

# What to Read Next



## Upcoming Author Talks:

**Leslie McGrath: September 6 at 7 PM**

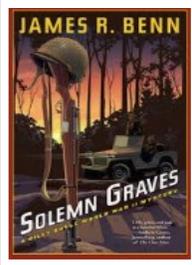


Come enjoy a poetry reading with **Leslie McGrath** as she reads from her third collection: *Feminists are Passing from Our Lives*. An Essex resident, many of her poems are set in Connecticut and are often concerned with the lives of women and the dignity of the mentally ill.

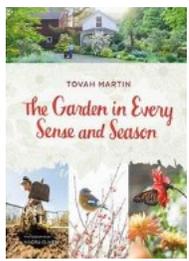
women and the dignity of the mentally ill.

**James R. Benn: September 13 at 7 PM**

The Essex Library is honored to welcome back **James R. Benn** in celebration of the release of his 13th Billy Boyle WWII mystery, *Solemn Graves*. In Benn's latest mystery, US Army detective Billy Boyle investigates a murder in Normandy that threatens Allied operations.



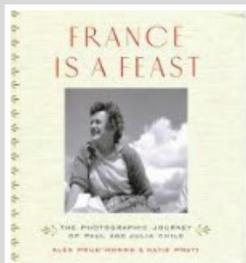
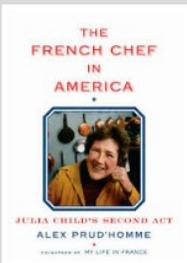
**Tovah Martin: September 16 at 3 PM**



Your garden could be so fulfilling, if you plug in. Find out how when **Tovah Martin** speaks about her new book, *The Garden in Every Sense and Season*. This lecture explores the garden on all levels by attuning your eyes, nose and ears to enjoy the gardening experience.

**Alex Prud'homme: September 29 at 4 PM**

Julia Child's grandnephew, **Alex Prud'homme**, will be joining us at the Essex Library to discuss two of his books: *The French Chef in America* and *France is a Feast*.



## Who's Your Favorite Author?

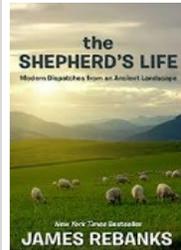


**Sue** reads both fiction and non-fiction books. Because she most often seeks out mysteries and inspirational works, she selected the following as her favorite authors: **Alan Bradley**, **Lois Lowry** and **Brené Brown**. She notes, "Alan Bradley's Flavia DeLuce mystery series includes humor and wit, and Lois Lowry has a thought-provoking style. I also like Brené Brown because she uses her life experiences to encourage better interpersonal relationships."

Sue recommends reading *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and *Braving the Wilderness* by Brené Brown.

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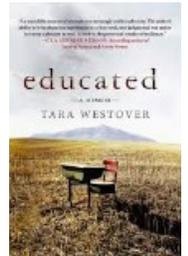
## Monthly Staff Favorites



**Anna: *The Shepherd's Life: Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape* by James Rebanks.** James Rebanks takes us through a shepherd's year in the Lake District where he and his family have lived and worked for generations. He offers a unique account about rural life, the challenges of living a life dictated by the seasons, as well as his deep connection with the land. This is the story of a farming family and their neighbors as they endure the surrounding culture changes.

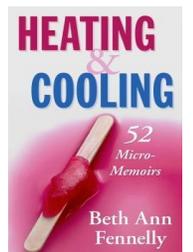
**Emily: *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover.**

Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to isolated survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she never went to school or received medical attention. She prepared for the end of the world by sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag." When a brother got into college and came back with news of the outside world, she decided to try a new kind of life and eventually earned her doctorate.



**Diane: *Then She Was Gone: A Novel* by Lisa Jewell.** **Then:** Ellie was fifteen and her mother's golden girl. In the blink of an eye, she was gone. **Now:** It's been ten years since Ellie disappeared, but Laurel has never given up hope of finding her daughter. When a charming stranger, Floyd, sweeps Laurel off her feet, she's introduced to his nine year old daughter, Poppy, who is the spitting image of Ellie. What is their connection? Where is Ellie now?

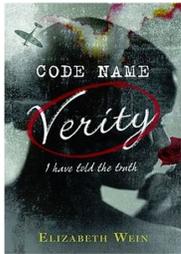
**Jana: *Heating & Cooling: 52 Micro-Memoirs* by Beth Ann Fennelly.** Offering bright glimpses into a richly lived life, *Heating & Cooling* combines the compression of poetry with the truth-telling of nonfiction in one heartfelt, celebratory book. From childhood recollections to quirky cultural observations, some wistful, some wry, they build on one another to arrive at a portrait of Beth Ann Fennelly as a wife, mother and writer. She is a deeply original observer of life's challenges and joys.



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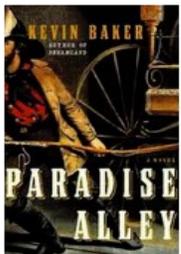
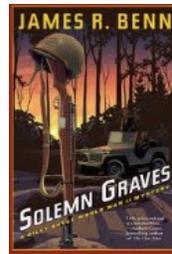


## Monthly Staff Favorites Continued...



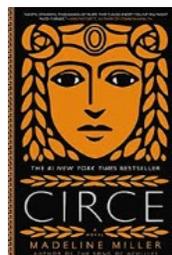
**Jessica:** *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein. October 11, 1943: A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Will trading her secrets be enough to save her?

**Ann:** *Solemn Graves* by James R. Benn. A double murder in a French chateau just after D-Day threatens Allied operations, and US Army detective Billy Boyle is called to investigate. Outside the town of Trevieres, an American officer and a member of the French Resistance were found dead in a manor house. The investigation is shrouded in secrecy due to the highly confidential nature of the American unit headquartered there: "The Ghost Army."



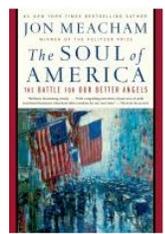
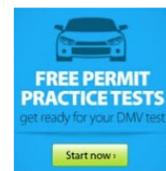
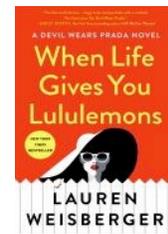
**Richard:** *Paradise Alley* by Kevin Baker. They came by boat from a starving land and by the Underground Railroad from Southern chains to seek refuge in a crowded, filthy corner of hell at the bottom of a great metropolis. However, in the terrible July of 1863, the poor and desperate of Paradise Alley would face a new catastrophe: flames from the war that was tearing America in two reached out to set their city on fire.

**Claire:** *Circe* by Madeline Miller. In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. Because Circe has neither the look nor the voice of divinity, she is scorned and rejected by her kin. Increasingly isolated, she turns to mortals for companionship, leading her to discover a power forbidden to the gods: witchcraft. When love drives Circe to cast a dark spell, wrathful Zeus banishes her to the remote island of Aiaia.



## Do You Have a Library Card?

September is **Library Card Sign-Up Month**. If you are an Essex resident and you do not already have a library card, please be sure to sign up for one today. Not only can you use your card to borrow books, audio books and movies, as well as their digital version, but you can also use it to access a variety of databases. All for **FREE!**



**Essex Exclusives**

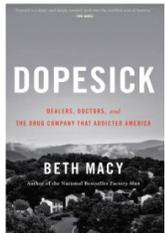


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## ELA Book Groups:

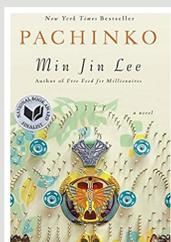
### Book Groups:

If you enjoy lively discussion with other book enthusiasts, please join us!

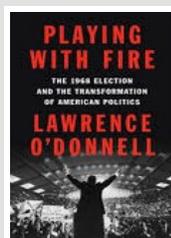


Book Group

**First Thursday**  
September 6  
4:00 PM  
*Pachinko*



**American History**  
September 6  
5:00 PM  
*Playing with Fire*



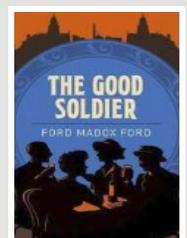
**Historical Fiction**  
September 11  
10:30 AM  
*The Help*



**Third Wednesday**  
September 19  
10:30 AM  
*Last Hope Island*



**Classics Book Group**  
September 27  
5:30 PM  
*The Good Soldier*



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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