

The Ellington Reader

DECEMBER 2020

Ellington Farman Library

760 Thornton Road PO Box 26 Ellington, NY 14732

Phone 287-2945 Fax 287-3694

email: INFO@ELLINGTONLIBRARY.ORG

Website: ellingtonlibrary.org

www.facebook.com/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

Keeping Connections Close

The only gift most people want this year is the gift of being able to see loved ones and friends over the holiday season. A kitchen full of family cooks all adding their own touch of spice to the pot. A dining room table that is not just holding an abundance of food but also full chairs. This past year has been one of the most difficult ones in many people's memory. You might not find too much good to speak about when thinking back on 2020. So the whole family could not be there this year due to covid restrictions. That doesn't mean you're not still blessed. We have to find new ways to keep our connections close at heart but not close physically.

We all have heard about scheduling a zoom family holiday time but there are some who have a hard time with the internet and technology issues where they live. Have you considered an old fashioned phone call and using the speaker phone? Place it in the middle of your table and talk to everyone at once. You could call at an appointed hour and everyone can read aloud a page of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Missing a little bedtime Storytime with the youngest ones? Start practicing your best funny reading voice and play all the characters in a book. The Wonky Donkey and the Dinky Donkey by children's author Craig Smith would be a great place to start. You'll have them all giggling on the other end of the line when you say aloud "*She was a blinky pinky winky-tinky funky dinky donkey.*"

Let's transform even one of our favorite friends and neighbor activities- the Cookie Swap. Email a cookie recipe to a few close friends and instead of baking your own cookies you can try baking a favorite recipe of theirs. Set a time to call and put on the cocoa while you settle down for a nice long phone call while enjoying the other person's favorite holiday cookie.

Is this the year we resurrect the Christmas card tradition? Be especially thoughtful in your card giving this year and include a heartfelt note in each one instead of the usual family letter.

Here's some other ideas that we can do to enjoy the season. There are still many "Angel Trees" put up by charitable organizations in need of gifts for their patrons. Why not take a few tags and enjoy buying for someone else? How about sending over some pizza or special holiday food to the essential care givers and workers right near your home? Hospitals, nursing homes, fire stations, police precincts and assisted living centers will surely have a shift working throughout the holidays and would appreciate being remembered too. If your family had been home you would have made a big family dinner anyway. Why not bring that meal, that you would have served to your loved ones and share it with essential workers who take care of somebody else's family.

Rest assured next year the library will send our invitation to Santa to attend our Annual Pancake Breakfast and hopefully we'll be bustling with activities in 2021.

Let's all follow the safety precautions and next year we will feel even more blessed as we look around our home and see it filled with family and friends once again. This year we really understand the cliché that it's not the presents under the tree but the presence of loved ones that is the true gift.



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DOES NOT MEET
IN DECEMBER

Judith Whittaker, Library Director

NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

ADULT FICTION

Elsewhere
Jingle All the Way
A Time for Mercy
A Private Cathedral
Three Women Disappear
Royal
The Nicotine Chronicles
The Stone Wall
Bitter Pill
The Book of Two Ways
Chance of a Lifetime
Chaos
Coast to Coast Murders
A Question of Betrayal
The Law of Innocence
The Sentinel
Noel Letters
Marauder
Leave the World Behind
How the Light Gets In
Star Crossed Sisters of Tuscany
The Return
A Christmas Revolution
Truly, Madly, Deeply
Moonflower Murders
The Kingdom
The Dirty South
Shadow of the Dragon

Dean Koontz
Debbie Macomber
John Grisham
James Lee Burke
James Patterson
Danielle Steel
Lee Child
Beverly Lewis
The Brightest Star
Jodi Picoult
Jude Deveraux
Iris Johansen
James Patterson
Anne Perry
Michael Connelly
Lee Child
Richard Paul Evans
Clive Cussler
Rumaan Alam
Jolina Petersheim
Lori Nelson Spielman
Nicholas Sparks
Anne Perry
Karen Kingsbury
Anthony Horowitz
Jo Nesbo
John Connelly
Tom Clancy

ADULT NON FICTION

A Demon Haunted Land
A Promised Land
In the Country of Women
Big Friendship

Monica Black
Barack Obama
Susan Straight
Aminatou Sow

YOUNG ADULT

Bone Houses
Guinevere Deception
Those Who Prey

Emily Loyd-Jones
Kierston White
Jenifer Moffitt

JUNIOR FICTION

The Ickabog

J.K. Rowling

AUDIO BOOKS

Faithful
American Isis

Stuart O'nan
Carl Rollyson

DVD's:

Kicking and Screaming
A Simple Plan
The Perfect Score
Secret Window
At First Sight
The Big Bang Theory
Matrix Reloaded

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.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Holiday hours and closings are as follows:

**LIBRARY CLOSED
DEC. 24, 25 & 26
LIBRARY CLOSING AT
3PM ON DEC. 31**



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!

Book Highlights of the Month

ADULT NONFICTION:

IN THE COUNTRY OF WOMEN: A MEMOIR by Susan Straight Publish Date August 2019 384 Pages

In the Country of Women is a valuable social history and a personal narrative that reads like a love song to America and indomitable women. In inland Southern California, near the desert and the Mexican border, Susan Straight, a self-proclaimed book nerd, and Dwayne Sims, an African American basketball player, started dating in high school. After college, they married and drove to Amherst, Massachusetts, where Straight met her teacher and mentor, James Baldwin, who encouraged her to write. Once back in Riverside, at driveway barbecues and fish fries with the large, close-knit Sims family, Straight--and eventually her three daughters--heard for decades the stories of Dwayne's female ancestors. Some women escaped violence in post-slavery Tennessee, some escaped murder in Jim Crow Mississippi, and some fled abusive men. Straight's mother-in-law, Alberta Sims, is the descendant at the heart of this memoir. Susan's family, too, reflects the hardship and resilience of women pushing onward--from Switzerland, Canada, and the Colorado Rockies to California.

A Pakistani word, *biraderi*, is one Straight uses to define a complex system of kinship and clan--those who become your family. An entire community helped raise her daughters. Of her three girls, now grown and working in museums and the entertainment industry, Straight writes, "The daughters of our ancestors carry in their blood at least three continents. We are not about borders. We are about love and survival."

What a beautiful book! In the Country of Women must be the most populated, celebratory, filled-with-life memoir of our time. With her characteristic mix of compassion, warmth, humor, and acerbic insight, Susan Straight writes of her 'massive black and mixed-race family' and her 'quirky, deeply embedded white family'--a memoir that is, though addressed to her three daughters, a valentine to virtually everyone whom the renowned author has known in the course of her vividly described life. Unlike most contemporary memoirs, which focus upon singular, self-obsessed individuals, Susan Straight's is about an entire way of life, lived with great verve and passion: 'a strange California transcendentalism which never fit in with American upward mobility.'" --Joyce Carol Oates

<https://bookshop.org/books/in-the-country-of-women-a-memoir/9781948226226>

ADULT FICTION:

LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND by Rumaan Alam Publish date October 2020 241 pages

A magnetic novel about two families, strangers to each other, who are forced together on a long weekend gone terribly wrong

Amanda and Clay head out to a remote corner of Long Island expecting a vacation: a quiet reprieve from life in New York City, quality time with their teenage son and daughter, and a taste of the good life in the luxurious home they've rented for the week. But a late-night knock on the door breaks the spell. Ruth and G. H. are an older black couple--it's their house, and they've arrived in a panic. They bring the news that a sudden blackout has swept the city. But in this rural area--with the TV and internet now down, and no cell phone service--it's hard to know what to believe.

Should Amanda and Clay trust this couple--and vice versa? What happened back in New York? Is the vacation home, isolated from civilization, a truly safe place for their families? And are they safe from one another?

Suspenseful and provocative, Rumaan Alam's third novel is keenly attuned to the complexities of parenthood, race, and class. *Leave the World Behind* explores how our closest bonds are reshaped--and unexpected new ones are forged--in moments of crisis.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50358031-leave-the-world-behind>

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
- All Recipes

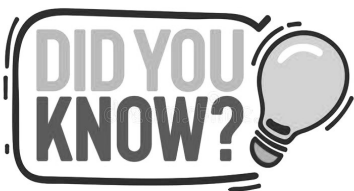


They are available for a one week checkout period.

We also have the following donated magazines: 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!



Interesting Holiday Trivia

Real Christmas trees are better for the environment than artificial ones. This is for a number of reasons, from the toxic materials fake trees are made of to the fact that Christmas tree farms serve as a habitat for local wildlife. Christmas trees have been sold in the U.S. since 1850.

There are two competing claims as to which president was the first to place a Christmas tree in the White House. Some scholars say President Franklin Pierce did in 1856; others say President Benjamin Harrison brought in the first tree in 1889. President Coolidge started the White House lighting ceremony in 1923. President Teddy Roosevelt, an environmentalist, banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1901. Norway sends a Christmas tree to Britain every year as a symbol of gratitude for their help preserving Norwegian liberty during World War II.

The total number of gifts listed in "The 12 Days of Christmas" is 364 – nearly one gift for every day in the year. Someone did the math, and in case you're wondering: Partridges: $1 \times 12 = 12$; Doves: $2 \times 11 = 22$; Hens $3 \times 10 = 30$; Calling birds: $4 \times 9 = 36$; Golden rings: $5 \times 8 = 40$; Geese: $6 \times 7 = 42$; Swans: $7 \times 6 = 42$; Maids: $8 \times 5 = 40$; Ladies: $9 \times 4 = 36$; Lords: $10 \times 3 = 30$; Pipers: $11 \times 2 = 22$; Drummers: $12 \times 1 = 12$ for a total of 364.

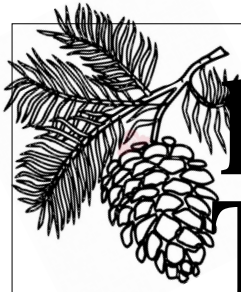
The movie *It's a Wonderful Life* performed very poorly at the box office when it was first released. The film didn't become a classic until years later, when Republic Pictures failed to extend their copyright and it became available in the public domain.

Assuming Rudolph was in front, there are 40,320 ways to rearrange the other reindeer. (*I personally will never question the validity of this trivia due to being severely mathematically challenged but you can feel free to fact check this!*)

"Jingle Bells" was also the very first song heard from space when astronauts Wally Schirra and Thomas Stafford played it in a message to Earth on December 16, 1965!

After doing the math, Santa "expert" Larry Silverberg theorized that Santa Claus would take five Earth minutes to distribute all his presents, provided he was traveling at the speed of light, getting help from his elves, and making use of "relativity clouds," which would allow him to "stretch time like a rubber band." (*Ok, there will be no questions or answers coming concerning this statement either. I said it was trivia not fact!*)

DECEMBER PROGRAMS



live greens TABLETOP decorating

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 12**

**2 SESSIONS
10AM - 11AM
11:30 - 12:30**

THE SECOND
SESSION IS NOW
FULL

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

**YOU supply the
CONTAINER & CREATIVITY!**

**Back by popular demand!
Preregistration required-
ONLY 6 SPOTS LEFT IN THE
FIRST SESSION**

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 couldn't host a
pancake breakfast at the library this
year, He has not forgotten the children!
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'll 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**

