



# MPL NEWS

## April 2023



### Events and Happenings at Middletown Public Library

#### **From the Director's Laptop**

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...

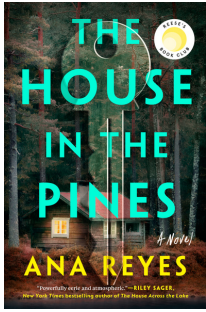
In closing, be sure to check out our library website, [middletownpubliclibraryri.org](http://middletownpubliclibraryri.org) to learn about upcoming programs for youth and adults, namely our new poetry club, book clubs, writer's clubs, new titles, and much more.

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



*you asked.  
we listened.*



Now  
BI-WEEKLY  
meetings!



## MPL's Adult Writer's Club

ALL writing styles  
and  
ALL experience levels  
are welcome!

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

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

**Peter Rabbit is  
coming to visit!**

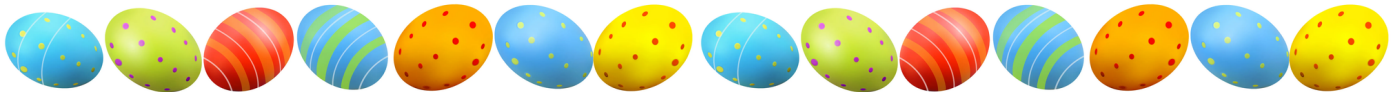


**Friday, April 7th**

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!**



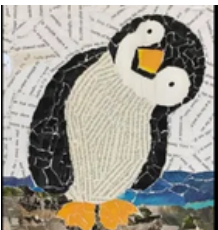
Watercolor  
Workshop  
April 10th

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](#)**



National Poetry Month April 2023



Launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, [National Poetry Month](#) is a special occasion that celebrates poets' integral role in our culture and that poetry matters. Over the years, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K-12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, families, and—of course—poets, marking poetry's important place in our lives.

*Sign up for Poem-a-Day and enjoy a free daily poem in your inbox curated this April by U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón*

*Browse MPL's poetry collection*

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.

[\*\*English\*\*](#)

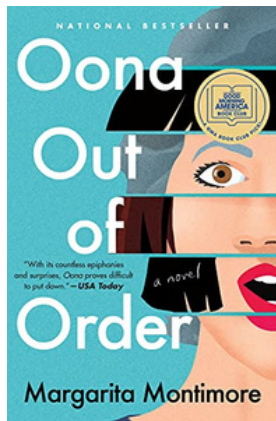
[\*\*Spanish\*\*](#)

[\*\*Portuguese\*\*](#)

# MPL'S Adult Book Club

3:30pm in our  
community meeting room

**Monday,  
April 10th**  
*We'll be  
discussing*



Oona Out of Order

Get your  
copies  
today!

Just us: an  
American  
conversation



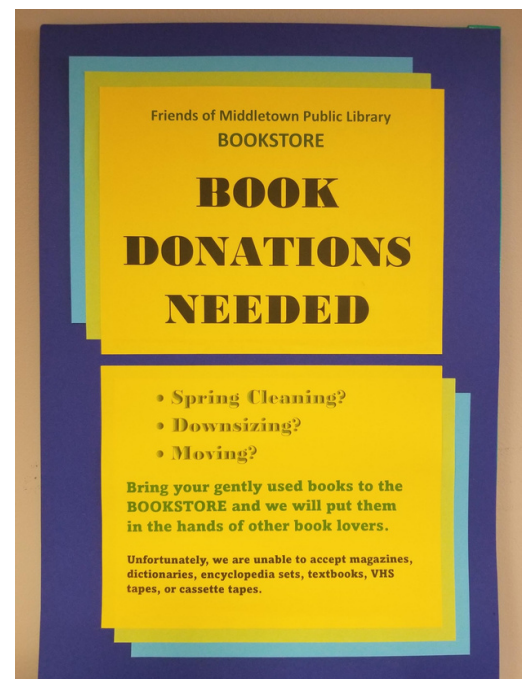
**Monday,  
May 8th**  
*We'll be  
discussing*

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](mailto:FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com). Your membership supports library programs for children and adults. Join today.

Connect with us!



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[middletownpubliclibraryri.org](http://middletownpubliclibraryri.org)

Library Hours:  
Monday - Thursday 10 am - 7 pm  
Friday - 10 am - 5 pm  
Saturday - 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday\* - 12 pm - 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