

# What to Read Next

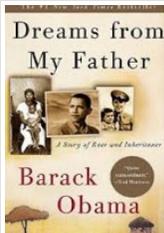
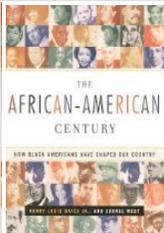
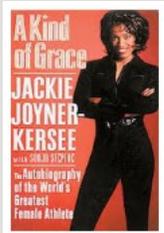
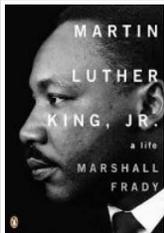
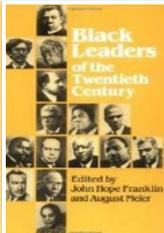
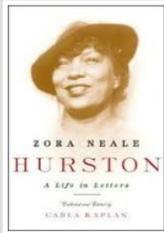


ESSEX LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION



## African American History Month:

February is the month we recognize and pay tribute to the role of African Americans in our national and cultural history, so we invite you to explore the range of resources the Essex Library provides to learn more about the importance and power of African American achievements.



## Learn About Local Museums

Planning a visit to the **Connecticut River Museum** on our historic waterfront in Essex Village? When you pick up your [museum pass](#), check out the following books:

- *The Connecticut River: New England's Historic Waterway* by Edmund Delaney,
- *The Great River: Art and Society of the Connecticut Valley, 1635-1820*,
- *A History of the Connecticut River* by Wick Griswold.

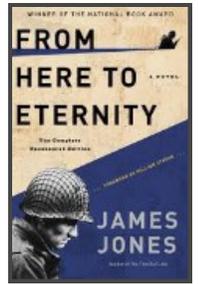


Our librarians are always available to help with more recommendations!

## What's Your Genre?

Richard's taste in genres is rather eclectic, but one that he finds most interesting is mid-twentieth century American literature, particularly the post-World War II era. He notes, "This was a time when the writing done by many authors was deeply informed by the effects on our culture from the aftermath of two major wars, an extreme economic depression, and the advent of the possibility of the world literally coming to an end through the use of nuclear weapons. That's a lot to process!"

He recommends a few titles from that era: *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren, *A Good Man is Hard to Find* by Flannery O'Connor, and *From Here to Eternity* by James Jones.

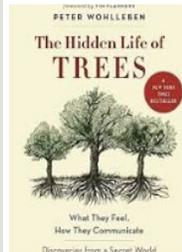


## Monthly Staff Favorites

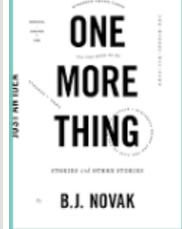
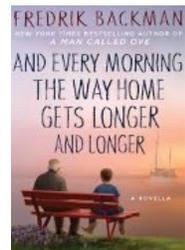
**Anna:** *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine. Ella lives in a magical world where all children are given a "gift" from their fairy Godmother at birth. Her gift (and curse) was that of obedience. Since she cannot refuse any command, people often take advantage of her.



**Jessica:** *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben. Forester and author Peter Wohlleben makes the case that the forest is a social network. He draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families with evidence of communication.

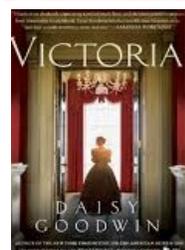


**Diane:** *And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer: A Novella* by Fredrik Backman. This is an exquisitely moving portrait of an elderly man's struggle to hold on to his most precious memories, and his family's efforts to care for him even as they must find a way to let go and to not be afraid.



**Ann:** *One More Thing* by B.J. Novak. At the heart of these stories are the most human of phenomena: ambition, love, fear, and hope, and the inner stirring for the one elusive element that might just make a person complete. The diverse stories all include humor, deep heart, and a sharp eye for your entertainment.

**Amy:** *Victoria* by Daisy Goodwin. Shortly after turning eighteen, Alexandrina Victoria is roused from bed with the news that her uncle William IV has died, and she is now Queen of England. The men who run the country have doubts whether she can rule the greatest nation in the world, but she's no puppet.



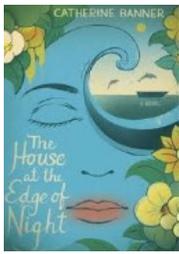
Have a question, comment, or suggestion? [Contact us!](#)

Call us at 860-767-1560, or drop by the Essex Library at 33 West Avenue in Essex, CT.



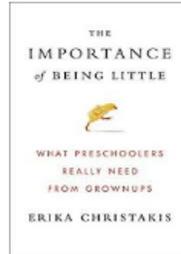
# What to Read Next

## Monthly Staff Favorites Continued...

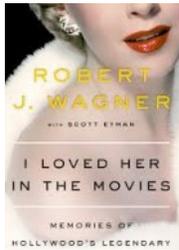


**Emily:** *The House at the Edge of Night* by Catherine Banner. The people of Castellamare Island are transformed by two world wars and a great recession, by the threat of fascism and their deep bonds of passion and friendship, and by bitter rivalries and the power of forgiveness. The café, House at the Edge of Night, is where they go to heal.

**Heather:** *The Importance of Being Little: What Preschoolers Really Need from Grownups* by Erika Christakis. Christakis challenges the conventional wisdom about early childhood, with a pragmatic program to encourage parents and teachers to rethink how and where young children learn best by taking the child's eye view of the learning environment. They thrive in any setting.



**Norma:** *I Loved Her in the Movies* by Robert J. Wagner. In a career that has spanned more than 60 years, Robert Wagner has witnessed the twilight of the Golden Age of Hollywood and the rise of television, becoming a beloved star in both media. During that time he was linked, both professionally and socially, to women who were the greatest screen personalities of their day.



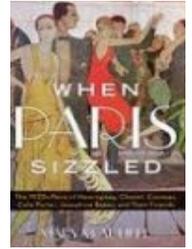
**Claire:** *Swing Time* by Zadie Smith. Two girls dream of being dancers--but only one, Tracey, has talent. The other, Aimee, has ideas about rhythm and time, about their bodies and music, what constitutes a tribe, and what makes a person truly free. It's a close but complicated childhood friendship that ends abruptly in their early twenties, but it is never quite forgotten either.



**Valerie:** *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden. In a north Russian village, a stranger with piercing blue eyes presents a new father with a gift - a precious jewel on a delicate chain. Uncertain of its meaning, Pytor hides the gift away from his daughter until mysterious forces threaten the safety of his village.



**Author Talk:**  
Mary McAuliffe  
*When Paris Sizzled*  
February 4 at 1:30PM



**When Paris Sizzled** vividly portrays the City of Light during the fabulous 1920s, les Annees folles, when Parisians emerged from the horrors of war to find that a new world greeted them, one that reverberated with the hard metallic clang of the assembly line, the roar of automobiles, and the beat of jazz. Mary McAuliffe traces a decade that saw seismic change on almost every front, from art and architecture, to music, literature, fashion, entertainment, transportation, and, most notably, behavior.



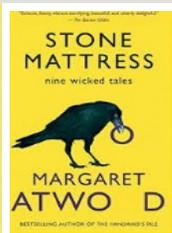
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### ELA Book Groups:

**First Thursday**  
February 2  
4:00 PM  
*Stone Mattress*



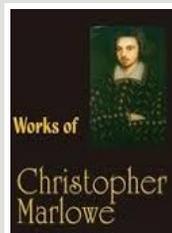
**Historical Fiction**  
February 14  
10:30 AM  
*Ragtime*



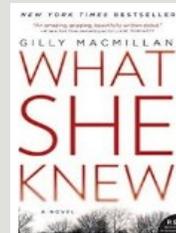
**Third Wednesday**  
February 15  
10:30 AM  
*The Nightingale*



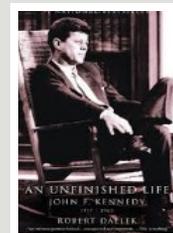
**Great Plays**  
February 16  
5:30 PM  
*Doctor Faustus*  
and *The Jew of Malta*



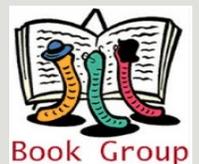
**Whodunit Walking**  
February 21  
5:30 PM  
*What She Knew*



**American History**  
March 16  
5:00 PM  
*An Unfinished Life*



**Join a Book Group!**  
Do you like a lively discussion with other book enthusiasts?



Check our website for more information or reading suggestions! Read our "What to Read Next?" webpage to learn more about the services Essex Library offers, as well as what our librarians are reading: [www.youressexlibrary.org/what-to-read-next/](http://www.youressexlibrary.org/what-to-read-next/)



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