In recognition of National Library Week, April 23-29, 2023, and this year's theme: "There's More to the Story," let's talk about books. What's your favorite genre and who is your favorite author? I have a list of favorites. Right now, I will focus on best-selling mystery/thriller writer, Louise Penny. Oprah Winfrey recommends her, too.

I recently read her latest book, A World of Curiosities. One of the major elements of the book is The Paston Treasure, an oil painting commissioned in the 1670's that is currently housed in the Norwich Castle Museum Collection. Honestly, I enjoyed the audio-book so much, that I listened to it several times. Each time, I picked up a clue that I had missed before. A college professor was right when she advised to always read a book or watch a program at least twice because you will pick up on more details that you generally miss the first time around. In other words, there's more to the story.

The literary elements I like most about Louise Penny's books are the sense of place and the character development. The setting is Canada, and the main character is Armand Gamache, a Quebecois, who is the Chief Inspector of Surete du Quebec. Chief Inspector Gamache is intelligent, compassionate, patient, and very successful in solving crime.

In each book, I learn about factual Canadian history and culture. The plots are fictional but I am able to suspend my disbelief. For example, I can acknowledge Inspector Gamache's philosophy that he shares with junior police officers about the four things that lead to wisdom: “Don't be afraid to say, 1. I don’t know. 2. I need help. 3. I'm sorry. 4. I was wrong.” In essence, he's telling his officers to put in the time to get all your facts, be humble, acknowledge your mistakes, and be willing to start over when you reach a dead end. In my opinion, this is a good approach to most of life's challenges that we all face. Once again, don't give in or give up, because there is more to the story.

Sadly, Louise Penny's first book, Still Life, has been made into both a TV movie, and an Amazon Prime series. I say sadly, because both productions are no way near the quality of the book in terms of character portrayal. The first, released in 2013, stars Nathaniel Parker, a British actor, as Armand Gamache. Parker may be a versatile, seasoned actor, but he does not speak with a French accent. The latter, released in 2022, stars Alfred Molina, an English actor of Italian/Spanish descent who was great as the Mexican painter, Diego Rivera, in the movie, Frida, but he also does not speak with a French accent. Really? In addition, the supporting cast in both productions generally miss the boat in that they do not project the personalities or skills of the characters developed so well by Louise Penny. Alas...

In closing, be sure to check out our library website, middletownpubliclibraryri.org to learn about upcoming programs for youth and adults, namely our new poetry club, book clubs, writer's clubs, new titles, and much more.

See you at the MPL!
Theresa

Theresa Coish is the Director of Middletown Public Library
She is currently reading, Trepasses, by Louise Kennedy.
What's New at the Library

New Adult Books
New Children's Books
New Teen Books

Registration is required. We hope you can join us!

MPL's Adult Writer's Club

Thursday, April 13th
&
Thursday, April 27th
5–6pm
in our community meeting room

ALL writing styles and
ALL experience levels are welcome!

Registration is required. We hope you can join us!

MPL's early closing and closings in April:

Sunday, 4/9 CLOSED in observance of Easter Sunday
Tuesday, 4/25 EARLY CLOSING at 5:00pm for staff training
Wednesday, 4/26 CLOSED for staff training
Youth Services Spotlight

Peter Rabbit is coming to visit!

Friday, April 7th
Join us for some silly rabbit stories and an egg hunt!
(No registration required)

Egg Hunts at 10:30, 11:00 & 11:30

Check out our Spring Break Programs!

Watercolor Workshop
April 10th

3D Printing
April 11th

Board Game Making
April 12th

K-5 Read-A-Thon
April 13th

Upcycle Collage Art
April 14th

Fantasy Map Making
April 15th

Every Little Hand Helps our World
Sunday, April 23rd, 1:00–3:00
Come to the library to hear stories about the way trees communicate, learn about how to plant a tree and best of all receive a tree sapling to plant!

Check out our full calendar of events HERE
We're celebrating National Poetry Month by launching our NEW ADULT POETRY CLUB!

In this club, we come together to share our love for words, inspire each other, and grow as poets. We will be reading famous poets, sharing favorite poems and writing some of our own. Whether you're a seasoned poet, just starting out or just want to listen, we welcome you to join us on this journey of creative expression.

Our first meeting will be April 19th @ 5:00pm

Click HERE for FULL DETAILS and to REGISTER!

Share your thoughts on what you’d like to see in Middletown with a new Community Activity Survey sponsored by the Outreach Department. It only takes minutes to complete and could have years of positive results! Please respond by April 15th.
MPL'S Adult Book Club

Monday, April 10th
We’ll be discussing

*Oona Out of Order*
Margarita Montimore

Monday, May 8th
We’ll be discussing

*Just Us: an American conversation*
Claudia Rankine

We hope you can join us! Click **HERE** to register.

The Friends Corner

**Book Donations**

The Friends Bookstore is in need of donations of books to replenish our supply. If you are cleaning out your book shelves, bring in clean saleable books. Please no dictionaries, encyclopedias or textbooks as they do not sell. Drop by the Circulation desk with your donations to the bookstore. Many thanks!

Don’t forget to renew your 2023 membership in the Friends. You can pick up an application in the bookstore, the library or email **FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com**. Your membership supports library programs for children and adults. Join today.