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## Director's note

Dear Folks,

Are you excited? Are you expectant for what the New Year holds?

Have you chosen a Word of the Year? Have you determined what goals you will work to accomplish in '25?

Some of you have probably mapped your book titles for reading in the next 12 months. Some of us are just looking to read more and see what new titles and authors just speak to us during 2025. We might find a debut author or a new to us author with whom we resonate. What possibilities await us as we read and learn this year!

If you planned to tackle something new and different this will be your last chance in the first quarter of the 21st century.

We look forward to seeing each of you.

Come see us.

Linda

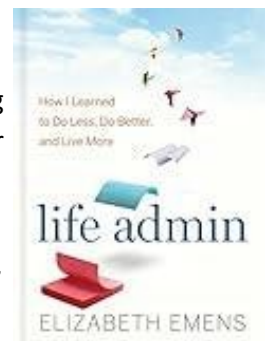
## Linda recommends

Every day an unseen form of labor creeps into our lives—stealing precious moments of free time, placing a strain on our schedules and our relationships, and earning neither appreciation nor compensation in return..

**Elizabeth Emens** was a working mother with two young children, swamped like so many of us, when she realized that this invisible labor was consuming her.

**Life Admin** tackles the problem of admin in all its forms, from everyday tasks like scheduling doctor's appointments and paying bills, to life-cycle events like planning a wedding, a birth, a funeral. Emens explores how this labor is created, how it affects our lives, and how we might avoid, reduce, and redistribute admin whenever possible—as individuals and as a society.

Emens writes a solid book to help us with our goals of taking control of life as it happens.



Publishers Weekly  
Bestseller Lists  
December 27, 2024

FICTION

1. *James*, by Percival Everett
2. *Wind and Truth*, by Brandon Sanderson
3. *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah
4. *The House of Cross: Meet the Hero of the New Prime Series Cross...*, by James Patterson
5. *The Book of Bill*, by Alex Hirsch
6. *Counting Miracles*, by Nicholas Sparks
7. *The God of the Woods*, by Liz Moore
8. *Wicked Collector's Edition...*, by Gregory Maguire
9. *To Die For*, by David Baldacci
10. *Now or Never*, by Janet Evanovich

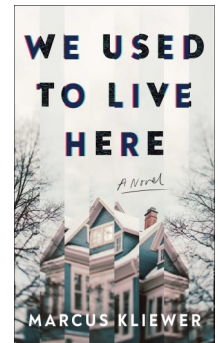
NON-FICTION

1. *Melania*, by Melania Trump
2. *Cher: The Memoir, Part One*, by Cher
3. *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, by Amy Tan
4. *Be Ready When the Luck Happens: A Memoir*, by Ina Garten
5. *Guinness World Records 2025*, by Guinness World Records
6. *Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions*, by John Grisham & Jim McCloskey
7. *Good Lookin' Cookin': A Year of Meals - A Lifetime of Family, Friends, and Food*, by Dolly Parton
8. *Confronting the Presidents: No Spin Assessments from Washington to Biden*, by Bill O' Reilly & Martin Dugard
9. *The Serviceberry*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer
10. *The Anxious Generation...*, by Jonathan Haidt

Liz likes—Liz Coronado

Charlie and Eve can't believe the killer deal they've just gotten on an old house in a picturesque neighborhood. As they're working in the house one day, there's a knock on the door. A man stands there with his family, claiming to have lived there years before and asking if it would be alright if he showed his kids around. People pleaser to a fault, Eve lets them in. As soon as the strangers enter their home, inexplicable things start happening, including the family's youngest child going missing and a ghostly presence materializing in the basement. Even more weird, the family can't seem to take the hint that their visit should be over. And when Charlie suddenly vanishes, Eve slowly loses her grip on reality. Something is terribly wrong with the house and with the visiting family—or is Eve just imagining things?

I absolutely loved *We Used to Live Here*! This book was creepy at times but so engaging, exciting, and interesting! I read this after a bit of a reading slump, and this really pulled me out the slump. **Marcus Kliewer's** description of the family and their refusal to leave the house created a slow creepiness that made me want to keep reading to find out what was going on. I loved how the interviews throughout the book gave context to what was happening and also the pace that Eve was beginning to question her sanity. I happened to recently see articles about the Mandela effect and also other stories like this one that I immediately thought of while reading this book. I absolutely loved the book and the ending. I cannot wait to read more books from this author.



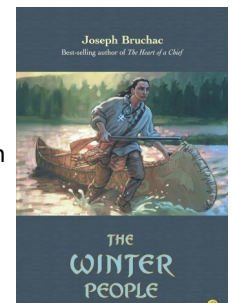
Fran Recommends —by Fran Kovach

In his work, *"The Winter People"*, Bruchac effectively brings to the forefront the Indian perspective concerning the traumatic historical events faced by Native Americans. By interweaving original Abenaki legends within the narrative, he allows readers to directly engage with the cultural beliefs and spiritual values that are central to the Abenaki identity. This narrative technique not only enriches the storytelling but also serves as a vital tool for enhancing cultural appreciation among readers.

The inclusion of these legends acts as a bridge, connecting the traditional beliefs of the Abenaki people with the harsh realities they experienced. This fusion of myth and history invites readers to gain a deeper understanding of the resilience and richness of Abenaki culture amidst adversity. Bruchac's storytelling is not merely a recounting of events; it is a revival of a cultural heritage that has often been overlooked in historical discourse.

Furthermore, the narrative sheds light on the broader experiences of Indigenous peoples in America during the early developmental stages of the country, highlighting the complexities of their struggles and survival. By presenting these stories through an Indigenous lens, Bruchac contributes to a more nuanced understanding of American history that reflects the voices and experiences of those who were marginalized.

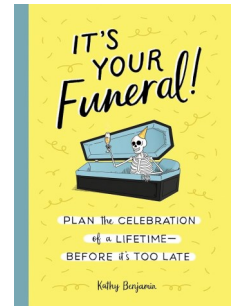
In summary, Bruchac's work is a poignant exploration of the Abenaki experience that educates and engages readers, fostering greater cultural empathy and appreciation for Indigenous history. Through the use of legends, he not only preserves this vital aspect of Abenaki culture but also underscores the importance of acknowledging and honoring the hardships faced by Native communities in the historical narrative of America.



## Robert recommends—Robert Andres

### *It's Your Funeral! Plan the Celebration of a Lifetime—Before it's Too Late* by Kathy Benjamin

It maybe the most interesting and perhaps lightest take on a difficult subject that we often prefer not to think about. Did you know that you can hire a mourner or mourners to attend? Did you think about music whether life or recorded? There are even song suggestions—serious as befits the occasion and flippant too. Apparently you can and some people do take their cell phone to the grave with them. A lot of unexpected, sometimes silly, ideas around an old and somber topic!

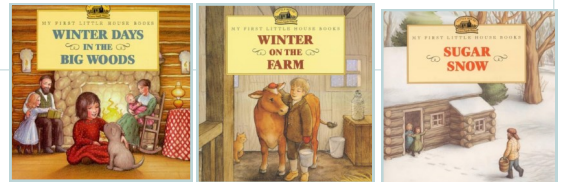


## Choice for Children —by Ama Burns

### *My First Little House Books Series* By Laura Ingalls Wilder

Adapted from the Little House Books, this series is a great way to introduce young readers to the world of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Full of beautiful illustrations, these books share with young readers what it was like growing up during the late 1800s. If you enjoyed the original books, you and your family will enjoy these adaptations. There are 13 titles in this series for you to enjoy.



## Bookmarked—Jolaine Konstantinidis

Skepticism regarding the authorship of Shakespeare's plays has the support of Mark Twain, Henry James, members of the Francis Bacon Society and numerous scholars, and among them, **Jodi Picoult** believes the allonym "Shakespeare" should rightfully belong in large part to Emilia Bassano. In her work of historical fiction, *By Any Other Name*, Picoult has meticulously researched the life of the first woman to publish a book of poetry entitled *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* and drawn her as a likely author/editor of many of the bard's plays and sonnets. One these pages (483—followed by additional notes, Shakespearean references and sources / resources) the author brings Emilia to life asserting her place in history as a capable candidate for Shakespeare authorship.



Picoult fashions Emilia as a distant relative of the fictional character Melina Greene, also an aspiring modern-day playwright, who even centuries later like her ancestor, faces discrimination in a male dominated theater world. As readers learn about Emilia's life through chapters written from first person point of view, Melina relates her own struggles that take place in the present time in alternate chapters. Picoult illustrates convincingly that not only Emilia's skill and artistry likely place her as author or at least collaborator of Shakespeare's plays, but also her experience. Emilia was Jewish and of a musical family; her father, Baptiste Bassano was a court musician. She knew how to play the flute and speak Italian which often figures into Shakespeare's plays. She was his contemporary, and happenings in her timeline, as well as gaps in Shakespeare's, support a possible business relationship. Also, as courtesan of Lord Hunsdon, Queen Elizabeth's Lord Chamberlain, patron of the arts and theater, Emilia was exposed to "foul" copies of plays that had to pass the approval of Hunsdon prior to being accepted. In addition, it was illegal for women to write plays, so Emilia could have been executed for her own work, thereby making it plausible that she relinquished it to be published under a male name in order to make it public. Similarly, Melina wishes her work to find credit and acceptance and coincidentally submits to a front name, Mel.

Picoult covers a lot of material in support of her theory about Emilia, and also highlights the ongoing inequalities in the arts that go beyond gender. Her own diligence has paid off, at least for me, in that I want to pursue the research surrounding Shakespeare more critically. As Picoult points out, there is more lack of evidence than evidence that Shakespeare even wrote or had time for that considering his other preoccupations as a father, an actor, shareholder and his controversial pursuit of a patent for a family coat of arms.

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DeSoto County Public  
Library is partially  
funded through a grant  
from Florida Department  
of State.

LIBRARY HOURS  
Tuesday & Thursday:  
9:00—6:00  
Wednesday & Friday  
8:30—6:00  
Saturday:  
9:00-2:30  
Closed Sunday and Monday



### Editor’s Choice—Reagan Bordner

Snowflakes are falling.  
Invitations are arriving.  
And holiday magic is swirling in the capital city of the Meridian  
Empire.


It’s Great Holiday Eve Eve. Scarlett Dragna is planning a  
spectacular Holiday celebration for the city. Donatella is searching for  
the perfect gift. Julian is looking ridiculously handsome in green. And  
Legend . . .

Well, sadly Legend is not fond of the Great Holiday. Tella is hoping her perfect  
gift will change his mind. Unfortunately, she hasn’t found this perfect gift just yet. But it  
is Great Holiday Eve Eve . . . surely there’s some holiday magic swirling around.

Welcome, welcome back to the world of Caraval, where even holidays are not  
as they seem.

When **Stephanie Garber**, the author I committed most of my 2024 reading to,  
released a new holiday novella, I knew I had to read it. The biggest challenge was  
waiting until December, to get into the holiday spirit, to read it.

It was as the title says, **“Spectacular”**. A whimsical story that gives a glimpse  
into the character’s lives after the series.

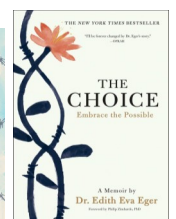



**DCLA  
Annual  
Book Sale!**  
Sat: January 25th / 9am - 2pm  
↓↓ *more information* ↓↓

### DCLA Update—by Elizabeth, VP

Hello, Everybody,  
New Year Already! Hope you had a joyful Christmas and a restful January 1st. The  
DeSoto County Library Association is having its **annual book sale** at the end of this  
month— **Saturday, January 25th from 9 am to 2 pm**. This is our fund-raiser for the  
Library’s Summer Reading Program. Please bring your gently used book donations to  
the Library between Tuesday, January 21st and Friday, January 24th. Thank you.

For adventure reading try **Craig  
Johnson’s Tooth and Claw**, set in arctic  
Alaska with a menacing polar bear, a ghost  
ship, & deadly secrets for Longmire and  
Henry Standing Bear to deal with. For  
inspiration try the young adult memoir **The  
Ballerina of Auschwitz** by **Dr. Edith Eva  
Eger** based on her memoir **The Choice**.





# January

# 2025



| SUN  | MON | TUE | WED   | THU  | FRI  | SAT  |  |  |   |
|--|-----|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>DeSoto County Library</b><br/>                     125 N Hillsborough<br/>                     863.993.4851</p> <p>Partially funded through<br/>                     FL Dept of State grants</p> |     |     | <p><b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year</i><br/> <b>Library Closed</b></p>  | <p><b>2</b><br/>                     2:00 Internet Basics<br/>                     3:00 Cybersecurity<br/>                     3:30 Kids Storytime</p>                     | <p><b>3</b></p>  | <p><b>4</b><br/>                     11:00 Craft a'Palooza</p>   |  |  |   |
|  |     |     | <p><b>5</b></p>   | <p><b>6</b></p>  | <p><b>7</b><br/>                     7:30 Walk &amp; Talk<br/>                     10:00 Crochet Club<br/>                     10:30 Toddler Time<br/>                     3:30 Kids STEAM Day</p> <p><b>WALK &amp; TALK</b></p> | <p><b>8</b><br/>                     11:00 Book Group<br/>                     3:30 Kids' Art</p>          | <p><b>9</b><br/>                     11:00 Adult Craft<br/>                     2:00 Android<br/>                     3:00 Email basics<br/>                     3:30 Kids Storytime</p> | <p><b>10</b> </p> <p>3:30 Photography Group<br/>                     2:30 Big Brother Big Sisiter</p>                                | <p><b>11</b><br/>                     11:00 Game day</p>  |
|  |     |     | <p><b>12</b></p>  | <p><b>13</b></p>   | <p><b>14</b><br/>                     7:30 Walk &amp; Talk<br/>                     10:30 Toddler Time<br/>                     3:30 Kids STEAM Day</p>  | <p><b>15</b><br/>                     11:00 Book Group<br/>                     3:30 Kids' Art</p>         | <p><b>16</b><br/>                     2:00 Zoom Basics<br/>                     3:00 Windows 10<br/>                     3:30 Kids Storytime</p>   | <p><b>17</b><br/>                     1:00 Movie for Adults<br/>                     4:00 Teen program</p> <p><b>MOVIE Time!</b></p> | <p><b>18</b> </p> <p>9:00 - 2:00<br/>                     Friends of the Library Annual <b>BOOK SALE</b><br/>                     11:00 Kid's Movie Day</p> |
|  |     |     | <p><b>19</b></p>  | <p><b>20</b><br/> </p>   | <p><b>21</b><br/>                     7:30 Walk &amp; Talk<br/>                     10:00 Crochet Club<br/>                     10:30 Toddler Time<br/>                     3:30 Kids STEAM Day</p>                              | <p><b>22</b><br/>                     11:00 Book Group<br/>                     3:30 Kids' Art</p> <p></p> | <p><b>23</b><br/>                     3:30 Kids Storytime</p>  | <p><b>24</b><br/>                     2:30 Big Brother Big Sister</p>  | <p><b>25</b><br/>                     11:00 Lego Building</p>   |
| <p><b>Open to our patrons:</b><br/>                     Tuesday &amp; Thursday: 9:00—6:00<br/>                     Wednesday &amp; Friday 8:30—6:00<br/>                     Saturday: 9:00-2:30</p>   |     |     | <p><b>28</b><br/>                     7:30 Walk &amp; Talk<br/>                     10:30 Toddler Time<br/>                     3:30 Kids STEAM Day</p> | <p><b>29</b><br/>                     11:00 Book Group<br/>                     3:30 Kids' Art</p> <p><b>Lunar New Year</b><br/>                     Year of the Snake</p> | <p><b>30</b><br/>                     3:30 Kids Storytime</p>  | <p><b>31</b></p>   |  |  |   |



# JANUARY 2025

T&Th: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
W&F: 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat.: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

| SUN                          | MON        | TUE   | WED                                     | THU                     | FRI                           | SAT                              |
|------------------------------|------------|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 29                           | 30         | 31  | 1                                       | 2                       | 3                             | 4                                |
| <b>Children's Activities</b> |            |   | <b>HAPPY new YEAR</b><br>Library Closed | 3:30 p.m.               | 2:30 PM                       | <b>Craft a'Palooza</b><br>11 A.M |
| 5                            | 6          | 7   | 8                                       | 9                       | 10                            | 11                               |
|                              |            | Toddler Time 10:30 am<br><b>STEAM</b> 3:30 p.m.<br><b>BRAILLE</b> | 3:30 p.m.                               | 3:30 p.m.               | 2:30 PM                       | <b>GAME DAY</b><br>11 A.M        |
| 12                           | 13         | 14  | 15                                      | 16                      | 17                            | 18                               |
|                              |            | Toddler Time 10:30 am<br><b>STEAM</b> 3:30 p.m.                   | 3:30 p.m.                               | 3:30 p.m.               | <b>Teen Program</b><br>4:00pm | <b>MOVIE</b> 11 AM<br>           |
| 19                           | 20         | 21  | 22                                      | 23                      | 24                            | 25                               |
|                              | MLK Jr Day | Toddler Time 10:30 am<br><b>STEAM</b> 3:30 p.m.                   | 3:30 p.m.                               | 3:30 p.m.               | 2:30 PM                       | <b>LEGO CHALLENGE</b><br>11 A.M  |
| 26                           | 27         | 28  | 29                                      | 30                      | 31                            | 1                                |
|                              |            | Toddler Time 10:30 am<br><b>STEAM</b> 3:30 p.m.                   | 3:30 p.m.                               | Story & Craft 3:30 p.m. |                               |                                  |

**2025 Reading Challenges Available at the Library!**  
Can you complete one?

**CHALLENGE YOURSELF**