In This Issue...

Yes, Shakespeare really is that great! Why the Bard is still cool after 400 years

The hottest new titles hitting the shelves this month

These 3 remakes are worth binge watching

Poetry (for people who don’t like poetry)

Archives spotlight: Local artist Betty Reese

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### Coming Soon to Our Collection

Browse through the hundreds of items that are on order right now: [https://bit.ly/OnOrderItems](https://bit.ly/OnOrderItems)

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<th>Title</th>
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<td><strong>I'll Be You</strong></td>
<td>Janelle Brown</td>
<td>Two identical twin sisters and former child actors have grown apart—until one disappears, and the other is forced to confront the secrets they’ve kept from each other. From the <em>New York Times</em> bestselling author of <em>Pretty Things</em>, this twisty suspense novel is packed with surprising revelations and sharp insights about the choices that define our families and our lives—and could just as easily destroy them.</td>
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<td><strong>Sea of Tranquility</strong></td>
<td>Emily St. John Mandel</td>
<td>The award-winning, best-selling author of <em>Station Eleven</em> and <em>The Glass Hotel</em> returns with a novel of art, time, love, and plague that takes the reader from Vancouver Island in 1912 to a dark colony on the moon five hundred years later, unfurling a story of humanity across centuries and space. A virtuoso performance that is as human and tender as it is intellectually playful, <em>Sea of Tranquility</em> is a novel of time travel and metaphysics that captures our current moment.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole</strong></td>
<td>Susan Cain</td>
<td>With <em>Quiet</em>, Susan Cain urged us to cultivate space for the undervalued, indispensable introverts among us, revealing an untapped power hidden in plain sight. Now she employs the same mix of research, storytelling, and memoir to explore why we experience sorrow and how embracing the bittersweetness at the heart of life is the path to creativity, connection, and transcendence.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scream [DVD]</strong></td>
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<td>Twenty-five years after the original series of murders in Woodsboro, a new killer has donned the Ghostface mask and begins targeting a group of teenagers to resurrect secrets from the town's deadly past. Sidney Prescott must return to uncover the truth.</td>
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**Join the wait list!** Although on-order items are not yet available for checkout, you can still place holds on them. [charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net](http://charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net)
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Need a little tech support? Want to learn how to get the most out of your device? We want to help! Let us know what you need to learn as we prepare our next digital literacy programs. Visit bit.ly/LibraryTechHelp to take the survey. You can also sign up to be notified about future technology class offerings.

FEATURED EVENTS

Drive Smart Auto Repair – 4:00 PM April 20th
Teens can learn to change a tire and understand their cars better in this basic maintenance program at the Port Charlotte Library. Call 941.764.5561 to register.

Poetry + Tea = Poet-Tea! – 2:00 PM April 29th
Adults are invited to the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library for our Poet-Tea! We’ll explore perfect pairings of tea and poetry in this literary and culinary event. Call 941.833.5461 to register.

Arts for All Ages – 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM April 30th
Bring the family to our hands-on arts festival at McGuire Park. Artists from the community will be on site to demonstrate different art forms. Then try your hand at tie-dye, make a poured paint masterpiece, or create with epoxy resin in this Suncoast Remake Learning Days event. Call 941.764.5561 for more info.

Free Comic Book Day
Saturday, May 7
Mid-County Regional Library

SAVE THE DATE!

Introducing… Mother Goose on the Loose
It's story time for our littlest patrons! We'll have baby-bouncing rhymes, board books, songs, and sensory activities for you to do with your little ones ages 0-2. This bi-weekly program will meet at Mid-County, Englewood and Punta Gorda. Find it at bit.ly/MotherGooseOTL
Archives Spotlight

Betty Reese was a well-known Charlotte County artist whose beautiful oil paintings depict some of the county’s most historic structures. Many of Reese’s paintings are on display throughout our libraries. They’re even more striking in person!

Murdock Acres | Murdock Acres was one of the largest horse farms in the area. It was owned by cattle baron A.C. Frizzell, who bought the land from John M. Murdock in 1916. This painting is one of six on display at the Mid-County Regional Library.

Placida Bunk House | The Placida Bunk House was built about 1907 by the Charlotte Harbor & Northern Railroad to house their employees. This painting and one other can be seen at the Englewood Charlotte Library.

Charlotte County Courthouse | The Charlotte County Courthouse, a neoclassical structure with Greek and Roman influences, was dedicated on March 20, 1928. This painting is currently in the archives, but several other paintings are on display at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library.
American Anthologies: Poetry that hits home
April is National Poetry Month! Below is a selection of unique anthologies of American poetry. Enjoy them this month (or anytime your soul needs stirring).

In this book you will read Walt Whitman's eulogy of Seminole Chief Osceola, sample Zora Neale Hurston's and Langston Hughes's pioneering collections of the folk poetry of Florida, see St. Augustine through Ralph Waldo Emerson's convalescent eyes, and share poet A. R. Ammons's vision of a Florida landfill.

Together in a Sudden Strangeness : America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic edited by Alice Quinn
From fierce and resilient to wistful, darkly humorous, and reverent about the earth and the vulnerability of human beings in frightening times, the poems in this collection find the words to describe what can feel unspeakably difficult and strange. Each provides wisdom, companionship, and depth of feeling to enliven our spirits.

American Wits: An Anthology of Light Verse edited by John Hollander
Irreverent, playful, and inventive, the American light verse of the past century offers a brimming feast of urbane pleasures. Bubbling over with engaging parodies, sparkling aphorisms, and wisecracking asides, the poems gathered here display a sure-footed handling of the poet's art.

Living Nations, Living Words : An Anthology of First Peoples Poetry edited by Joy Harjo
Joy Harjo, the first Native poet to serve as U.S. Poet Laureate, has championed the voices of Native peoples past and present. Her signature laureate project, now in print, gathers the work of contemporary Native poets into a national, fully digital map of story, sound, and space, celebrating their vital and unequivocal contributions to American poetry.

The PBS series Poetry in America gathers distinguished interpreters from all walks of life to explore and debate 12 unforgettable American poems. Athletes and poets, politicians and musicians, architects, scientists, actors, entrepreneurs, and citizens of all ages join host and Harvard professor Elisa New to experience and share the power of poetry in this visually dazzling and archivally rich series.
Yes, Shakespeare really is that great.

On April 23rd we'll celebrate the birthday of William Shakespeare. Four centuries later, we're still smitten with his stories. What makes Shakespeare so eternally captivating?

“For now he lives in fame, though not in life.” Already a smash hit during his own lifetime, a hundred years after his death, Shakespeare's popularity only grew. The romantic poets idolized him. (Keats wouldn’t travel without his pocket-sized portrait of the Bard!) His home in Stratford-on-Avon became a pilgrimage destination. By the Victorian era, he was already celebrated in festivals and enshrined in the public school curriculum. Since little is known about Shakespeare's personal life, conspiracy theories began to sprout. Did Shakespeare love his wife? His love poems seem addressed to a man. Who stole Shakespeare's skull? It's missing from his remains! And did Shakespeare really write all these plays himself? Maybe they're too brilliant for a writer who didn't go to college.

Today, even those of us who claim to find Shakespeare “boring” or “inaccessible” are likely fans without realizing it. If you've enjoyed Forbidden Planet, 10 Things I Hate About You, or even The Lion King – surprise! You've enjoyed Shakespeare. Consider Romeo and Juliet. In addition to the many faithful film renditions of the play—we recommend Romeo + Juliet starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes—you can also enjoy this beloved tragedy retold in a myriad of diverse genres. Spielberg’s Oscar-nominated West Side Story invites a new generation to fall in love with the Broadway classic. Horror fans might prefer to meet our star-crossed lovers in the zombie apocalypse of Warm Bodies. The animated Gnomeo and Juliet is a delightful introduction for young viewers, and even action aficionados can appreciate Jet Li's Romeo Must Die. Performed, adapted, told, and retold, Shakespeare's stories are woven deep into our culture. What makes them so very appealing, even 400 years later?

Oh, the humanity. True, some of Shakespeare's plots were borrowed from the theaters of ancient Rome, and yes, there are a few gaping plot holes. But the problems they address are just as resonant with audiences of the 21st century as they were in Shakespeare's day. Finding city life stressful? Flee into nature for some peace like in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Dealing with a domineering parent? So are the characters in King Lear. Politicians are making a mess of things, and life looks bleak? Hamlet can relate! Discouraged at the racism entrenched in modern society? Othello is, too. In comedy and tragedy, Shakespeare helps us make sense of our shared humanity.

Characters with character. The dramatis personae Shakespeare brought to life are remarkable for their psychological complexity. In a way no writer had before, Shakespeare lets us into his characters' inner lives. Macbeth, for instance, is introduced first

*See The Tempest, The Taming of the Shrew, and Macbeth, respectively.
as a soldier, a man of courage and honor. We're all the more intrigued, then, by his ambition-fueled fall into murder, guilt, and paranoia. We may think we have Romeo pinned down, but he's much more than the lover-boy speaking sweet nothings in the balcony scene. Immature, capricious, and passionate, Romeo is surprisingly intense and irrational throughout the rest of the play. Hamlet is on an emotional roller coaster, struggling to decide what to with his life, how to deal with his mom and step dad, and what to do about his crush. Is it any wonder that he's not even sure whether to be or not to be?

What wit! What banter! These complex emotions are heightened by Shakespeare’s epic dialogue. Both natural and poetic, the characters' snappy speech is rhythmic and spellbinding. Why say “Goodbye” when you could say, “Parting is such sweet sorrow”? Don’t be put off by an Elizabethan turn of phrase; we can all appreciate such excellent insults as “Thou fawning tallow-faced slug!” and the backhanded “I do desire that we may be better strangers,” from the inventor of banter. And talk about reading between the lines! Shakespeare's plays are chock full of allusions, allegories, and inside jokes. Each production reveals a new treasure.

Drama, drama, drama. Shakespeare is nothing if not over-the-top. How about a play within a play within a play? Shakespeare’s tried it. Twins trading places, cross-dressing romantics, and everyone in love with the wrong person? That’s just the first act! From love potions, fairies, and slap fights to family feuds, murder, and all-out war, we’re enthralled by the excesses of Shakespeare’s dramas. The destructive powers of jealousy, greed, guilt, and ambition are on full display in Shakespeare’s histories and tragedies. His comedies are lighter, but they’re still stuffed with histrionic spectacle and misunderstanding. We eat it up.

The Language of Shakespeare

Scholars believe that Shakespeare had a working vocabulary of over 30,000 words, double the average person’s! As if that wasn’t enough, Shakespeare coined hundreds of new English words and expressions. Many are words we now use all the time, like bump, generous, and lonely. And did you know that any time you say “too much of a good thing,” “dead as a doornail,” or “break the ice,” you’re quoting Shakespeare?

Here are just a few more of the expressions we owe to Shakespeare:

Knock knock! Who’s there?
Fight fire with fire
What’s done is done
Love is blind
Vanish into thin air
Wear your heart on your sleeve
Wild-goose chase

Of course, others of Shakespeare’s new words never really caught on. Maybe we weren’t quite courageous enough to make “armgaunt” happen.

Ready to read? If you’re ready to dive in at the deep end, we think A Midsummer Night’s Dream is a great place to start. There are lots of brilliant retellings that might scratch the itch, too. Here are some of our favorites:

*Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler – The Taming of the Shrew as a modern rom-com
*Fool* by Christopher Moore – King Lear told from the jester’s point of view
*The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski – Hamlet, but in Wisconsin

*Hag-Seed* by Margaret Atwood – a modern retelling of the betrayals, calamities, and revenge of The Tempest
*A Gap of Time* by Jeanette Winterson – The Winter’s Tale’s story of redemption set in the new millennium
Three Remakes Worth Binge Watching

**All Creatures Great and Small, PBS.**
First written as autobiographical books by James Herriot, *All Creatures Great and Small* is a remake directly taken from the original TV series of the same name that ran from 1978-1990. The numerous adventures of a friendly staff at a country veterinary practice in 1930s to 1940s Yorkshire are light-hearted and simply delightful.

Transport yourself back to the Yorkshire Dales (perhaps for the first time, perhaps to relive a cherished narrative) with James, Siegfried Farnon, Tristan Farnon, Helen Alderson, Mrs. Hall, and more.

**Cobra Kai, Sony Pictures Home Entertainment**
Let me start by encouraging you to watch the 1984 movie *The Karate Kid*. If you were thinking, “Wait, that is only part one of a trilogy,” you have nothing to fear as parts two and three leave the rivalry of Johnny Lawrence and Daniel LaRusso virtually untouched. Most fans thought their story was over… (Fade to black. Pause for dramatic effect. Enter: Cobra Kai.)

*Cobra Kai* takes place over 30 years after the events of the 1984 All Valley Karate Tournament with the continuation of the inescapable conflict between Daniel LaRusso and Johnny Lawrence. The two finally get the opportunity to rekindle their rivalry and settle the score!

**Dexter: New Blood, Paramount Home Entertainment**
*Dexter* was a series that ran from 2006-2013 and focused on Miami forensics expert Dexter Morgan. Living by a strict code of honor that is both his saving grace and a lifelong burden, Dexter spends his days solving crimes and his nights committing them.

*Dexter: New Blood* is set ten years after Dexter Morgan went missing in the eye of Hurricane Laura. He is now living under an assumed name in Iron Lake in upstate New York, far from his original home in Miami. Being so far removed from his former life, what could go wrong for this conflicted hero?!
Tech Tips: Mobile Catalog App

The Charlotte County Libraries and History app makes it simple for you to search our catalog, see upcoming events, and check your library account while on a mobile device.

Search the library's entire collection, including digital items. Use the filters at the bottom of your search results to limit by item type.

Nearest Libraries will locate your closest library using GPS.

Always have your library card number with you! Just tap Show my Barcode, and your card number and barcode appear, ready to be scanned!

Use Scan ISBN Barcode if you find an interesting book while not in the library. Simply scan the ISBN into the app to find out if the library has a copy you can borrow!

Use My Account to find your checkouts, holds, fines, and past checkout history.

Linked Accounts will allow you to add other library cards to one device. Use this button to add a family member's card to your account, and their checkouts, holds, and fines will appear in those tabs.

Swipe across the home screen to see more options, including access to our event calendar and a search for just digital books.

The app is available for iOS and Android devices. Search for “Charlotte County Library” in your device's app store to download today!
Poetry (for people who don’t like poetry)

Bust a rhyme, Charlotte County! Ms. Liz explains why poetry is in the air and in our hearts.

It's National Poetry Month! I know when you hear the word 'poetry' you’re like, “Oh. my. gosh. Not another dead guy.” Well, poetry is not just about dead people like Robert Frost and Maya Angelou. It's not all quatrains, sonnets, and odes to flowers. Poetry is in everything! Literally. The music that you like, whether it's country, rap, hip-hop? That's poetry. The musical Hamilton is practically one giant poem.

What's the best way to get started writing poetry? The more poetry you read, the larger your knowledge base will be when you start to form your own style of poetry. Some poems have a fixed structure that you must follow—a sonnet is always 14 lines with alternating rhymes—but there is also free verse, which is whatever you want to write, no rhyming required. There’s concrete poetry where your poem makes a picture like a house or a flying bird. Then there's nonsense poetry like Louis Carroll wrote in Alice in Wonderland. It’s fantastical and has fun made-up words. My personal favorite poem is “Variations on a Theme by William Carlos Williams” written by Kenneth Koch. Kenneth Koch read William Carlos Williams' poem “This is Just to Say” and then made his own version of it. It's hilarious, and I absolutely recommend reading it.

Who's writing great poetry nowadays? Dr. Seuss, Jack Prelutsky, and Shel Silverstein are some of our favorite children's poets, but there are exciting contemporary poets for adults, too. Amanda Gorman is the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, and Brandon Leake won America’s Got Talent as the first spoken word performer on the show. We also have cool books written in verse! Kids will love the zany scenarios in Worst-Case Collin by Rebecca Caprara. For teens, try Long Way Down by African American poet Jason Reynolds, who writes heart-stopping verse on difficult topics like gang violence. Adults should read The Hunchback of Neiman Marcus by Sonya Sones— you might laugh until you cry! I hope this month you find some poet or poetry that speaks to you, and I'd love to hear who and what you discover as you venture into the vast world of poetry.
Staff Picks

Survive the Night by Riley Sager | “In Survive the Night, Riley Sager has created a nostalgic masterpiece, rife with shocking twists and perfectly placed references. I loved the 90’s setting and all of the details that made it seem real. Every time I thought I had figured it out, a crazy twist had me second guessing it all.”

— Melanie Ruth, Youth Librarian

The Swamp Peddlers by Jason Vuic | “As someone new to this part of the world, I found The Swamp Peddlers an interesting historical account explaining how many Florida communities came to be. It was fascinating to read the story of how cities were developed to be marketed to northern residents, starting with $10 down and $10 a month. I’d always been curious as to why a major street in North Port, Toledo Blade Boulevard, came to have been named for the Newspaper in Toledo, Ohio. Mystery solved—it was a marketing tool to attract potential buyers from Toledo. The book really helped me understand the development of our area.”

— Les Novitsky, Library Technician

Dragons of Autumn Twilight by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman | “The beginning of the Chronicles trilogy in the Dragonlance series, this book introduces a set of characters who are reuniting after having been apart for five years. Although most don’t yet realize it, their world will soon be plunged into darkness the likes of which has not been seen since the Cataclysm three centuries ago. Can this unlikely group of friends overcome old sleights and renewed rivalries to stay alive long enough to help those that they love the most, or perhaps will their efforts be too futile or too late? This fantasy classic is perfect for gamers and readers who enjoyed Ready, Player One.”

— Benjamin Feller, Technical Services

Reader’s Rave

A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking by T. Kingfisher | “A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking is a delicious twist on fantasy. When the young wizard Mona’s city is attacked, she is the people's last hope of defense. The only problem? Her magic only works on bread! This delightful story is both funny and gripping. I ate it up!”— Sean M., Library patron

Send your own rave review to CharlotteCountyLibraries@CharlotteCountyFL.gov. It may be featured in a future issue!
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