

# Between the Lines

*The Charlotte County Libraries & History Monthly Newsletter*

## In This Issue...

*Cozy up with the classics!  
Literary cocktails to enjoy  
as you read*

*November's most  
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winners kids will adore*

*Staff picks of the month*



November 2022



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
Libraries & History





# Coming Soon to Our Collection

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



## ***The Magic Kingdom*** by Russell Banks

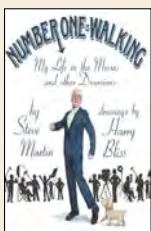
Nov 8

In 1971, property speculator Harley Mann records his life story, starting with his father's unexpected death, which drove his family down to Florida to join a Shaker community. The community saved the struggling family, but Harley's love for a consumptive patient there had consequences that forced him to reassess the Shaker worldview.

Nov 8

## ***Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six*** by Lisa Unger

Three couples rent a luxury cabin in the woods for a weekend getaway to die for, but the dreamy weekend is about to turn into a nightmare. An intrusive rental host, the chef's creepy stories, and a sneaking suspicion that someone in the group has a vendetta all put a damper on things. How well does Hannah know her brother? Her own husband? Can she trust her best friend?



## ***Number One is Walking: My Life in the Movies & Other Diversions***

Nov 15

by Steve Martin with illustrated cartoons by *New Yorker* cartoonist Harry Bliss  
Steve Martin shares anecdotes from the sets of his beloved films, bringing readers directly into his world. He shares charming tales of antics, moments of inspiration, and exploits with the likes of Paul McCartney, Diane Keaton, and Robin Williams. Martin details his 40 years in the movie biz, as well as his stand-up comedy, banjo playing, writing, and cartooning, all with his unparalleled wit.

Nov 1

## ***Top Gun: Maverick*** [DVD]

After more than 30 years of service as one of the navy's top aviators, Pete 'Maverick' Mitchell is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would ground him. Training a detachment of graduates for a special assignment, Maverick must confront both the ghosts of his past and his deepest fears, culminating in a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those who choose to fly it.



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](https://charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net)

# Library Bulletin

## Featured Events

### Tunes for Tots—1 p.m. Thursdays

Kids ages 0-5 and their caregivers are invited to drop into our children's library at the Englewood Charlotte Library for our weekly interactive storytime. Join us for musical play encouraging early learning.

### Outpost to Statehood—2 p.m. Thursday, November 10

Our Florida history series continues at the Englewood Charlotte Library. Join Rodney Kite-Powell for a presentation on Florida's days as a territory leading up to the Civil War. You'll love the historic maps!

### Diggin' Dinos!—11 a.m. Saturday, November 12

Kids will love digging up dinos and learning about fossils in this Dinovember program at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library! Please register each child separately.

## Recipe and Cookie Swap

We want your recipes! Share your favorite holiday dessert recipe and a photo along with why it's great. Then bring your dessert to our cookie swap on December 10 at the Port Charlotte Library. We'll share the sweetness and take home a cookbook of all recipes. See how to participate at [bit.ly/LibraryCookbook](https://bit.ly/LibraryCookbook)

*Recipes due Nov. 23*

## Family Story Time

This program for children between 0 and 6 years old is designed to improve listening and group interaction skills through stories, movement activities, music and dramatic play. Each week is a different theme so get ready to sing, dance, and pop some bubbles!

**Punta Gorda Charlotte Library**

Tuesday mornings

11 to 11:30 a.m.



All library locations  
will be closed  
Friday, November 11  
in observance of  
Veterans Day.



In observance of  
the Thanksgiving  
holiday, all library  
locations will be  
closed Thursday  
and Friday,  
November 24-25.

Our three operating  
library branches will  
be open on Saturday  
and Sunday,  
November 26-27.



# Post-Ian Recovery Update

We're working hard to resume services following the hurricane.

## Port Charlotte Public Library reopening

We're thrilled to announce that the Port Charlotte Public Library on Aaron St. has been cleared to reopen on Monday, November 7! As our recovery continues, the library will be open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We hope to see you soon!

The Punta Gorda and Englewood Charlotte libraries are both also open. Unfortunately, the Mid-County Regional Library on Forrest Nelson Blvd. sustained serious damage and remains closed indefinitely.



## New curbside pickup location at Centennial Park Recreation Center

In an effort to deliver exceptional service in the wake of the storm, we're offering a new service in Port Charlotte. **Curbside pickup** is now available at the Centennial Park Recreation Center in Port Charlotte. You can place new holds for pickup here through our online catalog. You can also change your pickup location for any existing holds if this location is more convenient for you.



Pickup is available weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Once you're notified that your items are ready for pickup, follow the signs to the building's blue staff entrance. Park in one of the designated spaces, and call the number posted on the sign. Our staff will be right out with your items, checked out and ready to go! We'll also be glad to accept your returns.

**How can I return my books?** While we'd asked you to hold onto your items following the storm, we are now able to accept all returns. You can bring materials that were checked out from any Charlotte County branch to the Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, or Englewood Charlotte libraries. You can also use the book drop outside the Centennial curbside location. The book return at Mid-County is currently locked and unable to accept returns. If you haven't been able to return your items yet, don't worry! We're still waiving fines.

**Why do I see accruing fines?** You may see fines accruing for your checked out items in your online account. Don't worry, these fines will be waived when your items are checked in.

**My book was lost or damaged in the hurricane. Will I be charged for it?** Alas, we're familiar with that sinking feeling! We have approval to remove charges for items lost in the hurricane. Please let our staff know what happened so that we can remove the book from your record and cancel the bill.

**What happened to my holds?** Any books housed at Mid-County will be inaccessible for the foreseeable future, so we've had to cancel holds on those items. It won't appear in your account. We're so sorry!

If you had requested a book from a different branch for pickup at Mid-County, you can **modify your pickup location by logging into your online account**. You can also call us or visit the library for assistance.

# Great film adaptations of classic literature

Usually the book is better, but here are some classics made into movies that are worth a watch—or a re-watch.



## ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** by Ken Kesey

It's the story of Randle Patrick McMurphy (Jack Nicholson), an energetic man who fakes insanity in order to serve out his battery sentence in an Oregon asylum rather than prison. Immediately opposing the brutally autocratic administrator, Nurse Ratched, McMurphy works to disrupt the institution's rigid routine and incites rebellion among fellow patients.

## ***If Beale Street Could Talk*** by James Baldwin

This timeless love story set in early 1970s Harlem involves newly engaged nineteen-year-old Tish and her fiancé Fonny who have a beautiful future ahead. But their plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit. Now the pair and their families must fight for justice in the name of love and the promise of the American dream.



## ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** by Oscar Wilde

When Gwendolen Fairfax and her ward, Cecily Cardew, are both wooed by the same suitor, the consequences guarantee drama. However, since Ernest, the said suitor, is a complete fabrication, hilarity ensues. We like the adaptations produced in 1952 and 2002.

## ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee

Set in a small Alabama town in the 1930s, the story focuses on scrupulously honest, highly respected lawyer Atticus Finch, embodied by Gregory Peck. Finch puts his career on the line when he agrees to represent Tom Robinson (Brock Peters), a black man accused of rape. The trial and the events surrounding it are seen through the eyes of Finch's six-year-old daughter, Scout (Mary Badham).



## ***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen

Elizabeth Bennet, when first meeting the handsome Mr. Darcy, believes him to be the last man on earth she could ever marry. But as their lives become intertwined, she finds herself captivated by the very man she swore to loathe for all eternity. We've enjoyed numerous adaptations from 1940 through 2006.

# Classics and Cocktails

Looking to cozy up with a good book this fall? We selected a few of our favorite classics and paired them with a cocktail from Tim Federle's *Tequila Mockingbird* and *Are You There God? It's Me, Margarita*.



## Murder on the Orient Espresso

1 ounce coffee liqueur (like Kahlua)  
4 ounces hot coffee  
2 shots espresso  
1 ounce simple syrup (boil 1 part water and 2 parts sugar until reduced to syrup)  
1 piece Belgian chocolate, for garnish

Pour all the liquid ingredients into a mug and float the Belgian chocolate on top. Now go find a seat in the quiet car and enjoy!

### Why you should read it:

***Murder on the Orient Express*** by Agatha Christie

Christie is the definitive locked room mystery, full of intrigue with a host of suspects to keep you guessing until the end. Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Without a shred of doubt, one of his fellow passengers is the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies before the murderer decides to strike again.



### Why you should drink it:

If you love coffee, this is the drink for you! Decadent and bold, you'll want to drink this in front of the fireplace while you read.

### Why you should read it:

***The Secret Garden*** by Frances Hodgson Burnett is a beloved children's book that deserves a second look as an adult. With fantastic characterization and beautiful descriptions you will be enchanted. When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire moors, she finds it full of secrets. At night, she hears crying down one of the long corridors. Outside, she meets Dickon, a magical boy who can talk to animals. Then one day, Mary discovers the most mysterious wonder of all—a secret garden, walled and locked, which has been forgotten for years and years. With the help of two unexpected companions, Mary discovers a way in—and becomes determined to bring the garden back to life.



## The Seagram's Garden

5 ounces Seagram's ginger ale  
2 ounces watermelon juice  
1 mint sprig, for garnish

Pour ginger ale and juice into a highball glass over ice. Garnish with a mint sprig. For spiked version, use 2 ounces of whiskey and 3 ounces of ginger ale instead of 5.

### Why you should drink it:

This non-alcoholic drink is refreshing and fizzy. We added a bit of food coloring to get the striking pink color.



## Moby-Drink

1 ounce vodka  
½ ounce Blue Curacao  
1 (12-ounce) can lemon-lime soda  
1 Swedish fish, for garnish

Combine vodka and Blue Curacao over ice in a highball glass and fill to the top with the lemon-lime soda. Then spear the Swedish Fish with a swizzle stick and plunge into drink.

### Why you should read it:

**Moby Dick** by Herman Melville is one of the most famous journeys in literature. A tale full of obsession and revenge, what else could you want? Ishmael quickly learns that Captain Ahab of the *Pequod* sails for revenge against the elusive Moby Dick, a sperm whale with a snow-white hump and mottled skin who destroyed Ahab's former vessel and left him crippled.



### Why you should drink it:

It's such a beautiful color, and the Swedish fish add a bit of whimsy to make this a unique treat.

### Why you should read it:

**Gone with the Wind** by Margaret Mitchell is a romance for the ages. Scarlett O'Hara, the spoiled, manipulative daughter of a wealthy plantation owner, arrives at young womanhood just in time to see the Civil War forever

change her way of life. It's a sweeping story of tangled passion and courage.



### Why you should drink it:

Looking to make a drink for a family gathering or party? This is sure to be a crowd pleaser; wine and peach are a great combination!

## Gone with the Wine

1 bottle red wine (about 3 cups)  
2 ounces peach brandy  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1 peach, chopped into cute little squares  
1 orange, cut into bite-size wedges  
2 ½ cups ginger ale, chilled

Pour the wine, brandy, sugar, and fruits into a large pitcher and stir. Place the pitcher in the fridge and allow to infuse for at least an hour. Then top the pitcher with ginger ale and serve over ample ice.

## Give these classics another shot—they're not as boring as you think!



**Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens

"*Great Expectations* is considered by many to be the greatest novel written by Charles Dickens. It seamlessly mixes beautiful writing and gut-wrenching anxiety. Going through the novel, you will likely find yourself feeling the same emotions as the main character, Pip. If you want a heartfelt story with memorable, enjoyable characters, then you should definitely give it a read."

—Pip Penrod, Library Assistant

**Dracula** by Bram Stoker

"Told through letters, newspaper clippings, and journal entries, *Dracula* keeps you on the edge of your seat as one character after another faces unrelenting peril. Who will live? Who will die? Who will spend eternity among the undead? You think you know the story, but that just adds to the sense of dread that builds with each turn of the page. This is one classic worth sinking your teeth into." —Claire Myers, Technical Services



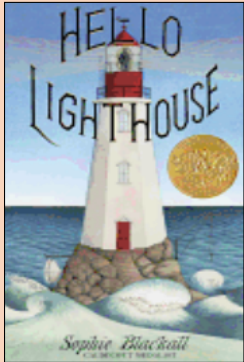
# Can't-Miss Caldecott Winners

These beautifully illustrated picture books are sure to enchant readers young and old. Caldecott winners are chosen for their amazing illustrations. We asked our Youth Librarians to pick their favorites!

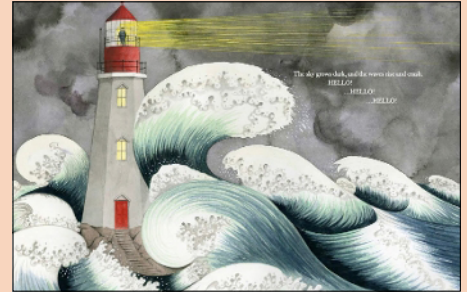


**Ms. Melanie's favorite:**

***Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackwell**

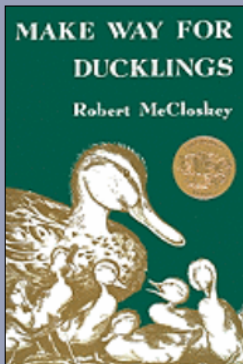


"The depiction of nature is gorgeous and so full of color. The illustrations were done in 'Chinese ink and watercolor on hotpress paper.' The illustrations use concrete shapes and fluid movement together to juxtapose the structure of the keepers' life inside the lighthouse and the chaos of the water surrounding it. The back of the book has educational content about lighthouses."

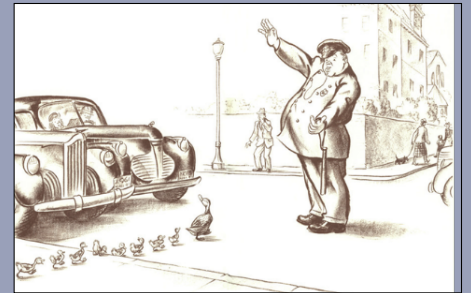


**Ms. Ashley's favorite:**

***Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey**

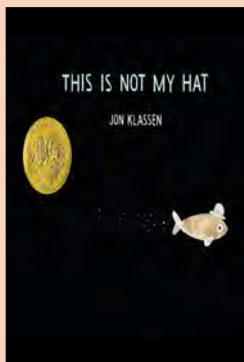


"It's a beautifully illustrated story about an adorable family of ducks who must track across a busy town to reach their new home. They encounter many obstacles along the way, and the townspeople come together to support them and clear the way for their safe arrival. Reading it puts a smile on my face every time!"

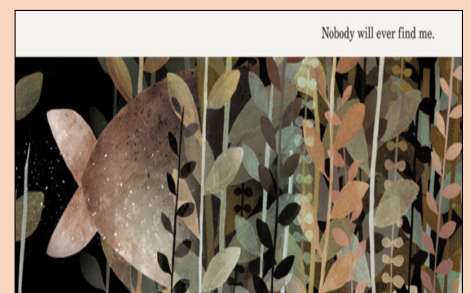


**Ms. Liz's favorite:**

***This is Not My Hat* by Jon Klassen**



"It's hard to choose a single favorite Caldecott award book, but I'd have to say mine is *This is Not My Hat* by Jon Klassen. I love the mischievousness of the little fish as he steals the hat from a much larger fish, and his journey through the book where he may or may not have a happy ending. I chuckle every time I read it, and I love to include it in my aquatic-themed story times."





## Archives Spotlight: Veterans Day

Every year on November 11, communities across the United States honor veterans, whether through formal parades or simple thank yous for their service. But did you know that Veterans Day has its origins in the First World War?

On November 11, 1918, after four years of deadly conflict, the war on the Western Front in France finally came to an end. The United States had entered the war in April 1917. Like our European allies, the U.S. declared November 11 Armistice Day as a day of commemoration and remembrance. The day's connection to World War I remained until 1954, when veterans of World War II and the Korean War successfully lobbied Congress to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The holiday now commemorates veterans from all wars. It is important to note that the creation of Armistice Day/Veterans Day never altered the significance of Memorial Day, which has been in place since the Civil War and honors those who died while in service for their country.



Junior Girl Scouts march in the 1978 Veterans Day parade in Punta Gorda.



The Port Charlotte Junior High School Terriers marching band join in the 1978 Veterans Day parade in Punta Gorda.



Local historian and WWII veteran U.S. Cleveland stands with an unidentified speaker at the 1981 Veterans Day program outside the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte.

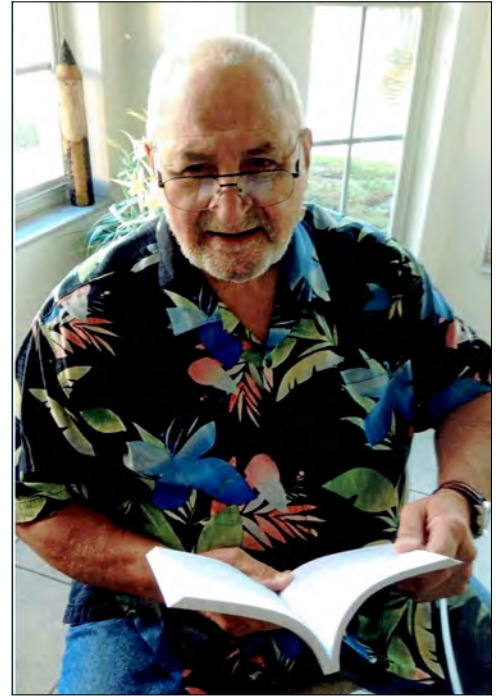
# Using History as Plot Can Develop Writers' Characters

Writer James Abraham explores how a fellow local author creates characters you'll fall for.

Probably the easiest type of novel to write (and most enjoyable to read) is a character-driven tale. People are interested in people, even villainous people. A good writer knows how to sign up the reader and convince him to invest in a novel's characters.

By that definition David Abraham (no relation) is a good writer. His genre is historical fiction. Abraham makes history vital by superimposing his characters on momentous events. In *Papal Sins*, a courier and boatman who would be footnotes in history are instead eyewitnesses, describing the pageantry and backstabbing as they maneuver to preserve their lives and fortunes. In *Hitler's Shadow*, a factory worker is caught up in an alternative history where Der Fuhrer escapes to South America.

Abraham, a New York State native who winters in Lake Suzy, is the author of 19 books, two musicals and a comedy. Books include *Thy Father's Seed*, *Flight from Alberobello*, *Love and Promise*, *The Principal*, ***Bawdy Town***, *Tainted Justice*, ***Aaron Burr: Adventurer***, ***Black River***, ***Dark Days of Florida***, *The Womanizer*, *Papal Sins*, *Florida Cowcatchers and Outlaws*, *Harriet Tubman: A Passion for Freedom*, *Hitler's Shadow*, *The Orphan*, *Osceola and the Seminoles*, *A Man for All Seasons*, and *Manifest Destiny*.



Local author David Abraham

Interposing his characters in history offers Abraham a handy plot device—chronology. His characters are swept along by major events, relieving Abraham of the responsibility to develop major plot lines. Consider how in *Manifest Destiny*, his latest work, Abraham's protagonist fights for the British as a colonist, against the British as a revolutionary, then for a series of American military leaders as he follows the route of westward expansion.

By bringing history down to the common level, Abraham creates characters who are easy to invest in. But far from being leaves on the wind, Abraham's characters are doers, the little men and women upon whom history often turns. Linking his characters to momentous events gives Abraham an opportunity to present his characters with real-life challenges as believable as history.

Life is adversity; it brings out character. So what better form of character development is there than a dose of real life as history?



## NaNoWriMo

### November is National Novel Writing Month

If you're always meaning to write that book, maybe now is the time! National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo, in Internet-

speak) began in 1999. Each November, the challenge is the same: write 50,000 words of a novel in 30 days.

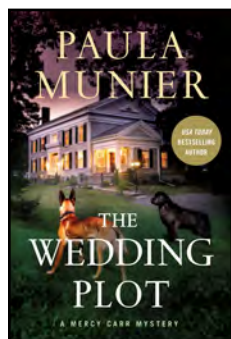
Hundreds of thousands of people begin this quest each year, supported by the nonprofit organization NaNoWriMo, whose "fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to creative writing" has built an inspiring online community, full of pep talks from best-selling authors, organization hacks, and writing tips.

Get started at [nanowrimo.org](http://nanowrimo.org). We'd love to add your novel to the library's local author collection.





# Staff Picks



## THE WEDDING PLOT

by Paula Munier

"*The Wedding Plot* is a mystery with a great cast and a fast moving story. For dog lovers and those that like twists and turns in an book, this author never disappoints."

—Carol Jo Barger, Library Technician

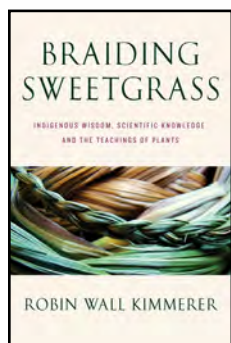
## LEGENDS & LATTES

by Travis Baldree



"This was easily my favorite book of 2022. An adventuring Orc has decided to hang up her sword and open up a coffee shop. Leaving that life isn't easy. Has Viv really thought this through? Will her old life interfere with her new adventure? I am in LOVE with almost all of the characters of this book. It is the wholesome, cozy, lovely fantasy that I needed at this moment in time."

—Michael S. Hockenson, Jr., Library Technician



## BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

"With both a spiritual and a scientific perspective, *Braiding Sweetgrass* shows us how we can learn from each other, how we can learn from nature, and how we might be able to learn our place within nature again. It will fascinate you, it will make you think, and, hopefully, it will inspire you."

—Brooke Busse, Library Technician



## Reader's Rave

### *Heartwood Hotel: A True Home*

by Kallie George

"One reason why *A True Home* is a great and healing story is because a character experiences the loss of her parents. I also lost a loved one at the beginning of 2022, and the book shows how she copes and keeps her parents in her memory."

Another reason is that it shows that even girls and smaller people work hard and are accepted! 'We live with love and laughter, not with snarls or growls.'"

—Cameron C.,  
Library patron

Share your own  
recommendation at  
[bit.ly/ReadersRaves](https://bit.ly/ReadersRaves)





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