

## New Year's Reading Resolutions?



### Why Not?

The library will  
be closed  
December 24th  
December 25th  
January 1st

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When it comes to resolutions for the New Year, most people focus on their physical health – lose weight, exercise more, eat healthy food. What about your reading health? Are you an avid reader or an occasional one? Do you read only newspapers? Do you read only non-fiction? Only biographies? Only romance?

Now is a good time to shake up your reading habits and expand your horizons. Set realistic reading goals to keep your mind and spirit active in the New Year. Here are some suggestions:

#### **Read the classics.**

Did you skip some of the classics in school in favor of more popular titles? This is a good time to catch up.

**Try out a new genre.** Branch out. Read a mystery instead of a romance novel. Read a non-fiction title about one of your favorite (or least favorite) subjects. Read outside your comfort zone.

#### **Create fun monthly or yearly challenges.**

Read a book about each of the U. S. Presidents this year or all of Agatha Christie's novels – even all of Shakespeare's plays. Search the Internet for things like "[50 Novels Featuring Famous Authors as Characters](#)" or "[Around the World in 80 Books](#)" to find fun, yet different types of books to read.

#### **Write brief reviews of what you read.**

Share your thoughts with others. Join [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) and write one or two sentence reviews about the books you've read. Book reviews can be as long or short as you want them to be. The important thing is to share.

#### **Join a book club – in person or online.**

The Roswell library offers two books clubs, [Noonday Nosh](#) (general fiction and non-fiction) and the [Mystery Readers' Book Club](#). Find a neighborhood book group. Join [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) and search for groups that read similar genres (or challenge yourself to find a new genre to explore).

**Read the best books of 2014.** At year's end, websites, magazines and newspapers all recommend the best books of the year. Type the words "best books of 2014" into a search engine like Google or Yahoo and see what appears. Take a look, read a few and see if you agree with the reviewers.

The suggestions above are just a few ways to begin your reading year with a new twist. Remember, library staff are always happy to help you find books to read. Just ask them.

*(This article was contributed by staff-member Julia Ratledge.)*



## Roswell Reads 2015

The selection will be announced at the Roswell City Council meeting, January 12th, and on our website, [www.forl.net](http://www.forl.net), that night. The next morning, books will be ready to check out at the library. Books and tickets for the luncheon will be on sale at our book store. Tickets may also be purchased online at [RoswellReads.com](http://RoswellReads.com) for \$20.

The **Literary Luncheon** will be March 14th at 11:30 at the Adult Recreation Center at 830 Grimes Bridge Rd., Roswell. Get your tickets early!

### Service Awards Abound!

At the recent Volunteer Recognition event at the Central Library, several of our members were honored for their service to the library and community.

**Carol Harrison**.....1,174 hours in 2014! (She was presented with a plaque and a bouquet of flowers.)

Millennium Volunteers (those who had a career total of 1,000 hours of more at the end of 2013):

**Nancy Speir and Jane Swift**

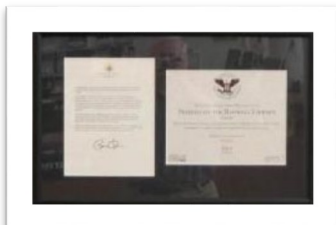
Outstanding hours for 2013:

600+.....**Deborah Childs**

500+.....**Mary Mitchell**

400+.....**Lynda Fuller**

300+.....**Jane Swift**



In addition, the Friends were presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award for Friend's Groups, Gold level. It, and a letter from the president, are mounted on the wall above the self-checkout computers at the library. Thanks everyone!

On the County level, where the staff has also been cut and the hours are short, the libraries have never depended more on volunteers. In fact the County libraries can put a dollar figure to it. The value of volunteering topped the \$1.5 million mark at local libraries, with 2,008 volunteers donating 67,645 hours in 2013. This is the sixth year library volunteer services have topped \$1 million. (Source: John's Creek Herald, c.11/19/14)

### Atlanta Authors

Tuesday, Feb.10th at 6:30

A night of romance and chocolate tasting.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, a panel discussion by local romance authors.

It will be led by Marilyn Baron, Roswell resident and author of *Stones*. Other panelists will include Linda Joyce, Melissa Klein, and Kennedy Ryan.

[Atlanta Authors](#)



### Welcome to our New Members

- Vern Belknap     Shirley Skrobanski
- Sue Galgano     Bernice (Bee) Raedel



### Book Sale Results for the Year:

May sale: \$5,106.75  
 August sale: \$4,571.50  
 November sale:  
 \$5,570.75 (best ever)

Grand total:  
\$15,249.00

Great work everyone!



Mary Ann Hughes, Cora Cramer, and Joe Creech working at the November book sale.

### Noonday Nosh Schedule

January 20th

*After the Rain* by Karen White

February 17th

TBA, The 2015 Roswell Reads Selection

March 17th

*Thirteen Moons* by Charles Frazier



### Mystery Readers' Schedule

January 27th

*The Body in the Ivy: a Faith Fairchild Mystery*

Katherine Hall Page

February 24th

*The Quiet American* by Graham Greene

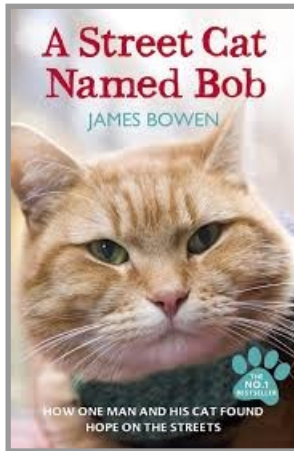
March 24th

*Shroud of Dishonor* by Maureen Ash

# A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen

**A Street Cat Named Bob**, the book I chose to review for you, may appear to be no more than, excuse my pun, a piece of “fluff,” but **Bob...** is anything but that.

James Bowen, the author, was freshly off the street, having been living “rough” as they say in London. His is not a glamorous or pretty story: it’s the story of a recovering heroin addict and all the grit that recovery entails. It’s about struggle, and it’s about the redemptive power of love that exists when a down-and-out soul finds friendship in an animal. The animal is Bob, a ginger cat who wanders, injured, into James’ life and saves him in a surprising way.



When James begins selling “The Big Issue,” a magazine sold by homeless and long-term unemployed people, the story becomes an interesting sociological slice of life. As a former social worker, I found the social dynamics thought-provoking and compelling. Being of not-too-distant, working-class British ancestry, James’ struggle was reminiscent of stories I’d heard when I was growing up, and still hear from my family in England.

A surprising insight you get from the story is the awesome scope of the internet! You see, James Bowen is not like most authors who write the story of their beloved pet, publish, and then find

fame; James and Bob became famous before James wrote the book! As they continued to sell “The Big Issue” on the street, they were more and more frequently approached by strangers who already knew of them. From Asia, Europe and America, people sought them out after seeing their pictures posted online. Unbeknownst to James, he and Bob had become internet stars, a fact James later confirmed by searching the web at his local library.

**A Street Cat Named Bob** is a wonderful story that will warm your heart and break it, too. As a side note, if you read the book, do a YouTube search online to see how the world discovered James Bowen and Bob.

I highly recommend this book.

*(Bob... was reviewed for us by staff-member Marilyn Schuster.)*

## Governor’s Mansion Christmas Celebration

The First Lady of Georgia invited volunteer organizations across the state to participate in this year’s celebration themed, “With a Servant’s Heart.” It was done to honor the many volunteers who donate their time to help fellow Georgians and to give back to their communities.

Each organization was given a plain wooden disk, about 3 inches in diameter, and asked to decorate it with what best represents their organization – i.e. name, logo or other recognizable symbol. I’m sure you recognize our logo on the front of the ornament (small picture). On the back, surrounding a stack of books, it says, appropriately, “Books give Joy to the World.” Indeed they do. Nice work, Jane!



## Membership Renewal

You will be notified by e-mail when your membership expires. We appreciate your support.

- Individual \$15
- Student/Teacher \$5
- Family \$25
- Senior (55+) \$10
- Sponsor/Business \$50

For information about volunteering, please either contact a Friends member or e-mail the Friends at [roswellgafriends@gmail.com](mailto:roswellgafriends@gmail.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to Friends of the Roswell Library (or FoRL), 115 Norcross St., Roswell, GA 30075



## Message from the President

Happy Holidays everyone; wishing you a safe and happy season. The Friends of the Roswell Library and I are so grateful for your patronage and support again this year at our book sales, book store, Antique Mall, and with your donations, memberships and even during our evening out at Chipotle. You are wonderful.

"Gratitude always comes into play; research shows that people are happier if they are grateful for the positive things in their lives, rather than worrying about what might be missing." — Dan Buettner, *Thrive: Finding Happiness the Blue Zones Way*.

I shortened the following quote but we are never too old to be like the ten-year old learning new things, "...You thought you knew the place and all its routines, but you see you hadn't known. Whole stacks at the library held books devoted to things you knew nothing about. The boundary of

knowledge receded, as you poked about in books, like Lake Erie's rim as you climbed its cliffs. And each area of knowledge disclosed another, and another. Knowledge wasn't a body, or a tree, but instead air, or space, or being—whatever pervaded, whatever never ended and fitted into the smallest cracks and the widest space between stars." — Annie Dillard, *An American Childhood*. And you can find it at the library and in all the wonderful used books we sell.

We are also grateful for our wonderful library staff who keep doing more with less. November is one of the two times each year that the Friend's Board provides an Appreciation Luncheon for the them. We served BBQ and conversation; it was lovely having the time to chat.

Library staff complemented the Friends in return. "By supporting the Roswell library, [the Friends] are sup-

porting the entire Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System. By providing new books and prizes for the summer reading programs, they are changing lives. By paying for Yoga and Zumba classes, by sponsoring book clubs and other programs that provide support for people's well-being, they are informing and educating the community.

"There aren't enough words in the English language to thank the Friends for what they do. Without them, we would just be an ordinary library. With them, we are extraordinary and together, our reach into the community is without bounds."

Wow! And without you, dear reader, we would just be an ordinary — not extraordinary — library.

Thank you!

*Jane Swift*

## Book Blogs: Searching for the Next Great Book

Part of the fun of being an avid reader is searching for the next great book. For readers who like to have a tall stack of books to choose from, here are some blog recommendations that offer a constant stream of reader's advisory services – all at your fingertips.

[www.earlyword.com](http://www.earlyword.com)

Upcoming titles and brief reviews of all genres.



[libraryofcleanreads.blogspot.com/](http://libraryofcleanreads.blogspot.com/)

Good general blog, mostly fiction. There is a helpful rating system to let readers know about a book's content. Check out her "Blog List" to find links to other blogs.

[rhapsodyinbooks.wordpress.com](http://rhapsodyinbooks.wordpress.com)

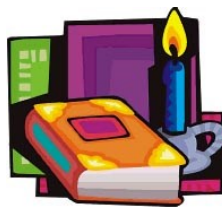
Good general fiction and non-fiction reviews, including young adult titles.

[www.bethfishreads.com](http://www.bethfishreads.com)

This blog offers a variety of reviews, fiction and non-fiction. The blog also has weekly features such as "Weekend Cooking" and "Wordless Wednesday."

[www.cozy-mystery.com](http://www.cozy-mystery.com)

This site features a blog that has links to low-priced Kindle e-books, as well as book recommendations. There's a lot of information available, so take a little time and explore.



[bookjourney.net](http://bookjourney.net)

Good general fiction and non-fiction reviews, as well as audiobook reviews.



[bookretreat.blogspot.com](http://bookretreat.blogspot.com)

This blog features a wide variety of book reviews – fiction, non-fiction, young adult, etc. It's a fun blog to read – personable and informative.

When looking for blogs to follow, it's important to look for ones that are updated every few days. This shows a commitment to the subject and to readers who follow the blogs.

A good way to find additional blogs is to find a blog you like and then see what other blogs that person follows. Explore, explore, explore. Click on suggested links and discover the online world of book blogging. Before you know it, you'll have several blogs bookmarked on your computer or e-reader and your "to be read list" will be longer than you thought imaginable.

*(This article written for us by staff-member Julia Ratledge.)*

