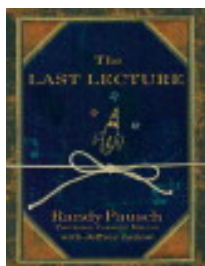


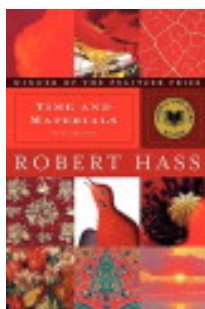
Adult Content

128.5 P334 Pausch, Randy. *The Last Lecture*. 2008.



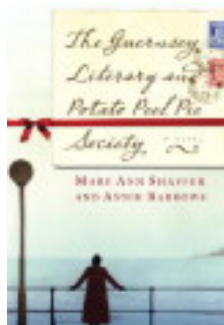
Many professors are asked to give a “last lecture” before their retirement or move to emeritus status, but 46 year-old Randy Pausch was really just starting his academic career at Carnegie Mellon when he decided to present his final thoughts on learning, life, happiness, marriage, and other vital issues of daily living to 400 students and the world via YouTube. Professor Pausch had been diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer and wanted to leave a legacy of advice for his wife and three children. He succeeded admirably by showing and telling them how it is possible to live in the present. This work is not about dying. It’s filled with wonderful tips about how to live your life, enable your dreams, and avoid many of life’s pitfalls along the way.

811.54 H353t Hass, Robert. *Time and Materials*. 2007.



In this long-awaited volume, his first in ten years, former U.S. poet laureate Hass asks readers to consider what we have to pay for living a life in a culture that not only encompasses war and atrocities but also profound love and the tenacity for survival. Time and materials: the price to get something done, to get something fixed, something that we may have “broken.” In “State of the Planet,” a long poem written in a series of vignettes, he proposes that what might have been done to the planet “was something we’ve done quite accidentally.” No matter. There is a price to pay. In poems that are sometimes elegiac, prophetic, and wise, he asks readers to consider these costs. His style is varied from short, almost haiku-like couplets to long narrative riffs, conversations (so Whitman-like) with the past, present, and future. This is the first selection of the reconstituted Faculty Poetry Circle. Join us, if you have time, on Nov. 11 at 12:30 pm in the David Dining Room.

F S525 Shaffer, Mary Ann and Barrows, Annie. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. 2008.



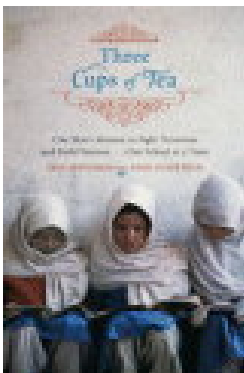
If you’ve been waiting for a read-alike to *84, Charing Cross Road* (which we also have), you’ll love this short, epistolary novel set in post WWII. Winding up her book tour promoting her collection of lighthearted wartime newspaper columns, Juliet Ashton casts about for a more serious project. Opportunity comes in the form of a letter she receives from Mr. Dawsey Adams, who happens to possess a book that Julia once owned. Adams is a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. No ordinary book club. Rather, it was formed as a ruse and became a way for people to get together without raising the suspicions of Guernsey’s Nazi occupiers. Written by an aunt-and-niece team it has loads of charm, especially while Juliet’s is corresponding with various society members. Although the Germans were their usual ratty selves, this work still reads like a literary soufflé for the most part, and your curiosity about the German occupation of the British Channel Islands will definitely be piqued. Want more? Request “Islands at War” (BBC Masterpiece Theatre’s) production from Netflix to see how Hitler tried “to wipe his boots on the doormat of England”.

006.312 T162 Tancer, Bill. Click: What Millions of People are Doing Online and Why It Matters. 2008.



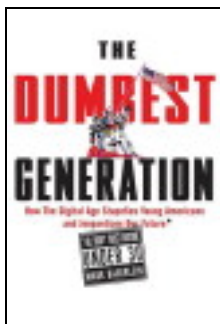
Tancer, a search-engine data miner, takes a look at our culture by evaluating the millions of search queries on the Internet. He crunches the numbers to quantify our desires, our fears, our quest for knowledge, and our aspirations. From porn to prom dresses to politics, the content of our search queries reveals much about our private thoughts that we would not reveal to loved ones, friends, or a stranger taking a survey. His lists include the top fear of searches; fear of intimacy and fear of rejection were ranked high, while the fear of public speaking, usually sited as number one, came in at number nine. How to tie a tie just beat out how to have sex in the how-to category, with how to levitate clocking in at number six! For businesses, searches can reveal surprising information that dispels assumptions about customer behavior, such as the seasonality of clothing purchases. Tancer brings humor, clarity, and insight to the trends that are revealed by the ways we seek out and consume information on the Internet.

371.8 Mor Mortenson, Greg. Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations – One School at a Time. 2008.



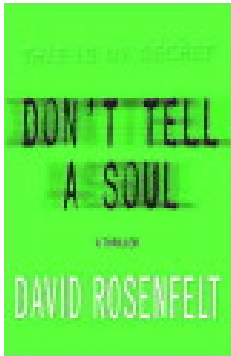
Greg Mortenson has to overcome a host of obstacles, one of them being his organizational skills. After overcoming incredible cultural, financial, and logistical odds, he succeeds in building schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia. In 1993 he was an American mountain-climbing bum wandering emaciated and lost through Pakistan's Karakoram Mountains. After he was taken in and nursed back to health by the people of a Pakistani village, he promised to return one day and build them a school. From that rash, earnest promise grew one of the most incredible humanitarian campaigns of our time--Mortenson's one-man mission to counteract extremism by building schools, especially for girls, throughout the breeding ground of the Taliban. In a region where Americans are often feared and hated, he has survived kidnapping, fatwas issued by enraged mullahs, death threats, and wrenching separations from his wife and children. But his success speaks for itself--at last count, his Central Asia Institute had built fifty-five schools.

302.231 B386 Bauerlein, Mark. The Dumbest Generation How the Digital Age Stupefies Young America and Jeopardizes Our Future. 2008.



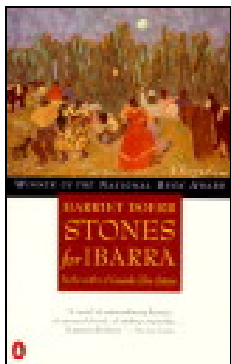
This thoughtful, well-written book decries the sorry state of literacy in this country and its myriad implications. Bauerlein (English, Emory Univ.), former Director of Research and Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts, is no stranger to the evidence of the decline of reading in America and its cultural consequences in our society. He focuses on the "new attitude", this brazen disregard of "books and reading" among young people. Filled with reports from government agencies, foundations, survey firms, and scholarly institutions, Bauerlein claims that most young people do not read literature, work reliably, cannot explain basic scientific methods or recount recent facts about American History. What they do excel at is – each other. This book is not intergenerational grouching. It is a realistic look at the young American mind.

F R813 Rosenfelt, David. *Don't Tell a Soul*. 2008.



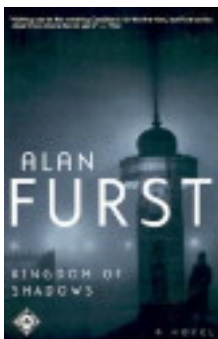
Rosenfelt is the author of six Andy Carpenter mysteries, including *Play Dead* and *Dead Center*. In this riveting thriller Tim Wallace is unjustly suspected of killing his wife in a boating accident. Co-owner of a construction company, Tim is shadowed by Jonathon Novack, a modern day Inspector Javert who knows in his gut he's chasing a killer. Then, in a bar one New Year's Eve, Tim encounters a drunk who confesses to having murdered a woman three months earlier. When her death is linked to his wife's, the first of many surprises to come, Tim goes on the run, pursued by Detective Novack and the FBI. As complications mount (even the president's life will be at risk), Tim must unravel a horrifying plot featuring him as the mastermind of an unprecedented terrorist attack. Compelling twists and turns, a lightning-fast pace, and breathtaking suspense make this a harrowing ride equal to James Patterson's or Harlan Coben's best.

F D652 Doerr, Harriet. *Stones for Ibarra*. 1983.



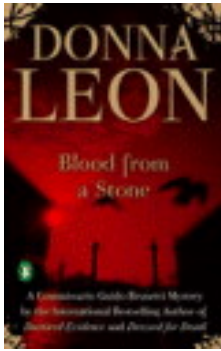
I picked up this book while on vacation in California. My definition of a classic is a book that's still being published after thirty years and twenty-five years for this one is pretty close. There's something Catheresque (*Death Comes for the Archbishop*) about it. It's the 1960's and Richard and Sara Everton have mortgaged their U.S. house to reopen his grandfather's old copper mine in the remote Mexican village of Ibarra. Once they settle in anthropology happens in reverse. There's always someone at their window marveling at the Americans. When Sara plants cactus as part of a new landscape, villagers immediately assume that she means to make Mescal and offer to help. Throughout these endearing encounters, one discovers that Richard has been diagnosed with leukemia and has only six years to live. He decides to conceal his illness "for with 140 men in his employ, his fever is the barometer of their prosperity". Read this one not for its impending tragedy but for the priceless interactions with the villagers of Ibarra with the Evertons. (Winner of the 1983 American Book Award, now the National Book Award).

PB FUR Furst, Alan. *Kingdom of Shadows*. 2001.



If you like your history somewhat sugar-coated, why not indulge in a little historical espionage. And there is no one better at it than Alan Furst, a former Fulbright Teaching Fellow who specializes in Eastern European history between 1938 and 1941. His main character is Nick Morath, a Hungarian aristocrat émigré, who is living a life of easy indolence in prewar Paris. The only disturbance to his round of dinner parties and late-night romantic assignations is the occasional secret mission to Hungary at the behest of his diplomat uncle. Morath treats these forays more as familial obligation than as patriotic duty, but as Hitler's march across Europe continues, he finds himself slipping further into the shadow world of secret agents and barely escapes with his life. Try *Night Soldiers* if you like this one.

PB LEO Leon, Donna. *Blood from a Stone*. 2005.



I think that I read Donna Leon just to experience vicariously the totally non-tourist side of Venice and the gastronomical delights of his *squisito* lunches and dinners. The appeal of Commissario Guido Brunetti, the hero of Donna Leon's long-running Venetian crime series, comes not from his shrewdness, though he is plenty shrewd, nor from his quick wit. It comes, instead, from his role as an everyman. He is trapped in an impenetrable bureaucracy; his bosses are either foolish or corrupt; he lacks the power to catch the bad guys or to bring about justice. He is a cop, but his workaday world feels much like yours and mine. So it is here, as he attempts to investigate the peculiar murder of an illegal immigrant, a *vu cumbra*. The victim, a Senegalese street vendor, is shot, assassination style, as he peddles fake handbags to tourists. The murder brings out the latent racism of the locals, and as Brunetti attempts to come to terms with his own feelings about the immigrants, he realizes that the crime is only the tip of an iceberg that he will never be allowed to explore. He perseveres, however, and his semi-justice for the victim is enough for his readers.

DVDs

DV 813 S253 *Persepolis*



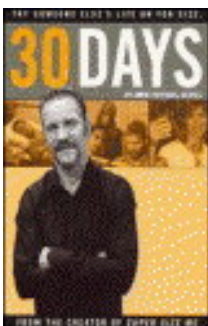
This fascinating digital video is an enthralling, animated feature about a spirited young Iranian woman who spends her life trying to deal with the consequences of her nation's history. Based on an autobiographical comic book by Marjane Satrapi, it shows how her enthusiasm for life is slowly dampened by religious extremists. Marjane grieves over the imprisonment and execution of her beloved uncle, then grudgingly adapts to the ever tightening rules about dress, social mores, education for women and expectations about marriage and divorce. The emotional content is so strong that you will quickly forget that this film is a cartoon.

DV 791.43 P881 *Powaqqatsi* and *Koyaanisqatsi*



Similar to the series *Planet Earth*, these experimental documentaries use slow motion, time-lapse, and super imposition camera techniques to dramatize the effects of the so-called First world on the Third: displacement, pollution and alienation. They also depict what the world has lost – cooperative living, a sense of joy in labor, and religious values. Both titles are derived from the Hopi compound nouns which translate to “life out of balance”. They are visually breath-taking and embrace the world with a sense of renewal rather than doom.

DV 791.43 Sup *Thirty Days*



Brought to you by the Morgan Spurlock who “Super Sized” himself by eating mass quantities of fast food in thirty days, these two DVs show thirty days in the lives of a West Virginia Christian man living with a Muslim family in Dearborn, Michigan, a straight dude from Michigan moving in with a gay guy in San Francisco's Castro district, Mr. Spurlock's and his fiancée's attempts to survive on minimum wage jobs, the negative aspects of anti-aging drugs on a thirty-ish businessman and an Arizonan consuming too much alcohol and trying to drive a car. Not all of these short films have happy endings, but they do offer lessons in tolerance, empathy, and understanding.

