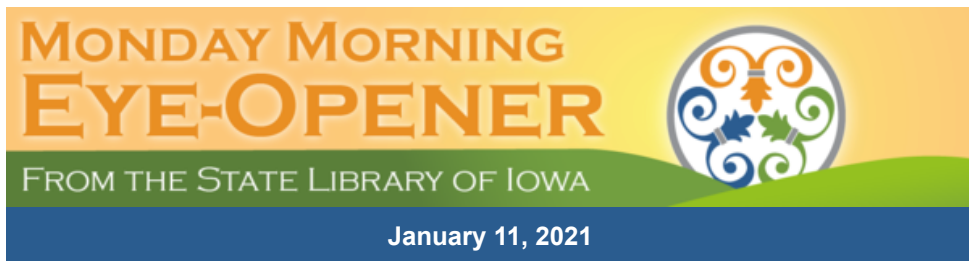
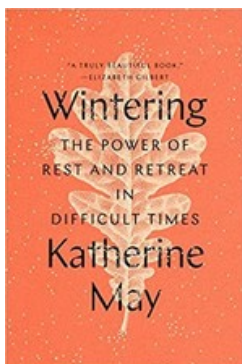


Monday Morning Eye-Opener January 11, 2021

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Next Big Ideas Book Discussion



[Wintering: The Power of Rest & Retreat in Difficult Times](#)

With this new calendar year comes a new slate of books to share in **Big Ideas Book Discussions**. The first discussion in the 2021 series happens on **February 19th** (9:30-11:00AM) when we take up the title [Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times](#) (c2020) by Katherine May. In the heart of winter, and following an incredibly challenging year, [Wintering](#) is decidedly a “comfort” read, a book that NPR describes as “contemplative, hopeful, and consoling.”

A Booklist starred review said this: “In [Wintering](#), Katherine May offers much-needed solace and comfort and a reminder that seasons eventually turn.” From Amazon: “...shot through with lessons from literature, mythology, and the natural world, May’s story offers instruction on the transformative power of rest and retreat. Illumination emerges from many sources: solstice celebrations, C.S. Lewis and Sylvia Plath, swimming in icy waters and sailing arctic seas. May models an active acceptance of sadness, finds nourishment in deep retreat, and joy in the hushed beauty of winter...”

In **Big Ideas Book Discussions**, State Library staff facilitate discussions using books outside of library management, but with plenty of application to library management. Choosing books on leadership, civic engagement, presentation skills, etc. we connect those ideas with public library service. In addition to a great assortment of non-fiction titles, there are other spin-off benefits of **Big Ideas**:

- titles help with collection development for participating librarians

- titles are good choices for local book discussion groups
- this program provides the design and resources to facilitate these books in local discussions

We encourage participants to purchase books used in the **Big Ideas** series for your own collections. And join us for the next good read: [Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times](#)

Register Today :-)

Innovative Libraries Online Conference



"Libraries Are For Everyone"
January 21, 2021

Registration is open for the State Library's annual **ILOC conference**, scheduled for **January 21, 2021**. **ILOC** stands for **Innovative Libraries**


Online Conference, an annual all-day virtual event. 2021 marks our 14th **ILOC**—proving we were doing online gigs before they were cool 😊

The 2021 theme is ***"Libraries are for Everyone! Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Action in Iowa's Libraries."*** As the United States continues to reconcile racial injustice and other types of inequality, libraries also work to ensure that their spaces, programs, and services are inclusive for all patrons and staff. This year, **ILOC** will give librarians practical ideas about how to bring diverse voices to the table and foster a welcoming place for everyone. From building balanced collections on opposing viewpoints to planning more diverse programming, this year **ILOC** includes sessions that speak to a theme of equity and inclusion.

It's a full day, with keynote speakers in the morning, over the noon hour, and again in the evening with a program specifically for library boards. Plus plenty of breakout sessions throughout the day, here are just a few topics:

- Bite-sized Community Book Discussions
- Bridging Family Literacy Through Bilingual Storytime Partners
- Bringing Black Arts to the Public Library
- Understanding and Helping Youth in Foster Care

Join as many sessions as you can throughout the day to learn how you can make your library a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable place for all. Turn to the **ILOC** webpage for the full day's finalized schedule and for registration.



All Iowa Reads Author-Talk Webinar



All Three Authors Speaking on January 14th

In November, Iowa Public Television announced the three books chosen as the **All Iowa Reads** selections for 2021. To launch the **All Iowa Reads** program for this year, the State Library is sponsoring a webinar featuring all three authors discussing their books and answering your questions.

Make plans to join this webinar this **Thursday January 14th** (10:00AM-12:00PM) You'll hear from all three authors: Nickolas Butler, Randy Ribay, and Remy Lai. The State Library has multiple copies of all three **AIR** titles to lend for local book discussions; contact your District office to reserve copies. Here's a summary of each book in the **All Iowa Reads** line-up this year:

[Little Faith](#) by Nickolas Butler

From Good Reads *"In this moving new novel from celebrated author Nickolas Butler, a Wisconsin family grapples with the power and limitations of faith when one of their own falls under the influence of a radical church... Set over the course of one year and beautifully evoking the change of seasons, Little Faith is a powerful and deeply affecting intergenerational novel about family and community, the ways in which belief is both formed and shaken, and the lengths we go to protect our own."*

[Patron Saints of Nothing](#) by Randy Ribay

From Amazon: *"a powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder. [when Jay Requero] discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. As gripping as it is lyrical, Patron Saints of Nothing is a page-turning portrayal of the struggle to reconcile faith, family, and immigrant identity..."*

[Pie in the Sky](#) by Remy Lai

Suggested ages 8-12. Chosen by *Parents Magazine* and NPR as the Best Kids Book of the Year in 2019, here's more from Amazon *"...When Jingwen moves to a new country, he feels like he's landed on Mars. School is torture, making friends is impossible since he doesn't speak English, and he's often stuck looking after his (extremely irritating) little*

brother Yanghao. To distract himself from the loneliness, Jingwen daydreams about making all the cakes on the menu of Pie in the Sky, the bakery his father had planned to open before he unexpectedly passed away. The only problem is his mother has laid down one major rule: the brothers are not to use the oven while she's at work. As Jingwen and Yanghao bake elaborate cakes, they'll have to cook up elaborate excuses to keep the cake making a secret from Mama..."

Make plans to use all three of the **All Iowa Reads** books @ your library this year. And make plans to attend the **January 14th Author-Talk!**

[Register Today !](#)

This Week ... Plus Holiday Next Monday



Tuesday January 12 = Winning at Winter: Outdoor Programming IS Possible! (1:30-2:30PM) **Description:** As COVID continues, winter doldrums settle in and virtual burnout happens among library staff and patrons. Maybe it's time to rethink your library programming--to think not just "outside the box," but to think OUTSIDE! This interactive webinar will help recharge your programming by getting you and your patrons moving outside this winter. With plenty of good, practical ideas, including examples from Iowa libraries, you're sure to leave this webinar with plenty of programming ideas to carry you through to spring.

[Register Inside IALearns](#)

Wednesday January 13 (2:00-3:00PM) Marie Harms continues instructional sessions on using the new Concrete5 PLOW websites.

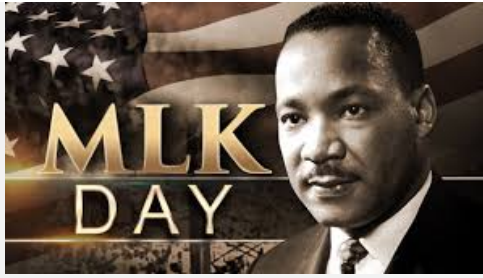
[Register Inside IALearns](#)

Holiday Note

Next **Monday January 18th** is **Martin Luther King Day** and a state holiday.

Correspondingly, State Library offices will be closed next Monday.

The next issue of **Monday Morning Eye-Opener** will be on January 25th



Monday Morning Eye-Opener

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