Nothing beats a hot cup of cocoa on a chilly day. This recipe is perfect for those who love the combination of mint and chocolate. It’s also a great addition to any holiday dinner party.

**Peppermint Hot Chocolate**

What You’ll Need:
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 quart milk
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 7 peppermint sticks: 3 crushed and 4 whole
- pinch of salt

What You’ll Do:
Place cocoa in a medium saucepan. Gradually whisk in milk until cocoa has dissolved. Add chocolate chips and crushed peppermint; simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until chocolate and peppermint have melted, 8 to 10 minutes.

Bring to a boil and immediately remove from heat. Add salt. Ladle into mugs; serve each with a peppermint stick.

Need more ideas? We have great books in our collection with coffee, cider, hot chocolate, spiced punch, and appetizer recipes! Click on these book covers to link to our catalog.
Crockpot Salted Hot Chocolate

What You’ll Need:
- 5 cups milk
- ½ cup Hershey’s Cocoa
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 cup hot water
- 10 tsp. Starbucks Caramel Syrup
- ¼ tsp. sea salt (skip this step if you don’t like salty with sweet)

Crockpot

What You’ll Do:
Combine cocoa, sugar, and hot water in a large pan. Stir and bring to a gentle boil. Transfer to crockpot and add milk, caramel, and salt. Stir and cook on high for 2 hours (or low for 4 hours). Pour, top with whipped cream, and enjoy!

If you have a taste for a more refreshing drink, this recipe is for you. It’s fruity, tangy, and great to serve the kids. Plus it’s easy to make and looks so festive for the holidays.

Sparkling Lemonade Cranberry Punch

What You’ll Need:
- 1 orange
- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 quart sparkling water (Seltzer/Pellegrino)
- 1 quart of cranberry juice
- 1 cup fresh lemon juice
- ½ cup sugar

What You’ll Do:
In a pitcher or large mixing bowl, add the sugar, lemon juice, and cranberry juice. Stir until sugar is mostly dissolved. Add the sparkling water. Slice the orange into thin slices lengthwise and cut strawberries in half. Add to bowl and serve with ice!
Visit Our Book Tree!

Decorated trees have been a Stow Library tradition since the 1950’s. During the holidays, Stow fireman would decorate pine trees on the library grounds. Community members would sing carols around them. Today, we proudly display our beautifully decorated Christmas tree across from the front circulation desk.

Former Friends’ of the Library Executive Board Member, Jackie Winkler, planned this project long before the grand opening of the new library. Her generous donation has become an heirloom to the library. The tree is adorned with over 50 original, hand-painted book ornaments, each one representing a classic book. Titles include Little Women, The Hobbit, The Wizard of Oz, The Grapes of Wrath, The Secret Garden, and many more. Carol Flats, also a treasured library supporter and former Friends’ Board Member, prepared the ornaments for local artists’ illustrations. She spent a lot of time sanding, priming, and painting the wooden books.

The tree was unveiled on November 17, 1998 and has been a community favorite ever since. It will be on display throughout the month of December. We thank the Friends for bringing it to life year after year. Do yourself a favor and visit our tree this year!

Outreach Spotlight

by Jessica Alloggia, Outreach Librarian

2014 was a great year for Outreach Services. We had great turnouts at each of our buildings. Many new residents signed up for library cards and started to use our services for the first time. Some highlights include attending the volunteer dinner at Stow Glen Retirement Community, participating in the annual Health and Wellness Expo at Stow Kent Gardens, and providing book discussion materials for the groups at Mulberry Gardens and Stow Glen Cedar. We were able to reach out to thousands of people over the course of the year and that is a great feeling! Thank you to each and every one of our Outreach patrons! You make this job so worthwhile!

Popular Outreach reads of 2014:

- The Target by David Baldacci
- I’ve Got You Under My Skin by Mary Higgins Clark
- Gray Mountain by John Grisham
- Killing Patton: The Strange Death of World War II’s Most Audacious General by Bill O’Reilly

Each month the Outreach Services team brings materials to various retirement communities and senior buildings in Stow and Munroe Falls. Additionally, they provide a drop off service to several area nursing facilities. For those who cannot come to the library due to age, illness or injury, the library also provides free Homebound Delivery Services. For more information, contact Outreach Librarian Jess Alloggia at (330) 688-3295, ext. 129.
Support the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Foundation as you enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner at Bob Evans on Thursday, December 3, 2014. Bob Evans, located at 3489 Hudson Drive in Stow, will be hosting a community fundraiser to benefit the Library Foundation. From 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM on this particular Thursday, Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales from your meals to the Library Foundation through their Dine to Make a Difference Community Fundraiser program. Participants must present a special flyer to the cashier at checkout. Flyers are available at the library or click here to print the December flyer from home. Click here to view Bob Evans’ menu. The Library Foundation is grateful for your donation. Please tell your friends!

Volunteer of the Year
Nadine Chapman

The 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award came as a surprise to Nadine... “It’s very kind of everyone to think of me when there are so many others who are deserving of this honor.” She has been volunteering at the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library for 6 years and has been a member of the Library Foundation since 2009. When Nadine is not volunteering, she enjoys watching her three grandchildren. She loves baking, event planning, traveling, and building puzzles with her mom. Nadine believes the best part of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library is the staff. She says, “They are very knowledgeable about their resources and so very willing to help. They are very appreciative of volunteers coming in and truly treat us like part of their family.”

Nadine, we are grateful to have such a talented volunteer in our midst. Thank you for all your hard work and generosity!
Want something special for the holidays? Seasonal movies, music and reading are all on display at the library including many of Debbie Macomber, Anne Perry, and Richard Paul Evans’ Christmas novels. Click on any of these books to link to our catalog. Also, we invite you to pick up a brochure featuring holiday music and DVDs available immediately on hoopla!
Candy Land
Say hello to King Candy and Queen Frostine as you pass through the Peppermint Forest, Gumdrop Mountain and more! Enter our "World of Sweets" and play life-size Candy Land Saturday, December 13. Arrive anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., get your Spike pass, and enjoy the fun filled game as a family. Families enter and play together drawing cards, following the path, and collecting treats along the way. You’ll celebrate finishing the game with Queen Frostine’s treat: ice cream in the storytime room! No registration is necessary. Don’t miss out on this exciting annual event!

Santa Stories
Get in the holiday spirit with your young children, Tuesday, December 16th at 10:30am. Join Miss Amy and Mrs. Claus for a craft, stories, songs and a visit from a special jolly guest! Program is geared towards children ages 3-5, but all are welcome. No registration necessary.

Trip Kits
With Christmas Break coming soon, keep us in mind for your traveling needs. Our Trip Kits provide hours of fun for the kiddos with books, audios, and activity pages! Just stop by a few days in advance to fill out a form and we’ll gather the items and have them ready for you at the front desk.
Save the Date!

January 21, 2015 marks the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library’s 90th Anniversary! Join us for special programs all week beginning on Monday, January 19. Registration for these programs begins on Monday, December 22. Click the images to the left for program details. Also, watch for our grand finale celebration on Saturday, January 24. All programs are cosponsored by the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library and the Friends of the Library.

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Antique Clothing

Mon., January 19

Jason Alan Magic

Tues., January 20

Your Library Through the Decades

Wed., January 21

1920’s Food History

Thurs., January 22

George Foley Trio

Fri., January 23
## Upcoming Events

**Adult Programming Highlights for December 2014**

Click on any program for description and registration information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>December 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 4</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 11</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Discussion: The Girls of Atomic City</td>
<td>Book Discussion: Ripper</td>
<td>Book Signing: Sarah Canter</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>10 AM - Noon</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>December 2</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 8</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 13</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tech Tuesday</td>
<td>Book Discussion: Wuthering Heights</td>
<td>Book Signing: Sarah Canter</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 - 5 PM</td>
<td>10 AM &amp; 2 PM</td>
<td>10 AM - Noon</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>December 3</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 10</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 14</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coffee with the Editor</td>
<td>Antique Appraisals FULLs</td>
<td>Book Discussion: Born Standing Up</td>
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<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
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<th><strong>December 15</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 18</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tech Tuesday</td>
<td>Tuesday Book Club Party</td>
<td>Family Folklore</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 - 5 PM</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<th><strong>December 16</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 17</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 23</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tech Tuesday</td>
<td>Popcorn &amp; a Movie</td>
<td>Tech Tuesday</td>
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<td>1 - 5 PM</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
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<th><strong>December 19</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 20</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 24</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antique Appraisals FULLs</td>
<td>Book Discussion: Born Standing Up</td>
<td>LIBRARY CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
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<th><strong>December 21</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 22</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 25</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Swing with the Bethany Concert Band</td>
<td>LIBRARY CLOSED</td>
<td>LIBRARY CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
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<th><strong>December 27</strong></th>
<th><strong>December 31</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Folklore</td>
<td>Book Discussion: Born Standing Up</td>
<td>LIBRARY Closes @ 5 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
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**Did you know that even when our popular Antique Appraisal programs are full, spectators are always welcome and do not need to register? Click here for details.**

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**Click here for**

- Children's Programs
- Teen Programs
- Computer Classes
Fast Facts

Monthly Statistics for October 2014

Items Checked Out ............................................. 70,637
Library Visitors .................................................... 23,646
eBooks .................................................................. 4,376
Digital Magazines Accessed ............................. 422
Freegal Music Downloads .............................. 1,102
Hoopla Downloads ............................................ 405
New Library Cards ............................................. 266

Important Library News

As of December 1, 2014, the library will no longer order out-of-state interlibrary loans. Why are we stopping this service? We have decided to utilize the SearchOhio Catalog. SearchOhio allows direct, online requesting for residents of Ohio and guarantees the delivery of books and media within a matter of days. With this service, you will have access to 10 million items in 140 public and university libraries in Ohio. SearchOhio will allow 20 loans at a time, as opposed to the current limit of 5 loans. The fill time is only 3-5 business days. We will place Interlibrary Loan requests for patrons through SearchOhio, if needed. Overall, SearchOhio can provide our community with an abundance of material, making the whole process as quick and efficient as possible. If you have any questions, please call our Information Desk at (330) 688-3295 ext. 4.

Douglas H. Dotterer
Director

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library is a citizen support group for Library services and activities. They sponsor book sales as well as the annual Needlework Show and other programming. Friends meet the third Tuesday of every month (except July and December) at 2 PM in the Stow Room.

Library Foundation

The Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Foundation was incorporated in 1994 as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The Foundation’s mission is to provide funds for significant projects that enhance the mission of the library and to build an endowment that will carry on the legacy of the library.

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AS ABOVE, SO BELOW
CALVARY
CANTINFLAS
DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES
DOLPHIN TALE 2
THE EQUALIZER
THE GOOD LIE
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY
MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT
THE MAZE RUNNER
PRIDE
THE SKELETON TWINS
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU
THE TRIP TO ITALY
TUSK
WHEN THE GAME STANDS TALL

Click on title to advance to catalog.

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