THE CARLSBAD PUBLIC LIBRARY

PATRON

May 2023

Graduation

By Sarah Jones, Director

As spring comes to an end, so does the school year. With the coming of May, Graduation is also just around the corner. Graduation happens for different ages, but perhaps most memorable is graduation from High School or College. Graduation is an amazing accomplishment and a person should feel proud of themselves for it. No matter if a person graduates one, two, or even ten years "late", it should be celebrated. Graduation is the opportunity to celebrate past achievements and look to the future. Some people may already have their next step figured out and others may not. Graduation marks the beginning of finding a career, a place to live, or additional education. Just know that the world is your canvas, and you are the painter. Any person can go on to create a masterpiece. For the young graduates, you should know that even if you pick a job or degree… you do not have to stick with it. Find your passion or calling, it sounds cheesy but it's true. Even if it takes you a few more years to study something else, do it. When you make a mistake in painting, you can just paint over it or make something new. For the older graduates, congratulations for going to school or coming back to school. It is more difficult for you in this technological world and the fact that you graduated despite those difficulties is inspiring. ◆

Beyond Graduation

By Laura Hughes

The month of May is known for graduations from preschool to college. It's an end of one season in life and the beginning of a new season. It's a time for goodbyes and preparation for hellos. It's a time of excitement and a wonderful feeling of accomplishment, yet there may be an empty feeling inside. What else is there? What's next in life? At least those were some of the thoughts I experienced as a high school graduate many years ago.

"High school is supposed to be the best years of your life," is what I had been told by teachers and classmates back in the day. But, my high school years were not that great and I wondered, "Is this as good as it gets?" Near the end of my high school career, I felt empty

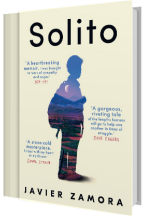
*SEE **GRAD** PAGE 3 …*

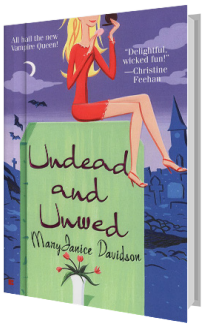
May 2023

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 **2 PM** Stitchers Anonymous	3	4 **6:30 PM** - Friends of the Library meeting	5 CINCO De Mayo	6 **10 AM** ASL Class **1 PM** Teen Book Club
7	8	9	10 **4 PM** Tween Book Club	11	12	13 **9 AM** Seed & Sprout Swap **10 AM** Dungeons & Dragons **5 PM** Paranormal Reads
14 Mother's DAY	15	16 **2 PM** Stitchers Anonymous	17 **6:30 PM** Brews & Books	18	19	20 **10 AM** ASL Class **1 PM** Teen Advisory Group **6 PM** Teen After Hours
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 **10 AM** Dungeons & Dragons
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR LIBRARY CLOSED	30	31	1 June **6:30 PM** - Friends of the Library meeting	2 **6 PM** - Kick off to SUMMER READING	3 **10 AM** ASL Class **1 PM** Teen Book Club

Book Club Readings:

- **Paranormal Reads** – *Hounded*, by Kevin Hearne
- **Brews & Books** – *Upgrade*, by Blake Crouch
- **Tweens** – *Masterminds*, by Corden Korman
- **Teens** – June theme will be a book about friendship





Paranormal Review

Undead and Unwed
by MaryJanice Davidson

You know those books that are basically romances only with supernatural beings like vampires and werewolves? Well, cross that with a cozy mystery, add a bit more blood and gore, and you have just cooked up the Queen Betsy series of books. Most of the titles have "Undead" in them so it is also known as the Undead series. Undead and Unwed is the first one in which an administrative assistant (for an ungrateful wretch) with a penchant for designer shoes has her 30th birthday, gets fired, and dies all in the same day. Talk about your lousy days.

This is a fun little book. Betsy, aka Elizabeth Taylor, is a flawed character if ever there was one. She's shallow, vain, and snarky but has a definite sense of right and wrong. You can "hear" the Minnesota in her voice while reading the book. She's very much a product of her environment. She has an evil stepmother as well as a well-off, bewildered, and mostly absent father, and a professor mother. All of whom run the gamut of emotions when reacting to the fact that Betsy, of all people, has risen from the dead. She is evidently the prophesied "Queen of Vampires" that is supposed to bring all the undead to heel. She is so not the person for this role much like Stephanie Plum in the Janet Evanovich books.

I can safely say that I now know more about designer shoes than I ever wanted to know. Keep in mind that this book came out in 2004 so there's some dated references and attitudes in the book. But there's plenty of witty humor that plays on the stereotypes. There's a love/hate relationship building and a rich best friend with a chip on her shoulder. Queen Betsy ends up having a lot of insight for one who plays a blonde ditz so well. That ditzy-ness lets her break all the rules of vampire society while flipping her hair over her shoulder in her designer shoes.◆

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ◆ **Grad**

> **"It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves."**
>
> *— Edmund Hillary*

inside, but I had a plan. Attend beauty school one month after graduation, finish within a year, and begin a lifelong career doing hair until I could retire. I thought I had my life figured out.

What I have learned throughout the years is that I will never have my life figured out. After graduating from cosmetology school, I thought I was done with graduations. Well, I'm here to tell you that I did not stay on that one career path. If I did, this article wouldn't exist. Instead, my dreams and goals changed over the years.

In the summer of 1997, two years after my high school graduation and one year after beauty school graduation, I started the long journey of college. I knew I wanted more out of life than just doing hair for a living, but I was indecisive about which career path to take. As I contemplated my future, I took evening college classes on and off throughout the years while I worked as a hairdresser until 2008. Then, I decided I wanted to pursue a degree in library science and graduated with my associate's degree in May 2009. On the way to getting my bachelor's degree in October 2016, I was still indecisive about my future and faced many molehills that I made into mountains. These imagined mountains kept me from walking straight on "the designated path" of life.

So, I am here to tell you this: Do NOT think you have to have your life figured out as soon as you graduate whether it be from high school or college. Expect changes to happen and if you find yourself falling off what you think should be your "designated path" in life, keep going. You may have to change directions and be okay with that because graduations are not the final destinations in life. They are simply steppingstones to the next destination, whatever that may be for you.

If you feel uncertain about the next step to take after graduation, the Carlsbad Public Library provides many resources. Go to our online catalog (https://carlsbad.biblionix.com/catalog/) where you will find electronic resources such as Learning Express – Career Center Plus, College Center Plus, College Prep Center, and College Success Skills. If you are looking for a job or career change, use one of our database public computers to search for jobs online.

Now, congratulate yourself on your recent accomplishment and have some fun! ◆

KID'S CORNER

Pounded Flower Art

By Emily VanSchmus, bhg.com

SUPPLIES

- 1 Watercolor paper
- 1 Fresh flowers
- 1 Hammer
- 1 Waxed paper or paper towel
- 1 Picture frame

Instructions

1. Cut and arrange flowers

Start with a store-bought bouquet that features a variety of bright flowers and greenery. We found that flowers with more brilliant pigments—like bright yellows and dark purples—transferred the best. Next, cut each flower at the base, close enough to remove the whole stem while still keeping the flower intact. When you have an assortment of cut flowers in different sizes and shapes, arrange them face down on a piece of watercolor paper trimmed to your frame size.

2. Pound flowers

Before creating your flower art design, try transferring a few flowers to your watercolor paper to see how they do. Then you can decide the best way to arrange them.

Start by placing each flower facedown, then cover the arrangement with waxed paper or a paper towel. Next, use a hammer to pound around the circumference of the flower, applying pressure to the petal area. Avoid putting pressure on the center of the flower; otherwise, pollen and moisture will stick to the paper as well, which doesn't look as pretty. Repeat this process until you're happy with how the hammered flower art looks—don't forget, you can add accents and dimension by pounding leafy greenery, too!

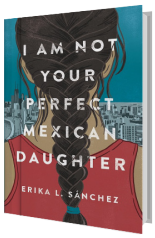
3. Frame flower art

When you're done hammering the flowers, carefully remove the wax paper and flowers from the watercolor paper. Set the paper in a cool, dry area. Make sure it's flat, then let dry completely. Once dry, add the flower print to a frame and gift it to Mom. Don't forget to fill out a card or add a sweet note. Bonus points if you give her a matching bouquet with her flower art! ◆

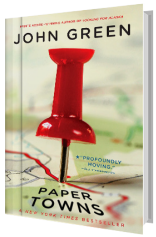
Happy Mother's Day!

Teen Fiction and Non-Fiction Selections for High School Grads

At this time of year, many students are looking forward to post-graduation plans. Here are some teen books with characters who are likewise getting ready to make the transition from home to more independence, which may include college, the military, or other careers.



***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter,* by Erika L. Sánchez.** Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. How can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

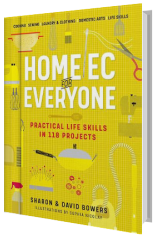


***Paper Towns* by John Green.** One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.

***Always and Forever, Lara Jean*, by Jenny Han**. While helping plan her father's wedding, senior Lara Jean struggles with choosing a college and questions how graduation is going to change her relationship with her boyfriend Peter.

In the non-fiction category, readers who need to learn some self-care skills before leaving home could benefit from the following helpful titles:

***The Ultimate Student Cookbook,* by Claire Peters.** This book contains both recipes and basic cooking instruction on a budget, based on the author's experiences cooking for herself while earning her culinary arts degree.



***Home Ec for Everyone* and *Shop Class for Everyone*, both by Sharon Bowers**, offer instruction in everyday life skills taught through many projects to help young adults learn how to do things like cook, make small household repairs, pack a suitcase efficiently, and more.

For students considering military service, the following titles may be of interest: 63 Days and a Wakeup: Your Survival Guide to Army Basic Combat Training, by Don Herbert; Life in Army Basic Training by Gene Gartman; Special Ops Fitness Training by Mark De Lisle; or To Be A U.S. Army Ranger, by Russ Bryant.

Finally, for an inspiring true story for college-bound students whose graduation is still a year or two in the future, try:

***Confessions of a Scholarship Winner: The Secrets that Helped Me Win $500,000 in Free Money for College; How You Can, Too*, by Kristina Ellis.** Raised by a single mother, Kristina appeared to have everything stacked against her -- years of living below the poverty level, imperfect grades and sub-par SAT scores. Yet Kristina discovered the secrets to effectively presenting herself as a unique and desirable scholarship candidate. And she's sharing her secrets for scholarship success with students (and their parents) so that they too can obtain money for college.

These books are all available to borrow at Carlsbad Public Library. ◆

Next Chapter

By Alexis Ramirez

May is a month packed full of important dates. Mother's Day, the end of school, and for many students this marks an even more important event in their lives graduation. Whether this graduation is from preschool, high school, or even college it is important day for all involved.

Graduation is the accumulation of hard work, dedication, and excitement for the next chapter in life. Sometimes there is an element of the unknown. What will the next step be?

The library can help you with this next step in your journey. We offer resources, information, and programs for all ages. Do you need a break from all your hard work? We have books, movies, and music to help you enjoy your break and hard work.

Do you need to apply for college? Have you taken the ACT or SAT? Stop by we have resources to help you choose the college of your dreams. We also have pretest and study guides for the test to ensure you pass them on your first try.

Do you want to start a business? We have books and local resources that will help you start the process.

If we can't help you find what you are looking for we know who can. Make sure to stop by or visit us online for your next chapter. ◆

Summer Reading 2023

STARTS JUNE 2 @ 6PM

CARLSBAD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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