



Friends of the Stoughton Public Library Newsletter

2020 No. 2 Fall/Winter

2020 FRIENDS FALL FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

Because of the Coronavirus, the Friends Board made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Friends Fall Fundraiser event, but will still hold the Fundraiser Raffle. We're sorry that we won't see your faces in person, but we know that this is the most responsible decision for the safety of all of us. In lieu of attending the fundraiser event, we hope that you will support the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library in one or both of the following ways:

-  Make a cash donation of any amount to the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library
-  Purchase fundraiser raffle tickets.

Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5 each or five for \$20. Raffle tickets are available at Main Street Kitchen or by calling 608-873-4050. All tickets, money, and stubs must be received by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, November 19.

The raffle drawing will be Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Main Street Kitchen & Catering, 120 E. Main, in Stoughton. You need not be present to win.

Thank you for your generosity and support during these difficult times!

MANY THANK YOUS

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to donate for the raffle:

Fosdal Bakery	Merlin Luschen	Stoughton Pizza Pit
Hanson Electronics	Nauti Norski	Stoughton St. Vincent de Paul
Lotus Salon	Stoughton Country Club	UPS Store of Stoughton
Main Street Kitchen	Stoughton Health	Van Horn Auto of Stoughton
McFarland State Bank	Stoughton Opera House	Verizon of Stoughton

Many thanks to our sponsors: Stoughton Culver's, Stoughton Trailers, and Stoughton Pizza Pit!

ANOTHER THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Stoughton Area Chamber of Commerce. Since Syttende Mai did not occur, the Friends not only received a refund of our registration fee, but also, a very pleasant surprise. The Chamber held a fundraiser and was able to send checks to all of the planned participants. The Friends of the Stoughton Public Library received a check for \$544.40!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

 Fall Fundraiser Raffle → Purchase tickets now through 2:00 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 19

 Fall Fundraiser Raffle drawing → Thursday, November 19, 2:00 p.m. at Main Street Kitchen

DO YOU MISS THE BOOK NOOK?

So do we! We have worked with the library staff to enable a Friends of the Library Book Nook Cart to be outside the library's front door. Look for it every day when the weather is good. That means no rain and no snow, since we all know that rain and snow are not friends of books. On the other hand, we are not only friends of books, but also Friends of the Library, so visit the cart every week. Which is how often we will restock it – every week. Good reading to you!

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE from Library Director Jim Ramsey

Like organizations everywhere, the Stoughton Public Library has been profoundly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. When we first closed our doors back in mid-March, no one knew for sure what the future would hold. Many of us hoped that life would be back to normal in a matter of weeks or even months. Yet as the pandemic continues to rage across the globe, we are realizing that the road back to “normal” will be a long one.

We were confronted by this harsh reality as recently as early-July, when rising cases of COVID-19 in Dane County forced us to scuttle our plans for a partial reopening of the library building.

One of the hardest parts of this new reality is that it temporarily renders unsafe many of the core functions central to our mission as a public library, functions such as public programming, meetings and study groups, or simply providing a place to gather, meet our neighbors, share ideas, and build community. Rest assured, all of these things *will* return, but for the foreseeable future, our building and our services will look quite different.

For us, this means that even though our building remains closed, library staff are working harder than ever to deliver services to our community. Our patrons can still access library materials via curbside pick-up, a process that we're continually refining and improving. Every month, we're offering dozens of virtual programs to take the place of our in-person offerings: Everything from online story times and take-home crafts to virtual book discussions and lectures.

At this time of this writing, Dane County is experiencing yet another surge in COVID-19 cases, driven in part by the large numbers of students returning to the UW-Madison campus. It remains to be seen if this uptick is sustained and whether or not these infections will translate into an increase in cases throughout the county.

The next phase in our reopening plan involves allowing patrons into the building by appointment to use computers and the Internet. Realizing that many in our community rely on the library for Internet access, we have made it a priority to resume these services as soon as we feel it is safe to do so.

How soon we move into this next phase depends on the course of the pandemic in our area. As we have throughout the pandemic, we are closely monitoring the metrics provided by Madison-Dane County Public Health and using that data to make informed, science-based decisions about how and when to expand our services.

Even though public life and the ways we interact have changed dramatically for the time being, we here at the Stoughton Public Library remain committed to our core values: literacy, lifelong education, free access to information, and the creation of community.

Jim Ramsey, Stoughton Public Library Director

FRIENDS MISSION

The mission of the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library is to promote library services to the Stoughton community; to stimulate gifts and bequests to the library; to provide support for library programs; and to encourage the broadest possible use of the library's facilities, materials and services. -- Adopted: January 20, 1984

¡VIVA ESPAÑA! from Library Director JIM RAMSEY



As summer turns to fall, I've been reading more non-fiction. This past month, I picked up Paul Preston's history of modern Spain, "A People Betrayed: A History of Corruption, Political Incompetence and Social Division in Modern Spain." As the title suggests, Preston's thesis is that Spain's people have been, to put it mildly, ill-served by their leaders and elites over the past century. Beginning with the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy in 1874 following the short-lived First Spanish Republic, Preston lays out in meticulous detail how Spain's elites—the army, Church, landowning classes, and politicians—have consistently acted in their own best interests, much to the detriment of the great majority of Spaniards.

For a sweeping, one-volume, pick up the 2011 history, "Spain: A Unique History" by Stanley Payne. Other books by Payne include "Franco: A Personal and Political Biography," "Franco and Hitler: Spain, Germany and WWII" and "The Spanish Civil War."

If, like me you are interested in the Spanish Civil War – that tragic prelude to WWII which inaugurated nearly 40 years of dictatorship – check out Adam Hochschild's "Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939" for the story of the Abraham Lincoln Brigades, American volunteers who fought in vain to defend the Second Spanish Republic from General Franco's coup d'état. (In fact, there is small memorial to Wisconsinites who fought in the Lincoln Brigades in the southwest corner of James Madison Park in downtown Madison, near the Gates of Heaven Synagogue.) The most famous eyewitness account of the conflict by an outsider will always be George Orwell's "Homage to Catalonia." And if fiction is more your style, now is a great time to check one of the classics off your list with Hemingway's novel, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," based on his time in Spain as a war correspondent.

ALWAYS A GOOD READ

-- From **Richard MacDonald**, retired Stoughton Library Director

Many of us eagerly await new books by our favorite authors. But don't neglect those older authors whose works never seem to lose popularity. Consider Agatha Christie. Agatha Christie (1890-1976) was born in Devon, England. She is best known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. Her most popular stories are those which involve Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple. Christie also wrote the world's longest-running play (also a murder mystery) titled "The Mousetrap," and six romances under the name Mary Westmacott.

In 1955, she was the first recipient of the Mystery Writers of America's highest honor, the Grand Master Award, and in 1971 was made a Dame of the British Empire for her contribution to literature. In 2013, "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" was voted the best crime novel ever by 600 fellow writers of the Crime Writers' Association. Most of her books and short stories have been adapted for television, radio, video games and comics, and more than thirty feature films have been based on her work. With 2 billion copies sold in 103 languages, Agatha Christie remains the best-selling novelist of all time, outsold by only the Bible and Shakespeare. (There were supposedly 6.5 billion copies of "Thoughts of Chairman Mao" distributed, but most were not sold.)

This summer I enjoyed "Appointment With Death," "The Labors of Hercules," and "Murder on the Orient Express." And, there are usually plenty of copies on library shelves, so you seldom have to be on a waiting list!

Friends of the Stoughton Public Library
2364 Jackson St #186
Stoughton WI 53589

The Friends of the Stoughton Public Library is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.
www.stoughtonpubliclibrary.org/friends-library or email: friendsstolib@gmail.com

Anyone can be a Friend of the library!

For as little as \$10.00 you can become a member.

Download a registration form at
www.stoughtonpubliclibrary.org/friends-library

Stoughton Public Library

304 South Fourth Street
Stoughton WI 53589

608.873.6281

www.stoughtonpubliclibrary.org

Email: storef@stolib.org

Library Curbside Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9am – 6:45pm

Friday – Saturday 9am – 4:45pm

Friends email: friendsstolib@gmail.com

**Friends of the
Stoughton Public Library**

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If you have questions or would like additional information,
please call the Friends at 608.873.4050 or email
friendsstolib@gmail.com.