



# The Ellington Reader

## ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY

DEC  
2023

760 THORNTON RD, PO BOX 26 ELLINGTON NY 14732

PHONE 716-287-2945

EMAIL: [INFO@ELLINGTONLIBRARY.ORG](mailto:INFO@ELLINGTONLIBRARY.ORG)

Website: [ellingtonlibrary.org](http://ellingtonlibrary.org)

[www.facebook.com/Ellington-Farman-Library](https://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

The Ellington Farman Library Board of Trustees meets on the last Monday of each month with exception of December. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. The Public is welcome to attend. Agenda & documents to be discussed at the monthly meeting can be requested from the library 24 hours prior to the open meeting at which the documents will be discussed.

**NEXT MEETING JANUARY 29TH**

## COME RAMBLE WITH ME THIS SEASON

'Tis the season for.... shopping, holiday partying, visiting with (well just about everyone) school plays & concerts, decorating the inside of your home while not forgetting the outside too and the list goes on. Don't miss that post office deadline for mailing your annual holiday cards! The other postal carriers have an abundance of deadlines for delivering our holiday packages to loved ones far away. There's office and company parties to make appearances at. Some folks have volunteer work that takes up space on their calendar too. Cooking, of course there is always cooking and cleaning to do. Let's face it, we are rushing, everywhere, all the time during this holiday season. This is no judgement on the destinations we are rushing forward to or the time spent on any these activities. We all have our own road to follow in different seasons.

During the month of December I would like to bring you a word to consider; "**coddiwomple**". I thank one of my library patrons for bringing this word to my attention. I had to look up its meaning and this is what I found. According to the Urban dictionary, **Coddiwomple** is defined as "*to travel in a purposeful manner towards a vague destination.*" Does this mean our destination is not clearly defined as that's what vague means? Let's consider this month of December as that's the season we're in right now. All this hurrying and yet if we ask people their destinations or purpose for going there they will most likely reply "well it's the holidays you know". As if that turn of phrase is the answer as to why we do anything this time of year.

We need not single out this specific time of year other than this is the month I'm writing in. Actually we spend most of our lives having both to do things purposefully and to arrive at fixed destinations whether they are to meet work deadlines or achieve specific results. The season of retirement might be one of the few times in life where we can meander a little looser in our ramblings although that seems to be an illusion if I can judge by most of my retired patrons who seem busier than ever.

The point I'd like to make, specifically in this season of busyness, is that let's take some time to ramble on our way. Let's try something new and not have a specific ending point to our travels. What would happen if we just went travelling along our path in life without a predetermined end point? I'm not the type to be able to sustain this idea for very long as I'm a little bit of a type A personality. I always have a deadline, a purpose for that deadline and a direct path to achieve that goal. This whole idea of not possessing an end goal would be very hard for me to sustain so maybe I could just attempt it in the month of December. Where would we end up? Who knows and that's the point. We might end up finding ourselves in a very different place this holiday. Let's be open to arriving at a destination that we can't name or even visualize right now. Let's just have fun along the way.

Best wishes to you all in whatever holiday you and your loved ones choose to celebrate and in whatever path you take to get there. As for me? I'll be back later. I'm out coddiwompling!



Judith Whittaker, Library Director

# NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

## ADULT FICTION

JESMYN WARD  
CHARLES MARTIN  
LEE CHILD  
PAUL HARDING  
LINDA BYLER  
ALICE MCDERMOTT  
AMANDA PETERS  
JONATHAN EVISON  
BRAD MELTZER  
DANIELLE STEEL  
LEE CHILD  
JOHN GRISHAM  
MICHAEL CONNELLY  
KAREN KINGSBURY

LET US DESCEND  
THE LAST EXCHANGE  
THE SECRET  
THIS OTHER EDEN  
CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY  
ABSOLUTION  
THE BERRY PICKERS  
AGAIN AND AGAIN  
THE TENTH JUSTICE  
SECOND ACT  
THE SECRET  
THE EXCHANGE  
RESURRECTION WALK  
JUST ONCE

## ADULT NON FICTION

DAVID BROOKS  
JOYCE MEYER  
PETER ATTIA, MD  
BRIGID DELANEY  
JAMES LARUE  
STACEY ABRAMS

HOW TO KNOW A PERSON  
BLESSED IN THE MESS  
OUTLIVE  
REASONS NOT TO WORRY  
ON CENSORSHIP  
OUR TIME IS NOW

## JUNIOR FICTION

ALLISON VARNES  
RAINA TELGEMEIER  
ELANA K. ARNOLD  
ELANA K. ARNOLD  
SCHOLASTIC

PROPERTY OF THE REBEL LIBRARIAN  
SMILE  
BAT AND THE WAITING GAME  
A BOY CALLED BAT  
THE HOUR OF MAGIC

## JUNIOR NONFICTION

DEVISE KIERNAN

WE GATHER TOGETHER

## CHILDRENS BOARD BOOKS

ADAM GAMBLE  
DISNEY JUNIORS  
SCHOLASTIC  
EILEEN CRISTELOW

GOOD NIGHT MOUNTAINS  
WHEN PUGS FLY  
GOOD NIGHT, PEPPA  
5 LITTLE MONKEYS  
JUMPING ON THE BED

## ADULT BOOK CLUB MONTHLY SELECTION

The Adult Book Club meets the third Thursday of every month at 11am. In December they will meet on the 21st and will be discussing the book "The Broken Girls" by Simone St. James. The book club members choose their monthly titles and the library provides copies to all members if needed.

### THE BROKEN GIRLS Book Review

Genres: Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Historical Fiction  
*Nominee for Best Mystery & Thriller (2018)*

*A suspense novel from the award-winning author of The Haunting of Maddy Clare...*

Vermont, 1950. There's a place for the girls whom no one wants—the troublemakers, the illegitimate, the too smart for their own good. It's called Idlewild Hall. And in the small town where it's located, there are rumors that the boarding school is haunted. Four roommates bond over their whispered fears, their budding friendship blossoming—until one of them mysteriously disappears. . . .

Vermont, 2014. As much as she's tried, journalist Fiona Sheridan cannot stop revisiting the events surrounding her older sister's death. Twenty years ago, her body was found lying in the overgrown fields near the ruins of Idlewild Hall. And though her sister's boyfriend was tried and convicted of murder, Fiona can't shake the suspicion that something was never right about the case.

When Fiona discovers that Idlewild Hall is being restored by an anonymous benefactor, she decides to write a story about it. But a shocking discovery during the renovations will link the loss of her sister to secrets that were meant to stay hidden in the past—and a voice that won't be silenced. . . .

Book review by <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/35533431-the-broken-girls>  
336 pages, First published March 20, 2018

## COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR ORGANIZATIONS

If your organization is looking for a place to meet then consider the Ellington Farman Library's Community Room. We feature a full kitchen, handicapped accessible restroom, large screen TV with plenty of tables and chairs. Please call 716-287-2945 for more Information on reserving the room. This would be a great meeting room for organizations like the Boy/Girl Scouts, Crafting Groups, Homeschoolers, Historical Groups and more.



**"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."**

*•Aristotle*

## Book Highlights of the Month

### **ADULT FICTION: AGAIN AND AGAIN** by Jonathan Evison

Genres; HISTORICAL FICTION | FAMILY LIFE & FRIENDSHIP | GENERAL FICTION

*From one of America's greatest, most creative novelists comes Again and Again, a poignant and endlessly surprising story about love lost, found, and redeemed*

An elderly man looks back on his life—or is it lives? Eugene Miles, the narrator of Evison's eighth novel, is about to turn either 106 years old or a thousand and change. Living in an eldercare facility, he regales one of its housekeepers, Angel, with tales of his past lives as Euric, a petty thief in 11th-century Seville; an Incan princess; an assistant to Lewis and Clark during their expedition; Oscar Wilde's housecat, and more.

("I'd lived a full life—seven full lives!") The facility's mental-health staff is skeptical, naturally, but Eugene's storytelling skills are top-notch, and Angel is particularly enchanted with Eugene's long-ago romance with Gaya, who saved him from the Moors' clutches and may have been reincarnated as a woman he knew in 1940s Los Angeles. As Eugene's stories pile up—and as he assists Angel with his own romantic struggles—some cracks in the unreliable narrator's facade begin to emerge. But Evison is concerned less with the factual accuracy of Eugene's experience than he is with how stories (even far-fetched ones) inspire empathy, and that togetherness, driven "purely by the desire to connect, is more meaningful than just about anything else." It's a sweet, borderline saccharine notion, and the novel is often nakedly sentimental when it isn't organizationally ungainly; Euric's tale dominates the past lives, with the others adding relatively little to the narrative. In prior novels like *The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving* (2012) and *This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!* (2015), Evison demonstrated deep compassion toward hard-luck cases, the elderly, and the unwell. That's just as true here; true or not, Eugene's efforts to slay his past demons is affecting. But that plotline is subsumed by some cloying prose.

Review by <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jonathan-evison/again-and-again-evison/>

Pub Date: Nov. 7, 2023

### **ADULT NON FICTION: REASONS NOT TO WORRY: HOW TO BE STOIC IN CHAOTIC TIMES** by Brigid Delaney

Genres; Nonfiction, Philosophy, Self Help, Psychology

*In this heartfelt and soul-searching work, brimming with warmth, humor, and insight, the beloved Guardian columnist spends a year exploring how to pursue a rich and meaningful life, turning to the wisdom of the Stoics for insights into the deepest questions of existence.*

Like many people today, Brigid Delaney was searching for answers to timeless questions: How can we be good? Find inner peace? Properly grieve? Tame our insecurities, such as the fear of missing out? Determine what truly matters?

Centuries ago, the Stoics pondered many of these same questions. And so, at an important inflection point in her own life, Brigid decided to let these ancient philosophers be her guide. Brigid is rash where the Stoics are logical; she runs on chaos, while the Stoics relinquish control of things beyond their reach. Over the course of a year, she dedicated herself to following the wisdom of Seneca, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius. She hoped to discover how best to live—how she could use the wisdom of these ancient thinkers to navigate life in the modern world.

In *Reasons Not to Worry*, Brigid shares what she learned, showing us how we, too, can draw on the Stoics to regain a sense of agency and tranquility and find meaning in our lives. From learning to relinquish control to cultivating daily awareness of our mortality to building community, Brigid's insights are very funny and very wise.

Stoicism can be a tough medicine to swallow, but no longer. Thoughtful, timely, surprisingly practical, and filled to the brim with ways to learn how best to be in the world, Delaney's guide provides compelling and sensible reasons not to worry.

REVIEW BY: <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/78296954>

304 pages, Hardcover Published October 10, 2023

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

**Monday and  
Wednesday**

**Yoga**  
**5-6pm**

BRING YOUR OWN YOGA MAT AND  
ENJOY SOME DOWN TIME PRACTICING YOGA  
EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY FROM 5-6 PM  
NO INSTRUCTOR—DVD'S CHOSEN BY THE GROUP  
ALL LEVELS WELCOME; ADULTS ONLY

**ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY**  
760 THORNTON RD, ELLINGTON 287-2945

**Resistance Band**  
**SENIOR FITNESS CLASSES**



**THURSDAYS IN DECEMBER**  
**1:30—2:30PM**

**Ellington Farman Library**

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED CLASS FOR ADULTS  
RESISTANCE BANDS PROVIDED OR YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN



**sewers**  
**crafters**  
**& quilters**  
**DEC. 4 & 18**

MEETING ON THE 1ST & 3RD MONDAYS  
OF THE MONTH 11AM—1PM  
Bring your "works in progress" and enjoy  
crafting with friends!

**ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY**



**YARN WRAPPED  
CHRISTMAS TREES**

REGISTRATION  
REQUESTED



**TUESDAY**  
**DEC 5**  
**4-5PM**  
**children's craft**

**ELLINGTON  
FARMAN  
LIBRARY**

CLASS SIZE LIMITED  
TO 12

**LIVE GREENS**  
**Winter Centerpiece**  
**WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY DEC 9th**  
**10am - noon**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED by DEC 5  
Program limited to 10 participants  
FOR AGES 12 & UP

You bring 1 waterproof container  
Library provides the rest of materials,  
tools & instructions

CALL 716-287-2945 TO REGISTER ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY  
PROGRAM HOSTED BY THE LIBRARY QUILTERS & CRAFTERS GROUP

PBS NATURE DOCUMENTARY



**TUES. DEC 12**  
**6-7PM**

Journey to Lapland, where tales of Santa Claus mingle with  
hearty wildlife and stunning landscapes. Get an intimate  
look at the wildlife of Lapland, a region in northern Finland,  
the fabled home of Santa Claus and actual home of  
reindeer, great gray owls, wolverines, eagles, wolves,  
musk oxen, brown bears and more

**ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY**  
FREE FILM SHOWING NO REGISTRATION NEEDED

ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY

**DECEMBER**  
**16**  
**10:30-12:30**

**KIDS**  
**HOLIDAY**  
**PARTY**

- 4 CRAFT STATIONS
- COCOA & COOKIES
- MUSIC
- PHOTO OP
- FREE BOOK GIVEAWAY!

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST  
UNDER 7 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED  
BY AN ADULT



**BOOK CLUB**  
ELLINGTON  
FARMAN  
LIBRARY  
**MEETS**  
**DEC. 21 @ 11AM**

They will be discussing  
"The Broken Girls"  
by Simone St. James  
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

**LIBRARY HOLIDAY**  
**CLOSINGS IN DECEMBER**  
**SATURDAY DEC. 23**  
**through FRIDAY 29TH**



**ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY**

## MAGAZINE GIFT TO THE LIBRARY

One of the ways that our library is trying to stay within our budget is to discontinue many of our magazine subscriptions. Magazines are a welcome addition to our library but don't generate or garner a lot of checkouts. People do, however, like to sit in the back room occasionally and read a magazine. It saddens us to let those subscriptions expire but our aim is to be fiscally responsible. This is the part where you might be able to help. We are looking for people to gift a years subscription to our library for a magazine of your choosing. You don't have to keep it renewed forever, just for one year and then you can decide if you'd like to continue it. Some magazines offer the subscriber one free subscription along with their first paid one. There is a positive side to this request in that we can be assured that the magazine will be of a topic some of our patrons are interested in. We only ask that you remember we are a family library and it must be a magazine that can be shown in that environment. Thank you for helping our library stay on budget in the coming year!

*\* We have been offered Consumer Reports and NYS Conservationist so far. Thank you to these generous patrons!*

## It's a Holiday Party!

### Calling all kids!

You're invited to a holiday party on Saturday December 16th. Drop in to the library anytime from 10:30am–12:30pm and enjoy creating at 4 tables of winter crafts. All of these crafts are child friendly but 7 and under may need some help with handling a glue gun at one of the stations. We'll have yummy cocoa and cookies, Christmas music and thanks to generous patrons, we will have a free book table where children can choose their own (gently used) book as a holiday gift from the library. We have books for all ages. All children are invited but those 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. No registration needed but all crafts available while supplies last.



**CRAFT STATIONS:**  
**TWIG PINE TREE**  
**BEADED CANDY CANES**  
**HOLIDAY CARD MAKING**  
**COLORING PAGES**

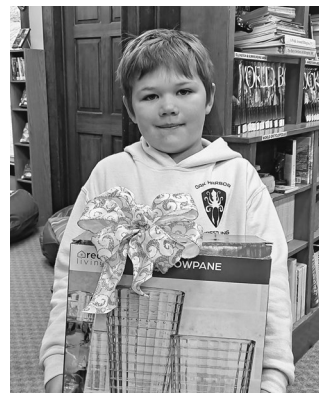
## A Little Library Trivia Game!

Make your guess at the circulation desk. Winner receives a little gift and bragging rights!

**DECEMBER TRIVIA QUESTION: WHICH OF THESE IS THE MOST POPULAR BOOK READ AT CHRISTMAS TIME?**

- 1) A Christmas Memory
- 2) The Night Before Christmas
- 3) A Christmas Carol
- 4) The Gift of the Magi

October Trivia Winner: Gunner! He answered correctly Franklin D. Roosevelt as the President who started the Presidential Library System. The Presidential Library system formally began in 1939, when President Franklin Roosevelt donated his personal and Presidential papers to the Federal Government. At the same time, Roosevelt pledged part of his estate at Hyde Park to the United States, and friends of the President formed a non-profit corporation to raise funds for the construction of the library and museum building. Roosevelt's decision stemmed from a firm belief that Presidential papers are an important part of the national heritage and should be accessible to the public. He asked the National Archives to take custody of his papers and other historical materials and to administer his library. Now you know! Congratulations to Gunner who won a set of drinking glasses just in time for holiday celebrations.



## OPENINGS FOR OUR DISPLAY CASE

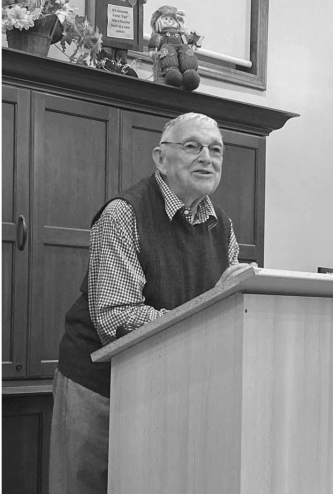
We like to give local/regional artists and collectors a place to display their work. If you have or know anyone who has artwork or a collection they would like to have displayed in our Community Room display case please call the library at 716-287-2945 and ask to speak with the director. We have plenty of openings in 2024.

**The days are short, The sun a spark,  
hung thin between the dark and dark.**

**- John Updike**



# AROUND THE LIBRARY



**THURSDAY JANUARY 11, 6:30 - 8pm  
ECLIPSE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**

*Presented by Steve Rexford and Corey Swanson*

Learn about the upcoming preparations that the community and citizens can do to be ready for this major event happening April 8, 2024. More details coming soon on what topics will be covered. Mark this on your calendar as an important community program you won't want to miss.

## YOGA : NEW TIME STARTING IN JANUARY 2024!

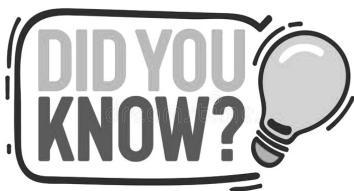


Starting in January we will be moving Yoga to a new time slot- 4-5pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. The new time slot was so that participants in the group could limit the amount of time spent driving in the dark on winter roads. All adults are welcome to join this group. No experience is needed. They exercise to You-tube Yoga videos presented on our large screen tv in

our community room. Yoga in December will stay at the usual time of 5-6pm.

## LOOKING FOR ADULT VOLUNTEERS!

We could use three or more adults to help us with the children's holiday party on Saturday December 16th from 10am–1pm. Since this event is a drop-in time it requires no registration therefore we are not sure how many children to expect. The adults would be needed at the craft tables. One of the crafts requires children to use hot glue but the others are just cutting, gluing and stringing beads. There will be cocoa and cookies available and we might need adults to help pour cocoa. If you like to bake but do not want to be at the party we could definitely use some donations of cookies. I'm estimating 25 children and a few parents so hopefully 10 or 11 dozen cookies should be plenty. They can be simple or as fancy as you like. Bar cookies would be acceptable also. Please call the library to volunteer either time or food. Come help us celebrate the season with our young patrons!



## 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!* )

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and every month you'll get a copy of our newsletter in  
PDF form delivered straight to your inbox.



KEEP INFORMED OF LIBRARY NEWS  
BY FOLLOWING US ON FACEBOOK  
and our Website: [ellingtonlibrary.org](http://ellingtonlibrary.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 11am–1pm Craft Group 5-6pm Yoga	5 4-5pm Craft for Kids Yarn Wrapped Christmas Trees Under 7 accompanied by an adult: registration required, limited to 12	6 5-6pm Yoga	7 1:30-2:30pm Resistance Exercise Band Class	8	9 10am–noon Adult Live Greens Centerpiece Class REGISTRATION REQUIRED Class size limited
10	11 5-6pm Yoga	12 6-7pm Documentary: Santa's Wild Home	13 5-6pm Yoga	14 1:30-2:30pm Resistance Exercise Band Class	15	16 10:30-12:30 Drop -in Kids Holiday Party! Crafts, snacks, music Under 7 accompanied by an adult
17	18 11am–1pm Craft Group 5-6pm Yoga	19	20 5-6pm Yoga	21 11am Book Club 1:30-2:30pm Resistance Exercise Band Class	22	23 LIBRARY CLOSED
24	25 LIBRARY CLOSED	26 LIBRARY CLOSED	27 LIBRARY CLOSED	28 LIBRARY CLOSED	29	30
31					OPEN HOURS 11AM -7PM MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 10AM-1PM ON SATURDAY CLOSED FRIDAY & SUNDAY	