



February 2022



Building Project Updates

We have made so much construction progress the past few weeks and we are nearing the finish line. We have new flooring in the addition and the existing building. Our furniture arrived! We have heat and plumbing in the new area and the lights are on. New doors were installed. Network and data lines were installed.

We have moved several collections to their new and temporary locations. The children's collections have been moved to the new addition, which is currently off limits. Not to worry, staff are happy to retrieve youth materials for you.

We still have work to complete and do not yet have the proper occupancy permits for the new space. I know you are eager to see our new children's area and program room and we are eager to share this new space with you. We will send an announcement as soon as the new space is officially open.

In the meantime, the existing parts of the library are open (albeit a little noisy).



Part of our project includes some interior renovations of the existing space which began last month. While staff have become accustomed to the sound of power tools in the library, we understand if you have not and once again thank you for your patience.

EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Book Share Group

Wednesday February 16th @ 10 a.m.

Our book share group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. We are meeting via Zoom until our library renovation is complete. Contact us to have zoom information emailed to you each month, or check the library [website](#) close to program start.

After Hours Access

We now have outdoor lockers to access library materials 24/7. View [INSTRUCTIONS](#) or ask a staff member to learn how to use this new service. This service was made possible by the Friends of Benzie Shores District Library. Thank you, Friends!

STAFF PICKS

NOTES ON WHAT STAFF HAVE BEEN READING,
WATCHING, STREAMING & SCROLLING



Kaitlin

Reading: Winter is always such a wonderful time to get cozy and revisit old favorites. I have been rereading Neil Gaiman's short story collection [FRAGILE THINGS](#). While this collection covers a lot of ground, I love that the common thread throughout is the importance of stories, the ones we share, the ones we make up, and the ones we tell ourselves. I highly recommend the stories *October in the Chair*, *Locks*, and *Inventing Aladdin*. The [audiobook \(available on Hoopla\)](#) is read beautifully by Neil Gaiman himself.

Watching: In preparation for the release of season 3, I have been watching [A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES](#), based on the *All Souls Trilogy* by Deborah Harkness. This series (the books and the show) are great for fans of historical fiction and fantasy romances. Diana Bishop, the daughter of two powerful witches, has long given up on her powers and is now a professor of history, conducting her postdoctoral research at the University of Oxford. When Diana calls up a rare alchemical manuscript from the Bodleian library she opens a world of trouble from the supernatural world she wants nothing to do with, and a brooding vampire with an interest in genetic research. [Season 1 is available to watch on Hoopla.](#)

Nancy

'I love when I read a book that I may not normally pick up and am surprised at how much I enjoy the story. While checking in [UNDER THE WHISPERING DOOR](#) by TJ Klune, I stopped to read the synopsis and thought that it may be an interesting change of pace. Understatement!!! The story is so imaginative and the characters so well described that you don't question it's possibility. A man not ready to let go of a life barely lived is given time to crossover and tries to live his life in seven days. Funny, haunting, compassionate and healing you experience his discovery of the joys of living a life well. I am soon to read TJ Klune's [THE HOUSE IN THE CERULEAN SEA](#) which I am told is just as enjoyable.

Jennifer

Currently reading: [LATE CITY](#) by Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler. This novel starts out after the 2016 election results come out, where we find 115 year old retired newspaperman Sam Cunningham on his deathbed. Sam must run through his memories from his long life contemplating his relationships with family, friends, coworkers. The book covers many historical events of his long lifetime. It is a wonderful narrative story without chapters, full of rich detail, and the art of human relationships.

Listening to: I am listening to the book [SUSAN, LINDA, NINA & COKIE: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR](#) by Lisa Napoli. This book is full of history about the origin of National Public Radio (NPR), as well as a biography of four groundbreaking women who fought sexism to become pioneers of radio, television, and news. Each woman listed has an interesting story of how they happened upon their careers, and ultimately became good friends. I was delighted to find this book to be a good balance of historical facts, and storytelling. A great nonfiction book for anyone interested in NPR, television, and news during the 1950's -1990's.

Julie

Reading: I've been working through [THESE PRECIOUS DAYS](#) (Ann Patchett) and love the stories ranging through the whole course of her life. Personal and emotional pieces which also contain a lot of wisdom and serendipity. After enjoying The Beatles: Get Back (streaming on Disney+), I took home the library's copy of [BEATLES: THE BIOGRAPHY](#) by Bob Spitz. It's a great accounting of the pre-Beatle years and, of course, the group's history.

Listening to: I recently finished [FURIOUSLY HAPPY](#) by Jenny Lawson on Libby. I read the book several years ago, but listening to the audio version was great. I laughed just as hard and felt the gravity of her message just as did the first time through.

Stacy

Reading: Several of you have recommended Amor Towles latest, [THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY](#) and I can honestly say it lived up to the high praise it recieved. After the unexpected death of his father, Emmett Watson is released early from a juvenile detention center. The bank has foreclosed on his house and he finds himself with an envelope full of cash and guardianship of his 8 year old brother. The two decide to leave for California in search of their estranged mother. They didn't plan for the unexpected company of two escaped friends from the detention center. This book has a cast of charming and unforgettable characters as well as an engaging and at times heartbreaking storyline.

Watching: Everything from Middle Earth to Mos Eisley. During January & December, my family binged on science fiction & fantasy classics. December marked the 20th anniversary of the release of Peter Jackson's epic Lord of the Rings trilogy. If the over 20 hours of Peter Jackson content aren't enough for you, the library has more Tolkien to enjoy. Of special note is [THE NATURE OF MIDDLE EARTH](#), the first ever publication of Tolkien's final writings on Middle-earth, covering a wide range of subjects.

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