

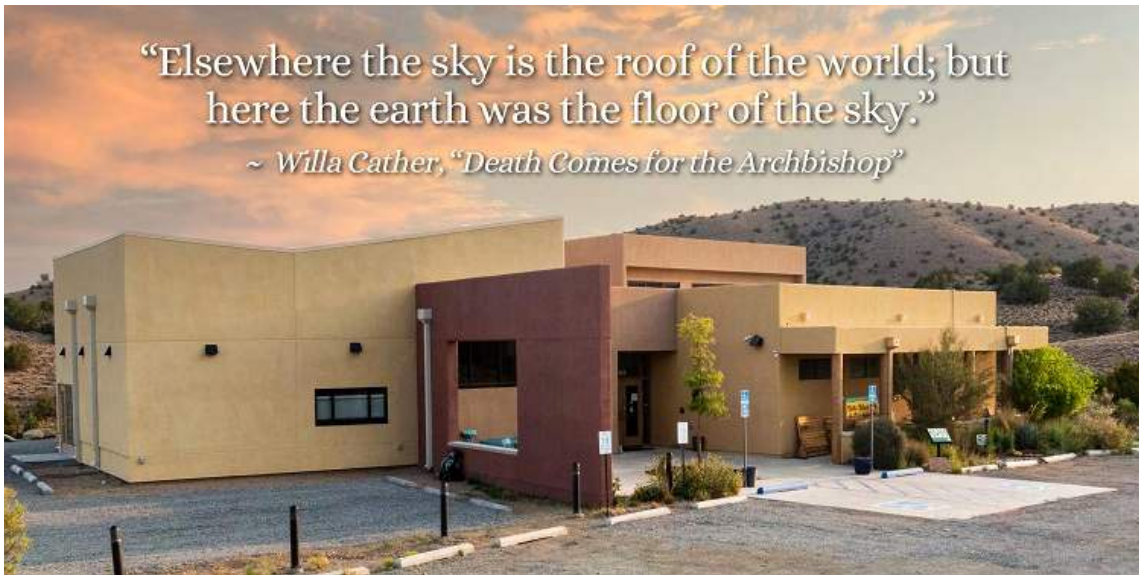
PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY



NEWSLETTER JULY/AUG 2026

“Elsewhere the sky is the roof of the world; but
here the earth was the floor of the sky.”

~ Willa Cather, *“Death Comes for the Archbishop”*



PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOURS

SUN: 1 - 4

TUES: 10 - 7

WED/THURS/SAT: 10 - 5

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **JULY 25 (2 PM):** *How to Write Books that Change the World* with Nina Amir
- **AUG 8 (2 PM):** *The Bright Edges of the World: Willa Cather and Her Archbishop* with Garrett Peck
- **AUG 15 (6-8 PM):** Placitas Community Library (PCL) Concert & Fundraiser
- **AUG 22 (2 PM):** *Chaco Canyon: Emergence of Puebloan Culture, Then and Now* with Jon Ghahate

ARTISTS' RECEPTION & EXHIBITIONS

- **JULY 24 (5-7 PM):** Artists' Reception: Elements (exhibit runs July 11 - Aug 13)
- **AUG 15 - SEPT 20:** Placitas Garden Tour Artist Exhibition

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Our annual Summer Reading Program, "UNEARTH A STORY," continues. All dates are on Sundays. *Times may vary and programs begin promptly as scheduled.*

- **JULY 12 (1:30 PM):** Join Laura McCann, a New Mexico wildlife rehabilitator and teacher, along with 3 raptors native to NM, a hawk, an owl, and a turkey vulture
- **JULY 19 (1 PM):** Artist Karen Shatar will help children create a mosaic that tells their story
- **JULY 26 (1 PM):** Explora educators will bring several science activities and experiments

RECURRING EVENTS

- **La Parranda: Club de Español** (Every Wed at 10 AM): Enjoy the opportunity to experience español with Diane Herrera Shepard and other guests. The Club is open to anyone who wants to learn, use, practice, or converse in Spanish.
- **Drumming Circle** (1st Sun of each month at 4 PM): Bring your own drum or use one of ours!

Library
BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS

Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Gracie Lee Community Room. The public is invited and welcome to attend. Agendas are posted [here](#) and at the library.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:
THURS, JULY 16, 6:00 PM
THURS, AUG 20, 6:00 PM



NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY BOARD

By Dennis Bumgarner, PCL Board Chair

As frequent patrons and attendees of our library likely already know, water at PCL has been an issue. Our well system is old and has been compromised by age – something many of us understand – as well as drought. It is difficult to maintain sufficient water reserves to meet the needs of our patrons, especially when we have well-attended events. At those times, toilets don't flush well, if at all.

The reasons for this circumstance are numerous and complicated and beyond the scope of this brief note to adequately explain. So, also, are the potential remediations. Please know that this matter is receiving attention from the Board, and I have been in continual conversation with staff from Sandoval County as a solution is sought.

At the June Board meeting, we received an exceedingly informative presentation from Dawn Foster and Allen Saville of Placitas Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Alliance regarding fire mitigation for our building. The presentation included a number of preventative measures that will be taken to reduce the chance of fire damaging or destroying our building.

Kate Miller's Sustainability Committee is working to develop an educational program specifically designed for women, the Financial Literacy Series. The first event will be a complimentary dinner to be held at Blades Bistro on August 17. This will be followed by a series of monthly presentations geared toward the unique financial challenges faced by women. The workshop will be facilitated by Kelley Tredwin of Altalune Wealth Advisors. For information, contact Kate at (505) 259-1522.

¡BIENVENIDOS!

LA PARRANDA
Club de Español

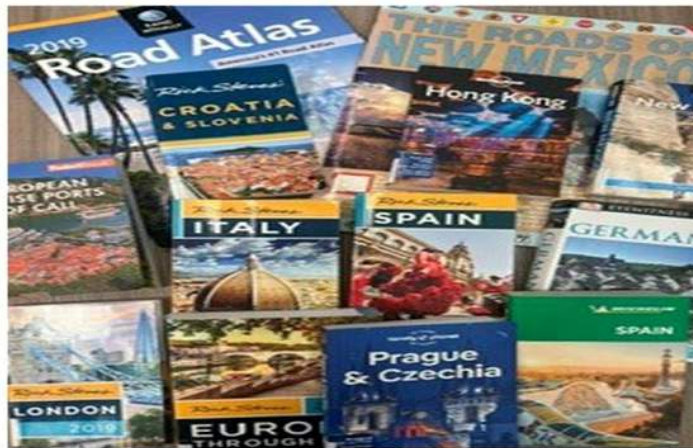
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Every Wednesday
10 AM - Noon



Lynne's Letters

MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR



Are you traveling this summer?

**We have over 150 travel books at
the Placitas Community Library**



Come check out one before your next trip!!!

*Happy traveling,
Lynne*

PLACITAS *Community* LIBRARY

INVITES YOU TO A
**CONCERT &
FUNDRAISER**

SAT | AUG 15 | 6-8 PM

PCL at 453 HWY 165
\$20 DONATION
REFRESHMENTS SERVED

FEATURING SINGER-SONGWRITERS:

JAMES
BELL



DENNIS
BUMGARNER



ANNA
RUDOLPH



DRUMMING CIRCLE

JOIN US!

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4 PM

Bring your own drum or use one of the many we have!

**Children are welcomed but parents should be aware this is an adult, meditation-like experience*

CHANGE THE WORLD ONE BOOK AT A TIME
Make a Positive and Meaningful Difference with Your Words
NINA AMIR

HOW TO WRITE BOOKS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD
with Nina Amir, author of *Change the World One Book at a Time: Make a Positive and Meaningful Difference with Your Words*

JULY 25 | 2 PM

How to Write Books that Change the World with Nina Amir
July 25 (2 PM)

PCL invites you to join Nina Amir, author of *Change the World One Book at a Time: Make a Positive and Meaningful Difference with Your Words*, as she presents, “How to Write Books that Change the World.” This presentation will be held July 25 at 2 PM.

There has never been a better time to write for change; the causes from which to choose are varied and many. But writing a book that inspires and motivates readers to action takes more than a good idea and writing skill. Join author and Placitas resident Nina Amir to discover how to use a book to further your cause, mission, movement, or purpose.

Novels, memoirs, and non-fiction books can all inspire change. And such books cover a wide range of topics, religion, spirituality, personal development, politics, environmentalism, activism, world, affairs, economics, and more. Participants will learn the three fundamental steps they must take to make a positive and meaningful difference with their words and their book. Plus, Nina will leave ample time for questions about writing and writing for change, traditional and self publishing, and becoming an author.

Nina Amir, the Inspiration to Creation Coach, is an Amazon best-selling hybrid author. She supports writers on the journey to successful authorship as an author coach,

Join Nina Amir on July 25 at 2 PM for the opportunity to learn to write to change your world.



The Bright Edges of the World: Willa Cather and Her Archbishop with Garrett Peck
August 8 (2 PM)

Author Garrett Peck will discuss his latest book, *The Bright Edges of the World: Willa Cather and Her Archbishop* (University of New Mexico Press) on Saturday, August 8, 2026 at 2 PM.

Peck first visited New Mexico in 1998, and his mother suggested that he read Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. He fell in love with the Land of Enchantment and with Cather's novel, and he moved to Santa Fe in 2021. Peck is an author, independent historian, and tour guide, and hence his book focuses on Cather's travels as he deciphered how she wrote her novel. She visited the Southwest six times between 1912 and 1926, and from those journeys came three novels, the last of which was *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. The novel is beautifully written in Cather's sparse but descriptive language and is surprisingly pro-Catholic at a time when much of the country was prejudiced against Catholicism. The novel's chapters – a series of tableaux of the fictional Archbishop Latour's life – are based on Cather's own research and travels, and the many places she described are real: Acoma Pueblo, Chimayó, Taos, and the Lamy quarry that provided the ochre sandstone for the St. Francis Cathedral in Santa Fe.

A perennial favorite for people who love New Mexico, Cather's novel tells an unusual story of two French priests and best friends serving on the American frontier before the arrival of the railroad. This work of fiction is loosely based on two historical figures, Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy and Bishop Joseph Machebeuf.

Six months before she died in 1947, Cather called *Archbishop* her "best book." *The Atlantic* magazine concurred, including *Archbishop* on its Great American Novels list in 2024. In *The Bright Edges of the World*, Peck deeply mined Cather and her partner Edith Lewis's letters, often written on Fred Harvey company stationery, as he traced their journeys through the Southwest to write one of the twentieth century's greatest novels and Cather's favorite. His book is a history of that "best book," and he uncovered gems such as Cather meeting the German shepherd and Hollywood star Rin-Tin-Tin at the Albuquerque train station in 1926.

Copies of Peck's book will be available for purchase and signing at the event.



Chaco Canyon: Emergence of Puebloan Culture, Then and Now with Jon Ghahate
August 22 (2 PM)

Throughout the Western Hemisphere, specifically what is now referred to as the US Southwest, diverse disciplines of science have uncovered, studied, and theorized over the empirical evidence of humankind. In particular, in New Mexico, recent revelations have contributed to the scientific community's redefining of our understanding of the duration and progression of humankind in the Western Hemisphere. However, even with a tremendous amount of evidence, what is known of the humans who built and resided at what is now referred as Chaco Culture National Historical Park remains an enigma.

Despite the massive 14 impressive Great Houses, expansive 50,000 square mile architectural and agrarian influence, and the known amount of time that Chaco was inhabited, a majority of the scientific community will admit little is known of the people themselves.

Join PCL in welcoming our own scholar of Native American history, Jon Ghahate, Pueblo cultural historian, on Saturday August 22 at 2 PM. Jon is from the Pueblos of Laguna and Zuni, and a member of the Turkey and Badger Clans. As a public speaker, he is recognized for providing more accurate, credible, and respectful histories, legacies, and cultures of the Southwest civilizations, specifically New Mexico's contemporary Pueblo communities.

His diverse professional background includes: a health care practitioner, a public middle school and high school math and science educator, an athletic coach for the public school system, a journalist for a national radio talk program, and a community volunteer for a variety of community conscious organizations. Most recently, Jon served as the Museum Cultural Educator at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM. A Vietnam era veteran, Jon received a number of community, military service related, and professional commendations. He was also a fellow of the Kellogg National Leadership Foundation Program. He is a lifelong resident of New Mexico and his tribal nations and a father to two children. He is currently an educator at Crow Canyon Archeological Center in Colorado and lives in Placitas, NM.

This presentation is for those who have yet to experience Chaco as well as for those who know Chaco Canyon well. It is an opportunity to learn what is now known and more importantly, the connections NM's contemporary Pueblo communities have with the humans who called Chaco 'HOME' 1,300 years ago. We look forward to welcoming Jon Ghahate on Saturday, August 22 at 2 PM.



**COMING SOON! The Newly-Revised PCL Garden Plant Database,
with plant ignitability information!**

The PCL Plant database introduced in Spring 2024, provided basic information on plants in the PCL gardens, namely:

- Common and botanic names
- A photo
- Sun and water needs
- Approximate mature size
- Blossom color/time
- USDA Hardiness zones
- Whether native or not
- Wildlife benefactors
- General comments

The newly-revised database also includes plant ignitability information where available. Soon the database can be found on the PCL website under the “Seeds and Gardens” tab, or accessed using the QR code found in the south-facing building wall of the West End garden. Helpful links to other gardening resources will soon be available on the PCL website, as well.

Happy gardening!

Anyone wishing to join in on the gardening fun, please contact either Dawn Foster or Wayne Gordon, the Co-Chairs of the PCL Landscape Committee.

Dawn Foster: dawnfoster84@comcast.net or (505) 220-1827
Wayne Gordon: wayneigordon@gmail.com or (505) 389-8510



Elements

Exhibit: July 11 - August 13

Reception: Friday, July 24, 5 - 7 PM

Step into a world where the forces that shape our planet come alive through color, form, and texture. *Elements* is an art exhibition celebrating the beauty and power of Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water — the four primal forces that have inspired mythology, science, and artistic expression for centuries. Through a diverse collection of works, artists explore the energy, movement, and wonder of the natural world, inviting viewers to experience these timeless elements in fresh and imaginative ways.

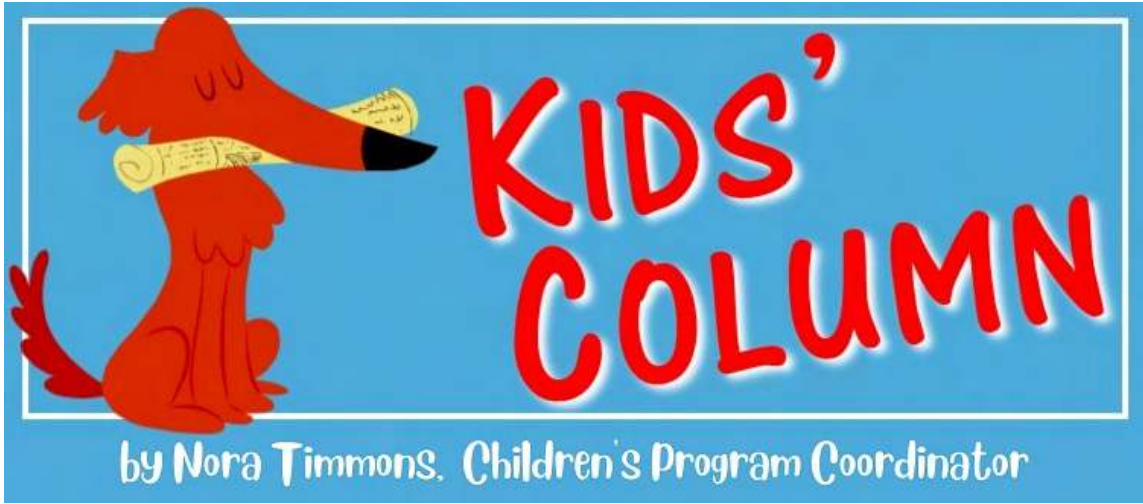


2026 PLACITAS GARDEN TOUR ARTIST EXHIBITION

August 15 — September 20, 2026

Gracie Lee Community Room





The
PLACITAS Community LIBRARY
Children's Committee

INVITES YOU TO
 OUR 2026 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

UNEARTH IN **JULY**
A STORY™

	July 12 1:30	LAURA McCANN	Join Laura, a New Mexico wildlife rehabilitator and teacher, along with 3 raptors native to NM, a hawk, an owl, and a turkey vulture.
	July 19 1:00	KAREN SHATAR	Artist, Karen Shatar, will help children create a mosaic that tells their story.
	July 26 1:00	EXPLORA	Explora educators will bring several science activities and experiments.

PROGRAM NOTE:

After each program, children will be able to select a new book to take home! If they attend *all* of the *JULY* programs, they will receive *THREE* new books for their home library! PCL knows reading is one of the most important summer activities for kids, so we encourage participation in our **READING CHALLENGE**. Each child will have their own reading log where they can record the titles of each book they read or have read to them (includes audiobooks, too!). They must present their reading log at every program and will be given stickers for their log. For a chapter book, each 50 pages receives a sticker.



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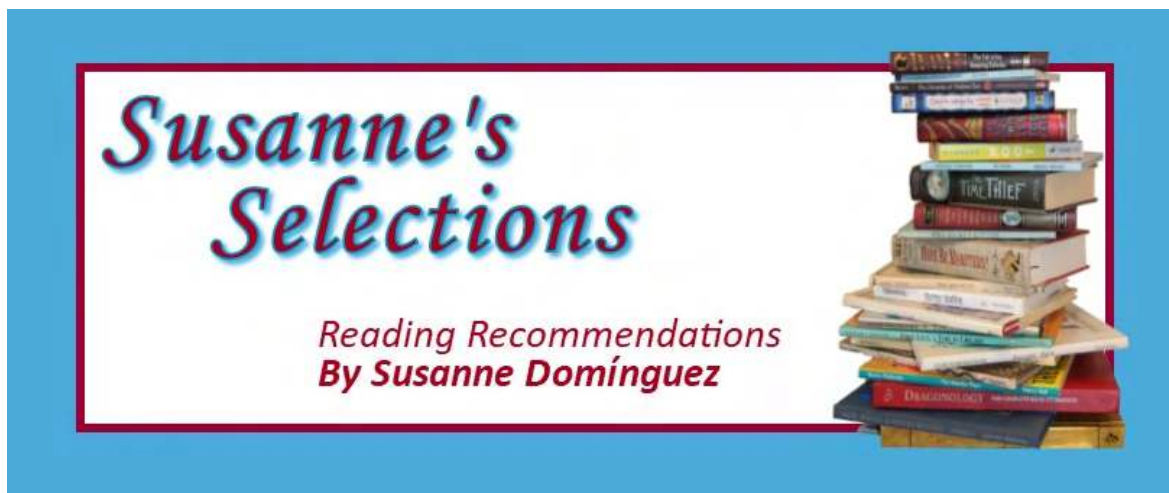
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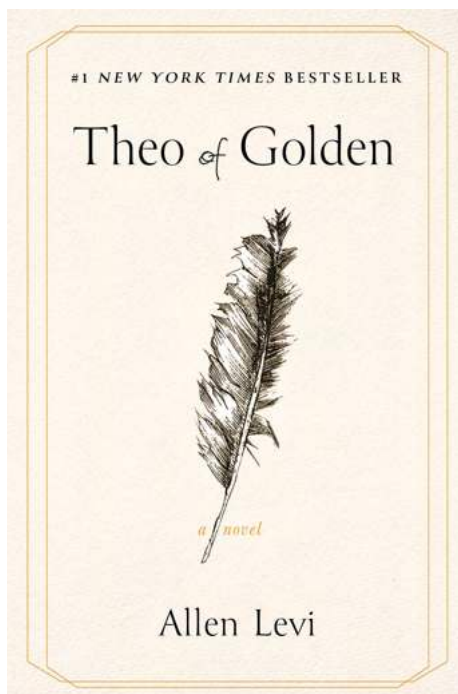
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Available for e-Checkout!

The titles in *Susanne's Selections* have been added to our [Online Catalog](#) (which you can access with your library card).



Theo of Golden

by Allen Levi

Expecting a sweet, simple story, I was both astonished and mesmerized by this remarkable, contemplative debut novel. I loathe spoilers so will attempt to keep the review brief. It's character-driven, and to my mind, it's best to gradually discover the story as it unfolds. Theo, an 86-year-old mysterious, very gracious gentleman, moves from NYC to Golden, Georgia. He visits the local coffee shop, where he observes 92 exquisite pencil drawings, all portraits. Intrigued, he inquires why they have not been sold, since they're all for sale. What ensues is Theo's actions regarding the artwork.

How Theo gently touches the local residents' hearts and lives in meaningful ways is breathtaking. If you wish to read about the importance and celebration in life of generosity, magnanimity, community, recognizing everyone has their own story, and are each unique individuals, this is a book you will appreciate. It slows a bit in the middle but persevere to the surprise ending. It

is definitely worth it. I hope you will be as enraptured as I was. Sadly, some comments I heard consider the novel as naive and /or controversial, since the protagonist is male and Christianity is discussed.

From Levi's website: *Allen grew up in Columbus, Georgia, attended University of Georgia for degrees in English and Law, and worked as an attorney from 1980 to 1990. He left law practice for two years in 1990, moved to Scotland, and, while there, received a degree in Scottish fiction from the University of Edinburgh. He returned home, resumed*

law practice for three years, and finally ventured into vocational music in 1996. Since then, he has worked as a traveling musician, sharing his whimsical, thought-provoking brand of songwriting and storytelling to audiences across the U.S. He has over twenty albums to his credit, as well as hundreds of other unpublished songs.

Belgravia

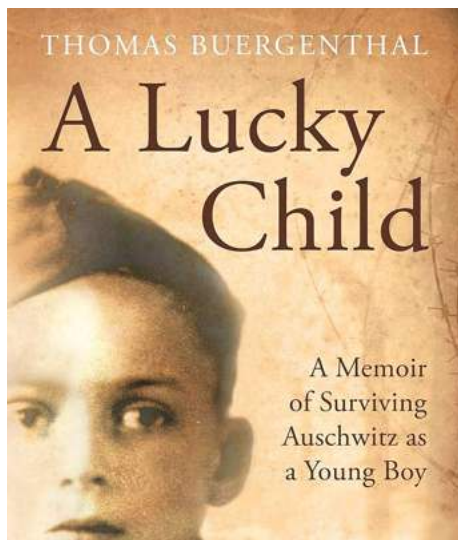
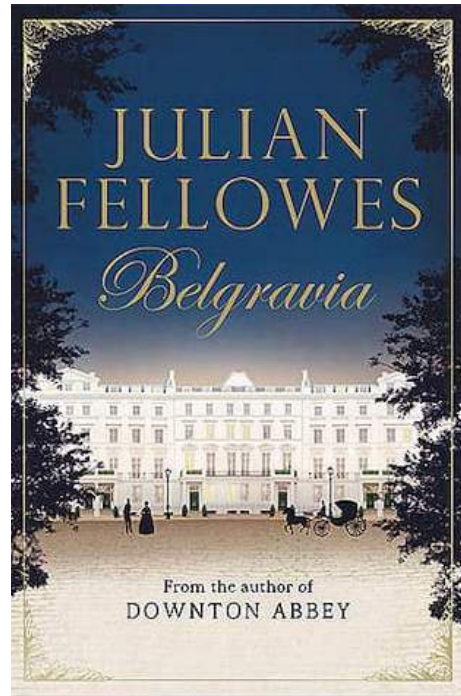
by Julian Fellowes

If you enjoyed the *Downton Abbey* television series, this novel is a must read. Written by Julian Fellowes, the creator of *Downton Abbey*, it's an historical, intriguing story set in the newly-developed ritzy London neighborhood of Belgravia, where the nouveau rich lived, and at present, it's still an exclusive neighborhood.

The story opens in Brussels in 1815, at an opulent ball in full swing on the eve of what will be the Battle of Waterloo. Sophia Trenchard, a humble merchant's daughter, is in love with Edmund Bellasis, an officer from an aristocratic and wealthy family, who plans to join his regiment for battle the next day. Many of the young men present at the ball will die in the fighting.

Sophia's father is the ultimate social climber and hopes to become a member of the upper class in class conscious England. Her mother Anne, is practical, down to earth and is embarrassed by her husband's crude behavior. The narrative "fast forwards" to 25 years later and the Trenchards are now rich, thanks to Mr. Trenchard's determination. He is now a land developer who developed Belgravia. They are not included in "upper class society," however. At that time in Victorian society, social mobility was unheard of, despite how rich someone was!

As you may know, dear readers, I absolutely loathe "spoilers." I rarely know the plots of most books I plan to read. Suffice it to say, the story will be more enjoyable for you to discover the plot as the story unfolds. If you recall the original PBS *Upstairs, Downstairs* television series and the *Downton Abbey* series, *Belgravia* is reminiscent of both. Class conflict, secrets, envy, moral values, and scandal are all part of the narrative, and there's numerous twists in the storyline to keep readers guessing.



A Lucky Child: A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy

by Thomas Buergenthal

A beautifully written and incredibly touching memoir, the author, Thomas Buergenthal, relates how, as a child, he survived the Nazi Holocaust while living in concentration camps, and eventually became an International Court Judge at the Hague.

Thomas' mother claimed throughout her life a famous fortuneteller she consulted before they fled their home, predicted he was "ein Glückskind" (a lucky child). She was absolutely right. For instance, when Thomas and his uncles were



at the Birkenau concentration camp railway (also known as Auschwitz II), selections were underway regarding who would live and who would die. Nine-year-old Thomas told the commander in charge of selections, "Captain, I can work!" He was saved from imminent death and forced to perform hard labor. Most children there were murdered. The author does not

dwell on the horrors of the camps; he simply states what his life was like and describes some of his experiences. Fortunately, many compassionate people took him "under their wing" and protected him. One Norwegian prisoner, after the War, later founded UNICEF. Also, after the end of the War a Polish division from the Soviet army returned him to Poland to look for his mother. Happily, he was reunited with her.

Readers, this isn't a depressing story, although the entire Holocaust was a nightmare. Thomas triumphs despite the devastating hardships and challenges in this extraordinary narrative. It's a profound meditation on living and surviving in the midst of tragedy.

From Wikipedia: *Thomas Buergenthal (11 May 1934 – 29 May 2023) was a Czechoslovak-born American international lawyer, scholar, law school dean, and judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). He resigned his ICJ post as of 6 September 2010[1] and returned to his position at The George Washington University Law School[2] where he was the Lobingier Professor Emeritus of Comparative Law and Jurisprudence.[3]*

NOTE: My father served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was present when Birkenau concentration camp was liberated in 1945 and in 1944, he also participated in D Day.

HOURS		FIND US AT	
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Una Placita Para Todos

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Placitas Community Library

PO Box 445

Placitas, NM 87043

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