



# MPL NEWS

## February 2022

Library CLOSED Thursday, February 17th for Staff Development and CLOSED Sunday, February 20th and Monday, February 21st in observance of Presidents' Day

STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT



### Events and Happenings at Middletown Public Library

#### From the Director's Laptop

Thinking about February and Valentine's Day, I wondered, "What's the difference between a book lover and an avid reader?" I started with a Google search, and learned: A book lover may like the cover that has the title and the author's name more than what is between the covers. The avid reader likes more what is between the covers irrespective of the title or the author. The former possesses books and the latter uses them. Hmm... interesting..., but you can't always rely on Google for the best answer.

So of course, I researched this further. The Collins Dictionary defines a book lover as someone who enjoys reading and reads more than the average person; therefore according to Collins, a book lover is also an avid reader.

I next checked the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, and learned that a person who reads in bed is a sesquipedalian librocubicularist. I kid you not. More research revealed that the word is considered a creation of Christopher Morley in his 1919 novel, *The Haunted Bookshop*. This intrigued me and I thought I might read that book next if I can find a copy.

Well, guess what? I found a print copy right here at MPL and a digital audio copy at the Boston Public Library that I downloaded in only 5 minutes and will listen to while I commute. Now that's what I love about public libraries:

1. The scope of what you can find - collections of books, music, DVD's, magazines, fishing poles, discount passes, laptops and Roku (Yes! We loan Roku streaming sticks!)
2. The fact that any public library will welcome you to explore what you are interested in.
3. How easy it is to borrow material - all for free.

In other words, public libraries are treasure troves that provide free access to anything. All you need to do is sign up for a library card. It's that simple. Plus there is one more important thing to remember – if you cannot find what you are interested in, ask for help from our friendly reference librarian, or any staff member, who will make you feel like you are the center of the universe. We librarians do not personally know the answer to every question but we do know how to find the answer. You can trust me on that.

So my February Valentine to all you book lovers and avid readers out there is to keep using your public library and spread the word to your family and friends. Tell them that a library card is a valuable asset to own. When you visit, don't forget to pick up the February issue of BookPage. It looks really good.

See you at the MPL.

Theresa

Theresa Coish is the Director of Middletown Public Library  
She is currently reading, *Written in My Own Heart's Blood: a novel*, by Diana Gabaldon.





**Browse**  
**MPL's**  
**Black History**  
**collection**

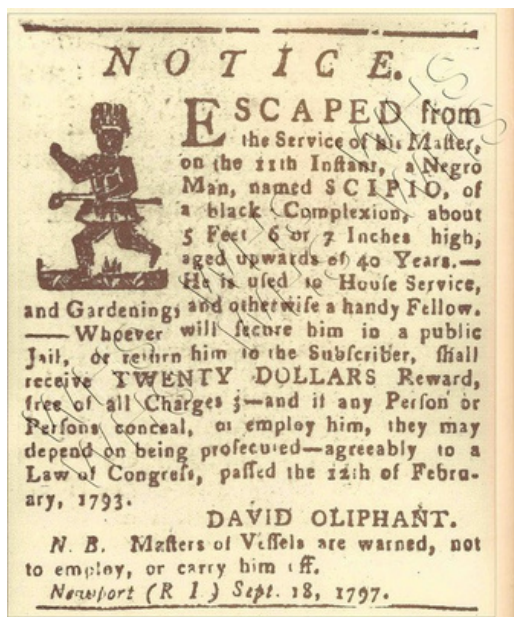
## JOIN US

### "Slavery in Colonial Rhode Island"

A Talk Given by Fred Zilian, Ph.D.

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Wednesday, February 2nd

*in MPL's Meeting Room*



The histories of colonial Rhode Island and of slavery in the New World are intimately connected. This talk will first describe the beginnings of slavery in the colony of Rhode Island, its growth in the colony in the 18th century, and Rhode Island's key role in the Atlantic trading system. It will then examine the business of slavery in Bristol, Providence, "Narragansett County," and Newport, including the demographics of slavery, the lives of the enslaved, and resistance to slavery. The talk will conclude with a brief description of the organization: Rhode Island Slave History Medallions ([RISHM.org](http://RISHM.org)), and what it is doing to raise public awareness of the state's slave history.

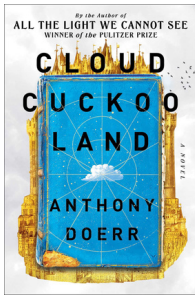
After a 21-year career as an infantry officer in the Army, Fred Zilian, Ph.D., was for 23 years an educator at Portsmouth Abbey School, where he taught history, ethics, and German. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Salve Regina University, Newport, RI, where he teaches history and politics. Zilian is a board member and heads the Education Committee of the Rhode Island Slave History Medallions organization ([RISHM.org](http://RISHM.org)).

He is also a contributor to The Hill and The History News Network, and a columnist for the Newport Daily News. He blogs with historical, political, social and cultural commentary at [www.zilianblog.com](http://www.zilianblog.com). He lives in Portsmouth with his wife.



*Fred Zilian*

## What's New at the Library



### New Adult Books



### New Children's Books



### New Teen Books

## Children's Spotlight



We are celebrating National Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, February 5th by offering a **FREE BOOK** to all children that visit MPL that day!

# American Heart Month



February



[Read President Biden's  
A Proclamation on American Heart Month, 2022](#)

[CDC's American Heart Month Toolkits](#)

[Browse the Heart Health collection at MPL](#)

## Tech Talk



**MPL is pleased to  
announce Kanopy's  
addition of**

**milestone  
FILMS**

Milestone Films has gained an international reputation for releasing classic cinema masterpieces, groundbreaking documentaries, and American independent features. Since 2007, Milestone has concentrated on the restoration and worldwide distribution of films outside the Hollywood mainstream featuring "lost" films by and about African Americans, Native Americans, LGBTQ and women.

**Yes! I want to stream for FREE with my MPL library card - show me how!**

**Did You  
KNOW**



.... about the many self-paced instructional databases available with your OSL library card?

**Educational . . . Job Related . . . FREE**

Studying and short on time?  
Connect with a **FREE** expert tutor

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A Service of **The Princeton Review**

Tutor.com can help you get your homework done, write your paper, study for your test so that you can get back to your life, or refresh your skills for work. [\*\*TRY TUTOR.COM\*\*](https://www.tutor.com)

**GALE**

**Udemy**

A woman with curly hair, wearing a beige jacket, is sitting on a concrete bench and using a laptop. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

Udemy has more than 4,000 continuously updated, on-demand video courses. 75 categories in business, technology, design, and more taught by world-class instructors. [\*\*TRY UDEMY\*\*](https://www.udemy.com)

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ACCELERATOR\*\*](https://www.ebsco.com/learningexpress)

**AARP Foundation®**

# TAX-AIDE

Free tax assistance for those who need it most

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

Tax-Aide sites are currently open for the 2022 tax season. This year, tax assistance is available by appointment only, so be sure to book an appointment by clicking the button below.

**GET STARTED**

Interested in learning how to do  
Book Art like our staff?

Click [HERE](#) to  
make a  
snowflake like  
this one made  
by Julie



**LOVE**  
the **LIBRARY**

February is Library Lover's Month

Visit us during February and check out a  
"Blind Date with a Book".

We'd love for you to contribute to our  
"Tell us why you love the library" display box!

## The Friends Corner

The **Friends of the Middletown Public Library** is seeking members from the community for its Executive Board. The *FRIENDS* focus public attention on library services and raise funds to help the library continue to provide state-of-the-art technology, up to date collections, and excellent programs. The *FRIENDS* operate the bookstore in the library and hold other fundraising activities. The Board meets monthly and hosts the annual members meeting. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact our president, Dorrie Baernthaler, at [dabaernthaler@yahoo.com](mailto:dabaernthaler@yahoo.com).

**The Friends Bookstore is currently closed, with an expected reopening of Tuesday, March 1st, 2022. Please check our [website](#) for updates.**

Connect with us!



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Middletown, RI 02842  
401-846-1573

[middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com)  
[middletownpubliclibraryri.org](http://middletownpubliclibraryri.org)

### Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 7 pm  
Friday - 10 am - 5 pm  
Saturday - 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday\* - 10 am - 5 pm

\*Sunday hours begin on the Sunday following Labor Day  
and end on the Sunday before Memorial Day  
Library closed on Sundays preceding Monday Holidays