

From the Library

Jon Haupt, Branch Manager

Greetings from your community library. Like so many of our dear readers, the staff at the library have been sheltering in place at home and hoping we can get back to work soon. Although the physical space of the library has been inaccessible as we address safety concerns and work with the County's public health department, we hope you have been exploring ways to make use of the library virtually.

Curbside Pickup & Re-Opening

First of all, I'm sure most of you are looking for answers as to when the library might re-open. The Healdsburg Library will open for curbside pickup on Monday, June 29, 2020 and we will offer this service from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday. We will be able to provide you with books, DVDs and other materials you can take home and enjoy. The library system has been piloting this program at five other locations throughout Sonoma County over the last few weeks, providing feedback on the procedures and workflow so that we can improve and offer the best service. Starting on 6/29, you may request books and other items through our Library Catalog, same as before; or you can call the library at 433-3772 between 10 and 3 to speak to someone about making a request. We'll let you know when your request is ready; after you receive that notification, you will come by the library, again between those open hours, and give us a call from the parking lot, so that we can come out and place your items on a pickup table for you. We are really looking forward to starting this service and beginning the process of re-opening our library.

For the time being, we are still not taking returns, so for items you borrow, please just hold on to them for now. Hopefully in the next few weeks, we will be able to start collecting returned books and media in a limited capacity. Our management staff is working on the details of what that will look like. In addition, we're still not accepting donations, and we will continue to be in contact with the Friends about that in the coming weeks and months.

Online Virtual Library

As I mentioned earlier in the column, your virtual library provides a vast range of resources available to all in our community via the Sonoma County Library website. Learn a new skill with Lynda.com or Learning Express; learn a new language with Mango Languages; research your family history with Ancestry Library; or learn how to fix a problem with your car using Chilton Library. You have access to documentary films online with Kanopy as well as other popular films, music, comic books, and more with Hoopla. Find a great book to read with Libby, which allows avid readers to borrow a book digitally from the library and read on a desktop computer, tablet, or other small device.

Continued next column>>>

Summer 2020



Virtual Library continued:

You can even check out and enjoy one of your favorite magazine titles online with RBDigital. All of these and more are available online through our portal at <https://sonomalibrary.org/eresources>.

I highly recommend you take a look if you've never tried before, but also if you haven't in a while. Many of our services have been given a bump-up in service given the pandemic and our stay-at-home order.

Join thousands and thousands of others who take advantage of these resources that we share together as a community. If you haven't ever had a library card before, you can sign up online today at sonomalibrary.org. On behalf of our staff, here's wishing you happy reading and we all look forward to seeing you as soon as we can.

Summer Reading Program

Usually in June I am writing to encourage you to sign up for our Summer Reading Program for all ages. Although our popular in-person programs will have to wait until next year, we are excited to still offer a program you can enjoy from home. This year's program, called Dig Deeper, includes a Sonoma County-wide goal of reading for 2 million minutes. We read a million minutes together in January, so we know that you, our readers, can manage this lofty goal. In addition to the excitement of completing this collective goal, by completing just eight hours of reading, you can win a free book; a second eight hours will grant you yet another free book prize. In order to enjoy success and prizes, however, you need to log your minutes using either a convenient online app called Beanstack or a paper log you can print at home. Either way, you can find out more about how to participate from <https://sonomalibrary.org/summerreading2020>

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Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 3:45 PM at the library.

Please contact the **Board Members of FoHL** with your ideas, questions, please email Linda Selover at her email above and to Volunteer, contact Deana Fusco at her email, above.

Please write FoHL on the subject line, or write us a note care of the Healdsburg Library. We look forward to hearing from you all. Thank you.

Board Members' Experiences with Our Digital Books

LIBBY Is Terrific and Easy to Use --I have tried to use eBook digital tools in the past and found them to be cumbersome and frustrating. I would search for a book and it would not be available to download or it would be difficult to read and not have all the features that were so easily available with Amazon Kindle books. I love hardback and paperback books but am not opposed to using my Kindle reader and prefer the Kindle when reading in bed or when we used to be able to travel.

But it took Sheltering in Place for me to finally try **to use the LIBBY application ("app") (created by a company called Overdrive) and it was so easy.** I can heartily recommend it to anyone willing to read digital versions of books. There is a link to the Libby app and more information on how to use it on the Sonoma Library website: <https://sonomalibrary.org/library-collection/overdrive>. App is free and downloading books is free.

If the book is not immediately available, the app will say how long the wait may be for the book and you can put a "hold" on it and you will receive an email when the book is available to download, which you do by touching a big button that says "BORROW." In my experience, the wait time for a book on hold is less than the app estimates. If you're not ready to read the book the day it is available, you can put in a short delay by letting the next person in line take your turn, but you will be next and not have to go back to the end of the line. If you have an account at Amazon with your Kindle reader, you can link your Libby app with the Kindle app, again, for free, and the book will download to your Kindle as well as your Apple or Android phone. Amazing. And fast. And, if you like Audio versions of books, sometimes if the eBook is not available but is available in Audio format. I've borrowed several Audio books on Libby and they work just like, and just as well, as Audible books from Amazon. And you can't beat free! By Theresa Cabral



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I have holds on about 7 books at any time since they may not be available right away. If I have too many coming available soon, I use 'Suspend Hold' so I don't lose my place in line and can prioritize.

I enjoyed reading Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson. He describes his travels around English countryside, with wry humor and referencing British character, vocabulary, customs, etc. This book, especially the first half, was a good antidote for our troubled times.

I love the series by Martin Walker, starting with Bruno, Chief of Police. Bruno, a country policeman in the Dordogne region of France, is the opposite of the type we have seen on the news recently. He knows everyone and prevents the need for arrests. The books include descriptions of local sites, dinners, etc. as well as a crime to be solved, Bruno's current romantic interest, and some type of political issue as background. (The Resistance, Chinese competition in truffle markets, etc.)

I have also enjoyed e versions of police procedurals by Michael Connelly (the series about Bosch and also the Lincoln Lawyer.) He has written so many you are sure to find one available. Charlene Luks



Healdsburg Library Activities & Events: (Please check our website for any changes and additions)

Website: <http://sonomalibrary.org/locations/healdsburg-regional-library>

People Are Reading and Sharing

• **Longmire Series:** During our shelter-in-place time I have depended a great deal on eBooks. I have been reading the Longmire series of books by Craig Johnson. The Longmire Mysteries was a program on Netflix that I greatly enjoyed, so I am enjoying my time with these favorite characters again. I am currently on book 7 in the series, and do not want these books to end! ~~ Joan Gipe

• **The Giver of Stars** by Jojo Moyes

I loved this book, it is a heartwarming book based on the real life Pack Horse Librarians who deliver books on horseback on rugged terrain in all sorts of weather to the isolated, book starved residents in the Eastern Kentucky mountains. The Pack Horse librarians were AWP (Works Progress Administration depression era (1935 – 1943) project started by Eleanor Roosevelt. The story is of the bonds of six incredible women and the depths of the friendship of those who work for the Library. ~~ Lena

• **Neapolitan Novels:** You can put the pandemic on pause by reading Elena Ferrante's 4 volume Neapolitan Novels (Europa Editions 2012-2015), starting with Vol 1, My Brilliant Friend. This is an epic, complex and intriguing friendship story that spans the lives of two inseparable girls born in the mid 1940s in gritty urban Naples. I actually first saw the HBO production of My Brilliant Friend and decided I would rather read all the volumes which the author considers as one novel, serially written in four parts. There is/are social and cultural history, three dimensional male and female characters, and unanticipated plot lines that take you beyond yourself and into the lives of the protagonists as they grow up and into two very different adults who can neither stay together nor stay apart. This edition helpfully lists and describes the many characters and their family relations in the preface. ~~ Lyn Murray

• I am usually a reader, but during the shelter-in-place order, thanks to Sonoma County Library's offering of eAudiobooks, I was converted to becoming a listener as well! Listening to audiobooks has taught me that the processes of reading and listening are complementary. I never thought I would listen to one of my favorite classics like **Pride and Prejudice** and come away with new images in my mind (even though I'd seen the film).

I also listened to many of Tony Hillerman's Navajo Tribal Police mystery novels, and especially enjoyed the voices of the readers that showed off their knowledge of the Navaho language. Some words in Navaho just have to be heard!
~~ Deana Fusco

• I am very lucky to have had quite a few good books already in my possession from the Healdsburg Library Branch when the Shelter in Place started. I had made a concerted effort through the Sonoma County Library App to place electronic holds on a broad range of books, including these from the Reese Witherspoon Book Club, <https://hello-sunshine.com/book-club>, that looked most interesting to me. Here are my quick takes on some of those- my favorite being the first book reviewed:

The Scent Keeper, by Erica Bauermeister: This book grabbed my attention from the first page and did not let me down! What an unexpected treat and delight to find this interesting almost fable-like tale of life on a remote island in the Pacific Northwest, transforming into a coming of age story of the determined and scent savvy heroine, both mystical and magical along the lines of **Where the Crawdads Sing**, by Delia Owens.

The Last House Guest by Megan Miranda Here in a luscious coastal locale, Miranda contrasts the inhabitants of the same town, The Summer Folks and The Locals, with some dangerous conflicts and mysteries making for a compelling thriller. More than the proverbial "beach read", it could be read in your Shelter in Place comfy chair as well as on a beach blanket. Lots of twists and turns and it kept me guessing. Satisfying denouement.

Whisper Network by Chandler Baker Wow: Office politics and race join forces with #MeToo (should be #IAAlso, just sayin') in this hard-to-put-down, diverse and well-drawn character driven, believable yet twisty-plot-surprises novel. Makes my office experiences seem like a cakewalk. But made me take a fresh look at stuff that someone like I, born in the mid-1950's and female, just took, and still sometimes erroneously take, for granted as just being the status quo. The times: they - and recently, especially so- are a-changin'!

Look at the contrast in the summer picks: Reese's Book Selections- June/July 2020: **I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whites**, by Austin Channing Brown And **The Guest List** by Lucy Foley

~~~Tracy Logan, VP FoHL

