

FRIENDS NEWS



SPRING BOOK SALE



Spring is here again! Time to stock up on beach reads and travelogues. Our storage space is once again blossoming with treasures of the mind in need of good homes. **Hardbacks are \$3.00 and paperbacks are \$1.00. The FOL all-you-can-carry book bags are \$20.00.**

Where: Johnson City Public Library, Jones Meeting Rooms

What: Friends of the Johnson City Public Library Spring Book Sale

When: NEW HOURS For the general public, Saturday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Special Preview Sale: NEW HOURS Friday, April 21, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. for FOL members. Bring your membership card for admittance to the preview. We will have a members list at the door. If your membership has expired, you can renew it at the sale. Bring a friend and join at the door.

In the inventory: comics, LPs, paperback, hardback, fiction, non-fiction, children's, YA, religion, business, travel, CD, DVD, gardening, hobby, crafts, romance, sci-fi, westerns, mysteries, spy thrillers, jigsaw puzzles, vintage, cookbooks, self-help, true crime, science, history, biography, and much, much more

ONGOING BOOK SALE

On your next visit to the library, be sure to check out the ongoing book sale across from the circulation desk.

OUR COLLECTIVE NIGHTSTAND

Reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* was a delightful surprise. Author Amor Towles weaves the tumult of Russian history into the fictional story of Count Alexander Rostov, condemned by Bolsheviks in 1922 to a life sentence of house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, though constrained for decades within the confines of this hotel, creates of a life of joy and significance. This story of a gentleman and of history invites the reader to laugh, cry, cheer, mourn, and celebrate.

One Nation Under God creatively tells the story of a movement that author Kevin Kruse, history professor at Princeton University, suggests coalesced again in the mid-1900s. Uniting successful American entrepreneurs with political, financial, religious, and educational leaders, including Rev. Billy Graham, President Eisenhower, and titans of industry and the burgeoning retail and entertainment empires, the movement encouraged Americans to acknowledge the blessings of the Judeo-Christian God as the source of America's financial strength. Kruse suggests that this spiritual energy also conveniently provided powerful opposition to Roosevelt's New Deal and paved the way for political and religious positions that remain in modern American politics.

Life After Life, Kate Atkinson. I

loved the way this book plays around with time and history, and explores the many possibilities a single life can hold. It is sometimes sad, always interesting, and satisfying both intellectually and emotionally.

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande. This book is an excellent, thoughtful, well-written analysis of how our culture deals with end-of-life issues, and how we need to do a better job of taking care of ourselves and our loved ones at this important stage of life.

Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*. A black author's novel about slavery is a unique marriage of fantasy and historical fiction. It provides a thought-provoking and excellent read once you accept his image of a physical railroad.

J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*. An interesting and timely read as Vance attempts to understand and explain the apparent self-destructive culture in which he was raised. It is a sobering look at problems which defy easy solutions.

Don Johnson's new book *Blue Winged Olive* is a good read and hard to put down.

Jodi Picoult, *Small Great Things*. An attempt by a white author to relate the effects of institutionalized racism in America through the story of a black nurse in New Haven, Conn., works surprisingly well. Thought-provoking as well as a good read.

Nathaniel Philbrick, *Valiant Ambition*. The author tries to interweave the stories of George Washington and Benedict Arnold during the American Revolution. It is not very satisfying for

either figure, though Philbrick makes a “valiant” effort to pull it off.

Who Cooked Adam Smith’s Dinner. Katrine Marcal, a Swedish economist, surveys modern economics from a feminist point of view. Interesting insights but sometimes repetitious and overworked.

The Last Days of Night by Graham Moore. A historical fiction novel about the “current war” and the electrifying of America. Who knew you could turn a book about Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, and Nikola Tesla into a thriller? I also learned a little bit of science along the way.

Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly is a historical fiction based on three women and their lives during and after WWII. It is a compelling but often difficult story set in Ravensbruck, a concentration camp for women. The characters are developed well, the story is strong, and I especially enjoyed the fact that we follow the characters well after the war.

The Wonder by Emma Donoghue. In his review, Stephen King concludes the book has flaws “but not fatal ones.” I am glad King became a writer and not a physician. He definitely missed the diagnosis on *The Wonder*. The flaws, consisting of its slow repetitive pace, Gothic family secret, and heroic rescue of a quite capable damsel in distress, are deadly. I wonder why I read *The Wonder*.

We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter bridges the gap between fiction and biography. Though a work of imagination, it is based on the history of the author's family. This debut novel tells the story of a family's effort to survive the horrors of the Holocaust. It follows the war-time lives of the Kurc family from Poland to France, Africa, Siberia, and the Americas. Don’t pass up this chilling, tautly written novel.

Pamela Haag’s *The Gunning of America* is a detailed analysis of how the American fascination with guns has been connected with the commercial interests of the gun manufacturing industry. It gives the reader something to think about and will certainly stir up reactions from some quarters.

The Quest for Mary Magdalene by Michael Haag is an interesting look at an especially enigmatic figure in the New Testament and a history of how she has been interpreted differently over the past two millennia.

That Woman: The Life of Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor is Anne Sebba’s biography of the woman for whom King Edward VIII abdicated in 1936. Sebba does not exonerate Wallis from her reputation as a social climber, but the reader may decide Britain owes Wallis a debt of gratitude for clearing the way to more dutiful and temperate leadership from King George VI and his daughter.

Are you still suffering from *Downton Abbey* withdrawal? Try reading *The American Heiress* by Daisy Goodwin, the story of a rich young American and her mother’s dream of marrying her to an English nobleman. This is an interesting, enjoyable read, just the thing to read with a good cup of tea.



MAKE A FRIEND

Ask a friend to join the Friends of the Library! Individual memberships start at \$15 and family memberships start at \$25.

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