

Travel Light, Travel Right

By Richard Lane, Public Services

Genealogy



Family historians are a notorious bunch. We love sharing family stories with friends, family, and any stranger willing to listen. We pride ourselves on the accomplishments of long dead ancestors. We are prepared to recite our genealogies back to ancient times. Yet, we all too often show up at libraries and research centers ill-prepared to accomplish the research at hand.

Now, let's not be too hard on ourselves. There are remedies to ease shortsightedness.

Family researchers often find themselves at their destination only to discover the information they seek is not available or is to be found in an adjacent county. Call ahead and speak with library staff and genealogy volunteers. Go online to search library and research center catalogs before leaving. A few simple steps will prevent disappointments, undue expenditures and improve the chances for a positive outcome.

The first step is to make an honest assessment. Ask yourself:

"Am I prepared?"

"Do I have the materials and supplies I need?"

"Am I lugging around notes and forms that have no bearing on current research?"

"Do I have a few extra forms that I may need to record an unexpected find?"

Twenty-first century family historians may need to ask, "Is my laptop charged and where is my flash drive?"

Secondly, be prepared. For good reason, "Be Prepared" is a great, long-standing motto of the Boy Scouts of America. Some among us are very prepared. Before setting out on a trip to the local library or across the state, well-organized family historians check and double check



to be sure they have collected pencils, notepads, paperclips, forms, electronic devices and all the paraphernalia they might need. They also exclude all the unnecessary items sure to bring clutter and disorganization.

Thirdly, have an agenda. It is very important to allocate time to the most pressing needs of our research. Third cousin twice removed Charlie may have been a very interesting character, but any further research on Charlie may prevent a needed examination of the family progenitor. It is important to have a plan and to execute the plan before exploring a new branch of the family tree.

Family history is an interesting journey. It leads us to new paths of self-discovery. A few simple steps may well make the trip more productive with fewer setbacks, disappointments and delays.

**HUNTSVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
936-291-5472**

**www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com
@HuntsvilleLib—Twitter
HuntsvillePublicLibrary—FB**

**Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Saturdays Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday**

Frances Sprott Goforth Genealogy Weekend

On Friday, August 5, and Saturday, August 6, the Huntsville Public Library and the Walker County Genealogical Society (WCGS) will be hosting their annual Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend.

Join us in the Community Room at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments. The program begins at 9 a.m. with speakers from across the state of Texas who will be sharing information about the genealogical resources at their institutions and how to access them.

The first day you will hear from representatives of the Montgomery County Memorial Library System, the Texas State Library & Archives, the Sam Houston Regional Library & Research Center, and the Texas Land Office. After a light

supper, attendees will be able to remain after closing hours and do individual research with assistance from WCGS members, if needed.

Saturday morning we'll hear about the Thomason Room on the 4th floor of the Sam Houston State University Library and resources at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum.

We'll conclude about 4 p.m. after presentations from the Clayton and Rosenberg Libraries. In addition, there will be a silent auction open to the public during the weekend that ends on Saturday afternoon.

Advance registration is required as a light supper will be provided Friday night. Please call the library, 936-291-5472, or register online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com.

Book Review

The Mystery of Hollow Places by: Rebecca Podos

All Imogene Scott knows of her mother is the bedtime story her father told her as a child. It's the story of how her parents met: he, a forensic pathologist, she, a mysterious woman who came to identify a body. A woman who left Imogene and her father when Imogene was a baby, a woman who was always possessed by a powerful loneliness, a woman who many referred to as "troubled waters."

Now Imogene is seventeen, and her father, a famous author of medical mysteries, has struck out in the middle of the night and hasn't come back. Neither Imogene's stepmother nor the police know

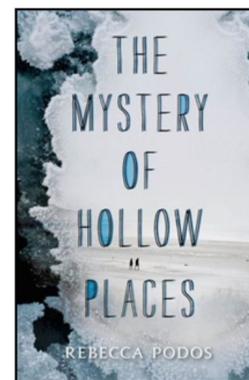
where he could've gone, but Imogene is convinced he's looking for her mother. And she decides it's up to her to put to use the skills she's gleaned from a lifetime of reading her father's books to track down a woman she's only known in stories in order to find him and perhaps, the answer to the question she's carried with her for her entire life about the mysterious woman that is her mother.

This is not an easy book, but a good one and it shows us that answers are rarely simple or easy, but love can exist in between all that, and that the choices you make are powerful. I think we all need that reminder from time to time.

This story is different than I expected... it was less suspenseful and more mysterious. I found myself constantly trying to guess what might happen next,

only to find that I was completely wrong. Podos deftly weaves this story of family, and friendship with amazing writing and some wonderful

bits of humor. I loved Imogene's voice and found it to be completely authentic to that of a teen girl. Her relationships were interesting to traverse... from the strained relationship she has with her step mother, to the convenience of her relationship with Jessa, to the love and dedication she has towards her father... it was wonderful to see them evolve and watch Imogene grow throughout this experience.



Try Everything, Change Starts With Us

A new movie release arrived here at the Huntsville Public Library last month: Zootopia. One of Disney's, 2016's, and the whole world's highest grossing films, Zootopia brings together excellent animation and several meaningful messages to create a fun and thought provoking experience fit for the whole family. Critics praised Zootopia's animation, voice acting and screenplay, noting especially its themes of prejudice and stereotypes. And in this reporter's opinion, the theme of trying, of following one's dreams and not giving in to complacency, no matter the opposition is just as powerful in this anthropomorphic buddy cop comedy between a hopeful bunny and a world-wise fox.

"Fear, treachery, blood lust. Thousands of years ago, these are the forces that ruled our world..." A young Judy Hopps sets the stage with these words, quite literally, as the movie opens on a school play. The world has changed since those savage times and "just 211 miles away" from her home town of Bunnyburrow, the city of Zootopia is home to mammals from all walks of life, where predator and prey live in harmony and anyone can be anything. Where once a bunny was meek prey, Judy's dream is to become a police officer, the first bunny police officer, and after strong suggestions to not believe in her dreams too strongly from her parents and a confrontation with a bully fox that same day, her resolve is even stronger.

But the world isn't all it seems, and while Judy does become the first bunny cop, and as valedictorian of her class is assigned to the city center of Zootopia, her first assignment is far from what she dreamed. Even on parking duty while predators are going missing, her drive to improve the world leads her to what seems at first to be an act of prejudice against a struggling fox father and son. This first meeting with Nick Wilde marks what seems to be an even worse decline until events surrounding catching a thief



nearly gets her fired, only to be turned around leaving her on the missing predator case. Her only lead, is of course none other than the sly fox that put the cherry on her first day in the city.

The deeper Judy and Nick delve into the case, the further the rabbit hole seems to go, at first revealing what appears to be a scandal, trying to protect the public by keeping them ignorant to a danger with an unknown cause. The

story is far from done though, as Judy's own words at a press release spark prejudice and fear from prey towards predators, threatening to tear the city apart. A surprise revelation makes the whole conspiracy open up and Judy's determination to make the world a better place really does change things for the better.

The acting enhances the story and is really brought to life with the animation and physical humor. Size and purpose differences in numerous things throughout the city provide an excellent base, such as an area of the city sized for small rodents, leaving even a weasel larger than most buildings. But I, for one couldn't stop laughing when a bureaucratic agency is manned entirely by sloths, where inputting a seven digit number takes almost a full minute even before being interrupted. I also couldn't stop crying seeing Nick's past being bullied because of his species, leaving a young fox jaded.

'Real life is messy, we all make mistakes... Which means we all have something in common' Judy concludes, encouraging a graduating class for the Zootopia Police Department to try, that to change the world, to make it a better place, one just has to try change is in everyone, we just have to try. I truly enjoyed this movie so very much, and I hope if you decide to see it, you will too.

- Peirs Anderson, *Circulation*

Olli the Magic Smart Bus

Need a ride to work, and don't want to hurt the environment by hogging a cab or Uber to yourself? Don't want the hassle of talking to a driver? Debuting on the streets of Washington DC, Olli is a self-driving bus. The bus can be ordered using a mobile app much like the popular Uber. Created by Local Motors, the electric-powered bus can seat 12 people at a time. The bus isn't only for many individuals to ride in. Olli could even be a great place to have a business meeting. Your team could hop in, set it to drive to a restaurant, and talk business. That would make for a great change of scenery and a chance for you to skip the

everyday lunch delivery or cafeteria to your workplace. As if the coolness of what you can do with this wasn't enough, the bus made from a printer. Not your everyday copier, but a 3-D printer is used to make all the individual parts of the bus. The printed parts are then assembled by humans in a relatively small factory. It is believed that it only takes 11 hours to manufacture one Olli bus. 10 hours to print all the parts and 1 hour for the humans to assemble it. Could you see yourself riding in a self-driving bus? Let us know on Facebook and Twitter.



- Drew Nevlund, *Tech Coordinator*

The Summer Slide is Not a Waterpark

The summer months are an important time for children and teens to recharge mentally, reconnect with friends and family, travel, get a summer job, invest in a hobby, learn a new skill, and relax overall. However, it is still important for adolescents to engage in mentally challenging activities even when they are away from school. Summer reading loss or “Summer Slide” refers to the decline in reading development that can occur in times when children are not involved in formal literacy programs encountered at school.

This phenomenon is well-documented. In a recent study published by the RAND Corporation in 2011, researchers noted that elementary students’ performances falls by approximately a month during the summer with lower-income students showing a more pronounced decrease. Furthermore, summer learning loss is cumulative and efforts to remedy loss of retention in the school year alone are unsuccessful.

Effects of the summer slide continue into the classroom. Teachers often state they have to spend the first few weeks of the fall semester re-teaching material to students, which can set students back even further in the curriculum. A recent survey from the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) studied the effects of summer slide in the classroom and polled 500 teachers. These researchers found that 66% of teachers have to spend 3-4 weeks re-teaching course material at the beginning of the year and 24% of teachers spend at least 5-6 weeks re-teaching material. Furthermore, the NSLA’s website states: “Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer.”

And it all makes sense. If you aren’t using critical thinking or reasoning skills for months at a time, you’re going to need some time to catch up. It’s like taking a break from working out at the gym for a few months; you can’t simply go back to running a 5 minute mile again. You’ll have to go back and start again slowly.



There is going to be a little bit of summer slide for almost everyone. Kids still need to enjoy their summers. But, the good news is that there are so many ways to limit how much your

child “slides” from following your child’s summer reading list issued by his or her school to educational apps on smartphones, e-books, and enrichment programs at the library. This makes it easy for summer to be a break from school but not a break from learning.

In July, Camp Invention will return to the Huntsville Public Library from 3:30-5p.m. on July 18th. Many library patrons enjoyed their first program in June in which they emulated Newton’s laws of motion by building rollercoasters out of insulation foam, cardboard, and tape. In their second visit, Camp Invention will present a program called “Gassy Experiments.”

So, come to the library, find your child’s summer reading books, sign-up for the summer reading program at the library, and attend an enriching program with your kids!

—Rachel McPhail, Children’s Coordinator



Check out the exciting Children's Programs at the Huntsville Public Library!

- Mother Goose Lapsits, 10:30 Mondays**
- Storytime, 10:45 on Wednesdays AND Fridays**
- Duplo Party, 11:15 on Wednesdays**
- Family Movie Night, 5:30, 2nd Friday of the Month**
- Elementary Craft, 3:00 p.m., July 14, 21, 26**
- Toddler Craft, 11:15 a.m., July 19, 26**
- Camp Invention, 3:00 p.m., July 18**
- Comic Book Club, 3:00 p.m., July 28**

Complete listings of events at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com

For more information, contact Children’s Coordinator Rachel McPhail, at 936-291-5910.