



Issue 2024-01

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## Looking Back and Looking Forward

Hello Laura,

I love January. The holiday rush is over, and a new year with new possibilities has begun. I start the year filling out a new calendar, thinking about all the things to get done in the months to come. I look at the old calendar too and review all the things I experienced last year.

At the library we too spent time looking back and looking forward. Each staff member is sharing one book they really enjoyed last year. And we're bringing new programs to the library this year, while continuing our popular ones. We hope you'll join us this winter.

Happy New Year,

Laura

Laura Clerkin  
Library Director  
[lclerkin@bethlehemlibrary.org](mailto:lclerkin@bethlehemlibrary.org)

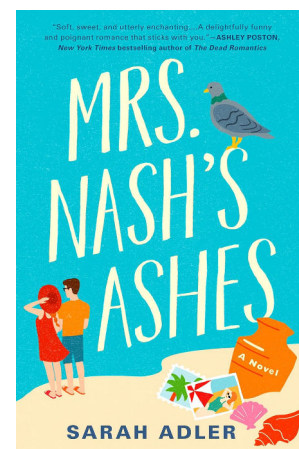
## Looking Back: Staff's Favorite Books

Click on the book jacket to reserve

### Lisa's Choice: ***Mrs. Nash's Ashes* by Sarah Adler**

What it's about: A starry-eyed romantic, a cynical writer, and (the ashes of) an elderly woman take the road trip of a lifetime that just might upend everything they believe about true love.

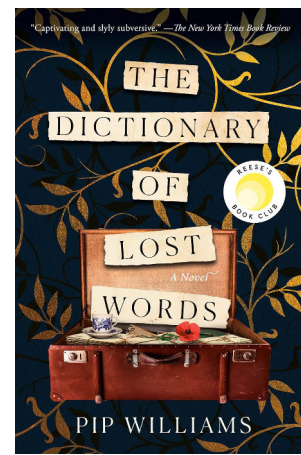
Why Lisa recommends it: This book is a romance on a couple different levels - the obvious and the not-so-obvious. It's fun and serious, covering social topics while also giving you a road trip romance. Good for anyone who wants a fun read with a little depth.



### **Jane's Choice:**

## ***The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams**

What it's about: The daughter of one of the lexicographers for the first Oxford English Dictionary, Esme realizes that words and meanings relating to women's and common folks' experiences often go unrecorded. And so she begins in earnest to search out words for her own dictionary: the Dictionary of Lost Words.

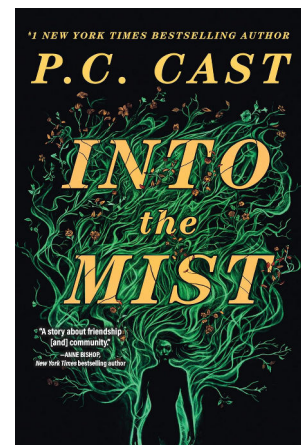


Why Jane recommends it: This book is both a historical novel, and an engrossing story of the life of Esme, who is a five year old when the book opens, spending her days finding and saving scraps of paper containing words that have been rejected for inclusion in the dictionary. This book is full of great characters, especially women, and beautifully drawn descriptions of the people, places and events that populate Esme's world as she becomes a complex adult, aware of how the word usage of her day defined and marginalized women. This book will appeal to you if you enjoy language and words, a cleverly constructed story and historical fiction.

### **Abby's Choice:**

## ***Into the Mist* by P.C. Cast**

What it's about: The world as we know it ends when an attack on the U.S. unleashes bombs that deliver fire and biological destruction. Along with sonic detonations and devastating earthquakes, the bombs have also brought the green mist. If breathed in, it is deadly to all men—but alters the body chemistry of many women, imbuing them with superhuman abilities.

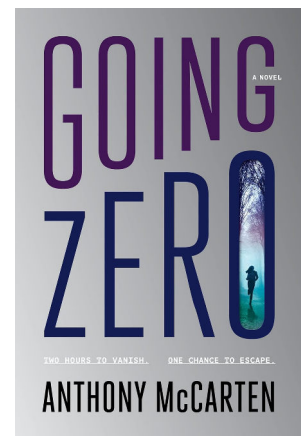


Why Abby recommends it: This story follows a dystopian world and a collection of teachers who survive the deadly mist. This suspenseful read will lure you in with its initial destruction. It will keep you invested as you grow to love the unique collection of characters. If you love reading about found family, powerful women, or the end of the world, then you will love this book!

### **Laura's Choice:**

## ***Going Zero* by Anthony McCarten**

What it's about: Ten Americans have been carefully selected to beta test a ground-breaking piece of spyware. FUSION can track anyone on earth. But does it work? If you can disappear for 30 days, you win \$3 million.



Why Laura recommends it: A thriller for current times, and the main character is a librarian! I found fascinating the ways and means that tech companies and government can keep tabs on people, and how they can be outsmarted. The book touches on our surveillance society, what we give up to use technology, and is that good or bad, or both.

**This book is our January selection for Readers Cafe book discussion.**

**Please join us either Thursday, January 18th Noon, or Saturday, January 20th 9am.**

## Looking Forward New Programs this month



### Simple Living Group Meet Up

Simple Living, Minimalism, Modern Homesteading—whatever you call it—join us for an initial meeting as we form a new group. We'll discuss what interests you, and decide on future meetings, topics, and speakers. Two meeting times this month, for convenience.

**Friday, Jan 19th 11:30am**  
**OR Monday, Jan 22nd**  
**5:30pm**



### Family STEM: Meet NED

NED is a robotic arm, similar to those used at Amazon and car manufacturers. See NED in action, and learn about the programming involved in making NED do cool things! Great for all ages!

**Saturday, Jan 27th 11am**



### What is AI?

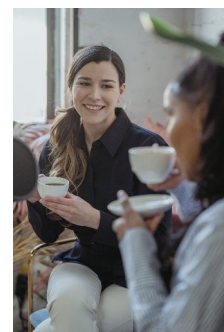
Artificial Intelligence has been a daily news item this last year. But what is it? What can it do? Is it a friend or foe? We'll show the basics of AI and how it can be used by you and by others.

**Monday, Jan 29th 5:30pm**

### More Programs

Fridays 10:15-11:30am **Let's Talk, Discussion Group**  
1/12 Personality Tests  
1/19 Favorite local places  
1/26 Friendships over the years

Thursday January 25th 6pm **Trivia Night**



## Kids Programs Every Week!



Mondays 2:30-3:30 STEAM Club

1/22 Spy Messages

1/29 Make Fidget Toys

Tuesdays 10:30-11 Preschool Story Time

1/16 Winter

1/23 Superheroes

1/30 Builders

**\*\*Stay & Play with our building toys 11am-3pm\*\***



Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 Arts & Crafts Club

1/10 Paper Houseplants

1/17 Bird Kites

1/24 Dinosaurs

1/31 Zebras

## Newsletter Sign Up

Don't miss out! Did someone forward this to you? You can sign up to receive our newsletters: this monthly general newsletter, and/or our new quarterly newsletter with information geared toward ages 2-5.

[Click here to sign up!](#)

***Holiday Closure Reminder: Monday, January 15th***



## Bethlehem Public Library

2245 Main Street  
Bethlehem, NH 03574  
603-869-2409

Email Us

Bethlehem Public Library | PO Box 250, 2245 Main Street, Bethlehem, NH 03574  
[www.bethlehemlibrary.org](http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org)

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