

A vertical image showing a stack of several closed books of various colors (red, green, blue, yellow) with a single open book resting on top. The open book's pages are yellowed with age. The background is a blurred view of library shelves filled with many other books, creating a sense of a vast collection.

Hello Gustavus!

Kate Boesser has developed some amazing programming in her time at the library, and we are thrilled that she will continue volunteering at the library on Mondays. I plan to continue Story Hour, and music/reading with elementary school students. I also hope to develop some new programs, and I want to hear from you! What events would you like to see happen at the library? Do you want a genre-specific book club? Family movie night? Teen writer's group? If you have ideas, I would love to hear them!

Feel free to stop by with your ideas during library hours, or email me at jen.gardner@gustavus.lib.ak.us. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

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Past, present, and future librarians!
Bre, Kate, and Jen with some of their favorite reads.

Library Hours
M- 1:30-4:30 and 7-9pm
T- 1:30-4:30
W- 1:30-4:30 and 7-9pm
Th- 10-noon and 1:30-4:30
F- 1:30-4:30
S-11-3:00
Library is closed Sundays.



BOOKS HAVE MOVED

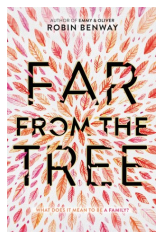
- Check out the New and Notable Non-Fiction table to the right as you enter the library. (More new non-fiction books can still be found on the New Book Shelf).
- Juvenile Graphic Novels have been moved to the cart just outside of the kids' room.
- Not sure what to check out? See what other patrons have been checking out on the Recently Returned rack.

Please ask your librarians if you ever need help finding any materials!



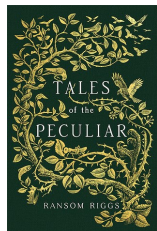
NEW BOOKS!

NEW IN YOUNG ADULT:



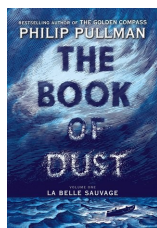
Far From The Tree by Robin Benway

A contemporary novel about three adopted siblings who find each other at just the right moment.



Tales of the Peculiar by Ransom Riggs

Before Miss Peregrine gave them a home, the story of peculiars was written in the Tales.



The Book Of Dust by Phillip Pullman

Philip Pullman returns to the parallel world of his groundbreaking novel The Golden Compass to expand on the story of Lyra, "one of fantasy's most indelible characters." (The New York Times Magazine)

NEW IN ADULT MYSTERY:

Hardcore Twenty-Four by Janet Evanovich

This Jersey girl hits hard--twenty-four seven. The blockbuster Stephanie Plum series continues with Hardcore Twenty-Four from #1 New York Times bestselling Janet Evanovich.

The Whispering Room by Dean Koontz

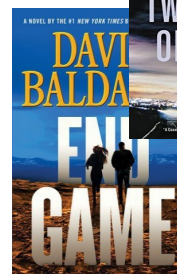
The Vanishing Season by Joanna Schaffhausen

Two Kinds of Truth by Michael Connelly

Harry Bosch searches for the truth in the new thriller from #1 NYT bestselling author Michael Connelly.

End Game by David Baldacci

The 5th book in the Will Robie series.



NEW IN ADULT FICTION:

Future Home of the Living God by Louise Erdrich

The world as we know it is ending. Evolution has reversed itself, affecting every living creature on earth. Science cannot stop the world from running backwards, as woman after woman gives birth to infants that appear to be primitive species of humans. Twenty-six-year-old Cedar Hawk Songmaker, adopted daughter of a pair of big-hearted, open-minded Minneapolis liberals, is as disturbed and uncertain as the rest of America around her. But for Cedar, this change is profound and deeply personal. She is four months pregnant.

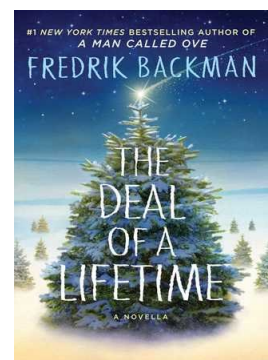
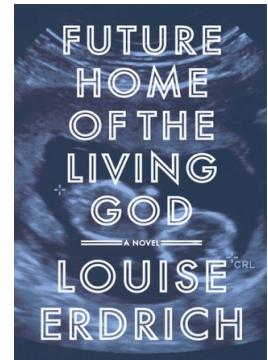
The Deal of a Lifetime by Fredrik Backman

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Man Called Ove* and *Beartown* delivers an insightful and poignant holiday novella about a man who sacrificed his family in the single-minded pursuit of success and the courageous little girl fighting for her life who crosses his path.

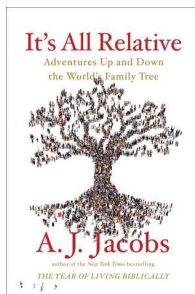
In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende

Year One by Nora Roberts

Hiddensee: A Tale of the Once and Future Nutcracker by Gregory Maquire



NEW IN ADULT NON-FICTION:



It's All Relative by A.J. Jacobs

A.J. Jacobs undergoes a hilarious, heartfelt quest to understand what constitutes family—where it begins and how far it goes—and attempts to untangle the true meaning of the “Family of Humankind.”

NEW MOVIES/TV



Upstairs, Downstairs series 1-5

Game of Thrones seasons 1-6

Meet the Fockers

Love Actually

Pitch Perfect 1 & 2

The Good Dinosaur



Images and blurbs from goodreads.com

GINGERBREAD DRAGON TAKES A BREAK FROM DESTROYING THE WORLD TO VISIT THE LIBRARY

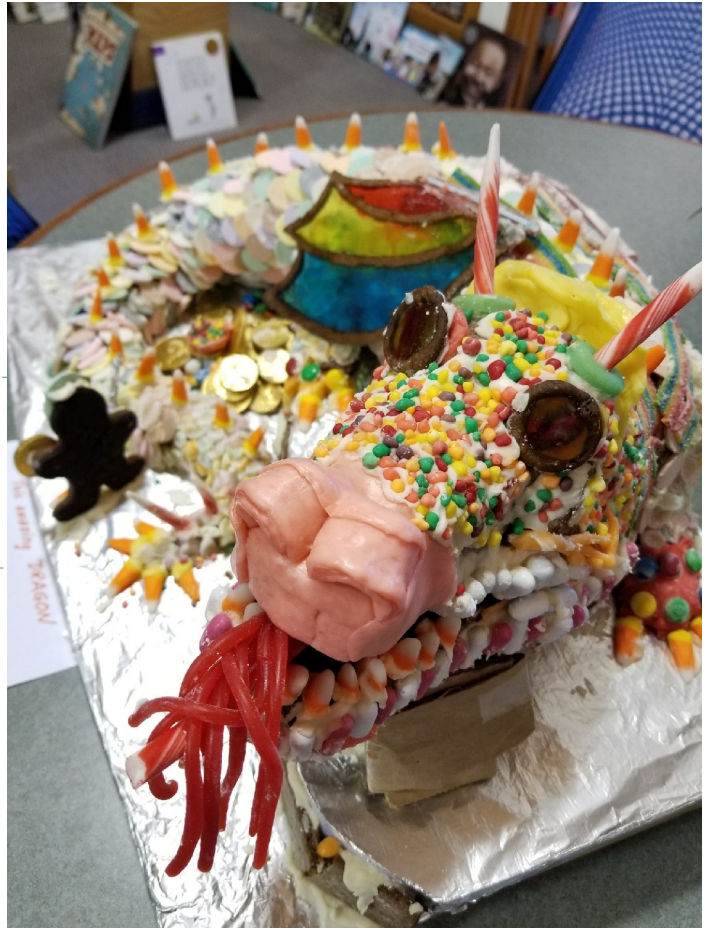
For the past eight years, Anya Maier, Linnea Lentfer, and other community contributors have created a gingerbread masterpiece that has been displayed during the holiday season at the Gustavus Library. Past gingerbread creations have included the Gates of Troy, the Seaside Castle of Cornwall and Wales, a train station with train, and the Acropolis complete with a statue of Zeus.

The gingerbread creations have been an annual tradition for eight years.

This is the first year the gingerbread creators have attempted an animal creation, and though the process was a challenge, the results were one-of-a-kind. The dragon's body was baked in pieces over an aluminum foil mold, then assembled together using a combination of thick frosting and straight pins. The cracks in the body were then patched together by band-aids made from rolled-out Starburst candies.

The scales were crafted out of a combination of Neko Wafers, sliced jellybean easter eggs, and Nerds. The "stained glass" in the wings and eyeballs was made by melting crushed up Jolly Ranchers into a gingerbread frame.

The dragon will make temporary residence at the library before, as annual tradition dictates, it will be disassembled and set out to sea.

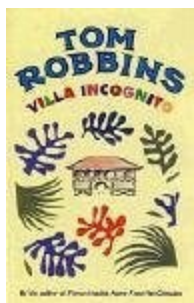


Above: The finished dragon on display at the library.
Below: Linnea Lentfer works on designing the scales.



JEN'S JANUARY READS

It may come as no surprise that in my time outside of work, I love to read. Here are a few of the books I've been perusing so far this month:

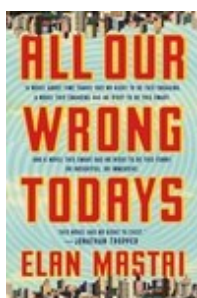
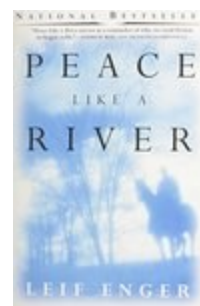


Villa Incognito by Tom Robbins

If you haven't read Tom Robbins before, he is...an acquired taste. The story takes place in Laos, Seattle, and San Francisco, following the story of three American MIAs gone missing during the Vietnam war, various members of a traveling circus, and their connection with tanukis (raccoon-like wild dogs). This book is rich in detail, whimsical, and sometimes downright weird.

Peace Like A River by Leif Enger

I *loved* this book, and would highly recommend reading it out loud, which is what we did in our household. The story itself is about an asthmatic young boy growing up in the Midwest who comes to believe that his father, recently fired from his janitorial job, is some kind of miracle-worker. Through a series of unfortunate events, Reuben's brother ends up on the run accused of murder, and the story follows Reuben's and the rest of his family as they figure out what to do next. The magic of this book is in its story telling and the voice of its narrator, 12-year-old Reuben.



All Our Wrong Todays by Elan Mastai

Although this book is what I would refer to as “not my kind of sci-fi” (lots of time travel and related lingo), this was a fun read. This is the story of Tom Barren, a man living in the 2016 that was “supposed to be,” where everything is built off unlimited renewable energy, hovercrafts are the norm, and time travel is on the verge of becoming a major tourism industry. Everything changes when Tom manages to get himself stuck in an alternate and much less appealing reality—ours. This book is both sad and humorous, and though a bit long, the chapters were all very short (3 pages or less) which made it easy to stay engaged.

Mixed: Multiracial College Students Tell Their Life Stories

This book brings together the essays of twelve college students reflecting on their experience growing up as multiracial children. Their stories are complex and varied, each linked by a common theme: identity, especially one that involves multiple races and cultures, is complicated. I appreciated these essays because they told such different but linked stories about the challenges of navigating the world when you do not fit neatly into other peoples' perceptions of who they think you should be.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Gustavus Library is built on a foundation of volunteers, and we can't thank you enough for your time and dedication!

Talk to your librarians if you are interested in volunteering.

A huge thank you to community members who have graciously donated books and DVD's to the library so that others can enjoy them.

We are always thrilled to accept donations of gently used hard-cover books and unscratched dvd's. Please bring your donations to the front desk.



Homework club has moved to the library!

It will be held Wednesdays at 3:30 in the Quiet Room.

OTHER LIBRARY NEWS

- The snow shed roof reconstruction has been completed and it is **WONDERFUL!** The re-roofing project will go out to bid and begin when the weather is appropriate.
- New shelving is in the works for the YA section of the library, so all of our great YA books we have will soon have the space they deserve!
- Jen and Bre will be attending the upcoming Alaska Library Association Conference March 8 - 11 in Anchorage to further skills and develop more contacts in the greater Alaska library community.
- City Departments have been meeting with the capital spending sub-committee to work on one-time needs. We have purchased the library's immediate needs, and prioritized the rest of the library's capital expenditure list as follows:

1. A more energy-efficient heat source
2. Repair lighting in main circulation area
3. Bike Shelter/Shed project

Library Statistics December



Library visitors	952
Books Checked out	287
Movies Checked out	438
Total items checked out	725

