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Inside this issue:

From the Desk of the Director	1
Meet the Trustees	2
Adult Programs	2-3
New Acquisitions	1, 3-4
Staff and Trustees	4
Important Dates	4

Off the Shelf

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

There are many tasks that befall Library Directors. Many of them include gathering, compiling, and analyzing various statistics; looking at output measures in order to take stock of how our libraries are doing on various fronts. One such way that we do that is by completing the annual PLDS (Public Library Data Service Survey). The PLDS captures valuable data on staffing, operating finances, output measures, inter-library loans, and technology provisions, from public libraries throughout the U.S. and Canada. In addition, each year's survey contains a special survey highlighting statistics on one service area or public library topic. PLDS statistics are compiled and collated by the Public Library Association. The reports that they put out are used by public libraries to compare themselves, statistically, to other libraries in similar communities across the country and

Canada.

I recently finished filling out the annual PLDS survey. While the reports have not yet come out, I wanted to share some interesting statistics with you about the Parker Library.

In FY2017 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017):

- 14,413 Dracut residents held library cards. That's 49.57% of the population.
- We circulated 165,817 physical items.
- We circulated 15,418 electronic items.
- We circulated 60.55 items per hour.
- We circulated 178.33 items per \$1,000 expenditure.
- We answered 21,968 reference questions.
- The Library held 410 programs, which 6,179 people attended.



- We provided 23,980 items to residents of other communities, and received 24,394 items from other Massachusetts libraries.
- The Library averages 2,388.98 visits per week. Our materials expenditures per capita is \$3.36

It will be interesting to see how we stack up against like-sized and type libraries in other areas of the country. Keep your eye out for those statistics in future columns.

Nanci Milone Hill, Library Director

March 2018 New Large Print Fiction

- Childs, Laura. *Plum Tea Crazy*
- Clark, Mary Higgins. *I've Got My Eyes On You*
- Devereaux, Jude. *As You Wish*
- Fielding, Joy. *The Bad Daughter*
- Fluke, Joanne. *Raspberry Danish Murder*

- George, Elizabeth. *The Punishment She Deserves*
- Graham, Heather. *A Dangerous Game*
- Jance, J.A. *Duel to the Death*
- Lewis, Beverly. *The Road Home*
- MacRae, Molly. *Scones and Scoundrels*
- Neggers, Carla. *The River House*
- Pronzini, Bill. *Endgame*
- Ross, Ann B. *Miss Julia*

Raises the Roof

- Wittig, Susan Albert. *The Darling Dahlias and the Unlucky Clover*
- Woods, Stuart. *Shoot First*

Nonfiction

- Junor, Penny. *The Duchess: Camilla Parker Bowles and the Love Affair that Rocked the Crown*



Meet the Trustees... James Nolan

Jim Nolan, has served two consecutive terms as a Parker Memorial Library Trustee and is currently seeking a third term in our May elections. Born in Boston during World War II, Jim attended seven different schools in both the United States and Germany as his family followed his father, a career Army Officer, on his different postings. He completed high school and went on to

college in New York City, later working for a Master's degree in English Literature at Boston College. Two and a half years of active duty in the United States Army followed.

After his military service, Jim taught history in the public school system in a community south of Boston. He married, and moved to Dracut in 1982, where he has lived ever since.

Jim has enjoyed his time as a Trustee of the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library, and looks forward to continued service with the other Board members. He feels that the changes at the Parker in the last five years under the leadership of Director, Nanci Milone Hill, have been superlative, and that the welcoming staff, numerous programs and openness to the community have made the Parker Library a tremendous asset to the Town.

Foreign Film Festival

Join us for a month of viewing foreign films that have made their mark. Each of these films have won numerous awards and accolades. Please note that this program is not suitable for teens or children. Please register for each film separately.

Saturday, March 10th at 1:00 PM

A Separation [Iran]

Summary:
A married couple are faced with a difficult decision - to improve the life of their child by moving to another country or to stay in Iran and look after a deteriorating parent who has Alzheimer's disease.

MPAA rating: PG-13; for mature thematic material.

Saturday, March 17th at 1:00 PM

Ida [Poland]

Summary: A moving and intimate drama about a young novice nun in 1960s Poland who, on the verge of taking her vows, discovers a dark family secret dating from the terrible years of the Nazi occupation.

MPAA Rating: PG-13; for thematic elements, some sexuality and smoking.

Saturday, March 24th at 1:00 PM

Departures [Japan]

Summary: Daigo Kobayashi is a devoted cellist in an orchestra that has just been dissolved and finds himself without a job. He decides to move back to his old hometown with his wife to

look for work and start over. He answers a classified ad entitled 'Departures' thinking it is an advertisement for a travel agency. He discovers that the job is actually for a 'Nokanshi' or 'encoffineer,' a funeral professional who prepares deceased bodies for burial and entry into the next life. While his wife and others despise the job, Daigo takes a certain pride in his work and begins to perfect the art, acting as a gentle gatekeeper between life and death, between the departed and the family of the departed.

MPAA Rating: PG-13; for intense depiction of mature thematic material.

Saturday, March 31st at 1:00 PM

Son of Saul [Hungary]

Summary:
October 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Saul Ausländer is a

Hungarian member of the Sonderkommando, the group of Jewish prisoners isolated from the camp and forced to assist the Nazis in the machinery of large-scale extermination. While working in one of the crematoriums, Saul discovers the body of a boy he takes for his son. As the Sonderkommando plans a rebellion, Saul decides to carry out an impossible task: save the child's body from the flames and find a rabbi to recite the mourner's Kaddish.

MPAA Rating: R; for disturbing violent content, and some graphic nudity.



Family Mini-golf is Back!

18 holes!
Free children's raffle!

\$3.00 per person or \$9.00 per family!

Sunday, March 11, 2018
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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Funds raised by the Friends of the Dracut Library support

library programming, the Museum Pass Program, College Scholarships, and other Parker Library activities.

Bullet Journal Basics

A Bullet Journal is a customizable and forgiving organization system. It can be your to-do list, sketchbook, notebook, and diary, but most likely, it will be all of the above. It will teach you to do more with less.

Come learn the basics of getting started. You will leave with your own bullet journal that you can customize any way that you want. All materials provided. Registration required.

Pop-Up Book Sale

Come and browse for that next title to read... or pick up a Valentine gift!

Saturday, March 17th
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Deadly Pleasures Mystery Book Group

The title for the month of March is *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Julia Spencer-Fleming.

Summary

Clare Fergusson, St. Alban's new priest, fits like a square peg in the conservative Episcopal parish at Millers Kill, New York. She's an ex-Army chopper pilot, and nobody's fool. Then a newborn infant is left at the church door.

Enter hometown police chief Russ Van Alstyne, who's also ex-Army. As their search for the baby's mother uncovers secrets, they discover a world of trouble, an attraction to each other -- and murder.

We meet the third Tuesday of the month, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, in the Old Library (fireplace room). Join us!

Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30 pm

For more information, contact Library Director, Nanci Milone Hill at either 978-454-5474, extension 301, or email her.

March 2018 New Fiction Titles

Fantasy

- Briggs, Patricia. *Burn Bright*
- Blum, Yoav. *The Coincidence Makers*
- Golden, Christopher. *Blood of the Four*

General

- De los Santos, Marisa. *I'll Be Your Blue Sky*
- Forna, Aminarta. *Happiness*
- Genova, Lisa. *Every Note Played*
- Harrington, Rebecca. *Sociable*
- Hepworth, Sally. *The Family Next Door*
- Iweala, Usodinma. *Speak No Evil*
- Johnson, Chelsea. *Stray City*

- Niffenger, Audrey. *Bizarre Romance*
- Quindlen, Anna. *Alternate Side*
- Rao, Shobha. *Girls Burn Bright*
- Wolitzer, Meg. *The Female Persuasion*

Historical

- Alkemade, Kim van. *Bachelor Girl*
- Andersen, Laura. *The Darkling Bride*
- Carroll, James. *The Cloister*
- Hollinghurst, Alan. *The Sparsholt Affair*
- Lynch, Christina. *The Italian Party*
- Purcell, Laura. *The Silent Companions*

Horror

- Mayberry, Jonathan. *Glimpse*
- Ortberg, Mallory. *The Merry Spinster: Tales of Everyday Horror*

Mystery

- Albert, Susan Wittig. *Darling Dahlias and the Unlucky Clover*
- Box, C.J. *The Disappeared*
- Child, Laura. *Plum Tea Crazy*
- Crawford, James. *Bloody Scotland*
- Daugherty, Christi. *The Echo Killing*
- Dovalpage, Teresa. *Death Comes in Through the Kitchen*
- Downie, Ruth. *Memento Mori: a Crime novel of the Roman Empire*

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- Estelman, Loren
D. Black and White Ball
- George, Elizabeth.
The Punishment She Deserves
- Gutcheon, Beth Richardson. *The Affliction* [
- Hall, Parnell.
The Purloined Puzzle
- Harrison, Cora. *A Gruesome Discovery*
- Jacobs, Nova. *The Last Equation of Isaac Severy*
- Keplar, Lars.
The Sandman
- Leon, Donna.
The Temptation of Forgiveness
- Margolin, Philip. *The Third Victim*
- May, Peter. *I'll Keep You Safe*
- Patterson, James, and Marshall Karp. *Red Alert*
- Pronzini, Bill. *The Bag of Tricks Affair*
- Ripley, J. R. *Beignets and Broomsticks*
- Stanley, Kelli.
City of Sharks
- Wilson, Andrew. *A Different Kind of Evil*
- Winspear, Jacqueline. *To Die But Once*

Romance

- Deveraux, Jude. *As You Wish*
- Feehan, Christine.
Covert Game
- Graham, Heather. *A Dangerous Game*
- Howard, Linda. *Woman Left Behind*
- Steel, Danielle.
Accidental Heroes

Short Stories

Wideman, John Edgar. *American Histories*

Suspense | Thrillers

- White, Randy
Wayne. *Caribbean Rim*

March 2018 New Nonfiction

Autobiography | Biography

- Hinton, Anthony Ray. *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*
- Smart, Elizabeth. *Where There's Hope: Healing, Moving Forward, and Never Giving Up*
- Thompson, Laura. *Agatha Christie: a mysterious life*

Business & Economics

- Mortin III, David
A. Nolo's Guide to Social Security Disability: Getting and Keeping Your Benefits

Family | Relationships

- Isay, Jane.
Unconditional Love

Health & Fitness

- Dusenbery, Maya. *Doing Harm: the Truth About how Bad Medicine and Lazy Science Leave Women Dismissed, Misdiagnosed, and Sick*
- Lugavere, Max. *Genius Foods: Become Smarter, Happier, and More Productive while Protecting Your Brain for Life*

- Monto, Rocco. *The Fountain: a Doctor's Prescription to Make 60 the new 30.*

Law

- O'Neill, Cara.
Everybody's Guide to Small Claims Court
- Portman, Janet.
Renters' Rights
- Steingold, Fred S. *Legal Forms for Starting & Running a Small Business*

Self-Help

- Twigger, Robert.
Micromastery: Learn Small, Learn Fast, and Unlock your Potential to Achieve Anything

Social Sciences

- Badkhen, Anna.
Fisherman's Blues: a West African Community at Sea
- Tudor, Daniel. *Ask a North Korean: Defectors Talk about their Lives inside the World's Most Secret*

Important Dates

- Board of Library Trustees - Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 4:30 PM in the Director's Office.
- Friends of the Dracut Library - Wednesday, March 28th at 6:30 pm.
- Good Friday - Friday, March 30, 2018. The Library Closes at 12:00 pm.