



Friends of the Stoughton Public Library *Newsletter*

Summer 2018

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thanks goes out to all those who helped with Syttende Mai **Pie Place** and the **Spring Book Sale**. With the help of our great volunteers, the Friends made over \$3,300 at these events! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

AmazonSmile

Do you purchase items off of Amazon? If you do, a part of your purchase can go to the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library. When you shop Amazon consider using **AmazonSmile**. Simply go  to: smile.amazon.com from your web browser. If this is your first visit, before you begin shopping, you will need to select The Friends of the Stoughton Public Library as the charitable organization to receive donations from your eligible purchases. Then every eligible purchase you make on that site results in Friends getting a donation, it's a win-win transaction!

COMING EVENTS

October 13: Fall Fundraiser Lunch at BBG's with guest speaker Beth Amos, Stoughton's mystery novelist. Book Exchange, Bring a Book/Take a Book! Call 608.873.4050 if you would like to reserve a table or make a donation for the raffles.

November 13: Friend's Board Meeting – Library Study Room #2 (6:00 – 8:30 p.m.)

November 29 – December 1: Fall Book Sale – Library Carnegie Room

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Amanda Bosky, Youth Services Librarian, reports: We had excellent participation in the Summer Library Program for all three age groups: children, teens and adults. Participation remained steady and enthusiastic in Children's with 602 children reading 5,782 hours over the summer. 171 teens read 2,960 hours over the summer—a 30% increase in participation and a 64% increase in hours read, compared to 2017! 139 adults participated in the Adult Summer Library Program, also an increase compared to last summer. We are grateful to the Friends of the Library who provide funding for the Summer Library Program, including materials for a very popular Teen Tie Dye program.

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 bequest 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

GREAT READ

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

In 1922, aristocrat Count Alexander Rostov (fictional character) from the pre-Bolshevik era is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel in Moscow across the street from the Kremlin. This hotel had been his home for the four years prior—a suite of rooms with his own personal furnishings from his manor home, which had been confiscated. His new living quarters are reduced to an attic room.

The count is given this sentence in lieu of execution. The hotel becomes his prison. He can wander around the hotel and enjoy all its amenities but he dare not step outside or he could be shot. The book then follows his life for about thirty years and includes interactions with people who work at the hotel and various guests as well as the adventures that seem to happen to give his confined life its meaning. After about eight years he becomes the head waiter for the exclusive restaurant in the hotel.

I would summarize this book as historical fiction based on Russia from post-World War I to the 1950's. This time period is one that I did not know much about until reading this book. However, it is not overweighed with facts but it does influence how the Count was forced to live given his circumstances. The book also contains a bit of mystery and resolves in a great ending.

If you need more information before committing to this substantial book, there is a book review written by the New York Times on the Internet. It has a full summary, more complete than I have given and of course, professionally written.

Despite perhaps too many references to Russian literature scattered throughout, I still thoroughly enjoyed following the Count for thirty plus years and heartily recommend it. You won't be disappointed! This book was on the New York Times bestseller list for many weeks so others agreed as well.

--Reviewed by Judy Luschen, thirty plus years of Friends membership and a past Friends officer.

Abibliophobia:

uh-bib-li-uh-fo-bee-uh

The fear of running out of reading material.

LIBRARIAN PROFILE



Kate Hull has been Stoughton Library's Head of Adult Services since July, 2017. She is from Spooner WI, went to college at the UW-Madison and got her masters at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hills. She has worked as a librarian in Fitchburg, Janesville and Cross Plains. Kate lives in Stoughton with her husband, 5 year old daughter and rescue Greyhound, "Ami." In her spare time, she enjoys walking, biking, reading, crafting and any excuse to get outside. One of her recent favorite books is "*Varina*" by Charles Frazier. This book is historical fiction—teenage Varina agrees to wed the much-older Jefferson Davis. Kate enjoyed this book because it had a little bit of everything and she cared so much for the characters. Another of her

favorites is "*The Garden of Small Beginnings*" by Abbi Waxman because it is light, funny and a good summer read.

RICHARD'S RECOMMENDATION

If you are having trouble finding something new to read, try something old. Old in that M.C. Beaton began writing her Hamish MacBeth Mysteries in 1985. Even after 30 years, Hamish is still loveable Hamish, and Lochdubh (pronounced: Lock-do) is still a wonderful little village full of friendly, but unusual characters. Since you can begin reading anywhere in the series, try one of the newer stories such as "*Death of a Kingfisher*," "*Death of a Nurse*," or the latest, "*Death of an Honest Man*."

Happy Reading! --Richard MacDonald, Library Director – Stoughton Public Library

NOT SO GREAT READ

***Mad City* by Michael Arntfield**

I was very disappointed with this book. I was expecting the story of Linda Tomaszewski who spent the last 40 plus years tracking down her best friend's murderer.

Christine Rothschild, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was murdered in the spring of 1968. Her body was found on the UW campus. Christine had recently complained to the campus police and others, including her friend Linda, about an older medical student who had been stalking her. With that background, I expected more on the attempts of Linda to find Christine's murderer. Instead we are taken on various paths away from this original murder. The author touches on several other unsolved murders on and around the UW campus trying unsuccessfully to link them to one killer dubbed the "Capital City Killer".

The book was disorganized and, at times, hard to follow. It was a hodgepodge of many serial killer profiles of which the author had knowledge and rambling theories. It was difficult to determine the book's main focus...was it a textbook on serial killer psychology, on the search for Christine Rothschild's murderer, on unsolved murders of UW co-eds, or on the inadequacies of the campus police. I would have liked to know more about Linda Tomaszewski and her search. In the end, there is no one answer to who killed Christine Rothschild.

--Reviewed by Priscilla Flood, current Friends Vice-President

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

Anyone can be a Friend of the library!

For as little as \$10.00 you can become a member.
Check out the Friends bulletin board in the library lobby or
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 Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9am – 9pm
Friday – Saturday 9am – 5pm
Sunday (Sept-May) 1pm-5pm

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.