Happ y Valentine’s Day! It’s here at last – the holiday that gives us carte blanche to enjoy unlimited amounts of chocolate and unabashedly sentimental music. “Sentimental” is one of those words that gets a bad rap these days, but I like a good love song. With so many musical recordings to choose from, the library can make your Valentine’s Day playlist something really special. Here’s just a little sampling:

You can’t go wrong with jazz. If you’re looking for some smooth, sophisticated sounds, try Quiet Nights, by Diana Krall -- or a little Sinatra, especially this album. This is one of my all-time favorite recordings by Wynton Marsalis. It’s relaxing and tuneful and beautifully accomplished. If you really want to add spark to your Feb. 14th, try a tango. For something different, check out Madeline Peyroux’s honeyed voice. She’s sure to charm. Have you seen Once? It’s a haunting, delightful film — great for fans of “Before Sunrise” and “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind” — and the soundtrack is fabulous.

—continued on page 3
Entry Days for Needlework Show

Are you a needlework ninja? A wunderkind of wool? The Einstein of embroidery? Get your projects ready to enter in our annual Needlework Show! It's only $5 per entry and projects completed by kids under 16 can be entered for free. Best In Show winners get a cash prize.

Bring in your creations on Saturday, March 16 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or Sunday, March 17 between 1:30 and 4.

For more details, call Librarian Diana Parker at (330) 688-3295 ext. 4.

This City Reads!

Read for just 30 minutes on Wednesday, February 13 and be a part of a county-wide effort to encourage literacy. You can promise to read on that day, or record your reading here. Help us reach 100,000 readers in Summit County! Want to be counted in person? Visit our Information Desk any time before the 14th. Learn more at thiscityreads.org.

Self-Checkout is Here

We now have a self-checkout kiosk. Patrons can check their books out quickly and easily if they don't want to wait for a library staff member to do it for them. A simple, touch-screen interface makes this a fast, simple alternative for people who want another check out option.

We're proud of our new technology, but friendly Circulation Department Personnel will still be manning the front desk, because good customer service never goes out of style!
Digital Magazines

Zinio is here! Now you can explore new magazines inside the library or at home. Zinio is an electronic database of magazines and periodicals that preserves high-quality illustration, while allowing the user to page through on an electronic device. Download as many different magazines as you like: Martha Stewart Living, National Geographic Traveler, Sports Illustrated and much more. Zinio has children’s magazines too! They’re all yours, with a click of your mouse when you sign in with your library card. Want to get started? Click here!

We still have plenty of physical magazines and journals for you to leaf through—but with Zinio, you can access titles from home—or anywhere else with an internet connection. Whether you like sports, cooking, fashion or news, Zinio offers a wide selection of popular titles. ●
Amanda Rome

**What is your name?**

My name is Amanda Rome, but many of our patrons will get to know me as Miss Amanda when I come and visit their school or daycare to do story time.

**How long have you been working at the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library?**

While I’ve only been working here for a couple of months, I’m already feeling at home. The staff and community have been very welcoming!

**What is your current job?**

I am the Children Services Outreach Librarian. That means that I visit 14 daycares and preschools to perform story time. I also find other ways to bring library services to the children in the community such as attending community events and finding ways to serve children in schools.

**What other jobs have you had?**

Before this, I was a branch Children’s Librarian in Cleveland Heights.

**How would you describe the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library?**

The Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library is a vibrant library that is very patron focused. The staff is so dedicated to service and is always willing to try new things to provide better service. Right now there are so many exciting changes afoot! In the next year or so, a lot of wonderful things will be happening!

**What is your favorite vacation spot?**

My husband and I are fans of long road trips. While I’ve seen a lot of the country, I love rural Washington state where I lived for a year doing a term of national service in AmeriCorps.

**What book would you recommend?**

Well, that certainly depends greatly on whom I am recommending it to! Some of my favorites are the *Pete the Cat* books by Eric Litwin, the *Inkheart Trilogy* by Cornelia Funke and *The Chronicles of Lumatere* by Melina Marchetta.

**What are your hobbies?**

I love gardening, growing my own food, cooking, hula hooping, yoga, biking, hiking, metalsmithing, jewelry making, and just having fun with my family! On any given day I might be found at a museum with my family, in my kitchen canning or preserving food, digging in the dirt, on a walk or bike ride in the woods, or in my basement making metal bend to my will!

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I once represented a library by hula hooping for an entire parade route! I did hula hoop tricks and library chants. It was exhausting, but a lot of fun.

**Do you have any pets?**

I have two cats, bee hives in my backyard and a vermicomposting worm bin in my basement! I fulfill the librarian stereotype of being a cat lover, but I bring something different to the table with the worms and the bees as my gardening pets.

**If you had one SMFPL service to recommend to a patron, what would it be?**

The Children’s Department is always willing to come to community events. We can offer storytelling, face painting, crafts and all sorts of other fun stuff. We love to provide services outside the library to further build community.
It’s a new year and that means new library materials! Outreach Services keeps up with the hottest books and latest movies to be sure that our patrons don’t miss out. Our participants can expect bestsellers and Oscar nominated films in the coming months.

This month Outreach recommends:

**Tales from Grace Chapel Inn Series**, selected titles by Judy Baer

There are many books in this multiple author series started by author Melody Carlson. Once you visit the charming village of Acorn Hill, tucked away in rural Pennsylvania, you’ll never want to leave. Townsfolk relax on their porch swings or gather to discuss the day’s events at the Coffee Shop over homemade pie. It’s the kind of town where friendship and faith flow together like a wide river on a fine spring day. The Howard sisters have begun a new life together in their childhood home, a gracious Victorian house that is now a bed-and-breakfast called Grace Chapel Inn. Here they rekindle old memories, rediscover the bonds of sisterhood revel in the blessings of friendship and meet many fascinating guests along the way.

“The Howard sisters are so realistic and the small town makes you want to visit!”
—Patricia P., Keys Towers

**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

It is January 1946 and writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name. Letters from the residents of Guernsey begin to come to Juliet, giving her first-hand accounts of stories of war. These people and their stories become an inspiration to Juliet’s next book, as well as the rest of her life.

“I really liked how the book used letter writing to tell the story, which is a lost art. I also like how we are given a view of what it was like to live on the island during the war and the isolation they felt while the Germans occupied the island.”
—Kathy H., Service Coordinator at Stow Kent Gardens

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 Homebound Delivery Services. For more information, contact Outreach Librarian, Jess Alloggia at 330-688-3295, ext. 129.
Questions
by Susan Falkman
Reference Services Librarian

I want a recipe that’s in the October 2012 issue of Vegetarian Times. How do I reserve only the October issue rather than all of them?

When you click on the title to see which issues are available and which are checked out, you can click on the “Place Hold” button as usual. Type in your card number, then click in the radio button to choose the specific issue you need. This is especially suited for magazine issues where you only want a specific issue.

If you choose a specific copy of a book or DVD when there are multiple copies, you are only reserving that one specific copy for yourself. This means it will take longer for you to get your item. In cases where the library offers multiple copies of the same version of the same DVD, do a general hold and do not specify which copy you want by NOT clicking on a specific copy.

What makes Belgian chocolate special?

According to WiseGeek.org, it’s the recipe, the quality, and even the manufacturing techniques that make Belgian chocolate so delicious. For a taste of some real Belgian chocolate, try these brands: Leonidas, Nirvana, Godiva, and Neuhaus. ●
Don’t miss these great programs at your library!

- Register online or call 330-688-3295 ext. 4 to register.
- Check out our computer class schedule here.

February

Tax Program
Antique Appraisals

Ebooks for Kindles
Fine PRINT • FEBRUARY 2013
Spot Spike

Our library mascot, Spike, is traveling around town talking to members of our community. In this interview, Spike meets Sweet Frog. Click here to view the video.

Spike Times

Did you know that you can conveniently view our Children’s Newsletter, the Spike Times, on our website? Click here to check it out.

Win Free Books for the Whole Family!

Our Children’s Department is on social media! You can follow Spike (our Library Turtle) and the whole gang on Facebook, Twitter and/or Pinterest and get a chance to win free books for your whole family.

Everyone who follows our Kids’ Department between now and March 15 will be entered into a drawing for free books, picked out just for their family by one of our Children’s Librarians.

If you are already following us on one of these pages — don’t worry — we’ll enter all of you into the drawing as well. Call 330-688-3295, ext. 5 for more information or message us on Facebook or Twitter!

Stow • Munroe Falls
Public Library
Read. Dream. Connect.
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