

Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



April 2014

AUTHOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD



Julia Glass

Julia Glass writes sophisticated and psychologically intimate novels about dysfunctional families in modern society. Her well-developed, colorful characters deal with painful emotions as a result of spousal infidelities, sibling rivalries, and deaths within the family, as well as with

the everyday tribulations of modern life. The leisurely paced and intricate stories are frequently related by several narrators, and Glass fills each account with keenly perceptive psychological details about her characters. Through elegant prose Glass offers thoughtful, witty, and sympathetic comments about modern families struggling to stay together.



And the Dark Sacred Night (2014)

An unforgettable novel about the youthful choices that steer our destinies, the necessity of forgiveness, and the surprisingly mutable meaning of family. *See Staff Picks.*

The Widower's Tale (2010)

Enjoying an active but lonely rural life, 70-year-old Percy haplessly allows a progressive preschool to move into his barn and transform his quiet home into a lively, youthful community that compels him to reexamine the choices he made in the decades after his wife's death.

I See You Everywhere (2008)

Follows the intertwined lives of two sisters--Louisa Jardine, the conscientious older sister who yearns for a good marriage, an artistic career, and a family, and her younger sister Clem, an iconoclastic, daring rebel--over the course of twenty-five years.

The Whole World Over (2006)

Hired as the personal chef to the governor of New Mexico, Greenie Duquette leaves behind her Greenwich Village pastry business and her husband to head west with her four-year-old son, prompting a period of upheaval and reflection for herself.

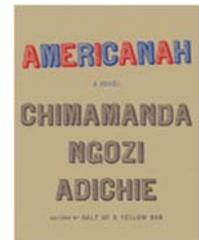
Three Junes (2002)

Reveals the interconnected lives, loves, and relationships of different generations of the McLeod family over the course of three crucial summers.



The National Book Critics Circle awards are given each March and honor the best literature in the United States in six categories. The recipient of this year's award for fiction is:

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

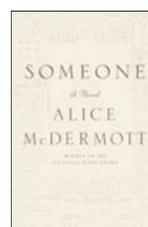


Other finalists:

Alice McDermott, **SOMEONE**

Javier Marias, **THE INFATUATIONS**

Ruth Ozeki, **A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING** Donna Tartt, **THE GOLDFINCH**



ridgefield library on the move

Closing operations at
21 Governor Street
Thursday, April 17th
7:00 PM

Re-opening with full service
at 472 Main Street
Saturday, May 10th
9:00 AM

Opening Weekend Celebrations
start Friday, May 9th at 5:00 PM
and continue Saturday and Sunday

NEW FICTION

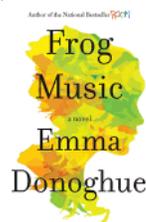
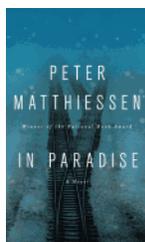
(Annotations from BookLetters)



Astonish Me by Maggie Shipstead. From the author of the widely acclaimed debut novel *Seating Arrangements*, winner of the Dylan Thomas Prize: a gorgeously written, fiercely compelling glimpse into the passionate, political world of professional ballet and its magnetic hold over two generations.

In Paradise by Peter Matthiessen.

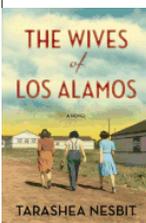
From the two-time National Book Award winning author of *The Snow Leopard* and *Shadow Country*, a short, powerful novel about an American professor of Holocaust Studies who, over the course of a weeklong spiritual retreat at Auschwitz, is forced to grapple with his own past and a family secret: the Jewish mother abandoned to her doom by his Gentile father.



Frog Music by Emma Donoghue. Irish-born author Emma Donoghue returns to historical fiction with her first novel since the 2010 runaway bestseller *Room*. *Frog Music* was inspired by a real-life unsolved murder in 1876 San Francisco, a good three decades after the Gold Rush. In thrilling, cinematic style, *Frog Music* digs up a long-forgotten, never-solved crime. Full of songs that migrated across the world, Emma Donoghue's lyrical tale of love and bloodshed among lowlifes captures the pulse of a boomtown like no other.

American Romantic by Ward Just.

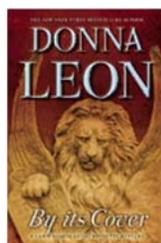
This is an evocative portrait of diplomacy and desire set against the backdrop of America's first lost war. Harry Sanders is a young foreign service officer in 1960s Indochina when a dangerous and clandestine meeting with insurgents-ending in quiet disaster-and a brief but passionate encounter with Sieglinde, a young German woman, alter the course of his life.



The Wives of Los Alamos by TaraShea Nesbit. A bold and emotionally charged debut novel told in the collective voices of the wives of the men who created the atom bomb. The women came from all over the nation-even the world-with little or no idea why they were moving to a remote New Mexico town with only a post office box for an address. They were the wives of scientists working at a secret research laboratory to build the first atomic bomb.

By Its Cover by Donna Leon.

Donna Leon's critically acclaimed, internationally bestselling Commissario Guido Brunetti series has attracted readers the world over with the beauty of its setting, the humanity of its characters, and its fearlessness in exploring politics, morality, and contemporary Italian culture.



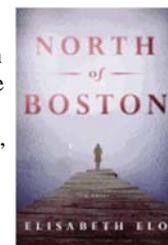
For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles, visit our website at www.ridgefieldlibrary.org

STAFF PICKS

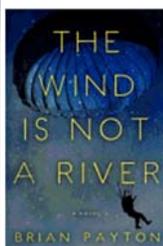
Elise's Picks

North of Boston by Elizabeth Elo

After her friend's lobster boat is rammed and sunk by a freighter, Pirio Kasparov finds herself adrift for hours in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. News of her rescue attracts the interest of the U.S. Navy which wants to study her rare ability to withstand freezing temperatures, but Pirio has her own agenda. Furious that no one has tracked down the rogue ship, she decides to launch her own investigation, following a trail that takes her from Boston to the whaling grounds of Canada's Baffin Island. The daughter of Russian immigrants who founded a perfume empire, Pirio is an alluring heroine. Gutsy, smart, with a wry sense of humor and a strong moral compass, she's a narrator readers can really root for. *North of Boston* is the impressive first entry in a new suspense series and, according to the author, the next installment takes place in Siberia and involves "ballet dancers, political intrigue, and diamond mines." I for one, can't wait.



The Wind Is Not a River by Brian Payton.

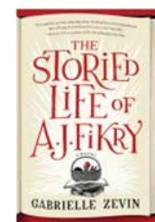


While accompanying a U.S. bombing mission over the Aleutians in 1942, which then were occupied by the Japanese, a reporter is shot down and becomes stranded on the desolate, windswept island of Attu. His young wife, filled with remorse at their bitter parting and hoping for news about his plight, joins a USO troupe headed to Alaska. Set in a little known theatre of WWII and written by a renowned nature journalist, *The Wind is Not a River* is a gripping, lyrical novel about endurance and dedication, that more than fulfills the author's goal to "transport readers to a stark, beautiful, and unforgiving landscape, then challenge them to ask themselves: How far would you go in search of the truth, or to honor a lost loved one?"

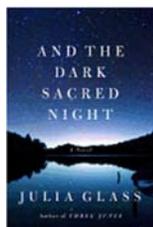
Dorothy's Picks

The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevon.

A. J. Fikry, owner of Island Books in a small New England resort town, is at a low point in his life. Widowed at a young age, he has become somewhat of a curmudgeonly recluse. Then a series of unlikely events occur that jar him back to life. He meets Amelia, a publisher's rep that is his literary match and becomes a surrogate father when a toddler is abandoned in his bookstore. This utterly charming novel is an homage to booksellers and booklovers with a love story and a little mystery thrown in. Find a comfy chair and enjoy!



And the Dark Sacred Night by Julia Glass.



If you were a fan of Julia Glass's *Three Junes*, you're in for a treat with her latest novel. Glass revisits Fenno and Malachy, two of the memorable characters from her award-winning first novel. Here the story revolves around Kit Noonan, a man on a quest to find out the identity of his biological father, information that his mother refuses to reveal. An unemployed art historian with a wife and twins, Kit is convinced that discovering the identity of his father will help him past the road blocks in his own life. Whether or not you've read *Three Junes*, enjoy this novel for what Glass does best, creating an unforgettable cast of characters maneuvering the complexities of modern family life in all its myriad configurations.