

# MCMPPL NEWSLETTER

Mary C. Moore Public Library

May 2016

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**Online newsletter:** <http://www.lacombelibrary.com/newsletter/>

**Saturday Hours:** Beginning in May, the library will be open 10am-5pm on Saturdays

**Monthly feature display:** May 1 is International Workers' Day. We are celebrating labourers of all kinds with our display of fiction and non-fiction about working people.

**Jewelry Making Workshop:** Tuesday, May 10, 6-8pm. Make two pieces for \$10 per person. Choose from several styles of beaded necklaces, bracelets and key chains. Space is limited -- Please register by May 5. Adults and teens only, please.

**Annual Friends of the Library Garage Sale:** Friday, May 13, 9am-4pm and Saturday, May 14, 9am-3pm at 5805 52 Ave, Lacombe. Donations for the sale gratefully accepted at the Library until 5pm on May 11. No large appliances or mattresses, please. All proceeds to the Friends of the Library.

**Colouring Club for Adults:** Wednesday, May 4 & 18, drop-in 6-8pm in the library. Relax, unwind and enjoy quiet conversation while being creative! All materials provided. This program is free to attend! Adults only, please. See our website for upcoming dates.

**Film Club:** This new club operates much the same as a book club, with each participant viewing the film on their own time, and meeting at the library monthly for lively discussion on topics raised by the film. Selections for 2016 are acclaimed international films from a variety of regions. Visit our website for more information on the program. For our May 24 meeting, we are watching *Wadjda*, directed by Haifaa Al-Mansour. This is the story of a young girl living in a suburb of Riyadh determined to raise enough money to buy a bike in a society that sees bicycles as dangerous to a girl's virtue. *Wadjda* is the first feature film made by a female Saudi filmmaker. In a country where cinemas are banned and women cannot drive or vote, writer-director Haifaa Al Mansour has broken many barriers with her new film. Arabic with English subtitles. Rated PG. Meetings are held at 7pm in the library.

**Armchair Travel and Local History Lectures** will resume in the fall.

**Book Club:** For our June 7 meeting we are reading *The Martian* by Andy Weir. "Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate the planet while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded on Mars' surface, completely alone, with no way to signal Earth that he's alive — and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone years before a rescue could arrive. Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first. But Mark's not ready to quit. Armed with nothing but his ingenuity and his engineering skills — and a gallows sense of humor that proves to be his greatest source of strength — he embarks on a dogged quest to stay alive, using his botany expertise to grow food and even hatching a mad plan to contact NASA back on Earth. As he overcomes one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next, Mark begins to let himself believe he might make it off the planet alive — but Mars has plenty of surprises in store for him yet."

**Regular Children's Programs:** Programs began the week of January 12 and run until May 27. Registration began January 4. All programs are full. Our Summer Reading Program runs July 11 - August 26 for ages 2-13. This is a drop-in program, no registration required. See our website for days and times. Stay tuned for information about regular fall programs.

## ABOUT US

### Hours

Monday-Thursday  
10am-8pm  
Friday  
10am-5pm  
Saturday  
10am-5pm  
Sunday & Stat Holidays  
Closed

### Library Services

Free Wi-Fi  
Free public computer access  
Printing  
Faxing  
Scan-to-email  
Photocopying  
Reference Questions  
eBook/Audio downloads

### Regular Programs

Children's Programs  
Monthly Book Club  
Knitting Club  
Local History Lectures  
Armchair Travel Presentations



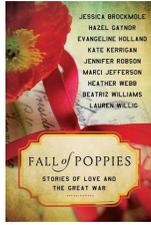
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## NEW BOOK SPOTLIGHT

A selection of our recent acquisitions

### Adult Fiction



#### *Fall of Poppies: Stories of Love and the Great War*

November 11, 1918. After four long, dark years of fighting, the Great War ends at last, and the world is forever changed. For soldiers, loved ones, and survivors, the years ahead stretch with new promise, even as their hearts are marked by all those who have been lost. As families come back together, lovers reunite, and strangers take solace in each other, everyone has a story to tell. In this moving, unforgettable collection, nine top historical fiction authors share stories of love, strength, and renewal as hope takes root in a fall of poppies. Featuring: Jessica Brockmole, Hazel Gaynor, Evangeline Holland, Marci Jefferson, Kate Kerrigan, Jennifer Robson, Heather Webb, Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig.



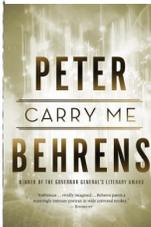
#### *The Heaviness of Things That Float* by Jennifer Manuel

Jennifer Manuel skillfully depicts the lonely world of Bernadette, a woman who has spent the last forty years living alone on the periphery of a remote West Coast First Nations reserve, serving as a nurse for the community. This is a place where truth and myth are deeply intertwined and stories are “like organisms all their own, life upon life, the way moss grows around poplar trunks and barnacles atop crab shells, the way golden chanterelles spring from hemlock needles. They spread in the cove with the kelp and the eelgrass, and in the rainforest with the lichen, the cedars, the sword ferns. They pelt down inside raindrops, erode thick slabs of driftwood, puddle the old logging road that these days led to nowhere.” Only weeks from retirement, Bernadette finds herself unsettled, with no immediate family of her own—how does she fit into the world? Her fears are complicated by the role she has played within their community: a keeper of secrets in a place “too small for secrets.” And then a shocking announcement crackles over the VHF radio of the remote medical outpost: Chase Charlie, the young man that Bernadette loves like a son, is missing. The community is thrown into upheaval, and with the surface broken, raw dysfunction, pain and truths float to the light.



#### *On the Shores of Darkness, There Is Light: A Novel* by Cordelia Strube

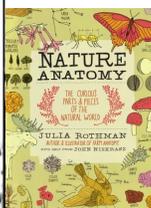
Harriet is 11 going on 30. Her mixed-media art is a source of wonder to her younger brother, Irwin, but an unmitigated horror to the panoply of insufficiently grown-up grown-ups who surround her. She plans to run away to Algonquin Park, hole up in a cabin like Tom Thomson and paint trees; and so, to fund her escape, she runs errands for the seniors who inhabit the Shangri-La, the decrepit apartment building that houses her fractured family. Determined, resourceful, and a little reckless, Harriet tries to navigate the clueless adults around her, dumpster dives for the flotsam and jetsam that fuels her art, and attempts to fathom her complicated feelings for Irwin, who suffers from hydrocephalus. On the other hand, Irwin's love for Harriet is not conflicted at all. She's his compass. But Irwin himself must untangle the web of the human heart. Masterful and mordantly funny, Strube is at the top of her considerable form in this deliciously subversive story of love and redemption.



#### *Carry Me* by Peter Behrens

Billy Lange is born in 1909 on the Isle of Wight, England, where his father is the skipper of a racing yacht belonging to a wealthy German-Jewish baron. As a child, Billy is entranced by the baron's daughter, the elusive and willful Karin von Weinbrenner. After the First World War, Karin and Billy are reunited on the baron's Frankfurt estate, where they bond over their fascination with the Wild West novels of Karl May, the most popular author in the German language. Over the years, Billy and Karin's childhood friendship deepens and transforms into a complex love affair with extraordinarily high stakes. Coming of age in Frankfurt and Berlin, Billy and Karin share a passion for speed, jazz, and nightclubs. As society loses its moral bearings and Germany marches toward the Second World War, they also share a dream of escape -- from Germany, from history -- to El Llano Estacado, May's richly imagined New Mexico landscape. An intriguing cast of characters braid this harrowing story together, transporting the reader from a golden Edwardian summer on the Isle of Wight, to London under Zeppelin attack, to Ireland on the brink of its War of Independence, and at last to Germany during the darkening Weimar period. Moving seamlessly back and forth between times and countries, Behrens (author of *The O'Briens*) paints a stunningly intimate portrait in wide, universal strokes. Behrens revitalizes the war epic, substituting grand panoramas with realistic settings and great acts of heroism with small yet powerful acts of compassion.

### Junior Non-Fiction for Everyone!



*Nature Anatomy: the curious parts & pieces of the natural world* by Julia Rothman with help from John Niekasz  
See the world in a whole new way! Acclaimed illustrator Julia Rothman combines art and science in this exciting and educational guide to the structure, function, and personality of the natural world. Explore the anatomy of a jellyfish, the inside of a volcano, monarch butterfly migration, how sunsets work, and much more. Rothman's whimsical illustrations are paired with interactive activities that encourage curiosity and inspire you to look more closely at the world all around you.

## READALIKES

Discover new books & authors

### Gardening in Fiction



*Garden Spells* by Sarah Addison Allen

Two gifted sisters draw on their talents to belatedly forge a bond and find their ways in life in Allen's easygoing debut novel. Thirty-four-year-old Claire Waverley manifests her talent in cooking; using edible flowers, Claire creates dishes that affect the eater in curious ways. But not all Waverley women embrace their gifts; some, including Claire's mother, escape the family's eccentric reputation by running away. She abandoned Claire and her sister when they were young. Consequently, Claire has remained close to home, unwilling to open up to new people or experiences. Claire's younger sister, Sydney, however, followed in their mother's footsteps 10 years ago and left for New York, and after a string of abusive, roustabout boyfriends, returns to Bascom, N.C., with her five-year-old daughter, Bay. As Sydney reacquaints herself with old friends and rivals, she discovers her own Waverley magic. Claire, in turn, begins to open up to her sister and in the process learns how to welcome other possibilities. Though Allen's prose can lean toward the pedestrian and the romance subplots feel perfunctory, the blending of horticultural folklore, the supernatural and a big dollop of Southern flavor should find favor with a wide swath of readers.



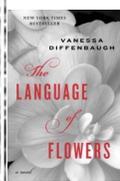
*The Thorne Maze* by Karen Harper

The vibrant pageant of Elizabethan England comes vividly alive in Karen Harper's fifth novel in her acclaimed Elizabeth I mystery series. In the gardens of Hampton Court, Elizabeth proudly shows a famed visitor her huge maze. But the intricate labyrinth soon becomes a scene of horror as Elizabeth herself is attacked and the visitor is murdered within its leafy dead ends. Undaunted, the queen sets a trap to snare a ghostly murderer before he or she strikes again... .



*The Lost Garden* by Helen Humphreys

Fleeing war-torn London in 1941, gardener Gwen Davis leaves the "wild, lovely clutter" of the city for the safe haven of the English countryside. Unwilling to watch her beloved city crumble under the assault of incendiary German bombs, she accepts a position at a requisitioned estate in Devon, supervising the farming of potatoes for the war effort. A 35-year old spinster with a wicked wit and a fondness for literature, Gwen arrives at her new post to find that the group of "Land Girls" she's to supervise have little interest in planting. They're far more eager to cultivate the human crop -- a regiment of Canadian soldiers stationed at the estate, awaiting their assignment. Allying herself with the Canadians' commanding officer, Gwen strategically wins the girls' cooperation by agreeing to a series of evening dances at which they may mix with the soldiers. Pleased to again be in control of her environment, Gwen makes two life-changing discoveries. The first is the existence of feelings she's never before allowed herself to experience. The second is a hidden, abandoned garden on the estate, the secrets of which Gwen is compelled to unlock. .



*The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen and emancipated from the system with nowhere to go, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But an unexpected encounter with a mysterious stranger has her questioning what's been missing in her life. And when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.



*Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng

It's Malaya, 1949. After studying law at Cambridge and time spent helping to prosecute Japanese war criminals, Yun Ling Teoh, herself the scarred lone survivor of a brutal Japanese wartime camp, seeks solace among the jungle-fringed plantations of Northern Malaya where she grew up as a child. There she discovers Yugiri, the only Japanese garden in Malaya, and its owner and creator, the enigmatic Aritomo, exiled former gardener of the Emperor of Japan. Despite her hatred of the Japanese, Yun Ling seeks to engage Aritomo to create a garden in Kuala Lumpur, in memory of her sister who died in the camp. Aritomo refuses, but agrees to accept Yun Ling as his apprentice 'until the monsoon comes'. Then she can design a garden for herself. As the months pass, Yun Ling finds herself intimately drawn to her sensei and his art while, outside the garden, the threat of murder and kidnapping from the guerrillas of the jungle hinterland increases with each passing day. But the Garden of Evening Mists is also a place of mystery. Who is Aritomo and how did he come to leave Japan? Why is it that Yun Ling's friend and host, Magnus Praetorius, seems almost immune from the depredations of the Communists? What is the legend of 'Yamashita's Gold' and does it have any basis in fact? And is the real story of how Yun Ling managed to survive the war perhaps the darkest secret of all?

## COMING SOON!

The following titles are currently on order.  
Place your request today online, or in person at the Library

### Adult Fiction

Seize the Night by Kelley Armstrong  
Last Mile by David Baldacci  
History of Loneliness by John Boyne  
The Cavedon Luck by Barbara Taylor Bradford  
Suicide Motor Club by Chris Buehman  
Jealous Kid by James Lee Burke  
Into the Savage Country by Shannon Burke  
Killing Winter by Tom Calloghan  
As Time Goes By by Mary Higgins Clark  
Moth Catcher by Ann Cleaves  
Man Who Fell from the Sky by Margaret Coel  
Dominion by John Connolly  
Insidious by Catherine Coulter  
Garden of Lamentations Deborah Crombie  
Ashes of Fiery Weather by Kathleen Donohoe  
House of Echoes by Brendan Duffy  
La Rose by Louise Erdich  
Terrible Virtue by Ellen Feldman  
I'll See You in Paris by Michelle Gable  
Three Sisters, Three Queens by Philippa Gregory  
The Pier Falls by Mark Haddon  
Night Shift by Charlaine Harris  
Different Class by Joanne Harris  
One Under by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles  
Star Fall by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles  
The Railwayman's Wife by Ashley Hay  
Fall of Moscow Station by Mark Henshaw  
Detective Galileo by Keigo Higashino  
Here's to Us by Elin Hilderbrand  
After She's Gone by Lisa Jackson  
No Cats Allowed by Miranda James  
Love You Dead by Peter James  
Dead Ground in Between by Maureen Jennings  
Night and Day by Iris Johansen  
Curse of the 10th Grave by Darynda Jones  
Children of Earth and Sky by Guy Gavriel Kay  
Theory of Death by Faye Kellerman  
End of Watch by Stephen King  
Brush of Wings by Karen Kingsbury  
Ashley Bell by Dean Koontz  
Manitou Canyon by William Kent Krueger  
Fall of Man in Wilmslow: The Dead and Life of Alan Turing by David Lagercratz  
Catalyst Killing by Hans Olav Lahlum  
Sweet Tomorrow by Debbie Macomber  
The Casebook of Newbury and Hobbes by George Mann  
Against the Tide by Kat Martin  
Kingdom of Darkness by Andy McDermott

Doll Mask by Joyce Carol Oates  
Little Red Chairs by Edna O'Brien  
Bury Them Deep by James Oswald  
Prayer for the Dead by James Oswald  
The 15th Affair by James Patterson  
Christmas Escape by Anne Perry  
Long Cosmos by Terry Pratchett & Stephen Baxter  
Dark Corners by Ruth Rendell  
Brotherhood in Death by J.D. Robb  
Stars of Fortune by Nora Roberts  
Mandibles by Lionel Shriver  
Magic by Danielle Steel  
Crow Girl by Erik Axl Sund  
Fly by Night by Andrea Thalasinis  
Shattered Tree by Charles Todd  
Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler  
Drawing Dead by Andrew Vachss  
Katherine of Aragon by Alison Weir  
Deep Blue by Randy Wayne White  
Journey to Munich by Jacqueline Winspear

### Adult Non-Fiction

Spinster: A Life of One's Own by Kate Bolick  
Flavorwalla by Floyd Cardoz  
Meat on the Side Nikki Dinki  
The Ballad of Danny Wolfe by Joe Freisen  
Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer  
Joe & Marilyn: Legends in Love by C. David Heymann  
Jimmy Stewart by Michael Mann  
Through the Eyes of a Belfast Child by Greg McVicker  
Nazi Hunters by Andrew Nagorski  
It's a Long Story by Willie Nelson  
Time of Your Life by Margaret Trudeau

### Young Adult Fiction

All the Major Constellations by Pratima Cranse  
Da Vinci's Tiger by L.M. Elliott  
Trilogy of Two by Juman Malouf  
Soundless by Richelle Mead  
OCDaniel by Wesley King  
Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry  
Wink Poppy Midnight by April Tucholke  
Front Lines by Michael Grant  
End of Fun by Sean McGinty  
Surviving High School by Lele Pons  
Anna and the Swallow Man by Gavriel Savit  
A Steep and Thorny Way by Cat Winters  
Asking for It by Louise O'Neill  
Blackhearts by Nicole Castroman  
My Lady Jane by Cynthia Hand  
Tyranny of Petticoats by Jessica Spotswood  
Jerkbait by Mia Siegert  
After the Woods by Kim Savage  
Heir to the Sky by Amanda Sun  
Rebel Bully Geek Pariah by Jade Lange  
Stone Field by Christy Lenzi  
I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson  
Gemini by Sonja Mukherjee  
These Vicious Masks by Tarun Shanker  
Longbow Girl by Linda Davies  
Drag Teen by Jeffery Self  
Railhead by Philip Reeve  
Fierce and Subtle Poison by Samantha Mabry

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### Staff Picks

Amy

*Dark Corners* by Ruth Rendell

When his father dies, Carl Martin inherits a house in an increasingly rich and trendy London neighborhood. Carl needs cash, however, so he rents the upstairs room and kitchen to the first person he interviews, Dermot McKinnon. That was colossal mistake number one. Mistake number two was keeping his father's bizarre collection of homeopathic "cures" that he found in the medicine cabinet, including a stash of controversial diet pills. Mistake number three was selling fifty of those diet pills to a friend, who is then found dead.

Brianna

*The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling

When Barry Fairbrother dies in his early forties, the town of Pagford is left in shock. Pagford is, seemingly, an English idyll, with a cobbled market square and an ancient abbey, but what lies behind the pretty façade is a town at war. Rich at war with poor, teenagers at war with their parents, wives at war with their husbands, teachers at war with their pupils...Pagford is not what it first seems. And the empty seat left by Barry on the parish council soon becomes the catalyst for the biggest war the town has yet seen. Who will triumph in an election fraught with passion, duplicity, and unexpected revelations?

Cheri

*Private Paris* by James Patterson

Paris is burning--and only Private's Jack Morgan can put out the fire. When Jack Morgan stops by Private's Paris office, he envisions a quick hello during an otherwise relaxing trip filled with fine food and sightseeing. But Jack is quickly pressed into duty after a call from his client Sherman Wilkerson, asking Jack to track down his young granddaughter who is on the run from a brutal drug dealer. Before Jack can locate her, several members of France's cultural elite are found dead--murdered in stunning, symbolic fashion. The only link between the crimes is a mysterious graffiti tag. As religious and ethnic tensions simmer in the City of Lights, only Jack and his Private team can connect the dots before the smoldering powder keg explodes.

Connie

*Written in Red* by Anne Bishop

As a cassandra sanguine, or blood prophet, Meg Corbyn can see the future when her skin is cut—a gift that feels more like a curse. Meg's Controller keeps her enslaved so he can have full access to her visions. But when she escapes, the only safe place Meg can hide is at the Lakeside Courtyard—a business district operated by the Others. Shape-shifter Simon Wolfgard is reluctant to hire the stranger who inquires about the Human Liaison job. First, he senses she's keeping a secret, and second, she doesn't smell like human prey. Yet a stronger instinct propels him to give Meg the job. And when he learns the truth about Meg and that she's wanted by the government, he'll have to decide if she's worth the fight between humans and the Others that will surely follow.

Kirstin

*The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler

A snail longs to see the world and hitches a lift on a whale's tail. Together they go on an amazing journey, past icebergs and volcanoes, sharks and penguins, and the snail feels very small in the vastness of the world. But when the whale is beached in a bay, it's the tiny snail who saves the day.



## Mary

*Anansi Boys* by Neil Gaiman

Fat Charlie Nancy's normal life ended the moment his father dropped dead on a Florida karaoke stage. Charlie didn't know his dad was a god. And he never knew he had a brother. Now brother Spider's on his doorstep -- about to make Fat Charlie's life more interesting... and a lot more dangerous.

## Melvyn

*Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Living at the limits of our ordinary perception, mosses are a common but largely unnoticed element of the natural world. *Gathering Moss* is a beautifully written mix of science and personal reflection that invites readers to explore and learn from the elegantly simple lives of mosses. Robin Wall Kimmerer's book is not an identification guide, nor is it a scientific treatise. Rather, it is a series of linked personal essays that will lead general readers and scientists alike to an understanding of how mosses live and how their lives are intertwined with the lives of countless other beings, from salmon and hummingbirds to redwoods and rednecks. Kimmerer clearly and artfully explains the biology of mosses, while at the same time reflecting on what these fascinating organisms have to teach us. Drawing on her diverse experiences as a scientist, mother, teacher, and writer of Native American heritage, Kimmerer explains the stories of mosses in scientific terms as well as in the framework of indigenous ways of knowing. In her book, the natural history and cultural relationships of mosses become a powerful metaphor for ways of living in the world.

## Miranda

*Don't Lick the Minivan: And Other Things I Never Thought I'd Say to My Kids* by Leanne Shirliffe

As a woman used to traveling and living the high life in Bangkok, Leanne Shirliffe recognized the constant fodder for humor while pregnant with twins in Asia's sin city. But in spite of deep-fried bug cuisine and nurses who cover newborn bassinets with plastic wrap, Shirliffe manages to keep her babies alive for a year with help from a Coca-Cola deliveryman, several waitresses, and a bra factory. Then she and her husband return home to the isolation of North American suburbia. In *Don't Lick the Minivan*, Shirliffe captures the bizarre aspects of parenting in her edgy, honest voice. She explores the hazards of everyday life with children such as: the birthday party where neighborhood kids took home skin rashes from the second-hand face paint she applied, the time she discovered her twins carving their names into her minivan's paint with rocks, the funeral she officiated for "Stripper Barbie, the horror of glitter. And much more! A delayed encounter with postpartum depression helps Shirliffe to realize that even if she can't teach her kids how to tie their shoelaces, she's a good enough mom. At least good enough to start saving for her twins' college, eh, therapy fund. And possibly her own. Crisply written, *Don't Lick the Minivan* will have parents laughing out loud and nodding in agreement. Shirliffe's memoir might not replace a therapist, but it is a lot cheaper.

## Sharon

*Flood Girls* by Richard Fifield

Welcome to Quinn, Montana, population: 956. A town where nearly all of the volunteer firemen are named Jim, where The Dirty Shame—the only bar in town—refuses to serve mixed drinks (too much work), where the locals hate the newcomers (then again, they hate the locals, too), and where the town softball team has never even come close to having a winning season. Until now. Rachel Flood has snuck back into town after leaving behind a trail of chaos nine years prior. She's here to make amends, but nobody wants to hear it, especially her mother, Laverna. But with the help of a local boy named Jake and a little soul-searching, she just might make things right. Fifield's hilarious and heartwarming debut will have you laughing through tears.

## Victoria

*Under Heaven* by Guy Gavriel Kay

Inspired by the glory and power of Tang dynasty China, Guy Gavriel Kay has created a masterpiece. It begins simply. Shen Tai, son of an illustrious general serving the Emperor of Kitai, has spent two years honoring the memory of his late father by burying the bones of the dead from both armies at the site of one of his father's last great battles. In recognition of his labors and his filial piety, an unlikely source has sent him a dangerous gift: 250 Sardinian horses. You give a man one of the famed Sardinian horses to reward him greatly. You give him four or five to exalt him above his fellows, propel him towards rank, and earn him jealousy, possibly mortal jealousy. Two hundred and fifty is an unthinkable gift, a gift to overwhelm an emperor. Wisely, the gift comes with the stipulation that Tai must claim the horses in person. Otherwise he would probably be dead already... .

## FILM PICKS

Highlights from our Special Film Collection

### MAY SPOTLIGHT

New & Notable: Strong-Willed Women



*Freeheld*, directed by Peter Sollett, is the true love story of Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree and their fight for justice. A decorated New Jersey police detective, Laurel is diagnosed with cancer and wants to leave her hard earned pension to her domestic partner, Stacie. However the county officials, Freeholders, conspire to prevent Laurel from doing this. Hard-nosed detective Dane Wells, and activist Steven Goldstein, unite in Laurel and Stacie's defense, rallying police officers and ordinary citizens to support their struggle for equality.



*Assassin*, directed by Hsiao-hsien Hou. Years in the making, this sumptuous martial-arts epic by Taiwanese master is a breathtaking work of art that combines elements of classical Chinese literature and landscape painting with the director's own distinctive aesthetic sensibility. Set during the tail end of the Tang dynasty in the ninth century, *The Assassin* focuses on professional killer Yinniang (the ethereally beautiful Shu Qi), whose lethal effectiveness has become compromised by her troubled conscience. That internal struggle becomes even more fraught when she is ordered to assassinate a powerful provincial governor (Chang Chen) to whom she was once betrothed. Navigating an intricate web of court intrigue as she pursues her murderous goal, Yinniang is haunted by phantom visions of what her life could have been.



*Carol*, directed by Todd Haynes. In this adaptation of the novel "The Price of Salt" by Patricia Highsmith, Therese, a young department-store clerk and aspiring photographer in 1950s Manhattan, meets Carol, a beautiful older woman stuck in a depressing marriage of convenience. As their bond deepens, Carol finds the strength to leave her husband. Unfortunately, her spouse starts to raise questions about her fitness as a mother, and lives begin to unravel. Beautifully moody cinematography, and subtly intense acting where a glance or simple gesture conveys a thousand words.



*Bessie*, directed by Dee Rees. Queen Latifah gives the performance of her career with her portrayal of legendary singer Bessie Smith, a Jazz Age legend. The film focuses on Smith's turbulent life and transformation from struggling singer to "Empress of the Blues." Smith overcame the obstacles of being black, a woman, poor and openly bisexual to establish herself as one of the most influential performers in the country during the 1920s. The Great Depression and the rise of talking pictures ended her success abruptly in the mid-1930s, but she kept performing up until her sudden death at the age of 43.



*The Danish Girl*, directed by Tom Hooper. Sumptuously photographed, *The Danish Girl* is set in Copenhagen in the 1920s and focuses almost entirely on a free-spirited couple, both of them painters — he of delicate landscapes, she of portraits. Einar, has just had a successful gallery show, but struggles to gain attention for her work. One day, Gerda asks her husband to stand in for a female model so she can complete her latest painting. Einar is overwhelmed by the experience of putting on beautiful, feminine clothes, and soon it turns into a quiet obsession. As Einar gradually rediscovers himself, Gerda's paintings of him as a woman begin to attract serious attention. Gerda balances Einar's transformation with her new-found acclaim. Einar, meanwhile, finds it impossible to put the genie back in the bottle: She will become Lili, one of the first known recipients of gender confirmation surgery. One of the extraordinary things about *The Danish Girl* is the manner in which Hooper treats the emotional volatility these characters cope with, both individually and together. Love and understanding are paramount to them, even as the emergence of Lili brings simultaneous loss and gain.



*Suffragette*, directed by Sarah Gavron, is a powerful drama about the women who were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality in early-20th-century Britain. The stirring story centers on Maud, a working wife and mother whose life is forever changed when she is secretly recruited to join the U.K.'s growing suffragette movement. Galvanized by the outlaw fugitive Emmeline Pankhurst, Maud becomes an activist for the cause alongside women from all walks of life. When increasingly aggressive police action forces Maud and her dedicated fellow suffragettes underground, they engage in a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse with the authorities, who are shocked as the women's civil disobedience escalates and sparks debate across the nation. Inspired by true events, *Suffragette* is a moving drama exploring the passion and heartbreak of those who risked all they had for women's right to vote - their jobs, their homes, their children, and even their lives.



*Brooklyn*, directed by John Crowley, tells the profoundly moving story of Eilis Lacey, a young Irish immigrant navigating her way through 1950s Brooklyn. Lured by the promise of America, Eilis departs Ireland and the comfort of her mother's home for the shores of New York City. The initial shackles of homesickness quickly diminish as a fresh romance sweeps Eilis into the intoxicating charm of love. But soon, her new vivacity is disrupted by her past, and Eilis must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within.

**A**pril had sped by and the month of May was upon the kingdom. The Royal Library was teeming with subjects looking to improve their abodes and property. May was the month of great rejoicing in the library since there were three birthday celebrations plus one for the Royal Monarch Queen Victoria. Events and trivia about the month of May will follow.

Lady Christina was to attend the library conference in the realm of Jasper where she would commune with like-minded individuals about the importance of the library. The beautiful mountain setting only added to the enjoyment of this experience. Fact: In any given year, no month ever begins or ends on the same day of the week as May does.

Lady Connie would be returning from a medical leave that although, not life-threatening, had kept her away for the month of April. She would be well rested and eager to resume her duties. May trivia: According to old Cornish superstition, it is unlucky to buy a broom during the month of May.

Lady Sharon would be leaving on May 4 to journey back to her homeland of Northern Ireland where she would enjoy the company of family. She would be visiting her brother, sister, daughter, granddaughter and great-grandchildren. May trivia: The United Kingdom celebrates May as the National Smile Month. (Lady Sharon will be the smile ambassador on her trip.)

Lady Mary was already excited about her day of birth celebration. It was her favourite time of the year and as the Royal Children knew, when Lady Mary had a birthday, everyone celebrated. She was grateful for another wonderful year. May trivia: May 17 is National Cherry Cobbler Day and also Lady Mary's birthday!

Lady Miranda was busy with programs for the adults in the kingdom. She was offering a jewelry making evening that promised to be an excellent time. She was also enjoying the challenges of motherhood as Princess Lydia would be going to kindergarten in the fall and Prince James was finding his feet. May trivia: Mayovka, in the context of the late Russian Empire, was a picnic in the countryside or in a park in the early days of May, hence the name. Eventually, "proletarian mayovka" came to mean an illegal celebration of May 1 by revolutionary public, typically presented as an innocent picnic.

Wizard Melvyn was keeping close watch on the basketball playoffs and was saddened by the Grizzlies untimely exit from the first round. She was cycling to work; a sure sign of spring. May trivia: The second week of May is Bike Week: a yearly international event that advocates the importance of cycling as a means of transportation.



Lady Brianna was still saving money for her schooling in the fall. She had become a faithful member of the Royal Library film club that meets once a month. She contributed greatly to the discussions. May trivia: International Headband Week runs the last week of May. People all around the world are encouraged to wear headbands to work and social events to promote character building and confidence.

Lady Victoria was also enjoying her day of birth celebration the end of May and understandably, thought, as a child, that the English monarch's birthday was in her honour since Victoria Day was appropriately named for Lady Victoria. May trivia: Victoria

Day is a Canadian tradition and doesn't actually exist in most of England. It does, however, remain an official holiday in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Lady Kirstin was doing very well since she was working at the Royal Library and tending to Princess Elspeth and Prince Rowan and would be welcoming another babe into their family in the fall. She was managing everything with great competency and the ladies were very excited about another new arrival. May trivia: The Anglo-Saxon name for May is Tri-Milchi in recognition that the lush new grass allowed cows to be milked three times a day.

Lady Cheri had been to the realm of Arizona to visit her parents and her brother had flown from Seattle to surprise everyone with a visit. She would be returning soon and the ladies were looking forward to hearing about her holiday. May joke: Old saying: April Showers Bring May Flowers. Old joke: What do Mayflowers bring? answer: Pilgrims. (a little American humour.)

Lady Amy would also be marking her day of birth celebration at the beginning of May. She had enjoyed a weekend with friends and had visited The Saskatoon Farm which is located close to Okotoks. May trivia: On May 1, 1931 The Empire State Building was officially opened.

With so many birthdays the Library Ladies looked forward to some delicious celebrations and the coming of summer.

Written by your loyal scribe,

*Lady Miss Mary*