

**HOLIDAY HOURS:**

Fri, 12/22 - Library  
closes at 12:00 pm

Sat, 12/23 - CLOSED

Sun 12/24 - CLOSED

Mon 12/25 - CLOSED

Mon 1/1 - CLOSED

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# Off the Shelf

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Growing up in a Sicilian family, Christmas has always been one of my favorite times of the year. Christmas meant the gathering of family. We would converge on my Nonna's tiny apartment on Christmas Eve, for the Feast of the Seven Fishes. We had everything from fried shrimp patties to baccala from baked haddock to marinated octopus salad (of which I refused to partake) -- and even raw sea urchins (called ricci)! After the meal came an endless parade of desserts, but first we had fruits and nuts. I love the smell of the roasting chestnuts to this day. Later, the cousins would squeeze into the hallway and sit on the stairs going up to my aunt and uncle's apartment (God forbid we go up there and dirty things!), playing games that we made up while the grown-ups played cards and drank Sambuca. Later in the evening, my father would sit at the piano. We would beg my uncle to take out his accordion. He would always refuse until we had sufficiently begged, and then he would drag it out to accompany my dad. The whole family would then sing Christmas

carols, thick accents and all. It was quite the scene, as you might imagine.

Christmas afternoon we would start the whole thing all over again - this time with lasagna and turkey. We would all declare ourselves stuffed, but that didn't stop us from having sausages a couple of hours later.

My Nonna has long since passed away, as have most of my aunts and uncles. The children had children, and now their children are having children. We're far too big in number to still celebrate all together, so we have taken to celebrating with our individual families, in our individual homes. I still miss those holidays of yore. I miss the sights and sounds and smells of yesteryear. We've changed so many things, but we've also managed to keep some things the same. One way that we try to do this is by still having some of the traditional foods that we used to have.

A few years ago, I gave my Dad a cookbook that I had found online. To this day, it's one of our favorites. *Sweet Sicily: the Sto-*



*ry of an Island and her Pastries* by Victoria Granof (2001) remains one of my favorite cookbooks to this day. Not only does it include regional dessert recipes for all things sweet, but it also includes stories of the festivals, customs, and anecdotes from Sicily.

I've been giving my father an Italian cookbook every year since that first cookbook. He's enjoyed some more than others. *The Sopranos Family Cookbook as Compiled by Artie Bucco* by Allen Rucker (2002) has been his go-to cookbook for arranging. *Coming Home to Sicily: Seasonal Harvests and Cooking from Case Vecchie* by Fabrizia Lanza (2012), is beautifully written with former Gourmet magazine editor Kate Winslow. It tells Fabrizia's story of coming home from north Italy to run the family estate and continue on with the cooking school

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## Holiday Music... Then and Now



**Tues, December 12th  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

In her program *Holiday Music Then and Now*, highly acclaimed pianist/composer Deborah Wyndham shares her own arrangements of various holiday pieces, both traditional and popular. With styles ranging from contem

porary to classical and popular. With styles ranging from contemporary to classical and jazz to ragtime, she plays holiday songs from both the past and present, including "Silent Night" and "Greensleeves," and more, sharing interesting facts about the

songs' beginnings and composers.

Please register at [www.dracutlibrary.org](http://www.dracutlibrary.org)

This program is sponsored by the Friends of Dracut Library.



## From the Desk of the Director... *continued*

that her mother created. *Nonna's House: Cooking and Reminiscing with the Italian Grandmothers of Entoteca Maria* (2015) features delicious recipes and colorful stories from the internationally celebrated grandmothers of Entoteca Maria; a one-of-a-kind Italian restaurant where a rotating cast of Nonnas are star chefs.

The one thing that all of these cookbooks have in common is that they are *more* than just cookbooks. They also tell the *story* of the food, the region, or the restaurant.

Several libraries in the region have started Cookbook Book Clubs. What

are your thoughts on that? Is that a book club that you would attend? Would you want us to all read the same book and bring samples of the recipes? What about choosing a theme each month and everyone reading and sharing a cookbook they've read with that theme? I'm very interesting in hearing your thoughts. Please email me ([nhill@dracutlibrary.org](mailto:nhill@dracutlibrary.org)) and put "Cookbook Club" in the subject line.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanza or some other holiday, the staff and Trustees of the Dracut Library wish you the Happiest of Holidays!

As always, I am available to meet and talk with you. This is *your* library and we want to hear what you think!

Nanci Milone Hill,  
Library Director



## Pop-Up Book Sales



Join the Friends of the Dracut Library for book sales in the Library lobby. Book bargains galore! Come and browse for those holiday gifts and stocking stuffers. Don't forget to pick up something for yourself while you're here!

**Saturday, December 2nd  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Saturday, December 9th  
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm**



## FICTION

Fantasy

- Bujold, Lois McMaster. *Penric's Mission*

General

- Hay, Ashley. *A Hundred Small Lessons*
- Hyde, Catherine Ryan. *The Wake Up*

Historical

- Chiaverini, Jennifer. *Enchantress of Numbers*
- Gaynor, Hazel. *Last Christmas in Paris*

Mystery

- Ahnhem, Stefan. *The Ninth Grave*
- Balzo, Sandra. *The Importance of Being Urnest*
- Blackwood, Gary. *Bucket's List*
- Brady, Eileen. *Chained*
- Brightwell, Emily. *Mrs. Jeffries and the Three Wise Women*
- Burns, V.M. *The Plot is Murder*
- Byron, Ellen. *A Cajun Christmas Killing*
- Casarett, David. *The Missing Guests of the Magic Grove Hotel*
- Coyle, Matt. *Blood Truth*
- Disher, Gary. *Signal Loss*

- Duncan, Elizabeth J. *Much Ado About Murder*
- Eastman, Dawn. *Unatural*
- Erickson, Alex. *Death by Eggnog*
- Fowler, Christopher. *Bryant & May: Wild Chamber*
- Frost, Jacqueline. *Twelve Slays of Christmas*
- Gilbert, Victoria. *Murder for the Books*
- Hambly, Barbara. *Murder in July*
- Hesse, Jennifer David. *Yuletide Homicide*
- Hyde, Katherine Bolger. *Bloodstains with Bronte*

Romance

- Baxter, Kate. *The Wicked Vampire*
- Bunn, Davis. *Firefly Cove*
- Chase, Loretta. *A Duke in Shining Armor*
- Colgan, Jenny. *Christmas at Little Beach Street Bakery*
- Cooper, Isabel. *Highland Dragon Rebel*
- Davidson, MaryJanice. *Deja New*
- Higgins, Kristan. *Now that you Mention It*

Science Fiction

- Bova, Ben. *Survival*

Short Stories | Essays

- Block, Lawrence. *Alive in Shape and Color: 17 Paintings by Great Artists and the Stories they Inspired*

Suspense | Thrillers

- Crais, Robert. *The Wanted*
- Griffin, W.E.B. *Death at Nuremberg*
- Henshaw, Mark. *The Last Man in Tehran*

Series information for the Fiction titles is listed in our Constant Contact version of the newsletter. To subscribe, please email [nhill@dracutlibrary.org](mailto:nhill@dracutlibrary.org) and put the word "subscribe" in the subject field.

## LARGE PRINT

LP Fiction

- Bowen, Rhys. *The Ghost of Christmas Past*
- Chiaverini, Jennifer. *Enchantress of Numbers*
- Perry, Anne. *A Christmas Return*
- Roberts, Nora. *Year One*

## AUDIOBOOKS

Playaway Fiction

- Baldacci, David. *End Game*

Books on CD - Fiction

- Bradford, Barbara Taylor. *Secrets of Cavendon*
- Burke, James Lee. *Robicheaux*
- Crais, Robert. *The Wanted*
- Griffin, W.E.B. *Death at Nuremberg*
- Patterson, James. *Count to Ten*
- Steel, Danielle. *Past Perfect*

Books on CD—Nonfiction

- Brazile, Donna. *Hacks: the Inside Story of the Break-Ins and Breakdowns that Put Donald Trump in the White House*
- Hertz, Rachel. *Why You Eat What You Eat: the Science Behind Our Relationship with Food*
- Wilser, Jeff. *The Book of Joe: the Life, Wit, and (Sometimes Accidental) Wisdom of Joe Biden*

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A LIBRARY CARD  
CAN'T SOLVE**

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## NONFICTION

### Autobiography | Biography

- Gibbons, Brittany. *The Clothes Make the Girl (Look Fat)? Adventures and Agony in Fashion*
- Julien, Maude. *The Only Girl in the World*

### Cooking

- Greger, Michael. *The How Not to Die Cookbook: 100+ Recipes to Help Prevent and Reverse Disease*

### Essays

- Guerriero, Leila. *Cuba on the Verge: 12 Writers on Continuity and Change in Havana and Across the Country*
- Le Guin, Ursula K. *No Time to Spare: Thinking about What Matters*

### Health | Fitness

- Heimowitz, Colette. *Atkins: Eat Right, Not Less: Your Guidebook for Living a Low-Carb and Low-Sugar Lifestyle*

### History

- Dufton, Emily. *Grass Roots: the Rise and Fall and Rise of Marijuana in America*

- Ellsberg, Daniel. *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*
- Gordon, Dee. *Bad Girls from History: Wicked or Misunderstood?*
- Griffith, R. Marie. *Mortal Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics.*

### Life Sciences

- Crocker, John. *Following Fifi: My Adventures Among Wild Chimpanzees: Lessons from our Closest Relatives*

### Philosophy

- Crane, Jonathan K. *Eating Ethically: Religion and Science for a Better Diet*

### Political Science

- Chomsky, Noam. *Global Discontents: Conversations on the Rising Threats to Democracy*

### Self-Help

- Cast, Carter. *The Right-- and Wrong Stuff: How Brilliant Careers are Made and Unmade*
- Harris, Dan. *Meditation for Fidgety Skeptics: a 10% Happier How-to Book*

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Late Opening

The Library will be CLOSED at 10:00 am on Friday, 12/1 due to a Legislative Breakfast

### Professional Development

The Library will be CLOSED the morning of 12/14 for Staff Development. We will open at 1:00 pm.

### Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Wednesday January 10th 2017 at 4:30 pm. Director's Office. Open Meeting.

### Monthly Meeting of the Friends of Dracut Library

Wednesday, January, 30th 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Meeting Room. All are welcome.