

SPRING VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER; FIRST EDITION, VOL.12: MARCH 2015

A-Z CHALLENGE: OUT OF AFRICA

Karen Blixen (aka Isak Dinesen) is so beloved in her home country of Denmark, that for a time she was featured on their 50 kroner bill. After reading the memoirs of her life in Africa it's easy to see why. I picked this book in hopes of enjoying a sound literary safari. Having never traveled a greater distance than Sioux Falls, I felt a change of scenery was long overdue for this Midwestern homebody. What I gained in addition however ended up being the most rewarding aspect of *Out of Africa* for me: the acquaintance of a beautiful woman.

Have I fallen in love with a long dead Dane you ask? No that's gross. But there is definitely something to admire about a woman whose husband married her young, took her to a strange land, started a coffee plantation with her family's money, and then ditched her and the farm only to see her run it herself for ten more years! Making the best of every hardship, finding the admirable in all characters, and the poetic in the unbearable, Karen Blixen's recollections exhibit an incredible insight and compassion for humanity. Leaving the reader cleansed by books end.

Considering my reaction I was really surprised to find out upon finishing the book was just how contentious it is today.

I suppose any memoir written by a colonial plantation owner in Kenya would, by association, tend to draw criticism from the modern reader. In this case however, I believe the accusations are unwarranted. I'll admit from time to time a motherly tone comes out in her relations to her workers, and some would describe her observations of the natives as quaint. However, unless your looking to be offended, you'll find that Blixen's respect for the country and it's people far outweigh any projected feelings of superiority, with which she has been accused of.

Anyway, my only regret concerning the book, was how quickly I read through it. Now, five weeks probably seems like a long time for a 400 page book, but I'm pretty new to this non-fiction thing, and I simply can't help but feel the weight of the story was, to an extent, lost on me. Because the nostalgia was a force of its own. Allowing yourself to progress at the books pace, one is awash with Africa. You can see the giraffe walking the plains, and the lions roaring in the bush. You're moved by the native dances, and the aerial excursions. You know these characters, and most significantly, you know that you're being invited to... *read the rest of the article on our Goodreads page.*

SPRING VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATES

Library Board Meeting: This months' library board meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 7pm. This is a public meeting and all patrons are welcome.

Celebrate Irish Heritage and St. Patrick: This month the library will feature a special Irish Heritage display in addition to hosting a shamrock seeking game for kids.

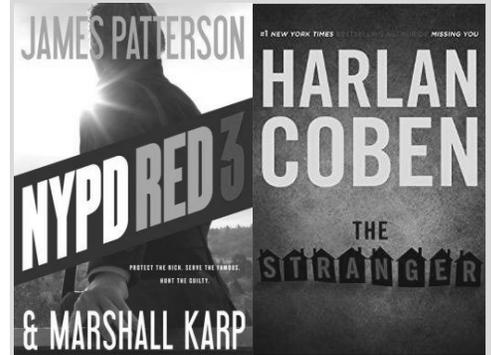
Music in the Park: The library is presently looking into programming for its summer reading program coming up in June. After the success we had last year with the event we were hoping to book at least two local acts to perform in our music in the park series again this year. If you are interested or know of any local talent please send the information our way and we'll look into getting the musicians set-up to be featured for this popular event.

Valentine's Day Candy Contest Winner: Congratulations to Katelynn Gruer for making the closest guess in our sweethearts competition. She was one away from a perfect answer when with a guess of 142 hearts. There were 143 total. As a prize she won the jar for her own.

Family History Resources: Did you know you had free access to Ancestry.com? At the library, patrons can build their family tree by accessing census lists, marriage and death records. In addition, our MORE page grants access to seven local databases; including the Wisconsin Historical Society. Need help? Feel free to ask.

Join us on Goodreads: Virtually browse our book orders, follow the A-Z Challenge, and converse with your fellow patrons while cataloging your reading history.

Popular Titles Coming Out March
I can't think of a rhyme except for starch!



The Week of March 2

The Assassin by Clive Cussler
Leaving Berlin by Joseph Kanon
Who Buries the Dead by C.S. Harris
The Buried Giant by Kazuo Ishiguro
Mrs. Grant and Madame Jule by Jennifer Chiaverini

The Week of March 9

Last One Home by Debbie Macomber
Endangered by C.J. Box
World Gone By by Dennis Lehane
Cold Betrayal by J.A. Jance
The Mirror World of Melody Black by Gavin Extence

The Week of March 16

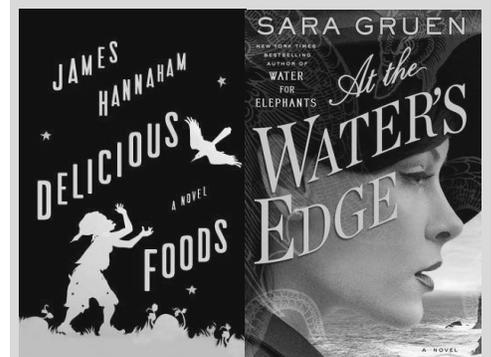
NYPD Red 3 by James Patterson
A Dangerous Place by Jacqueline Winspear
Delicious Foods by James Hannaham
Host by Robin Cook

The Week of March 23

The Stranger by Harlan Coben
Cuba Straits by Randy Wayne White
The Cavendon Women by Barbara Taylor Bradford
Inspector of the Dead by David Morell
The Fifth Heart by Dan Simmons

The Week of March 30

At the Water's Edge by Sara Gruen
The Angel Court Affair by Anne Perry
The Architect's Apprentice by Elif Shafak



LIBRARY PROGRAMMING IN MARCH

Children's Story Time: The presents series of story time will be coming to an end on March 11th. Story time is an hour long program primarily for preschool aged children. It runs Wednesdays mornings from 10-10:30am. Miss Julie Webb is in charge of these events and has chosen these themes to wrap up her winter sessions:

- March 4th: Dr. Seuss
- March 11th: Zoo Animals

However her hiatus will not last long as she will return on March 25th to begin her spring series. The list of topics is below:

- Mar 25th: Community Helpers
- April 1st: Bunnies
- April 8th: Farm Animals
- April 15th: Food
- April 22nd: Colors
- April 29th: Rain
- May 6th: Flowers
- May 13th: Transportation
- May 20th: Bugs



Early Release Kid's Club: On March 6, from 1:30-2:30pm, the library will be hosting a Kid's Club seed planting activity as well as a garden art project. Miss Julie Webb, who runs these events, is in need of tin cans for the projects. So if you can bring your own or extra to share that would be greatly appreciated. A showing of Big Hero 6 will follow the crafts, from 2:30-4pm.

Registration is required for this popular afterschool program as we only have space for 50 children. A waiting list will be created for registrants 51 and beyond. This can be done by visiting our website

Parent's MUST send a note to their student's teacher indicating they will participate in the library Kid's Club. At the end of the school day on March 6 children



The Boxtrolls, showing March 6, is rated PG for action and peril, some rude humor and thematic elements.

will meet in the cafeteria where two library volunteers/staff members will escort the children safely across the street.

When the program ends parents must arrive to get their child by 4pm. A snack may be given during Kid's Club, and a departure snack will be given after the film.

Children's Monthly Book Club: The Children's Monthly Book Club will be getting together at the library Saturday, March 7 from 10-10:30am to hold their book discussion and share out cookies and cocoa.

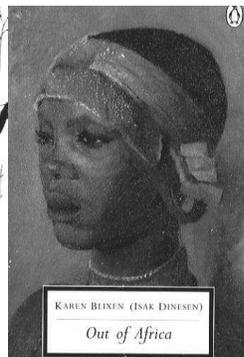
This program is moderated by Miss Julie Webb who, with the children's input, has selected *Loot*, by Jude Watson for the March title. Copies of the book are available now for pick-up at the library. Participants are asked to have read the selection prior to the meeting. Registration is encouraged and can be completed online.

Teen Book Club: On March 26 the first teen Book to Movie Club meeting will be held at 6pm by Elizabeth! The book is *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs. You can pick up a copy at the library. Snacks provided at discussion.

The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly by Sun-Mi Hwang

An anthropomorphic fable of motherhood, this novelette follows a plucky hen who finds her strength in dreams of a better world. With each success however comes challenges, and as her strange past and peculiar relationships label her an untouchable, she struggles with aging and alienation from those she has sacrificed the most for. That may sound powerful, but it comes off as excessively didactic and predictable. Somehow cliché and unique, I'll sum it up as a sparingly poignant read.

HERE BE BOOK REVIEWS



Out of Africa by Karen Blixen

A meditative, nostalgic, and often heart-breaking memoir of a young Danish woman running her own coffee plantation in the hills of Kenya. *Out of Africa* is a special book which offers readers an incredible overview of a time and place lying somewhere between colonialism, and the arrival of industry and the modern age. Recorded with keen insight, Blixen's story is one of great humanity and diversity. A catalog of cultural clashes and colorful characters. Though it's episodic nature forces a pace, it remains a classic.

Notable Authors Born in March

- Mar. 1—Ralph Ellison
- Mar. 2—Theodore Geisel
- Mar. 3—Patricia MacLachlan
- Mar. 5—Howard Pyle
- Mar. 6—Sid Fleischman
- Mar. 6—Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Mar. 6—Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Mar. 8—Kenneth Grahame
- Mar. 11—Ezra Jack Keats
- Mar. 11—Douglas Adams
- Mar. 12—Jack Kerouac
- Mar. 20—Lois Lowry
- Mar. 20—Henrik Ibsen
- Mar. 22—Louis L'Amour
- Mar. 22—Randolph Caldecott
- Mar. 25—Flannery O'Connor
- Mar. 26—Tennessee Williams
- Mar. 26—A.E. Housman
- Mar. 26—Robert Frost
- Mar. 30—Anna Sewell
- Mar. 31—Nikolai Gogol
- Mar. 31—Andrew Lang



“The woods are lovely, dark, and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.” - Robert Frost (*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*)

Remember to like us on Facebook so that you can keep up-to-date with us throughout the month. For more information you can also visit our website at www.springvalleylibrary.org. If you have any questions regarding our events or services simply call us at 715-778-4590 or email Rebecca at schmitt@svlibrary.org. Thank you for reading and we hope to see you all again soon.