *MILL TOWN: RECKONING WITH WHAT REMAINS* by Kerri Arsenault

Hardcover, 368 pages

One of O Magazine's Best Books of Fall 2020

Newsweek's "Must-Read Fall Nonfiction"

A Publishers Weekly Top 10 books for Politics & Current Events

"Mill Town is a powerful, blistering, devastating book. Kerri Arsenault is both a graceful writer and a grieving daughter in search of answers and ultimately, justice. In telling the story of the town where generations of her family have lived and died, she raises important and timely questions."—Dani Shapiro, author of *Inheritance*.

Kerri Arsenault grew up in the rural working class town of Mexico, Maine. For over 100 years the community orbited around a paper mill that employs most townspeople, including three generations of Arsenault's own family. Years after she moved away, Arsenault realized the price she paid for her seemingly secure childhood. The mill, while providing livelihoods for nearly everyone, also contributed to the destruction of the environment and the decline of the town's economic, physical, and emotional health in a slow-moving catastrophe, earning the area the nickname "Cancer Valley."

Mill Town is a personal investigation, where Arsenault sifts through historical archives and scientific reports, talks to family and neighbors, and examines her own childhood to illuminate the rise and collapse of the working-class, the hazards of loving and leaving home, and the ambiguous nature of toxins and disease. Mill Town is a moral wake-up call that asks, Whose lives are we willing to sacrifice for our own survival?

Review by <https://www.amazon.com/Mill-Town-Reckoning-What-Remains/dp/1250155932>

ADULT FICTION: *HOME BEFORE DARK* by Riley Sager

Hardcover, 416 pages

What was it like? Living in that house. Maggie Holt is used to such questions. Twenty-five years ago, she and her parents, Ewan and Jess, moved into Baneberry Hall, a rambling Victorian estate in the Vermont woods. They spent three weeks there before fleeing in the dead of night, an ordeal Ewan later recounted in a nonfiction book called *House of Horrors*. His tale of ghostly happenings and encounters with malevolent spirits became a worldwide phenomenon, rivaling *The Amityville Horror* in popularity—and skepticism.

Today, Maggie is a restorer of old homes and too young to remember any of the events mentioned in her father's book. But she also doesn't believe a word of it. Ghosts, after all, don't exist. When Maggie inherits Baneberry Hall after her father's death, she returns to renovate the place to prepare it for sale. But her homecoming is anything but warm. People from the past, chronicled in *House of Horrors*, lurk in the shadows. And locals aren't thrilled that their small town has been made infamous thanks to Maggie's father. Even more unnerving is Baneberry Hall itself—a place filled with relics from another era that hint at a history of dark deeds. As Maggie experiences strange occurrences straight out of her father's book, she starts to believe that what he wrote was more fact than fiction.

In the latest thriller from New York Times bestseller Riley Sager, a woman returns to the house made famous by her father's bestselling horror memoir. Is the place really haunted by evil forces, as her father claimed? Or are there more earthbound—and dangerous—secrets hidden within its walls?

A perfect Haunting book right after Halloween!

Review by <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50833559-home-before-dark>

THE LIBRARY CURRENTLY HAS SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MAGAZINES:

- Better Homes and Gardens
- Real Simple
- Martha Stewart Living
- American Patchwork Quilting
- Deer and Deer Hunting
- Field and Stream
- Outdoor Life
- This Old House
- Country Living
- WebMD



They are available for a one week checkout period.

Starting in January we will be receiving AllRecipes and Smithsonian.

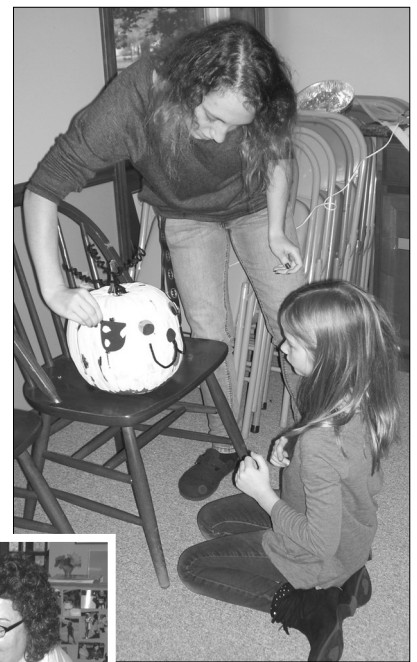
We also have some patrons who donate copies of their magazines once they are through reading them.

Those donated magazines include: American Rifleman and Automobile

We do have a few patrons who would like Psychology Today and National Geographic magazines but they are a little cost prohibitive at this time. If you have a subscription to either of these would you consider passing on your copy to the library after you have finished with it?

Contact the director through info@ellingtonlibrary.org to discuss magazine donations. Pass on the good reading!

2016!



**Pumpkin
DECORATING
at the Library!**

Seeing with Rainbow-Colored Eyes: The Importance of Teaching Kids Poetry

by Matthew Burgess

With a class of second graders, we read a poem by Langston Hughes and talk about how the poet “pretends that freedom is a person.” Freedom is an abstract noun, but in the poem, Freedom stands up, laughs, and speaks. This is called personification. The students grasp the concept quickly, and soon we’re writing our own personification poems about love, joy, anger, peace, sadness.

As my fellow teaching-artist and I move throughout the room offering help, encouragement, or an appreciative ear, we overhear the classroom teacher correcting one of her students: “How can Joy have rainbow-colored eyes? That’s not a real eye color. Maybe try something else.”

It’s important to mention that this teacher is warm and kind. Her students clearly love her, and on multiple occasions she’s praised the poetry program. She is our collaborator and supporter.

During a break between classes, my colleague and I discuss. Technically, the teacher has done nothing wrong. Her tone wasn’t shaming or punishing; she was merely trying to be helpful. And yet the two of us are becoming increasingly animated, even riled up, because of course Joy has rainbow-colored eyes!

Sitting on a bench in Midtown Manhattan, wrapped in our worn winter coats in the not-yet-spring sunshine, we’re shouting at each other in exuberant, exasperated agreement. Clearly, this has touched a nerve in us. What we do — the reason we write and teach — is directly related to the mutual insistence that Joy can and must be allowed to have rainbow-colored eyes. This small detail feels enormously important. Why?

Our second grade students are approaching that dicey frontier between childhood and early adolescence. Increasingly, they’re being asked to tame the wildness of their imaginations, to follow more rules and guidelines, to ask fewer questions. To wonder less.

And yet, even adults who recognize the loss in this process may find themselves nudging the younger ones in this direction because, well, there’s a test to prepare for or a competitive school to get into. The rule-riddled world awaits, and we need to be able to navigate it.

To be clear, I’m not arguing that poetry should replace other forms of writing, or that we shouldn’t teach young people to write clearly, coherently, and correctly. But I’m convinced that we should be at least as nurturing of young people’s creativity and curiosity, and that these qualities are essential to the formation of meaningful and “successful” human lives.

Even if the ongoing liveliness of the imagination isn’t a strong enough appeal, there are many compelling reasons why we should guard children’s education against a premature onslaught of standardization. Many researchers make a strong case for the necessity of creativity in the contemporary workplace — and world. We need people who can think independently, who can approach questions in unexpected ways, who can engage in “possibility thinking” in order to solve complex problems.

For me, poetry is important because it provides a space for the imagination to experiment and push against “impossibilities.” When I invite young people to write, I remind them again and again that anything is possible in a poem. There are no mistakes, no errors; the page is an open field we explore. The point is to stay in the moment and play, to write freely and to see what happens.

Sometimes when we write this way, not much happens, but we’re exercising the muscle of experimentation. We’re side-stepping the spoil-sport critic who can rob us of our momentum and short-circuit our associative leaps and connections. And sometimes, we write something that genuinely surprises us.

Writing freely, we tap our own depths. We discover sources of ideas and language that are mysterious and often profound. The self becomes larger and more expansive, not limited and constrained. Poetry has a hand in this.

If it’s not clear already, when I say poetry, I mean writing that is imaginative and free of excessive constraints. Writing fueled by curiosity, wonder, and a sense of adventure. Not tight forms or the counting of syllables — that has its place, but not yet. What we need is freedom, permission to take risks, and the space to see with rainbow-colored eyes. Poetry can keep the creative flame lit, and this is a light we need to be fully human.

<https://www.readbrihtly.com/importance-of-teaching-kids-poetry>

*Matthew Burgess is the author of **Enormous Smallness: A Story of E. E. Cummings**, illustrated by Kris Di Giacomo. He has been a poet-in-residence in New York City elementary schools through the Teachers & Writers Collaborative since 2001, and he is currently completing his PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center. His work has appeared in various magazines and journals, and he recently received an award from the Fund for Poetry. He teaches creative writing and composition at Brooklyn College.*

COMING SOON



live greens TABLETOP decorating

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12
2 SESSIONS
10AM - 11AM & 11:30 - 12:30

WE SUPPLY THE
LIVE GREENS, MISC.
NOVELTIES, PICKS
& RIBBONS ETC.

YOU supply the
container & the creativity!

Back by popular demand!
Preregistration required-
each time slot limited to
8 participants

Come enjoy a time of creating for the
Holiday Season!

CALL 287-2945 TO REGISTER

Santa Didn't Forget Us! **GIFTBAGS** for children

Even though Santa could not visit our library this year, He has brought gift bags for every child and left them at the library for YOU to pick up!

Register by Dec. 5th by calling the library at 287-2945 and we will make sure a gift bag from Santa is waiting for your child!

FOR AGES 2-12
GIFTBAGS AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP
FROM MONDAY DEC 14TH
Through THURSDAY DEC. 17

