Off the Shelf

Here's something that you may not know about me... I love Halloween. Every year, I wait for October 1st with anticipation. I can hardly wait to put away all things summer and take out the Halloween decorations. Ceramic pumpkins in all shapes and sizes take up residence in my house, as do witches and ghosts. I watch every Halloween-themed movie ever made, including all those cheesy Halloweentown flicks. Watching Practical Magic and Hocus Pocus is a yearly ritual, and though I read in many genres, in October, I stick to Horror.

If you enjoy reading Horror, as do I, I highly recommend Hex by Thomas Heuvelt Olde. It was the first book that I read for a new book group that I just joined in Methuen. The novel, originally published in Danish, is set in the picturesque town of Black Spring in the Hudson Valley. Black Spring is pretty much like any other town - except that it is haunted by a seventeenth-century witch whose eyes and mouth are sewn shut. The town rapidly descends into chaos when Katherine takes her revenge. This disturbing story is a "bona fide tale of horror" according to School Library Journal. It was a great book group read, particularly since Olde did the translation himself - and changed the ending in the English version. As of September 9th, IT had grabbed $16.1M so far on 10,560 screens. That's a LOT of Stephen King fans. There are currently 74 holds on the 18 copies of the book in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium. What should you read while you're waiting for your copy to come in? Have you already read everything else by King? Have you read anything by his son, Joe Hill? Hill's work reminds me of King's earlier stuff. You know, the books that were really creepy... the ones that kept you up all night? According to NoveList, Hill's "work features extremely flawed but genuinely likable protagonists who are forced to confront their dark sides as they battle evil. A Hill tale also sets the stage with a menacing atmosphere from the first lines. Readers are also drawn to Joe Hill because he mines their modern lives for fear. Hill captivates readers with this ability to use the best of the time-tested horror traditions while injecting a shot of the new to keep things freshly frightening. The results are realistically chilling." Have you seen the movie Horns, starring Daniel Radcliffe? It was based on the book by the same name. I liked it, but my favorite Hill novel will always be his first, Heart Shaped Box. Rock star, Judas Coyne collects macabre artifacts. He purchases a ghost online. What arrives is a heart-shaped box with a suit in it - a suit that belongs to the vengeful step-father of Coyne's ex-girlfriend. This one kept me awake all night.

Looking for a story with a vivid sense of place and realistic character development that will give you chills? Try The Damned by Andrew Pyper. Twenty years after the death of his twin, Danny Orchard is still haunted by Ashleigh, who was a sociopath before she died. Her spirit is even more malicious.

Keith Donohue's The Boy Who Drew Monsters, is about a young boy, scarred from a near drowning experience, who makes strange things happen whenever he picks up his pencil.

If you just can't read Horror, but would like some suggestions, why not fill out one of our Reader Profiles (www.dracutlibrary.org) to receive personalized reading recommendations based on other books that you have read and enjoyed.

As always, I am available to meet and talk with you. This is your library and we want to hear what you think!

Nanci Hill, Library Director
### Meet the Staff

**Joan Powers**

This month, we introduce you to our new Children's Room Assistant, Joan Powers.

Joan lives right here in Dracut with her husband, two children and three dogs. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Valparaiso University, and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Boston University. For the past few years, she has been working in Child Care, both in centers and privately.

Some of Joan's favorite authors include John Steinbeck, Orson Scott Card, Anne Rice, and Stephen King. Her favorite children's book is *Make Way for Ducklings*, though Mo Willems' *Elephant and Piggie* books are a close second.

In her free time, Joan enjoys running, sewing, and being outdoors. Joan says that she loves children and is thrilled to be a part of the Parker Library staff.

Here at the library, you will find Joan in the Children's Room, where she will be assisting Miss Penny, running programs, and helping both parents and children find just the right book.

Please make sure to stop in to the Children's Room and say hello to Joan the next time that you're in!

### Upcoming Programs

**IMPROV... WITH BODIES**

Join acclaimed mystery/thriller authors Sheila Connolly, Hallie Ephron, Hank Phillipe Ryan and Barbara Ross for a rollicking afternoon of audience participation in the creation of a thriller!

See how these four "ladies of sinister" do it! The audience will contribute suggestions for character names, occupations, setting for the murder, motive, etc., and before your eyes, the characters and plot of a thriller or cozy novel will be created before your very eyes. Hilarity will ensue as you watch these masters work!

The authors will do a Q&A and book signing at the end of the event. A limited number of the authors' books will be available for sale.

This is an event not to be missed. Register today (at www.dracutlibrary.org) to reserve your spot in the audience.

*This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Dracut Library.*

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**FALL RAFFLE**

The Friends are now requesting donations of complete raffle baskets or gift cards for their Fall Raffle. The raffle will take place from October 18th - October 28th during regular library hours. Tickets will be 4 for $1.00 & 25 for $5.00. Donations must be brought to the Library no later than October 16th. All proceeds from the raffle go to the Friends of the Library and are used to support library programs.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Have you used a museum pass? Did your children take part in Harry Potter Week? Have you attended a yoga session, movie, or speaker event at the library? Do your children participate in the summer reading program? Most of the cost of these programs is provided by the Friends of the Library.

We will be running a membership drive from October 14th through October 28th. Become a new member during this time and you will get 18 months of membership for the price of 12 months.

**POP-UP BOOK SALES**

You seemed to like them, so we're bringing them back!

- **Saturday, October 14th**
  - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Saturday, October 28th**
  - 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

John Hassan, President
NEW ACQUISITIONS - SEPTEMBER 2017

NEW FICTION

Christian Romance
- Alexander, Tamara. Christmas at Carnton
- Long, Kelly. The Amish Christmas Candle

Fantasy
- Brett, Peter V. The Core
- Cornell, Paul. A Long Day in Lychford
- Feehan, Christine. Leopard's Blood
- Harrison, Kim. The Turn: The Hollows Begins with Death
- Howard, Kat. An Unkindness of Magicians
- Jones, Darynda. The Trouble with Twelfth Grave
- Lackey, Mercedes. Blade of Empire
- McGuire, Seanan. The Brightest Fell
- Moning, Karen Marie. Feversong

Horror
- Hill, Joe. Strange Weather: Four Short Stories
- King, Stephen & Owen King. Sleeping Beauties

Literary
- Babst, C. Morgan. The Floating World
- Hjerpe, Mark. Paris in the Present Tense
- Hoffman, Alice. The Rules of Magic
- Keneally, Thomas. Crimes of the Father
- McGuire, Gregory. Hiddensee: A Tale of the Once and Future Nutcracker
- McGhee, Alison. Never Coming Back

Mystery
- Adams, Ellery.

Romance
- Anderson, Catherine. The Christmas Room
- Andrews, V.C. Shattered Memories
- Angell, Kate. No Time to Explain
- Brown, Carolyn. Long, Tall Cowboy Christmas
- Chase, Samantha. Holiday Spice
- Dailey, Janet. Just a Little Christmas
- de la Cruz, Melissa. Pride and Prejudice and Mistletoe
- Diamond, Tess. Such a Pretty Girl
- Feehan, Christine. Leopard's Blood
- Harrison, Lisi. The Dirty Book Club
- Hughes, Anita. Christmas in London
- Kleytas, Lisa. A Christmas to Remember
- Michaels, Debbie. Merry and Bright
- Michaels, Fern. Holly and Ivy
- Palmer, Diana. Christmas with my Cowboy
- Shalvis, Jill. Crashing Christmas Eve
- Spear, Terry. Dreaming of a White Wolf Christmas
- Steel, Danielle. Fairytale
- Terry, Candace. Tangled Up in Tinsel
- Thayne, RaeAnne. Sugar Pine Hill
- Wait, Lea. Thread the Halls
- Warren, Christine. Hard Breaker
- Wilde, Lori. Cowboy, It's Cold Outside

Science Fiction
- Alderman, Naomi. The Power
### NEW ACQUISITIONS - CONTINUED

- Card, Orson Scott. *Children of the Fleet*
- Mahoney, Joe. *A Time and a Place*
- Sims, Michael. *Frankenstein Dreams: a Connoisseur's Collection of Victorian Science Fiction*
- Wilson, Robert Charles. *Last Year*

**Short Stories | Collections**

- Adams, John Joseph. *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2017*
- Archer, Jeffrey. *Tell Tale: Short Stories*
- Davis, Graeme. *Colonial Horrors: Sleepy Hollow and Beyond*
- Eugenides, Jeffrey. *Fresh Complaint*
- Hanks, Tom. *Uncommon Type: Some Stories*
- Hill, Joe. *Strange Weather: Four Short Stories*
- Kleypas, Lisa. *A Christmas to Remember*
- Sandford, John. *The Best American Mystery Stories 2017*
- Sims, Michael. *Frankenstein Dreams: a Connoisseur's Collection of Victorian Science Fiction*

**Suspense | Thriller**

- Connelly, Michael. *Two Kinds of Truth*
- Constantine, Liv. *The Last Mrs. Parish*
- Goldberg, Tod. *Gangster Nation*
- Grisham, John. *The Rooster Bar*
- Johansen, Iris. *Mind Game*
- Kellerman, Faye. *Killing Season*
- Kendal, Claire. *The Second Sister*
- Mayne, Andrew. *The Naturalist*
- Patterson, James. *The Family Lawyer*
- Rose, Karen. *Monster in the Closet*
- White, Karen. *Even if it Kills Her*
- Woods, Stuart. *Quick & Dirty*

**Westerns**

- McMurtry, Larry. *Thalia: a Texas Trilogy*

### NEW LARGE PRINT

**Large Print Fiction**

- Beaton, M.C. *The Witches' Tree*
- Brown, Dan. *Origin*
- Carlson, Melody. *The Christmas Blessing*
- Coben, Harlan. *Don't Let Go*
- Coulter, Catherine. *The Devil's Triangle*
- DeMille, Nelson. *The Cuban Affair*
- Graham, Heather. *Wicked Deeds*
- Henry, Patti Callihan. *The Bookshop at Water's End*
- Hilderbrand, Elin. *Winter Solstice*
- Karon, Jan. *To Be Where You Are*
- Kellerman, Faye. *The Killing Season*
- King, Stephen. *Sleeping Beauties*
- Macomber, Debbie. *Merry and Bright*
- Perry, Anne. *An Echo of Murder*
- Steel, Danielle. *Fairytale*

**Books on CD - NONFICTION**


### NEW AUDIOBOOKS

**Books on CD - FICTION**

- Allende, Isabel. *In the Midst of Winter*
- Andrews, Donna. *How the Finch Stole Christmas*
- Boyd, Natasha. *The Indigo Girl*
- Connelly, Michael. *Two Kinds of Truth*
- Grisham, John. *The Rooster Bar*
- Hilderbrand, Elin. *Winter Solstice*
- Hill, Joe. *Strange Weather*
- Hoffman, Alice. *The Rules of Magic*
- Penny, Louise. *Glass Houses*
- Sandford, John. *Deep Freeze*
- Steel, Danielle. *Fairytale*
- Ware, Ruth. *The Lying Game*

For a complete list of new print nonfiction titles, please visit our website.