

# Beyond the Shelves



VOLUME 3

ISSUE 2

## February: Big Hearts, Bright Ideas, and Lots to Celebrate

February might be short, but it definitely doesn't hold back. It's packed with meaning, energy, and plenty of chances to spread a little love—something our volunteers are already pros at.

We're kicking things off with **Black History Month**, a perfect reminder of how powerful reading, writing, and storytelling really are. So many trailblazers used literacy to change lives and open doors, and you keep that spirit going every time you help someone understand information, navigate resources, or feel confident tackling something new. Those moments matter more than you know.

And then there's **Valentine's Day**, which isn't just about chocolates and roses. It's about kindness, connection, and showing people they matter. Honestly, that's what you do every time you show up—your patience, your smiles, your willingness to help... that's real love in action.

So as we roll through February, take a second to appreciate the magic you bring. You're lifting people up with knowledge, compassion, and heart. That's something worth celebrating all month long.

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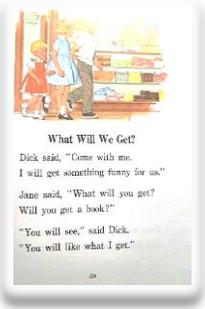
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Billie Humphrey, President

## From the President's Desk



This one word marks my earliest memory of learning to read, my first awareness of literacy. Back in the 1950's we read about Dick and Jane. I was reading aloud from my school reader and struggling with the words, and I really wanted to impress my daddy with my skill. Then I came across a word that I didn't know, so I asked, "What does W- H- A- T spell?"

My ever-patient dad, responded, "What."

Being a smart first grader, I thought perhaps he didn't hear me, after all he was rather old. So, I answered his question with a raised voice, "WHAT DOES W-H-A-T SPELL?" We went through the whole routine one more time, until finally in exasperation, my dad answers, "W- H- A- T spells WHAT."

I don't remember the story I read, but I do remember an important word, WHAT.

I was the oldest of 4 children. The only books in our house were the Bible, school books and maybe the TV Guide. I don't remember going to a library until I was in junior high school, aka middle school. One of my mom's friends, who was a property owner, vouched for me that I would pay any fines. I was so proud of my library card. It was mine and I, a teenager, could check out up to 5 books at a time and take them home with me. It felt absolutely magical. As a kid, I loved reading because as long as I was "studying", I got to skip my boring household chores. On Sunday afternoon, you would find me with "my nose stuck in a book", as my mother often said.

Literacy, being able to easily read, is a part of my life. I use my literacy every day and with every day chores. I can't imagine not being able to read to my grandchildren.

I'm always reading something whether a recipe, a credit card bill, a news article, a novel, street signs, a map, etc. There are words everywhere and I read them. It is a compulsion. With reading, I am able to learn something new. I stay informed. With the written word, also a form of literacy, I am able to communicate with others who are outside the sound of my voice. My thoughts are there when my voice is not.

Without literacy, I wouldn't have succeeded in high school, college or in my career. When I started my career, I continued learning. Instead of textbooks, there were manuals. From my question about W-H-A-T, my learning has continued.

*Billie*



## Friends of the Library Spotlight: Bringing 3D Printing to the Library!

February brings exciting news to the Lake Forest community: the Friends of the Harrington Public Library have purchased **two new 3D printers** to spark creativity, learning, and hands-on exploration for patrons of all ages. Thanks to Friends fundraising and community support, imagination can now take shape—literally.

### What Is 3D Printing?

3D printing turns digital designs into physical objects by building them layer by layer with melted filament. Think of it like a super-precise glue gun drawing thousands of thin layers until an object appears. Patrons can create anything from keychains and phone stands to prototypes and custom designs. It's a fantastic tool for problem-solving, design thinking, and experimentation.

### What This Means for the Library

With these printers, the library becomes a hub for hands-on discovery. Patrons will be able to:

- Try beginner-friendly 3D design software
- Print small projects for school or hobbies
- Join workshops and demonstrations
- Build STEM skills in a fun, accessible way

The printers will enhance programs for teens, adults, and families alike.

### A Community Effort

This addition was made possible by Friends members, donors, volunteers, and fund raiser supporters. Your contributions help the library grow as a place where curiosity and creativity thrive.

### Looking Ahead

As training sessions and project opportunities roll out, we invite everyone to stop by, explore, and dream big. Whether you're a seasoned maker or simply curious, the library is ready to help you discover what's possible.

### The Friends of the Library

# Powerful Words from a Powerful Woman

By Janel “Jaycee” Miller



Photo courtesy: Annette G. Miller

Maya Angelou had more than one talent. She wrote. She danced. She acted. She sang. She spoke out about the wrongs in society. She never stopped learning. And when she spoke, people listened.

Perhaps Angelou is so inspirational because she often practiced what she preached. Her words tell of her own experiences involving racism, sexual abuse, violence, motherhood, travelling, career ambition and fighting for civil justice. Read a few of her works and you can't help but be inspired.

She was sexually assaulted before she was a teenager. The man who attacked her was killed after she testified against him, scaring her into mutism for several years. As an adult, she overcame her fears and lived a life that was anything but ordinary. She was asked by Martin Luther King Jr. to work for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She lived in Africa.

These talents, skills and vocations earned her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a place in the National Women's Hall of Fame and made her the recipient of several Grammys.

There's a line Angelou scribed that goes: "You may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise!" Women who have been oppressed or otherwise knocked down physically or verbally can't help but be inspired to try again after reading or hearing that, especially after hearing her backstory.

There's a line Angelou wrote that reads: "If you are always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be." When you look at her life, she was far from normal and certainly amazing.

Here's hoping she's never forgotten.

References: [womenshistory.org](http://womenshistory.org), [poetryfoundation.org](http://poetryfoundation.org), [azquotes.com](http://azquotes.com), [brittanica.com](http://brittanica.com)



## **CARDIAC ARREST: WHAT TO DO**

Most people picture a dramatic scene, but it's often more subtle. If a person collapses or is suddenly unresponsive, don't do a pulse check. If you're not sure whether they have a pulse, don't lose time trying to find out. Instead:

- 1. Shout at them/shake their shoulder.**
- 2. Look, listen, and feel for breathing.**

If they don't respond when you shout at/shake them, and they're not breathing or their breathing looks "weird" or as if they are gasping, start CPR.

### **How to do hands-only CPR**

Key points:

- Call 911 (put your phone on speaker)
- Place your hands in the center of the chest
- Push hard and fast—100 to 120 compressions per minute (to the beat of "Stayin' Alive").
- Let the chest rise fully between compressions.
- Don't stop until help arrives or someone else takes over.

You don't need to do mouth-to-mouth for adults. Hands-only CPR is both effective and recommended.

Give a valentine that truly protects the people you love: Learn CPR. Be the person who can act—and feel confident in doing so.

**(Woman's Day, February-March 2026)**



# Where Our Love of Stories Leads (Part 3)

By Michelle Baultrusch

FHPL Member since 2022

If our love of stories begins with listening and grows through sharing, then its fullest expression is found in what it inspires us to *do*.

Stories don't just shape our memories—they shape our choices. They nudge us toward compassion, spark curiosity, and remind us that every person carries a narrative worth honoring. And when a community embraces literacy, imagination, and connection, something remarkable happens: stories begin to lead us forward.

At the Harrington Public Library, we see that forward motion in countless ways.

- In the child who discovers a new passion through a STEM book.
- In the teen who finds courage in a character's journey
- In the adult who learns a new skill and steps into new confidence.
- In the senior who reconnects with joy through shared reading circles.

Stories lead us to one another—and they lead us to possibility.

As Friends of the Library, you help chart that path. Your support ensures that programs flourish, that shelves stay full, and that every person who walks through our doors feels welcomed, seen, and encouraged. You help create a future where literacy is not just preserved but celebrated and expanded.

So, as we look ahead, we invite you to imagine with us:

- What new stories will take root in our community
- Which voices we can amplify and uplift
- How we can make learning more accessible, joyful, and inclusive
- Where our shared commitment can open doors for the next generation

Our love of stories began with listening.

It grew when we chose to share.

And now, it leads us toward a future shaped by curiosity, compassion, and connection.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. The next chapter is already unfolding—and we're grateful to be writing it together.



## 10 Valentine's Day Gifts That Are Not Chocolate or Flowers

By Janel "Jaycee" Miller

Many take Valentine's Day as a day for boyfriends/girlfriends, husbands/wives and so on, but that's not the only people you can buy things for.

That said, I am sure that there are some of you who, like me, have found that the older I get, the harder it is to buy for the people in my life. (So much for the saying that goes "With age comes wisdom.") I really want to get them something they will use, but it doesn't always work out that way. This is probably because most of the special people in my life haven't given me any ideas, they have everything or they say they want nothing.

In the spirit of that indecisiveness, I did some Googling. Below, find 10 gift ideas that, while may not be on the list of your valentine, are still – at least in the websites I consulted – not a bad idea. And rest assured, while getting some of these in red or pink is probably better, you'll find a few where that doesn't really matter.

- 10 A mug that is red or pink or has hearts on it
- 9 A piece of bakeware shaped like a heart
- 8 A pillow shaped like a heart
- 7 A pair of pajamas that is red or pink
- 6 A Stanley (some stores sell ones that have hearts painted on)
- 5 A romance novel
- 4 A bouquet of red, pink and heart-shaped balloons
- 3 A bottle of perfume or cologne (make sure it is one that he or she likes – not one that only you like – otherwise, it might never be used)
- 2 A candle (see the advice given with the bottle of perfume or cologne)
- 1 A red or pink gift bag crammed with things that you know they like

References: [goodhousekeeping.com](http://goodhousekeeping.com), [target.com](http://target.com), [abcnews.com](http://abcnews.com)

## A Big Cheer for Our Amazing Friends Sponsors!

The Friends of the Harrington Public Library are sending a huge, heartfelt *thank you* to our incredible sponsors! Their generosity fuels so much of the magic happening at HPL — from new equipment and special programs to community events that bring people together.

Our sponsors make it possible for the Library to dream bigger, reach farther, and serve our community with creativity and care. Every contribution helps strengthen the Library's mission, and we are truly grateful for the businesses and individuals who choose to partner with us.

We absolutely love our sponsors — their support lifts up the entire community, and we couldn't do this work without them. If you see one of our sponsors around town, give them a smile and a thank-you. They're helping make Harrington an even brighter place.

Interested in joining this wonderful group of supporters? We'd be thrilled to share how your sponsorship can make a meaningful impact. Together, we're building something special.

### From the Heart: The Friendship That Builds a Library

February is a month that reminds us of the power of love, connection, and community. And here at the Harrington Public Library, we see that love in action every day—through the generous, joyful work of our Friends.

The Friends of the Library aren't just supporters. They're storytellers, shelf-stockers, event hosts, bakers, book movers, and quiet champions of literacy. They're the ones who show up early to set up chairs, stay late to sweep up glitter, and always ask, "How can I help?"

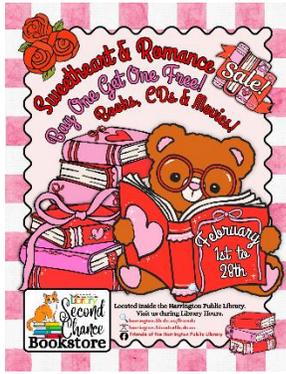
**Did you know** that every book sale, every festival booth, every newsletter you're reading now is made possible by Friends who believe in the library's mission and give their time, creativity, and heart to make it flourish?

If you're already a member—thank you. You are part of a legacy of generosity that stretches far beyond these walls.

If you're not yet a Friend, we'd love to welcome you. Membership isn't about how much time you have—it's about believing that stories matter, that neighbors matter, and that libraries are sacred spaces worth tending.

This February, let's celebrate the friendships that build something lasting. Join us. Dream with us. Be a Friend.

# Sweetheart & Romance BOGO Book Sale This February!



February is the month of love, and the Friends of the Harrington Public Library are celebrating with a charming **Sweetheart & Romance Buy One, Get One Free Book Sale**—the perfect chance to add a little sparkle, a little sweetness, and a whole lot of great stories to your winter days.

Browse a delightful selection of gently used romance books—from timeless classics to modern rom-com favorites. Whether you’re hunting for a cozy weekend read, a gift for someone special, or a new author to adore, you’re sure to find something that warms your heart.

And because every love story deserves a touch of elegance, the Friends will also offer a lovely assortment of jewelry, ranging from classic pieces to fun, fashionable finds. Treat yourself, surprise a friend, or pick up something pretty just in time for Valentine’s Day.

To make your visit even sweeter, enjoy a small candy treat at checkout—a simple way to brighten your day and celebrate the season of love.

- 📍 **Harrington Public Library, Second Chance Bookstore**
- 📅 **February 1-28, during Library Hours**
- ❤️ **Sponsored by the Friends of the Harrington Public Library**

Every purchase supports library programs, community events, and the continued growth of our beloved Harrington Public Library. Come browse, shop, and share the love this February.

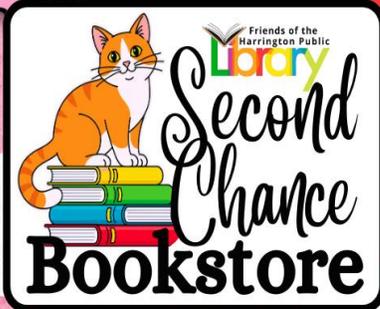
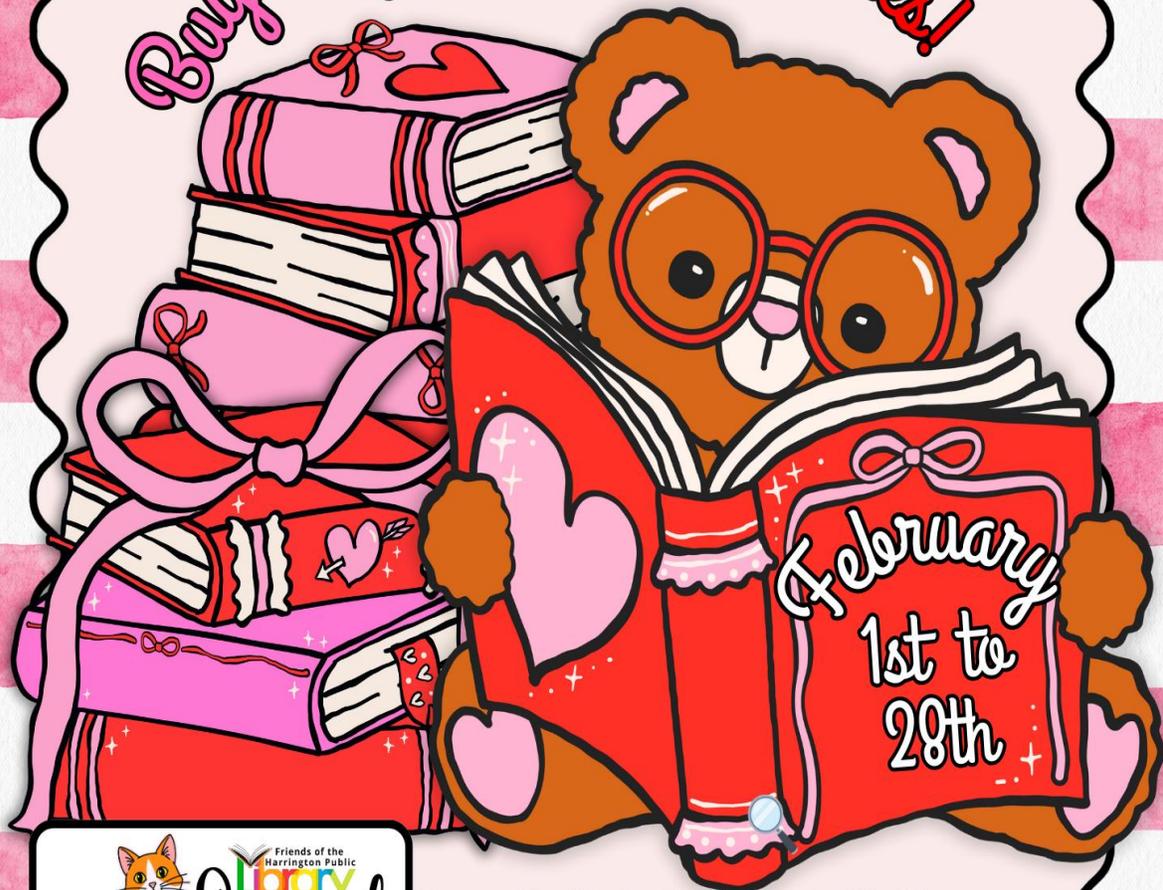
**It’s the sweetest way to support your library.**

For more information, contact the Harrington Public Library at (302) 398-4647.





**Sweetheart & Romance**  
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Located inside the Harrington Public Library.

Visit us during Library Hours.



[harrington.lib.de.us/friends](http://harrington.lib.de.us/friends)

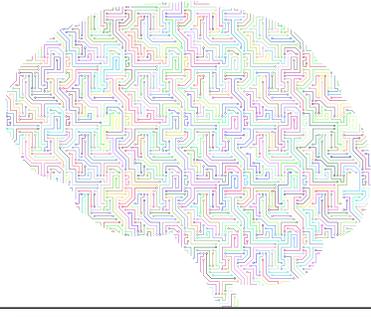


[harrington.friendslib.de.us](mailto:harrington.friendslib.de.us)



Friends of the Harrington Public Library





# Brain Teasers

## AUTHOR WORD FIND

Q	A	T	W	O	O	D	U	C	J	K	X
J	N	O	S	N	E	V	E	T	S	M	V
F	I	T	Z	G	E	R	A	L	D	O	J
B	S	T	E	I	N	B	E	C	K	R	W
Z	H	O	Q	B	K	P	H	M	C	R	E
H	E	L	K	M	U	K	V	Y	F	I	L
X	L	K	O	A	K	C	K	J	F	S	L
V	L	I	I	N	L	L	E	W	R	O	S
H	E	E	U	N	D	P	U	Q	P	N	M
F	Y	N	T	I	G	O	P	X	E	R	Z
A	K	Z	Y	Z	E	Q	N	K	M	P	N
R	O	J	X	S	P	B	C	Y	R	I	V
E	Y	L	I	P	U	I	M	P	A	B	S
N	X	W	C	G	D	Z	P	W	N	U	I
K	E	K	H	C	A	B	T	X	Z	Y	N
L	E	W	I	S	H	R	J	Q	D	V	C
U	K	U	Y	X	L	V	C	Z	Z	X	L
A	U	S	T	E	N	E	X	I	H	J	A
F	Q	J	X	F	Z	Y	E	U	A	E	I
V	L	L	O	R	R	A	C	K	T	Q	R

- DAHL, Ronald
- ORWELL, George
- DICKENS, Charles
- SHELLEY, Mary
- LONDON, Jack
- STEINBECK, John
- TWAIN, Mark
- LEE, Harper
- FITZGERALD, Scott
- WELLS, Orson
- AUSTEN, Jane
- KING, Stephen
- MANN, Thomas
- STEVENSON, Robert
- TOLKIEN, J.R.
- MORRISON, Toni
- CHRISTIE, Agatha
- CARROLL, Lewis
- ATWOOD, Margaret
- SINCLAIR, Upton
- GARCIA, Marquez
- RAND, Ayn
- FAULKNER, William
- LEWIS, C.S.

Answers on page 17

# FEBRUARY EVENTS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 5:00

\*\*Dungeons & Dragons

6<sup>th</sup> 10:00

Homeschool Horizons

11<sup>th</sup> 11:30

Black History Month Celebration

13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00-4:00

Creative Hands- Adult Crafting

17<sup>th</sup> 5:30

\*\*Adult Craft Night

20<sup>th</sup> 10:00-12:00

Homeschool Huddle

24<sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00

Teen Craft Night

25<sup>th</sup> 11:00

Budget Friendly Gardening:  
 Presented by Delaware Master  
 Gardeners

26<sup>th</sup> 5:00

Adult Book Club



**Romance Book Sale!**  
**Buy One, Get One**  
**FREE!**

**WINTER OLYMPICS**

**READING CHALLENGE**



**February 1<sup>st</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>**



## CLOSED

14<sup>th</sup> : President's Day

16<sup>th</sup> : President's Day

## WEEKLY

Daily- FREE SNACKS under 18!

Monday- Craft Kits for Kids!

Monday- TeleServices Specialist 12-4

Wednesday- Storytime 10:45

Weekdays- After School Hangout 2:30-4:00

## HOURS

Monday: 9:00-4:45

Tuesday: 11:00-6:45

Wednesday: 9:00-4:45

Thursday: 11:00-6:45

Friday: 9:00-4:45

Saturday: 10:00-1:45

\*\* Program REQUIRES Registration\*\*

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# Director's Corner



Happy February! This February we are celebrating National Library Lover's Month here at the Harrington Public Library. We will once again be having the February Winter Reading Challenge to celebrate. This time everyone will be getting a bingo card with different reading prompts and activities for the winter season. Just complete a line of bingo to finish the challenge and then you can pick a prize from the prize cart. The winter reading challenge is open to all ages! Sign up today either in person or online at [www.Harrington.beanstack.org](http://www.Harrington.beanstack.org)! While you are participating in the Winter Reading Challenge this February, you can also take part in the Friends of the Library' special buy one-get one on romance themed books, movies, and cds in the Second Chance Booksale.

Here are some other great ideas to keep you busy during the month of February:

1. Come visit us at the library!
2. Attend one of our library programs  
<https://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/harrington>
3. Sign up for the Winter Reading challenge
4. Join the Friends Group, they're big time Library Lovers!
5. Follow us on Facebook
6. Read a book about libraries or librarians
7. Go into the library and check out a book that's new
8. Write a letter or post about why you love the library and post it on social media
9. Visit the library and access one of our library databases
10. If you don't have one, get a library card

Whatever you decide to do during this February, I hope you keep warm and will stop in the library to enjoy all the benefits that the library offers the community.

*Marleena*

## LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

I tried the Japanese method of decluttering where you hold every object that you own and if it does not bring you joy, you throw it away. So far I have thrown out all of the vegetables, my bra, the electric bill, the scale, a mirror, and my treadmill.

### An Old Blind Cowboy Wanders into Bar by Mistake

An old blind cowboy wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake. He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jack Daniels. After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, "Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?" The bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, Cowboy, I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things: The bartender is a blonde girl with a baseball bat. The bouncer is a blonde girl with a 'Billy-Club'. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weight lifter. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler. Now, think about it seriously, Cowboy... Do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?"

The blind cowboy thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters, "No...not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times..."



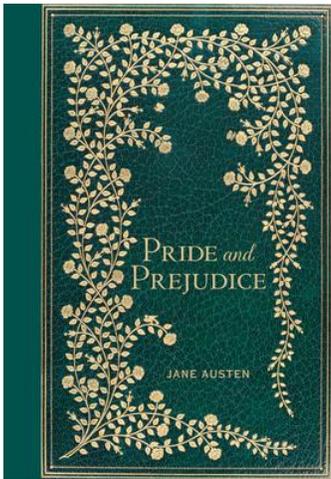
**Don't worry about not having a valentine on valentines day. You probably didn't have a groundhog on groundhogs day either.**

HFL  
2025-2026 Sponsor



# Book Club Read of the Month:

## *Pride and Prejudice*



Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) is a romantic novel of manners following Elizabeth Bennet, a witty, spirited young woman in rural Regency England. She navigates societal pressures to marry, specifically her rocky relationship with the wealthy, proud Mr. Darcy. Through misunderstanding, social blunders, and family scandal, both characters overcome their initial prejudices, leading to a happy marriage.

Jane Austen was an English novelist known primarily for her six novels, which implicitly interpret, critique, and comment upon the English landed gentry at the end of the 18th century. Austen's plots often explore the dependence of women on marriage for the pursuit of favourable social standing and economic security. Her works are an implicit critique of the novels of sensibility of the second half of the 18th century and are part of the transition to 19th-century literary realism. Her deft use of social commentary, realism and biting irony have earned her acclaim among critics and scholars.

The anonymously published *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1816), were a modest success but brought her little fame in her lifetime. She wrote two other novels—*Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, both published posthumously in 1817—and began another, eventually titled *Sanditon*, but died before its completion. She also left behind three volumes of juvenile writings in manuscript, the short epistolary novel *Lady Susan*, and the unfinished novel *The Watsons*.

Since her death Austen's novels have rarely been out of print. A significant transition in her reputation occurred in 1833, when they were republished in Richard Bentley's *Standard Novels* series (illustrated by Ferdinand Pickering and sold as a set). They gradually gained wide acclaim and popular readership. In 1869, fifty-two years after her death, her nephew's publication of *A Memoir of Jane Austen* introduced a compelling version of her writing career and supposedly uneventful life to an eager audience. Her work has inspired a large number of critical essays and has been included in many literary anthologies. Her novels have also inspired many films, including 1940's *Pride and Prejudice*, 1995's *Sense and Sensibility* and 2016's *Love & Friendship*.

[www. Goodreads.com](http://www.Goodreads.com)

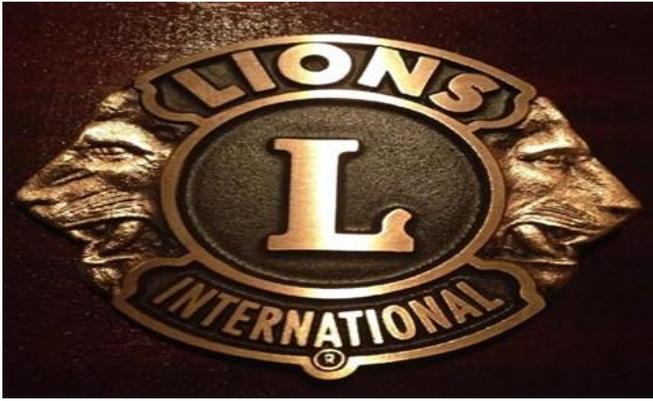
**FEBRUARY BOOKCLUB WILL MEET  
FEBRUARY 26TH AT 5 P.M.**

# And the Answer Is...

Q	A	T	W	O	O	D	U	C	J	K	X
J	N	O	S	N	E	V	E	T	S	M	V
F	I	T	Z	G	E	R	A	L	D	O	J
B	S	T	E	I	N	B	E	C	K	R	W
Z	H	O	Q	B	K	P	H	M	C	R	E
H	E	L	K	M	U	K	V	Y	F	I	L
X	L	K	O	A	K	C	K	J	F	S	L
V	L	I	I	N	L	L	E	W	R	O	S
H	E	E	U	N	D	P	U	Q	P	N	M
F	Y	N	T	I	G	O	P	X	E	R	Z
A	K	Z	Y	Z	E	Q	N	K	M	P	N
R	O	J	X	S	P	B	C	Y	R	I	V
E	Y	L	I	P	U	I	M	P	A	B	S
N	X	W	C	G	D	Z	P	W	N	U	I
K	E	K	H	C	A	B	T	X	Z	Y	N
L	E	W	I	S	H	R	J	Q	D	V	C
U	K	U	Y	X	L	V	C	Z	Z	X	L
A	U	S	T	E	N	E	X	I	H	J	A
F	Q	J	X	F	Z	Y	E	U	A	E	I
V	Z	L	O	R	R	A	C	K	T	Q	R

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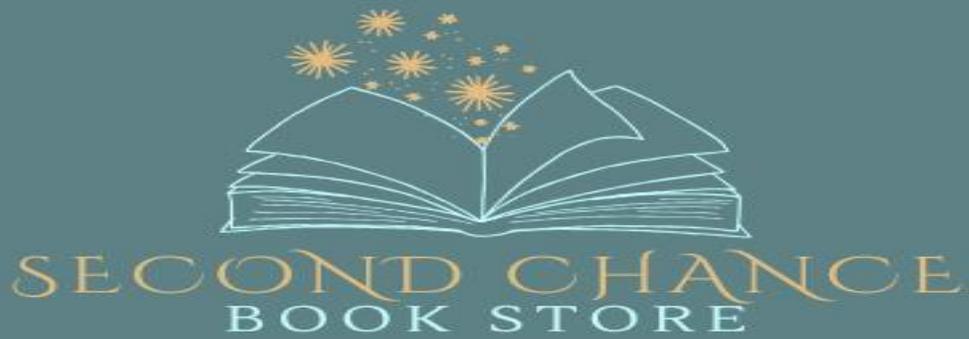
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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Cheesy Mashed Potato Puffs

### Ingredients:

1. 3 cups chilled mashed potatoes
2. 1 large egg
3. 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
4. Chopped chives (to taste)
5. Flour as needed
6. Garlic powder (to taste)
7. Pepper (to taste)
8. Salt (to taste)
9. Parmesan cheese for coating

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees F
- In a mixing bowl, combine the mashed potatoes, egg, shredded cheddar cheese, chives, flour, garlic powder, pepper, and salt. Mix everything well until it's nicely blended.
- Shape the mixture into 1-inch balls.
- Roll each ball in Parmesan cheese to coat them
- Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown and crispy.

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