

The Ellington Reader

ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY

DEC
2025

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LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY	11-7
TUESDAY	11-7
WEDNESDAY	11-7
THURSDAY	11-7
FRIDAY	CLOSED
SATURDAY	10-1
SUNDAY	CLOSED

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR

I think a month or two ago I wrote about wishing everyone a “slow roll” as we approach winter and the holiday season. Well, that old well-used adage, be careful what you wish for, has its own truthful warning. I definitely was forced to take a very slow roll through a painful week or two as I experienced an attack of Sciatica. I’ve never had it before and was genuinely surprised how painful it was and how long it kept me immobile. As I sat in my recliner with heating pad and painkillers I could only do what any good librarian worth her title would do... I began to read!

I read books with widely different themes. Here’s just two of them.

I started with a classic I read in middle school– “Sounder” a novel by William H. Armstrong. Written in 1969, it won the Newbery Medal. The story is set in early 20th-century rural America and confronts the themes of poverty, family, and resilience. It follows the actions and emotions of the oldest son of a loving and strong family of black sharecroppers as he comes of age in the Depression-era South after his father is imprisoned for stealing food. “Sounder” is their dog’s name and the dog’s soul is intertwined with the family’s. The last chapter brought me to tears, again, as it did when I read it for the first time.

I followed that book up with “Unsheltered” by Barbara Kingsolver, a novel that interweaves the stories of two families living in the same house in Vineland, New Jersey, but at different times. One is a modern-day family facing financial ruin and family tragedy and the other a 19th-century family dealing with scientific and social conflicts which also is tearing their family apart. The story explores themes of resilience, what makes your house a home, community and economic instability in both time periods. The novel alternates between the two families, using the “last words” of one chapter as the title of the next to create a connection between the eras. I found that a very creative tie in. Both families are “unsheltered,” meaning they are losing the “shelter” they had expected from having a stable career, a community to belong to and even the physical structure of their homes.

Interspersed between the novels was a little magazine reading. With the holidays coming I have a lot of family visiting from various places who will be staying at my house. I have one gluten-free individual and one vegetarian in the family so I used the time to look up some recipes that everyone could enjoy for the holiday. Cooks Illustrated and quite a few years worth of Taste of Home provided good places to start. I will be eternally grateful to my father, who for many years, gifted me with subscriptions to both.

Now, armed with an enticing array of recipe choices I needed a little creative inspiration. I turned then my attention to the Fine Art Connoisseur magazine which helped me find inspiration to start some new paintings in January,

Words that shook me to tears, words that made me rethink my idea of what I find shelter in, words that brought inspiration to both nurture and (literally) to feed the soul. That was my “slow roll” journey, and although it was unexpected and rather painful, I can look back and say I’m thankful for it.

Judith Whittaker, Library Director



The Ellington Farman Library Board of Trustees meets on the last Monday of each month in our Library Community Room. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. The Public is welcome to attend. Agenda & documents to be discussed at the monthly meeting can be requested from the library 24 hours prior to the open meeting at which the documents will be discussed
TRUSTEES DO NOT MEET IN DECEMBER

NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

ADULT FICTION

ELIN HILDERBRAND
PATRICIA CORNWELL
MELISSA PRITCHARD
KAREN JENNINGS
JOE WILKINS
JAN KARON
NICHOLAS SPARKS
DAN BROWN
FRODE GRYTEN
PATRICK RYAN
KAREN KINGSBURY
JOHN GRISHAM
DAN BROWN
MICHAEL CONNELLY
JONATHAN KELLERMAN
JOHN GRISHAM

THE ACADEMY
SHARP FORCE
FLIGHT OF THE WILD SWAN
CROOKED SEEDS
THE ENTIRE SKY
MY BELOVED
REMAIN
THE SECRET OF SECRETS
THE FERRYMAN AND HIS WIFE
BUCKEYE
THE CHRISTMAS RING
SKIPPING CHRISTMAS
THE SECRET OF SECRETS
PROVING GROUND
COYOTE HILLS
THE WIDOW

ADULT NONFICTION

NICK OFFERMAN

LITTLE WOODCHUCKS: A GUIDE
TO TOOLS & TOMFOOLERY

JUNIOR FICTION

DAV PILKEY

DOG MAN: BIG JIM BELIEVES

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

E. LOCKHART
MINDY MCGINNIS

WE FELL APART
UNDER THIS RED ROCK

JUNIOR NONFICTION

NINA MATA
BILLY WELLMAN
DEBBIE LEVY
CLINT SMITH
DR. JACIE MASLYK

GIRLS TO THE FRONT
WORLD WAR I FOR TEENS
A DANGEROUS IDEA
HOW THE WORD IS PASSED
THE FASCINATING ENGINEERING
BOOK FOR KIDS
CRAFT LAB FOR KIDS
IT'S A NUMBERS GAME; HOCKEY!
OPPENHEIMER AND THE ATOMIC BOMB
SOCIAL REVELUTION & CIVIL RIGHTS
LEARNING STEM FROM BASKETBALL
THE SIX

STEPHANIE CORFEE
ERIC ZWEIG
KAI BIRD
MARTIN GITLIN
MARNE VENTURA
LOREN GRUSH

LARGE PRINT

KATHERINE ROBLES
SATOSHI YAGISAWA
BLAKE CROUCH
ELLERY ADMS
KATHERINE ROBLES
KATHERINE ROBLES
BETTY HETCHMAN
MADDIE DAY
MADDIE DAY
MICHIKO AOYAMA

AGAPE AFTER ALL
DAYS AT THE MORISAKI BOOKSHOP
THE LAST TOWN
PAPER CUTS
WHITewater WISHES
FALLING FOR FOREVER
KNOT GAME
MURDER UNCORKED
MURDER IN CAPE COTTAGE
WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR IS IN
THE LIBRARY

CHILDRENS BOOKS

SHAWN HARRIS
JARRETT PUMPHRY

LET'S BE BEES
THE OLD SLEIGH

ADULT BOOK CLUB

The Adult Book Club meets the third Thursday of every month at 11am. In December they meet on the 20th. Club members choose their monthly titles and the library provides copies to all members if needed. New members are always welcome. In December they will be discussing "The Blue Bottle Club" by Penelope J. Stokes.

BOOK SYNOPSIS: THE BLUE BOTTLE CLUB

Faced with the grim realities of the 1929 Depression, four hopeful girls treasured their youthful aspirations above all else. They wrote their dearest dreams on small pieces of paper and on Christmas Day, in a cold, candlelit attic, secretly placed them inside a cobalt-blue bottle, vowing to remain friends for life.

Sixty-five years later, Brendan Delaney, a local television news reporter, unexpectedly discovers those slips of paper in that dusty, forgotten bottle. She embarks on a passionate quest to interview the now-elderly women and finds that their youthful dreams have been diverted, disrupted, and even devastated. One heart was broken by a fiancé's tragic past; another turned toward vows of chastity. A baby was born to an unwed mother; a daughter lost her father to suicide. Like leaves in the wind, the friends' dreams turned and tossed one way, and another. Some vanished forever. But there is a common thread in each of the women's lives, and Brendan thinks she's found it. In following that thread, her life, dreams, and faith become forever intertwined with theirs.

322 pages., First published January 1, 1992
Online book synopsis by Goodreads

ITEMS NOT TO PUT IN OUR OUTDOOR BOOK SLOT

- Oversized books
- Magazines
- Book Donations
- Money to pay fines
-

ITEMS ACCEPTED IN OUR BOOK SLOT

- Regular size books! Even if they are from another library
- DVD's & Audio books if slot is not full

NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!

Want to digitally receive our newsletter? Email: director@ellingtonlibrary.org with your email address and every month you'll get a copy of the newsletter in PDF form delivered straight to your inbox.

BOOK SUMMARIES OF THE MONTH

ADULT FICTION: THE ENTIRE SKY BY JOE WILKINS

GENRE: LITERARY FICTION, FAMILY , WESTERNS

Joe Wilkins, poet, novelist, educator, and Oregon Book Award winner, believes in place. Moreso, he believes in the importance of letting ourselves be shaped by place, and learning from the landscapes around us — the landscapes that raise us. From Seattle and Spokane to the dry deserts of Montana, Wilkins' new novel, The Entire Sky, delves into the world formed by landscape — that of a young boy on the run who takes solace with a grieving rancher named Rene Bouchard. Through careful observation of time, place, and relationship, Wilkins excavates the heart and soul of the West, exploring the meanings of heart and home.

With echoes of *Demon Copperhead* and *Plainsong*, a poignant story about a troubled boy on the run, an aging rancher, and a woman at a crossroads, who find unexpected solace and kinship in the family they make. With his long hair and penchant for guitar, teenage Justin is the spitting image of his idol, Kurt Cobain—a resemblance that has often marked him an outcast. When the long-simmering abuse from his uncle finally boils over, Justin has no choice but to break free, in a violent act that will haunt him, and try to make it on his own as a runaway. Meanwhile, in rural Montana, Rene Bouchard, a rancher nearing retirement, grieves the recent death of his wife. Her passing has revealed precisely how fractured the family has become—particularly the relationship between Rene and his daughter, Lianne. As old wounds ache anew, father and daughter begin to doubt the possibility of reconciliation, even as they each privately yearn for it. Justin's wanderings bring him to the Bouchard family ranch, and soon Rene and Lianne take the boy in as their own. But before long, Justin's past threatens to catch up with him, jeopardizing not only his new bond with Rene and Lianne but also the home he's finally been able to claim. With its lyricism, tangible evocation of place, and piercing insight reminiscent of the novels of Barbara Kingsolver and Kent Haruf, *The Entire Sky* is an unforgettable piece of modern, American fiction.

*Book synopsis taken from <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/201626962-the-entire-sky#CommunityReviews>
384 pages, Hardcover, First published July 2, 2024*

ADULT FICTION: THE FERRYMAN AND HIS WIFE BY FRODE GRYTTE

GENRE: LITERARY FICTION, CONTEMPORARY, FANTASY

In the spirit of Amor Towles and George Saunders, the renowned, bestselling Norwegian author Frode Grytten takes listeners on a quietly epic ferry driver Nils Vik's last route along the fjord, on what he knows will be his last day alive.

Nils Vik wakes up on November the 18th and knows it will be the day he dies. He follows his morning routine as voices from his past echo in his mind, and looks around the empty house one last time, before stepping onto his beloved boat.

His dog, dead these many years, leaps aboard with him, and then the other dead begin to emerge—from the woods along the fjord, from each of the ferry stops along the route, from his logbook full of memories and quotations and jotted-down notes about the weather conditions. The people from the past accompany him now, prodding him, showing him what he might have missed before, as he waits for his Marta, his late, remarkable wife, to finally join him on the boat again.

Winner of the prestigious Brage Prize, and considered to be Grytten's long-awaited masterpiece, *The Ferryman and His Wife* is the story of a quiet, yet utterly profound, life told in reverse. Timeless and absorbing, this is a novel about what we take with us—those moments that might seem insignificant as they happen but prove to be the most meaningful, in the end.

176 pages, , First published November 2025

Book synopsis taken from <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/228646321-the-ferryman-and-his-wife>

Literary Quotes on December

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." - *John Steinbeck*

"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy" - *William Blake*

"Winter is a season of recovery and preparation." - *Paul Theroux*

"December's wintery breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer's memory" - *John Geddes A Familiar Rain*




DECEMBER PROGRAMS & EVENTS



**sewers
crafters
& quilters
DEC 3 & 17**

MEETING ON THE 1ST & 3RD MONDAYS
OF THE MONTH 11AM-1PM
Bring your "works in progress" and enjoy
crafting with friends!

ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY



CHAIR YOGA

— EVERY MONDAY 4-5PM —

- ✔ NO YOGA MAT NEEDED
- ✔ NO REGISTRATION NEEDED
- ✔ GENTLE CHAIR YOGA
- ✔ PRACTICE TO DVD'S OR ONLINE YOGA CLASSES

**ELLINGTON
FARMAN LIBRARY**

NO COMMITMENT
COME ANYTIME!

**Resistance Band
SENIOR FITNESS CLASSES**



**EVERY THURSDAY
1:30-2:30PM**

Ellington Farman Library

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED CLASS FOR ADULTS
RESISTANCE BANDS PROVIDED OR YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN

Come join us

**Snowflake Paper
Quilling Craft**



MONDAY DEC 8* 11:30-1:30

ELLINGTON LIBRARY

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
CLASS SIZE LIMITED
FREE CLASS with artist Donna Zeiders

ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED

COME ENJOY A
Christmas Mood!

WED. DEC 10 STARTING AT 6PM

SHOWING "ELF"

ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY

A human named Buddy was accidentally brought to the North Pole as a baby and raised as an elf. As an adult, he travels to New York City to find his father. Buddy's naive, childlike enthusiasm for Christmas clashes with his father's cynical, work-obsessed life, but Buddy eventually helps his father and family reconnect while also restoring Christmas cheer

MOVIE RATED PG
NO REGISTRATION NEEDED

FREE CRAFT WORKSHOP

**WINTER
THEMED
Coasters**

SAT DEC 13 11AM-1PM

ELLINGTON LIBRARY

Free Craft Program for ages 12 and up
requires registration

**EVERYONE WILL DESIGN & MAKE 2
OF THEIR OWN WINTER THEMED
COASTERS**

Perfect for all your warm seasonal
drinks or to give away as a gift!

CALL 716-287-2945 to register

**WINTER
CENTERPIECE
CRAFT**

with Master Gardener
Cheryl Wahlstrom

TUES DEC 16 1-2:30

ELLINGTON LIBRARY

COST \$10

Bring your own waterproof container
all other supplies provided
class size limited;
registration required

*Just in time for the
Holidays!*

BOOK CLUB

ELLINGTON
FARMAN
LIBRARY

**MEETS
THURS. DEC 18
11am**

They will be discussing
"The Blue Bottle Club" by
Penelope J. Stokes

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

**Makerspace
Drop In
Activity**

DEC 20 11am-NOON

**Holiday
Card
Making
Time**

A VARIETY OF SUPPLIES WILL BE SET UP FOR
YOU TO MAKE YOUR OWN HOLIDAY CARDS

ALL AGES * FREE
UNDER 7 MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT

A Little Library Trivia Game!

This is how it works: every month there will be a trivia question posted in the newsletter and at the circulation desk. Anyone can submit their answer throughout the month. At the end of the month we randomly choose one winner from all the correct guesses. That winner receives a small prize. **Ready to play?**

NOVEMBER question: What author said this? “And this is what I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight against: any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual.

Answer choices: 1) Ayn Rand 2) John Steinbeck 3) William Shakespeare 4) Willa Cather

NOVEMBER WINNER: November winner has not been chosen as of this printing.

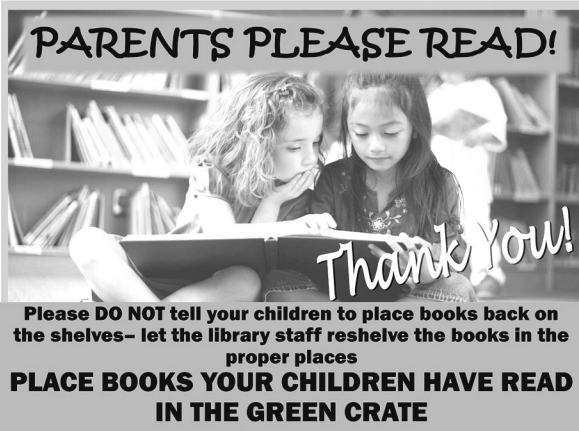
Question: *What author said this? “And this is what I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight against: any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual.* Answer: **attributed to John Steinbeck** from his novel *East of Eden*. The quote is not spoken by a specific character within the story's dialogue, but rather it's Steinbeck's own voice as the narrator, expressing his personal belief in the paramount importance of individual liberty and the freedom of thought against any force—be it a system, a belief, or a government—that seeks to suppress it. In his journal, Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck called *East of Eden* “the first book,” and indeed it has the primordial power and simplicity of myth. Set in the rich farmland of California's Salinas Valley, this sprawling and often brutal novel follows the intertwined destinies of two families—the Trasks and the Hamiltons—whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel. First published in 1952, *East of Eden* is the work in which Steinbeck created his most mesmerizing characters and explored his most enduring themes: the mystery of identity, the inexplicability of love, and the murderous consequences of love's absence. A masterpiece of Steinbeck's later years, *East of Eden* is a powerful and vastly ambitious novel that is at once a family saga and a modern retelling of the Book of Genesis. We have the book in our library.

COMING TO YOU EARLY NEXT YEAR!

Here's a list of book to screen adaptations that are slated to come out early next year. We wanted to give you plenty of time to read the book first. These include both feature films headed to theaters and series adaptations coming to networks or streaming platforms. Release dates get moved around so no guarantees.

- **John Steinbeck's immortal classic *East of Eden*** tells the story of two families in California farm country in the early days of the 20th century. Steinbeck considered it his greatest book, and in 1955 it was famously adapted to film by legendary filmmaker Elia Kazan. So here's a wild thing: The seven-episode Netflix adaptation—coming in early 2026 and starring Florence Pugh—is written and directed by Zoe Kazan, Elia's granddaughter
- ***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë** Emily Brontë's classic 1847 novel—the only novel she ever wrote—has a permanent place in our cultural memory as the epitome of Gothic vibes and windswept moors. The upcoming film adaptation, scheduled for February of 2026, features some heavy Hollywood firepower. Margot Robbie plays our heroine Catherine Earnshaw, and the director is filmmaker Emerald Fennell, known for her period dramas and the late, great BBC spy thriller *Killing Eve*
- ***Reminders of Him* by Colleen Hoover** The undisputed queen of have-a-good-cry fiction, Colleen Hoover delivered another massive bestseller with her 2022 novel, *Reminders of Him*, concerning a young mother trying to put her life back together after a terrible tragedy—and a five-year prison stint. The feature film adaptation, scheduled to hit theaters in March 2026, stars Maika Monroe as protagonist Kenna Rowan, with Tyriq Withers as the sympathetic bar owner with a tender heart. If reader reviews are any indication, Hoover's latest story will make you cry. Bring tissues.
- ***The Odyssey* by Homer** The award for Oldest Story Adaptation goes to filmmaker Christopher Nolan for his upcoming feature film adaptation of *The Odyssey*, coming July 17, 2026. Composed by the great poet Homer around the 7th century BCE, the original epic follows Odysseus, king of Ithaca, as he journeys home from the Trojan War. Nolan's wildly ambitious IMAX film version stars Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Zendaya, Robert Pattinson, Lupita Nyong'o, Anne Hathaway, and Charlize Theron
- ***Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir** Andy Weir's ambitious 2021 sci-fi novel is similar in tone and scope to his 2011 blockbuster debut, *The Martian*. Both books are great examples of modern “hard SF,” grounded in science and physics and cold, hard reality. *Project Hail Mary* features another stranded astronaut, but with the stakes raised to extinction-level seriousness. The much anticipated film adaptation, starring Ryan Gosling, is currently slated for release on March 20, 2026. Bonus trivia: The novel won the 2021 Goodreads Choice Award for Readers' Favorite Science Fiction book.

Did you know we have a running book sale in our back Community Room? It has a variety of fiction & nonfiction books for all ages with a small selection of DVD's. Everything is available for a suggested donation of \$1 for hardcovers and 50 cents for paperbacks. Take a look next time you're in the library.



REQUEST TO PARENTS

Oh how we love to see young children and families using our children's room! We do have one request though- when you are ready to leave please do not tell your children to "put the books away". We can't really expect young children to be able to reshelve a book according to authors last name. So we have a green crate hanging out in the children's room which is where we want you to place any books you have looked at. The staff will reshelve them in the proper places for you. If you are trying to teach your children to clean up after themselves (and we love you for that!) teach them to gather their books and put them in the crate. We hope to have a really fun looking crate for you when we redecorate the children's room next year. Thank you for your help in this!

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR KIDS FROM THE LIBRARY

This December we will have winter themed gift bags available for children, while supplies last. Each bag includes a simple craft, an activity page, some stickers and a new age appropriate book. Please stop and pick up one for each of your children. We will try to have the bags marked to correspond to age levels. If your child loves coming to our library then we want them to know we love seeing them! Stop in with your child and pick up one today!



Happy Holidays from the Board and staff of Ellington Farman Library!



WE ARE A COLLECTION SITE

Blue Star Mothers is a patriotic, non-profit organization of mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and female legal guardians who have children serving in the U.S. military, Guard, or Reserves, or who are veterans. The "Blue Star" comes from the custom of displaying a Service Flag

with blue stars to represent family members in active military service. The organization supports military members and their families, promotes patriotism, and assists veterans

- Support service members: They send care packages to deployed troops, welcome home veterans, and assist veterans in need, such as those experiencing homelessness.
- Support each other: The organization provides a way for military parents to connect and support each other through the unique experiences of having a child in the military.

AN ITEMS REQUESTED LIST IS AVAILABLE LOCATED BY THE BOX. CASH & CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED

- Promote patriotism: They are a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism and helping to keep the country strong.
- Volunteer: Members volunteer their time and resources to support military families and veterans.

Please consider leaving a donation in the box or donating cash to help with shipping costs. A printed list of items they are looking for accompanies the box.

PLEASE NOTE: PROGRAM CHANGE YOGA WILL BE MEETING ON MONDAY NIGHTS ONLY. They will not officially meet on Wednesdays. If anyone would like to meet on their own on a Wednesday we have a variety of Yoga DVD'S we can set up for you in our Community room. We will revisit the Yoga dates and times again in January.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11– 1pm Craft Group 4-5pm Yoga	2	3	4 1:30-2:30pm Resistance Band Exercise	5 closed	6
7 closed	8 11:30 – 1:30 Adult Craft: Snowflake Quilling Registration required 4-5pm Yoga	9 children's Winter themed Take & Makes available starting today	10 6-7:30pm Holiday Movie: Elf	11 1:30-2:30pm Resistance Band Exercise	12 closed	13 11:00–1pm Holiday Coasters Craft: <i>ages 12 and up</i> <i>Class size limited</i> <i>Requires registration</i>
14 closed	15 11– 1pm Craft Group 4-5pm Yoga	16 1-2:30pm Holiday Centerpiece Craft: <i>registration</i> <i>required, adults</i>	17	18 11am-12 Book Club 1:30-2:30pm Resistance Band Exercise	19 closed	20 11-noon Kids Makerspace Drop-In Card Making
21 closed	22 4-5pm Yoga	23 CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	24	25	26	27
28 closed	29 4-5pm Yoga	30	31 Closing at 3pm	OPEN HOURS 11AM -7PM MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 10AM-1PM ON SATURDAY CLOSED FRIDAY & SUNDAY		