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## A World of Discoveries, Available at Your Library

It finally feels like spring outside, and summer is nearly upon us as well! As school winds down and the endless days of summer vacation creep towards us, now feels like a great time to highlight some of our Library offerings that encourage outdoor time and other interactive play.

Mostly located in the board book and easy readers sections, our Discovery Kits can be somewhat easy to overlook. That being said, each one is assembled with care by librarian Vicki Markham to encourage deeper exploration into a wide variety of areas.

Rejoining circulation for the summer is the Bird Watching kit, which gives children the tools to go out into nature and identify some of the creatures that we share it with. The kit includes a kids set of binoculars, field guides to help identify birds, and several other neat accessories and activities to get kids excited for a new hobby. In a similar vein, the Nature/Survival kit gives kids the know-how to go on small scale adventures in nature.

The Knitting for Kids kit lets young people try out a new hobby at a young age. It's a great option if you're hoping for a child who can knit you sweaters for gifts at a later age.

These are just a few of the marvelous options available for checkout. I would highly recommend seeing what other kits we have available, especially if you need a fun new activity to keep your kids occupied after school ends.

**WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING DONATIONS OF DVDS  
AND BLU-RAYS TO ADD TO OUR COLLECTION**

## New at the Library



## *The Long March Home*

*Marcus  
Brotherton  
and Tosca  
Lee*

If you came to the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting, you heard guest speaker Barry Kloepping touch on The Bataan Death March. This new book tells the story of three young men who enlist in the army and find themselves forced to partake in the Bataan Death March, now considered one of the worst atrocities in modern warfare. This is a gripping read that highlights the terror of war, that also touches on themes of friendship and the power of hope

## Frying with Friends!

The Friends of the Oostburg Public Library have partnered with Mentink's Piggly Wiggly for two excellent fundraising opportunities!

The first is happening as we speak. Every time you buy groceries between now and May 21st, you'll have the option of rounding up at the register to support the Friends. Please consider donating that loose change instead of letting it weigh down your wallet!

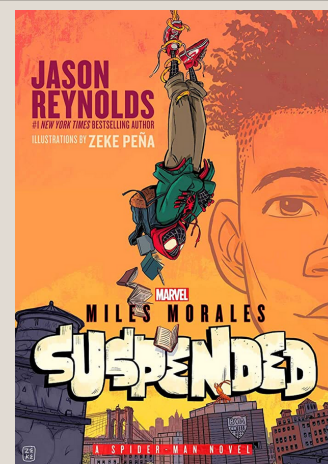
The second fundraiser is a Brat Fry on Saturday, May 20th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Enjoy a tasty burger or brat and help the Friends support the library!

The Friends of the Oostburg Public Library are a huge asset to us. The funds from this particular set of fundraisers will go towards supplies, prizes and speaker fees for this year's summer reading program.

*Interested in joining the Friends? Stop by the library and pick up a pamphlet today!  
Dues start at \$10.00 per year*

## New At the Library

*Miles Morales: Suspended*  
Jason Reynolds



YA powerhouse Jason Reynolds is back with the follow up to his 2017 novel *Miles Morales: Spider-Man* (also available at the Library). Reynolds is a natural fit to write this character, and he combines his electric style of prose with the poetry he's become known for. Packed with equal parts action and heart, this is a great book to get you prepared for the other Miles Morales sequel coming soon, *Across the Spideverse*.

## New Experiences at the Library

Thanks to some generous donations, Oostburg Public Library is in the final stages of acquiring four experience passes to local attractions. These passes will be catalogued and ready to be checked out to patrons in early summer.

Each pass will allow a family (defined as two adults and four to six children, depending on the pass) to go to the designated attraction at no cost to them. Most of the attractions will admit additional people with the passholders at a reduced fee. Full details on each pass can be found at the library once they have arrived.

Each pass will check out for three (3) days, and will be subject to a \$10.00 per day fine if not returned on time. Passes checked out on a Thursday will not be due until Monday.

*A huge thank you to the following donors for the following passes!*

Doug Shuit Memorial - Milwaukee County Zoo  
Serenity Farms - Mitchell Park Domes  
J. Rogers Construction - Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center  
Steve's Painting - Above and Beyond Children's Museum

*IF YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS IS INTERESTED IN SPONSORING AN EXPERIENCE PASS, CALL THE LIBRARY AT (920)564-2934 AND ASK FOR JESSE*

## Love Your Library!



WI State Representative and Oostburg Public Library Patron Terry Katsma uses the Monarch Catalog to search for a book.

### Book Recommendation

*Bowling Alone* by Robert D. Putnam

### Why I Love the Library

"The public library is such a valuable communal space open to everyone, full of resources for all ages. I've always thought highly of the Oostburg Library."

## Summer Reading

The 2023 Summer Reading Program is just around the corner! Ms. Lori is already hard at work putting together a wide variety of programs and prizes that you won't want to miss out on! This year's theme is "All Together Now."

In addition to our offerings for young readers, we will be offering some separate programming for teens and adults. The full schedule will be announced soon, so keep an eye on our Facebook page!

## An Old Book Gets a New Cover

You may notice some commotion at the library over the next couple weeks - we're finally getting a new paint job! It's a little known fact that the Oostburg Public Library hasn't had a major paint job since it was first built way back in 1989 (though if you look closely at the current color scheme, it's a pretty hard fact to conceal).

Steve's Painting came up with a very generous bid to help us brighten and freshen up the space. We hope to get the project started soon so that it is finished up before summer reading.

We're also excited to be able to offer a new experience to people who may find the library boring. If books and movies aren't your idea of excitement, come on down and watch paint dry with us!

## Cake Pan of the Month

### No. 49 - Topping off Success

It's that time of year! Check out this cake pan to celebrate the graduate in your life!

All Cake Pans are checked out with instructions and decorating tips.



## Volunteer Opportunity

We are seeking volunteers to help with signup for the Summer Reading Program on June 9th. Contact Lori Walker for details or to sign up!

## A Note from the Director

During the last full week of April, I had the pleasure of attending the annual conference held by the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL for short). I spent two days in a convention center in Oshkosh eating strange foods, listening to speakers, and getting to know my counterparts from libraries across the state. After each and every session, I thought to myself, "That one was worth the whole trip." I came back full of excitement and new ideas.

The conference kicked off with a keynote speech from author Lori M. Lee. Lee was raised in Oshkosh.

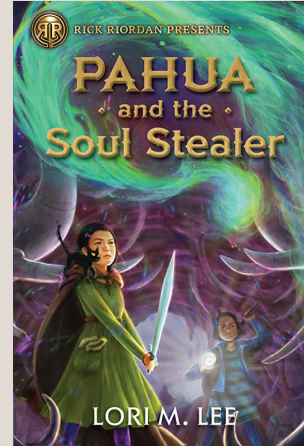
The Hmong people were heroes of the Vietnam War, acting as ground forces for the CIA. After the war, the Hmong people were persecuted for working with the Americans. The U.S. brought thousands of Hmong people in as refugees. Many settled in the Midwestern states, sponsored by churches and charities. Lee's family was among these refugees.

Unfortunately, Hmong involvement in Vietnam was largely kept under wraps. Like many Hmong refugees, Lee and her family were met with a great deal of racist vitriol in their new home, coming from a general public who didn't know why the Hmong people had suddenly "invaded" their community.

Lee spoke of being one of the only people of color in her community, and of the isolation she often felt as a result. Her place of refuge became the Public Library, where she would spend hours upon hours

with her nose stuck in a book. She found herself drawn to the fantasy novels especially, absorbing The Lord of the Rings and Chronicles of Narnia series. But as much as she loved the stories, she quickly internalized the idea that there were no magical wardrobes waiting to whisk away girls who looked like her to magical lands. Now as an adult, Lori M. Lee has found success writing fantasy based in her Hmong culture, starring characters who look and act more like she did when she was young.

I've thought a lot about this talk since returning from the conference, especially as I put together a display for AAPI Heritage month. And it made me happy how easily I was able to find quality titles in the J-Fic and Young Adult sections written by Asian Americans. It made me hopeful that in twenty years, diversity in publishing will come far enough that stories like Lori M. Lee's will no longer be relatable to young people of color. Until that day comes, I'm proud to be able to use my position to help connect diverse stories to the people that need them.



New at the  
Library

*Pahua and the  
Soul Stealer*

Lori M. Lee

Pahua, an eleven year old girl with the power to see spirits, must journey through the Spirit World to save her brother's soul. *Pahua and the Soul Stealer* is the first in a new series of middle grade fantasy steeped in Hmong folklore. This book is released under Rick Riordan Presents, an imprint of Disney Hyperion publishing headed up by Rick Riordan, author of the bestselling *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. Riordan founded the imprint to highlight mythological fantasy from underrepresented groups in publishing. We have many more series from the imprint as well.

Jesse Rogers  
Library Director