

2020 was a great year to read

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FULL TEXT

The past year did not hold many opportunities to visit your public library and browse, but it was a great year to read, and local librarians have some good recommendations.

Kaukauna Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning says her favorite book this year was "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo. She also liked "You are a Badass Every Day" by Jen Sincero, which was particularly good on audiobook narrated by the author.

Menasha Library Supervisor Aaron Raschke liked "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande. "This is a book that opened my eyes to the human side of the medical world and what it means to age. While this book was not about a pandemic, it was a topical read that made me consider my own mortality, and what is important in the end."

Appleton Library Director Colleen Rortved recommends "This is Chance!" by Jon Mooallem. It's the true story of the events surrounding the most powerful earthquake to ever hit America in Anchorage, Alaska, in 1964. Genie Chance, a part-time radio reporter and working mom, became the steady voice that traveled around the world providing updates on the disaster. She also became the public information officer that shared essential information on the emergency response nearly non-stop for three days.

This is a great story full of rich characters that tell a story of a community coming together in the face of disaster.

Nicole Hardina-Willems, the assistant director of the Neenah Library, shares, "I finally started reading Louise Penny's Armand Gamache's series (the first book is "Still Life"). Every time I pick up a book in the series I am transported to the small village in Quebec –Three Pines –and find myself craving good coffee and croissants."

On their website the Appleton library encourages you to try Book Matchmaker to help find your next read.

The Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute and Menasha libraries have new arrivals to scroll through on their homepages that link to their catalog, where you can place a hold. The Menasha library has started including book reviews in its monthly newsletter. And the Neenah library offers online help with choosing your next book or requesting a youth or teen binge bundle.

All Wisconsin libraries offer access to Novelist, a great online service for finding fiction. And you are always welcome to call or email your library; they are more than happy to pull books, suggest books, and share their favorites. All public libraries in the Fox Cities are lending books and other materials; if you haven't visited in a while, call to find out how to check out your next great read.

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Appleton Post-Crescent

Guest columnist

DETAILS

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