Lariat & Topaz present

Adult Book Pairings for Programming
Thank you to our sponsors!

Sponsor of the Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List
Hidden Histories

STARLING HOUSE
Alix E. Harrow

OVER MY DEAD BODY
Unearthing the Hidden History of America's Cemeteries
Greg Malville

Texas TOPAZ
nonfiction gems
Hidden Histories

Audience: Adults interested in local hidden histories such as local lore, historical/haunted houses, or local cemeteries.

Programs:

- Collaborate with local organizations to showcase your city’s histories/cemeteries
- Visit local haunted buildings/houses or a presentation on these for patrons to visit on their own
- Birding in cemeteries

Book Display Ideas:

- Haunted Houses
- Birding
- Local history, stories, lore
Death/Grief

THE SPITE HOUSE
JOHNNY COMPTON

ALL THE LIVING AND THE DEAD
HAYLEY CAMPBELL

From Embalmers to Executioners, an Exploration of the People Who Have Made Death Their Life's Work

"Campbell is a gorgeous writer..."
—CAITLIN DOUGHTY, New York Times bestselling author
Death/Grief

**Audience:** Adults interested in the subject of death or those grieving the loss of a loved one.

**Programs:**

- Host a Death Cafe where patrons can spend time talking about death. [How-to guide here](#).
- Offer a Healing Library/Kits for patrons to check out.

**Book Display Ideas:**

- Haunted Houses (fiction or nonfiction)
- Grief/self help/bereavement
Murder in America: History & Mystery

S.A. Cosby
ALL THE SINNERS BLEED

Timothy Egan
A FEVER IN THE HEARTLAND
Murder in America: History & Mystery

**Audience:** Adults interested in American history or crime fiction.

**Programs:**
- Host a Murder Mystery party (in person or online)
- Invite a guest speaker from the Texas DPS Crime Laboratory
- Share secret histories of the local area
- Plan a local history tour/walk with a tour guide from a local historical society

**Book Display Ideas:**
- Crime fiction
- Books by Timothy Egan and/or S.A. Cosby
- The Jazz age
Untold Stories of American Heroines

Good Night, Irene
Luis Alberto Urrea

BraveHearted: The Women of the American West
Katie Hickman
Untold Stories of American Heroines

**Audience:** Adults interested in American history or women's roles in American history.

**Programs:**

- Invite a speaker from the local Red Cross and/or Red Cross blood drive
- Show a movie featuring PBS *Women in American History* videos from the [American Experience collection](#)
- Host a women in history trivia night
- Create a Women's History Month speaker series focused on women change-makers from the local community
- Add a donut tasting/decorating event to any of the above

**Book Display Ideas:**

- World War II
- American West / Westward expansion
- Biographies focused on women throughout history
Senses

[Image of book cover for Katherine Center's "Hello Stranger"]: New York Times Bestselling Author of "Hello Stranger"

[Image of book cover for Gretchen Rubin's "Life in Five Senses"]: How Exploring the Senses Got Me Out of My Head and Into the World

[Logo for Lariat List]

[Logo for Texas Topaz Nonfiction Gems]
**Senses**

**Audience:** Adults interested in the five senses.

**Programs:**

- Host a Blind Taste Test
- Provide Handouts featuring ways to explore your senses. See [50 Tips to Get Out of Your Head](#)
- Sensory Activity Event
- Life in Five Senses Video Series Event

**Book Display Ideas:**

- Senses
- Neurodiverse book display
- Display based on the Pantone Color of the Year
- Book display based on a color scheme
Solving a Murder

**MOTHER-DAUGHTER MURDER NIGHT**
Nina Simon

**THE FOREVER WITNESS**
Edward Humes

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

EDWARD HUMES
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

How DNA and genealogy solved a cold case double murder
Solving a Murder

**Audience:** Adults interested in murder mysteries, true crime, and genealogy.

**Programs:**
- Murder Mystery Event
- Talk by a Forensic Scientist or Detective
- DNA Genealogy Presentation
- True Crime Podcast Event
- DNA Genealogy Event

**Book Display Ideas:**
- True Crime
- Thrillers and Crime Fiction
- DNA Genealogy
Human Connection

Clemence Michallon
THE QUIET TENANT

Brene Brown
ATLAS OF THE HEART
Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience
Read by the Author
Human Connection

**Audience:** Adults interested in living a rich life despite difficulties

**Programs:**
- Self defense class
- Safety speaker from the police department
- Psychologist speaking on human connection
- Group craft activity
- Book discussion

**Book Display Ideas:**
- Safety and security
- Novels that highlight connection
- Psychology books
**Whales**

**Audience:** Adults interested in animals and nature

**Programs:**

- Whale art: [Watercolor](#) or [acrylic](#) whale, [string art](#), or [embroidery](#)
- History of whaling/marine biology lecture
- Rent [whale specimens](#) to add to book discussion
- Themed movie screening

**Book Display Ideas:**

- World Oceans Day (June 8)
- Marine Mammals
- Naturalist biographies
Family Life

Tom Lake
A Novel
Performing by Meryl Streep

You Could Make This Place Beautiful
A Memoir
Maggie Smith
Read by the Author
Audience: Families

Programs:

- Genealogist
- Craft: make a family tree
- Child/parent activity: provide prompts to encourage adults to share a story from their life with their child
- Family fun day - provide activities that adults and children can do together

Book Display Ideas:

- Family memoirs
- Books on storytelling
Discovery and Exploration

Emily Wilde's *Encyclopaedia of Faeries* + David R. Randall's *The Monster's Bones: The Discovery of T. Rex and How It Shook Our World*
Discovery and Exploration

**Audience:** Adults interested in discovery and exploration

**Programs:**

- Discovery hikes or bird-watching programs
- Build a terrarium or fairy house or Cabinet of Curiosities project
- Archaeologist lecture
- Local biodiversity and flora and fauna program
- Virtual National Park tours
- Naturalist in Residence Program

**Book Displays:**

- Earth science
- Gardening
Shared Experiences

No Two Persons
Erica Bauermeister

I loved this delightful gem of a novel: a deeply satisfying, unique reading experience. If you’re passionate about reading, I know you’ll be passionate about this book. — Liane Moriarty

+ 

My First Popsicle
Edited by Zosia Mamet

An Anthology of Food and Feelings

Texas Topaz nonfiction gems
Shared Experiences

**Audience:** Adults interested in shared connections

**Programs:**

- Cooking programs or Cook the Book programs
- Lit Fit Book Club - Walk and talk Book Club
- Community murals, art walls, Mini art shows
- Book Art crafting - Upcycle books
- Life story Sharing or memoir writing classes
- Intergenerational book clubs
- Books and Bites

**Book Displays:**

- Cookbooks
- Best book lists, Book club picks
Art Appreciation

Geraldine Brooks
Horse

The Art Thief
Michael Finkel

A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession

Texas Topaz
Nonfiction Gems
Art Appreciation

**Audience:** Adults interested in Art / Fine Arts / Art History

**Programs:**
- Creating Art - Painting with a Twist type program
- What is Art? - Art Historian Presenter
- Art Appraiser - Antiques Roadshow type program
- Art Installation- Work with local art centers
- Art Contest - Ask patrons to create/submit original artwork

**Book Displays:**
- Non Fiction Art Books
- Fiction Books Lists
Women in History/the Arts

Did You Hear About Kitty Karr?
CRYSTAL SMITH PAUL

The Barbizon
PAULINA BREN
Women in History/the Arts

Audience: Women in the Arts

Programs:

- Screen Writing and Journalism programs
- Filmfest (Think Grace Kelly, Joan Crawford, Candice Bergen (all Barbizon residents) or Greta Gerwig and Sophia Coppola (award winning female directors/producers)
- DNA Genealogy event; Presentation about DNA and Genealogy.

Book Displays:

- Historical Women in the Arts
- Best book lists, Book club picks
TLA Reading Lists

https://txla.org/tools-resources/reading-lists/
Thank you for attending!

And thank you to the 2024 Lariat & Topaz Committee Members for their hard work!

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