

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter



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Monday-Friday **Saturday**
10am-7pm 12pm-4pm

AGAIN, AGAIN!

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

If you are a parent, you've probably encountered this scenario before: it's time to enjoy some reading time with your small child, but they have requested the same book a dozen times in a row. Maybe you sigh. Maybe you try to redirect them to a different book. Or maybe you wonder why children love to explore the same books over and over again.

Children like repeating their reading materials for a variety of reasons. Children learn through repetition and their brains absorb language patterns by hearing the same stories retold. In a 2011 study of children's learning habits, researchers in England discovered that when children were read the same book multiple times, they remembered and recalled the meaning of new words better than children who read different books all containing the same word. Sixteen three-year-olds were tested during the study and were separated into the same story group or a different story group. The researchers developed nine picture books for use in the study. Throughout each story, two unique objects were named four times without being a major point of the plot. For example: an inverted slingshot used like a dough mixer was called a "sprock" and a spinning wheel used as a rolling pin was called a "tannin." Each illustrated book was deemed age-appropriate and ended with a simple moral such as sharing is fun, don't run away from your family at the grocery, or put away your toys.

In the conclusion of the study, researchers noted that the children who repeated the same books were far more successful in retaining the new vocabulary than their peers in the different study group.

Children may also enjoy repeating books to build confidence. It can be exciting for your child to learn a book so well that he or she knows what's coming next and can anticipate or even chime in with the words, similar to the way adults enjoy hearing a favorite song and singing along.

Ultimately, children are creatures of routine. They like the same red cup for lunch and the same weekly trip to the park or library. Kids discover patterns to find out how the world works. They find security in repetition and like the ability, in some small way, to "predict" what will happen next. Reading the same book is soothing for your child which is why it is a great activity to incorporate into a bedtime routine or a stressful situation such as the morning drop-off at school.

But this doesn't mean you should be stuck reading the same few books. For example, you can set up an agreement to read two books your child picks and one that you choose. With this method, you can put a book into the rotation that you enjoy reading and thus avoid reading on "autopilot". The more fun you have reading with your children, the more likely they are to enjoy it. Who knows, maybe the books you select will become an all-time favorite for your child!



FLEXIBLE DISPLAY

BY JALPA SHAH, IT COORDINATOR

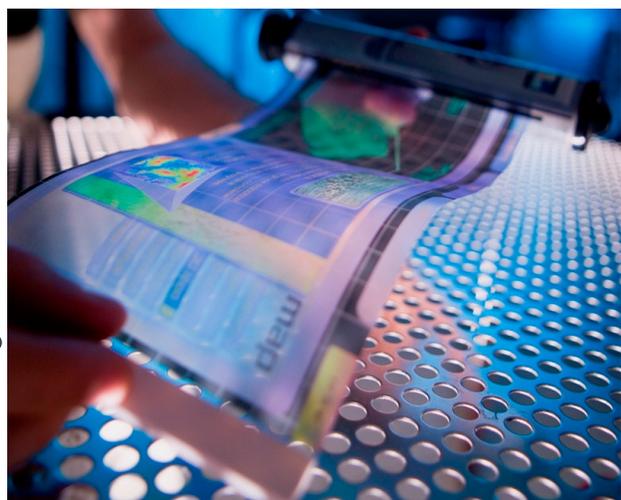
A Flexible display is an electronic visual display which is flexible in nature; as opposed to the more prevalent traditional flat screen displays used in most electronics devices. Research and development into flexible OLED displays largely began in the late 2000s with the main intentions of implementing this technology in mobile devices. However, this technology has recently made an appearance, to a moderate extent, in consumer television displays as well.

When we talk about flexible OLEDs (organic light emitting diode), it's important to understand what that means exactly. A flexible OLED is based on a flexible substrate which can be either plastic, metal or flexible glass. The plastic and metal panels will be light, thin and very durable - in fact, they will be virtually shatter-proof. A flexible OLED has several advantages especially in mobile devices - the displays are lighter, thinner and more durable compared to glass-based displays.

Second generation flexible OLED devices may indeed be flexible to the final user. Finally, when the technology is ready, we may see OLED panels that you can fold, bend or stretch. This may create all sorts of exciting designs that will enable large displays to be placed in a mobile device and only be opened when required.

More recently, organic light emitting diode (OLED) displays have gained popularity because of simplified construction, superior image quality, and flexibility. OLED displays don't require a backlight, so these can be made thinner and molded to specific forms, like the curved display

One of the central questions around bendable displays is, why? Why have a phone or tablet that can be flexed at all? The biggest benefit of a bendable display is durability. Since the screen can be flexed and manipulated, it can also absorb impact better than the solid glass structures we currently have.



SHARING FAMILY HISTORY

BY RICHARD LANE, REFERENCE

We are taught from early childhood that sharing is a virtue. We gained approval by sharing our toys, our candy and our time. Our elders praised our good behavior and chided us for our selfishness. We were encouraged to share. Sharing, after all, is a virtue and good parents want their little ones to grow into responsible adults. Sharing is believed to create socially cohesive bonds within family groups and communities. By all accounts, sharing is a good thing.

True enough, but there's a more practical side to sharing. Sharing is reciprocal. We gain as well as give. Family history is a prime example of how sharing can create a productive synergy (a combined effect greater than the sum of separate effects). Simply said, sharing our family history creates growth of information and knowledge and opens avenues to further research.

Many family historians reach out to parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins in hope of finding a new bit of data or a source of information. There may be pitfalls along the way. Shared family histories have a way of opening up wounds. We needn't reopen controversies and create divisions within the family. Experienced family historians tell us to take it easy and not be in a rush. Avoid demands and engage in open-ended dialogues which allow others to be comfortable with the stories they tell. Be patient. Don't overwhelm relatives with questions only a medieval inquisitor would ask. Be diplomatic and tactful.

The good news is sharing can add to our collective knowledge. Family history can be an excellent tool to bond the family together. Sharing can be a learning experience to be shared across generations. Shared family histories build a sense of belonging and can strengthen our characters. There's one more issue to address about the sharing of family history. Family history is real history. It requires discipline and an adherence to a methodology. Not all family historians are scrupulous and rigorous as they present their evidence. Errors and omissions and outright fabrications are the bane of family history. The late President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, offered sage advice. While negotiating crucial international agreements he was quoted as saying, "Trust, but verify." Trust, but verify should be a cornerstone of our research.



PLAY TEXAS 42

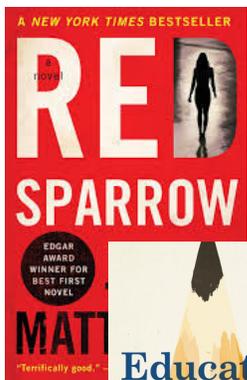
BY MARY KOKOT, ADULT COORDINATOR

Texas 42 is an enormously popular dominoes game similar in style to bridge and spades. It was invented about 120 years ago when two young boys were caught playing cards: a forbidden pastime which was put to a fiery end when the disapproving parents burned the offending deck. The determined and resourceful boys, William Thomas and Walter Earl, substituted dominoes for the cards (dominoes somehow considered sin-free) and invented a new game. They called it "42" and the rest is history.

Check out the official website www.n42pa.org which has a complete listing of Texas 42 tournaments around the state. Or come to the Huntsville Public Library every Monday at 1 p.m. to play with other Texas 42 fans. Make new friends while improving your mental health. Studies show playing dominoes can be beneficial for the mind as attention to detail and strategy are essential to play.

Please register in advance at myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for more information. Games will be played weekly if 4 or more players register. This program is for adults 18 years and older.

Number of players: Four
Domino set required: Double-six
Setup: Players split into teams of two, with partners seated across from each other. After the dominoes are shuffled face down, players draw seven tiles each to make up their hand (whoever shuffles picks last).
Objective: To be the first team to score 250 points by bidding and winning tricks or by setting your opponent.



THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERS AT HPL

BY ASHLEY NEWSOME, CATALOGER

Since the beginning of the year, the library has been building up the collection with new books, movies, TV series, and audio books. Taking some tips from the The New York Times Best Sellers list, we have selected a number of their recommendations. Our collection features new suspenseful novels, compelling sequels, and current non-fiction works.

The Great Alone is about a former Vietnam prisoner of war who moves his family to Alaska, where they face tough conditions. This book was written by Kristin Hannah, the author of *The Nightingale*. *The Great Alone* is "Reliably alluring...*The Great Alone* is packed with rapturous descriptions of Alaskan scenery... Hannah remembers and summons an undeveloped wilderness, describing a gloriously pristine region in the days before cruise ships discovered it," says The New York Times Daily Review. *Fifty Fifty* by James Patterson and Candice Fox is about a detective named Harriet Blue who is trying to clear her brother's name and save a small town from being massacred. This collaboration of authors will keep you wanting more as you read page after page. These two books are just a sampling from this list; here are a few others that you may find intriguing.

Red Sparrow by Jason Matthews is also on the list. It tells a riveting story of a Russian intelligence officer trained in the art of seduction who becomes entangled with a young C.I.A. officer. Matthews adds some thrills and a little bit of mystery to both his characters and his book. *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn is about a recluse that may have witnessed a crime in the park just across from her home in Harlem. *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones is part of Oprah's 2018 Book Club selection and is about an innocent man, happily married, who does all the right things to succeed but is nonetheless condemned to a concrete cell. The unfairness of the years stolen from this couple because of someone else's mistake, the great cosmic error that derails this man's life, is the novel's slow burn.

There are two non-fiction books on the Bestseller list as well, *Educated* and *Fire and Fury*. *Educated* by Tara Westover is a memoir. Although she lacks a proper primary or secondary education, Westover overcomes these obstacles and manages to leave home and enroll in a university. *Fire and Fury* by Michael Wolff is about a journalist's eyewitness account of Trump's first year in the White House. These nonfiction works couldn't be more different. One offers some insight into a person's life struggles and achievements and the other tells of President Trump's first year in office. Each of these books can be found in the new book section.



Citizenship Preparation Course
Thursdays, April 5 - May 3, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop
Mondays starting April 23, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Searching FamilySearch.Org Workshop
April 6 and 20, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Midday Movie Matinee
Featuring An American in Paris
April 6, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Stephen King Online Book Club
Featuring Dr. Sleep

Play Texas 42
Mondays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Pilates for Everyone
Mondays, 5:45 - 6:30 PM

Sittercise
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Beginning Spanish Classes
Tuesdays at 1:00 - 3:00 PM and 5:15 - 7:00 PM

Intermediate Computer Classes
April 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 10:30 AM

Social Media Classes
April 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 5:00 PM

English as a Second Language (ESL) Orientation
April 5, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Book Club at the Huntsville Public Library
Featuring Reader's Choice
April 12, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Mother Goose Lapsit
Mondays at 10:30 - 11:00 AM

Story Time
Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 - 11:20 AM

First Friday Book Club
Featuring Fortunately the Milk by Neil Gaiman
April 6, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Coding for Girls Club
Featuring Animation
Thursdays at 5:15 PM

Family Movie Night
Featuring Coco
April 6, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING