

friends of the library

May Newsletter 2019; Friends of the Alexandra Library

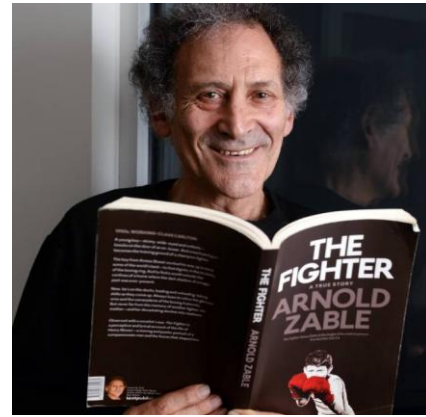
Sharron Batt has resigned her position as coordinator of the Alexandra Library. Drop into the library and write a message to Sharron.



Arnold Zable Workshop by Margo Lawrence

Those attending Arnold Zable's workshop on Wednesday 20th April could not help but come away inspired. Those participants were encouraged and given time to share their inner thoughts and ambitions to improve their writing skills with possible publication of their work.

The openness and honesty that Arnold seemed to draw out of those present became emotional and time allowed those to recover was an unspoken feeling by the others. Understanding and guidance in the direction of our writing was greatly appreciated.



Thank you, Arnold and Friends of the Library for this opportunity at the Alexandra Library.

Book Review

An American Marriage by Tayari Jones

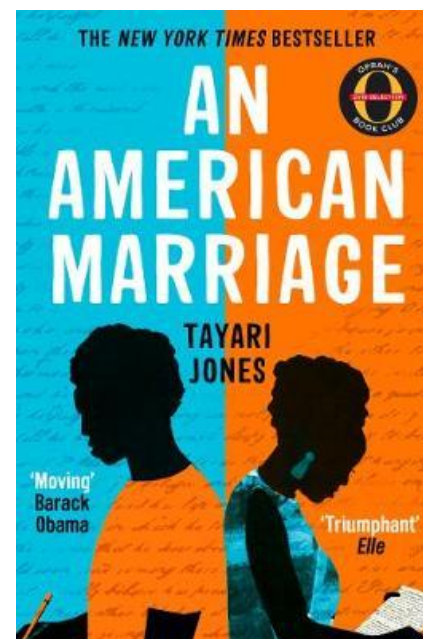
Roy and Celestial have only been married 12 months and Roy is arrested for a crime he didn't commit. He is sent to prison for twelve years. This is an amazing record of their ongoing relationship in the form of letters using words to convey their moods and feelings at each step of the way.

Celestial and Roy have quite different families, but they are supporting the married couple along with Andre who is a childhood friend of Celestial. The stories woven around these links gradually develop through the book and to a point where Roy feels Celestial has abandoned him.

Roy's appeal finally comes through and he is released after 5 years. He focuses on reclaiming what is his.

A cleverly written story.

Penny Paxman



Friends of the Alexandra Library AGM

OFFICE BEARERS

POSITION

President	Tom Farrell
Vice-President	George Evans
Secretary	Tim Proctor
Treasurer	Fred Blank

Community Representatives

Ron Cooper	Alan Smith	Bob Scott
Ann Barkla	Katelijne Kylstra	Leanne Monro
Julie Hardy		

Special thanks to Gwenda Martin who has been an active member usually as treasurer since the establishment of the Friends of the Alexandra Library in the 1980's. Also, Howard Paix past president and committee member for his years of devoted service. Thanks also to Ann Barkla who was treasurer in recent years and is continuing as a community representative on your committee.

Of course we must congratulate our wonderful library staff who put in the extra time and effort to enhance our library experience.

Welcome to our new members Julie, Leanne and Fred.

Meetings are open to all on the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the Alexandra Library.

Friends Bookshop Goulburn River Books

Thanks to Ron and all the volunteers who through their efforts fund many of the extra events and resources that make our library so wonderful.

The Alexandra Friends of the Library Bookshop has a huge range of books, novels, magazines, Military, Biography, Art, History and Children's Books.

99 Grant Street Alexandra
Open 7 days a week
Donations Welcome

The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult

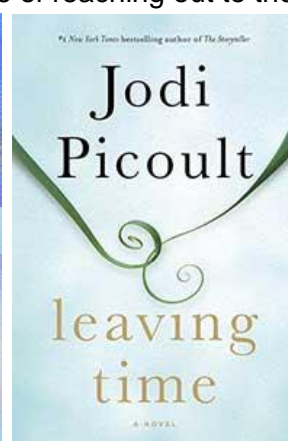
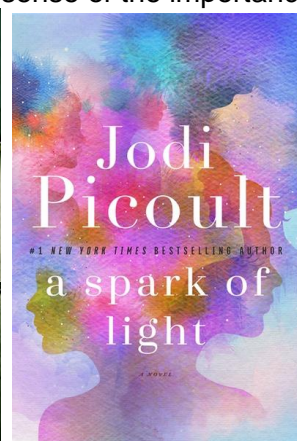
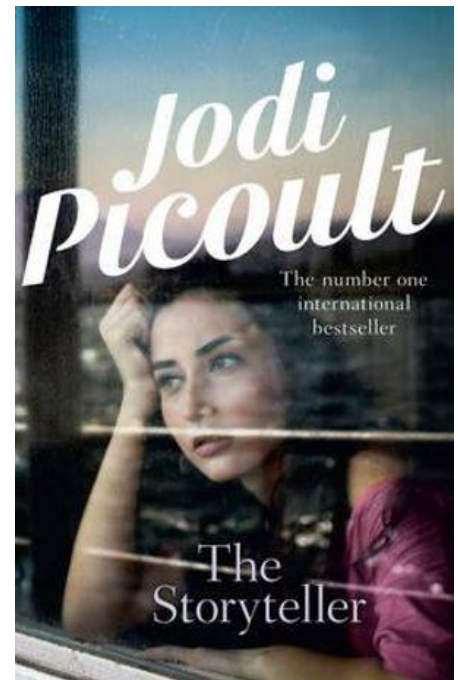
Twenty five year old Sage Singer, a baker, works at night baking breads and pastries in the small town of Westerbrook, trying to escape her life of loneliness, her insecurities stemming from her facial disfigurement, the death of her mother, and issues with her family. Sage befriends an old man, Josef Weber, a retired teacher, who is well loved and respected in her community. The unusual friendship blossoms, until one day Josef asks Sage an extraordinary favour, to help him commit suicide. Naturally Sage refuses his request until Josef reveals his dark secret: he was a Nazi SS guard and thus deserved to die. He explains to Sage that he feels guilty about the horrific crimes he committed and doesn't deserve to live.

Sage struggles with the request and her dilemma is further complicated when she discovers that her grandmother, Minka, is a holocaust survivor. She grapples with the knowledge that this popular member of her community committed such evil, and is undecided if someone who committed such atrocities could actually redeem themselves with good behaviour. Sage is torn, if she agrees to Josef's request she faces both moral repercussions, and legal consequences. She is undecided if a moral choice becomes a moral imperative, and where does one draw the line between punishment and justice, forgiveness and mercy? She is unsure also whether her actions will be revenge or justice.

After much deliberation Sage contacts the police and is put in touch with Leo Stein who is in control of all things Holocaust related in the U.S. Leo investigates 'Josef Weber' and finds that no such SS guard by that name existed, but under much coaxing from Sage, Josef confesses his real name was Reiner Hartmann, who was indeed an officer at Auschwitz.

Sage begins to gather evidence of Josef's involvement in Nazi atrocities at Auschwitz, after she persuades Minka to finally talk about her time as a prisoner at Auschwitz. The story line is quite unpredictable and Sage discovers that not all is as seems as she delves into Josef's history.

Jodi Picoult tackles the 'big issue' of forgiveness in The Storyteller, but as in many of her books things are a little more complicated than usual, and there's an unforeseen twist at the end of the story. The story is well written, thought provoking and moving. It is a poignant reminder of the terrible atrocities that happened to the Jews during the holocaust, and gives the reader a renewed sense of the importance of reaching out to those less fortunate.



MAY

2	Tech Talk and e-Library	BYO charged device, login and password	10am
2	Stories for the very young	Story Reading and free play	11am
4	French Conversation	Converse with Yolande over coffee and les tim-tams	11am
7	On The Couch	Book reviews, snacks, wine and much laughter	6pm
9	Murrindindi Writers	All aspiring writers welcome	10am
9	Stories for the very young	Story Reading and free play	11am
14	Ukulele Heaven	Beginners welcome, ukes available	6pm
16	Storytime with Structure	Songs, stories and rhymes	11am
18	French Conversation	Converse with Yolande over coffee and tim-tams	11am
21	Tuesday Show part 1	Greek Odyssey, movie presentation with John Fairfax	1pm
21	Friends Committee	Have your say, show your support	6pm
21	Tuesday Show part 2	Greek Odyssey, scarf market with John Fairfax	7pm
23	Murrindindi Writers	All aspiring writers welcome	10am
28	4F for those over 6	Cooking	3.45 - 4.45pm
28	Blokes' Night	Drinks and a yarn with mates (bring a mate!)	6.30pm
28	Simultaneous Storytime	Evening Pyjama party for families with <i>Alpacas with Maraccas</i>	6 - 7pm
30	Stories for the very young	Story Reading and free play	11am
31	Acoustica	Live music at lunchtime, featuring local musicians	12.30pm

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

- **Acoustica:** Live music at lunchtime featuring Dave Beatty, come and sing along
- **Tuesday Show 1pm and 7pm:** John Fairfax presents a Greek Odyssey with film and scarf market in the evening.

Greece is not just pristine white- washed stone buildings cascading into a luminous blue sea, there are many other awesome sights and ancient marvels to be experienced.

Join John Fairfax on a virtual tour of Classical Greece as he delves into the rich history of archaeological sites, the birthplace of civilisation, Greek rhetoric and ancient philosophy. John has a wealth of experience in the area and can bring alive the wonder of Ancient Greece. Come along and marvel.

Drinks and Greek snacks will be provided in the evening.

- **Simultaneous Storytime:** Bring the family for some fun stories and games in the Library after 6pm

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bridge Mondays 2pm-5pm New players and beginners most welcome

Scrabble Fridays 2pm-4pm New players and beginners most welcome

Knitting and Crochet Fridays 2pm-4pm Learners of all ages most welcome

Contribute to our newsletter Tom Farrell ffarrell@dkc.net.au

Remember Libraries Change lives.