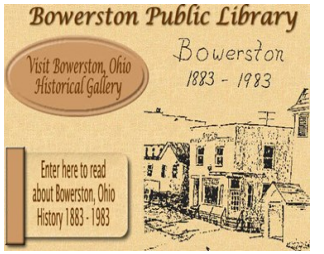
FEBRUARY 2015



Best Sellers

FICTION BEST SELLERS

INSATIABLE APPETITES
Stuart woods
THE EMPTY THRONE
Bernard Cornwell
HOPE TO DIE
James Patterson
THE BOSTON GIRL
Anita Diamant
REVIVAL
Stephen King
TRUST NO ONE
Jayne Ann Krentz
GRAY MOUNTAIN
John Grisham
THE HURRICANE SISTERS
Dorothea Benton Frank
THE MATCHMAKER
Elin Hilderbrand
THE INVENTION OF WINGS
Sue Monk Kidd

NON-FICTION BEST SELLERS

41
George W. Bush

YES PLEASE
Amy Poehler

BEING MORTAL
Atul Gawande

DIARY OF A MAD DIVA
Joan Rivers

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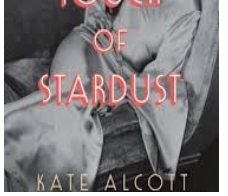
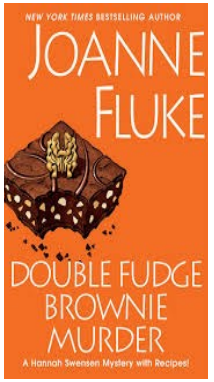
Library Hours

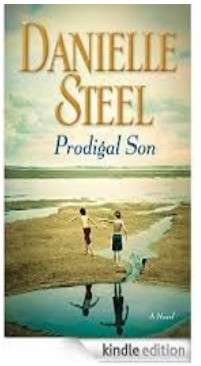
Monday	10 - 8
Tuesday	10 - 5
Wednesday	10 - 5
Thursday	10 - 8
Friday	10 - 2
Saturday	9 - 1
Sunday	Closed

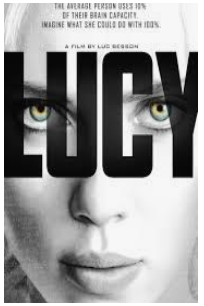
Place on Hold NOW!!

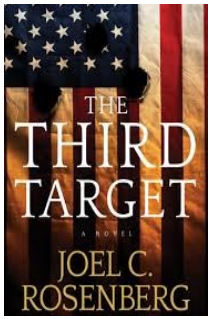
Place these New Books on Hold

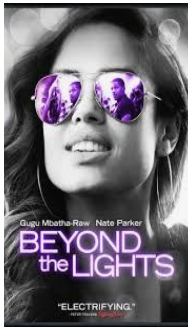


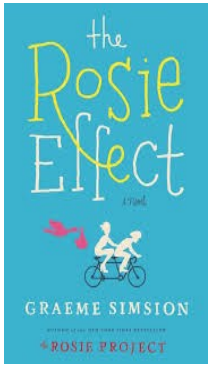


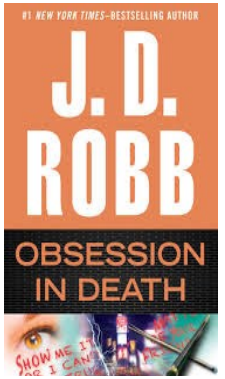


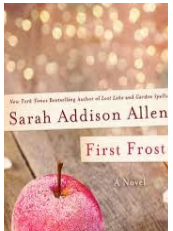


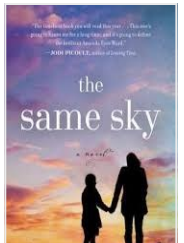












www.bowerstonlibrary.org

Available for Reserve Now

One Kick by Chelsea Cain
Hope to Die by James Patterson
Gray Mountain by John Grisham
Same Sky by Amanda Ward
Burned by Karen Marie Moning
First Frost by Sarah Allen
A New York Christmas by Anne Perry
Some Luck by Jane Smiley
The Job by Janet Evanovich

STORY HOUR FIRST WEDNESDAY of the Month

10:30 - 11:15

Toddlers and preschoolers: Join us for a fun-filled morning of stories, activities, crafts. Children will learn important social interaction skills while they enjoy making new friends.

Valentine's Day

Bowerston Library Book Club's

Bowerston Book Review
The book club meets
2nd Thursday of the month at
10:30a.m.

Placing Holds online: Hot to get the items you want **www.bowerstonlibrary.org**

1. Click on "Card Catalog"
2. Now you can search for the item that you would like
3. You can search by:
   TITLE BROWSE
   AUTHOR BROWSE
   SUBJECT BROWSE
4. When you find the item that you would like, click on the title
5. You should see a page with item information. There are two buttons on this page" Add to my list" and "Request any copy"
6. Click on "Request any copy"
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the Greeting Card Association of America

by Borgna Brunne

Roman Roots

The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

Valentines Galore

Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honor remains a mystery: according to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine." Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

In 1969, the Catholic Church revised its liturgical calendar, removing the feast days of saints whose historical origins were questionable. St. Valentine was one of the casualties.

Chaucer's Love Birds

It was not until the 14th century that this Christian feast day became definitively associated with love. According to UCLA medieval scholar Henry Ansgar Kelly, author of *Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine*, it was Chaucer who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance.

In 1381, Chaucer composed a poem in honor of the engagement between England's Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. As was the poetic tradition, Chaucer associated the occasion with a feast day. In "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are linked:

For this was on St. Valentine's Day,
When every fowl cometh there to choose his mate.

Tradition of Valentine's Cards

Over the centuries, the holiday evolved, and by the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts eventually spread to the American colonies. The tradition of Valentine's cards did not become widespread in the United States, however, until the 1850s, when Esther A. Howland, a Mount Holyoke graduate and native of Worcester, Mass., began mass-producing them. Today, of course, the holiday has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are valentines.

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Happy Valentine's Day

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