

# Roswell Reads *The Underdogs:* *Children, Dogs, and the Power of Unconditional Love* by Melissa Fay Greene



The library will  
be closed

Dec. 23rd - 26th  
Jan. 1st  
Jan. 2nd

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*The Underdogs* tells the story of Karen Shirk, felled at age twenty-four by a neuromuscular disease and facing life as a dependent, immobile patient. At the time, no one would place a dog with her so she set out to train her own. Karen did exactly that, and Ben, a German shepherd, dragged her back into life. Her work in her own behalf became her life's work, creating a facility where future dogs would be trained for many others, starting with children with a myriad of physical, mental and emotional problems and eventually with veterans suffering from PTSD.

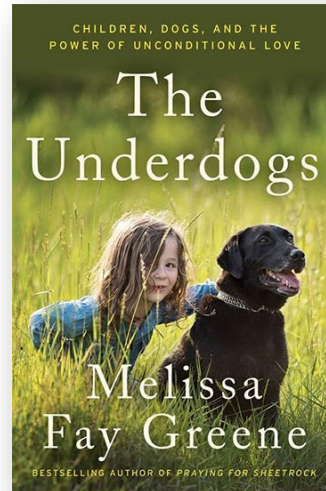
Written with characteristic insight, humanity, humor and joy, what could have

been merely touching is a sensitive exploration of larger questions: about our attachment to dogs, what constitutes a productive life, and what can be accomplished with unconditional love.

It is also a book that illuminates the human-canine bond in a unique and fascinating way, leading us to understand that dogs can be far more than just "man's best friend."

*The Underdogs* is an expansion of "Wonder Dog," Melissa's New York Times feature article that went viral, becoming one of the most emailed and most searched-for Times articles in 2012.

Visit [melissafaygreene.com](http://melissafaygreene.com) for more information.



## About the Author

Melissa Fay Greene is the author of six critically acclaimed nonfiction books. They have been translated into fifteen languages and honored with multiple awards. *Praying for Sheetrock* (1991) was named one of the top 100 works of English-language journalism of the 20th century; *The Temple Bombing* (1996) has been adapted as a stage play and will premiere in February at the Alliance Theater.

Melissa and her husband, criminal defense attorney Don Samuel, live in Atlanta and are the parents of nine.

## Roswell Reads Programs

The Roswell Reads committee has arranged several interesting programs and activities for adults and children in connection with *The Underdogs*.

**Book Discussions:** They are facilitated and take place in three locations: at Noonday Nosh book club at the Roswell library, with wine and cheese at the Arts Center on Fouts Road in east Roswell and at the Wildwood Springs Clubhouse in west Roswell.

**For Children:** The children's book selection (K-5) is *My Buddy* by Audrey Osofsky. It is the story of a service dog and his young owner who uses a wheelchair; it is available for checkout through AFPLS.



Several children's programs focus on the actual experience of reading to a **therapy** dog who has been trained to sit still and

listen closely while being read to. Registration is required through the library as well as completion of a parental permission slip. Reading blocks are 15 minutes long and will take place at both the Roswell and the East Roswell libraries.

In addition to meeting a therapy dog, children may attend a program at the Roswell library to meet a **service** dog and the student the dog serves. Attendees will learn about the program, the training, and the many ways in which the dogs assist their student in the everyday activities of life. Adults are required to stay with their children during the program.

**Community Program:** Come to a *Happy Tails Happy Hour* and learn how the interaction between humans and animals benefits people of all ages and in all walks of life. It will be at Lucky's Burger and Brew on Alpharetta Hwy.

**Writing Workshop:** The Art of Nonfiction with Melissa Fay Greene, the author, a popular guest lecturer and writer-in-residence who has extensive experience with undergraduate, graduate and mid-career students at many colleges and universities. She has also reported on many of the great issues of our time including civil rights, anti-Semitism, and the HIV/AIDS orphan crisis in

*(Continued next column, bottom of the page)*

## Welcome to Nicole Carmon



Nicole and her husband relocated to Atlanta, from Texas, a year and a half ago. Before moving, Nicole worked in Houston for five years, at a library near NASA; lately she's been working as a circulation assistant at the Smyrna Public Library. She is excited to join the Roswell Library family as a full-time Library Assistant and is applying to the online Masters of Library Science (MLS) program at Valdosta State to get her ALA library degree.

As a newcomer to Georgia and, most recently to the Roswell library, Nicole says it has been wonderful to feel so welcomed here and at the branch by coworkers and patrons alike.

Be sure to say 'hello' to Nicole the next time you visit the library.

### 2016 Annual Income from our Book Sales

February	\$6,256
May	6,084
August	7,074
November	<u>5,579</u>
Grand total:	\$23,530

*Our incredible success is due to the generosity of those who donate books and magazines and the hard work of those who organize the materials and assist with selling them.*

*Thank you for all you do for the Friends and the library.*



*Late Sunday afternoon at the recent book sale; prices are good but there's not much left to buy.*

Africa, but still finds room for joy and playfulness in her life and writing.

*This list is an overview of the programs that will be available. For times, dates, and more information, go to [www.RoswellReads.com](http://www.RoswellReads.com)*

*Admission is free to the preceding programs but please assist in the planning and organizing of events by registering online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com), Search Word "Roswell Reads"*

#### **12th Annual Roswell Reads Literary Luncheon**

Saturday, March 18th 2017 at 11 a.m.

Roswell Adult Recreation Center

830 Grimes Bridge Road

Melissa Fay Greene will discuss the personal and professional life experiences that led her to research and write *The Underdogs*.

*Luncheon tickets are \$20 each and will be sold only online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com), Search Word "Roswell Reads"*

### Book Club Selections

#### Noonday Nosh

All meetings at the library at noon

**A Spool of Blue Thread** [Anne Tyler](#)  
Jan. 17th

**The Underdogs** [Melissa Faye Greene](#)  
Feb. 21st

**The Language of Flowers** [Vanessa Diffenbaugh](#)  
March 21st

**Outliers** [Malcolm Gladwell](#)  
April 18th

#### Mystery Readers'

Meets on the 4th Tuesday, 6:30—7:45, at the library

**Accused** [Lisa Scottoline](#)  
Jan. 24th

**Death of a Liar** [M. C. Beaten](#)  
Feb. 28th

**The Secret Place** [Tana French](#)  
March 28th

**The Whites** [Harry Brandt](#)  
April 25th

### Upcoming Events



*A special Saturday morning story time: December 17th, 11:00 AM*

#### Zoo Library Returns

Saturday, January 7th, 11:00am

Animals will be on site for one-on-one interaction, photos, and a Q&A session.

Reservations required; restricted to 25 with a caregiver.



#### College Admissions Essay Seminar

Join College Admissions Counselor Wendy Hayes as she helps you prepare or refine your admissions essay.

Monday, January 9th, 6 to 8pm

Reservations requested.

### Reading Fiction May Be Just What the Therapist Prescribes

Self-help books are everywhere: they give instructions, they 'solve problems,' they're mechanical. But wouldn't it be nice to read about how someone dealt with a problem on an emotional level, how a life changed, how a cold was endured, how a character flaw was overcome, how a habit was kicked, how someone who was hurting managed to "moved on"?

More and more, therapists are turning to literary fiction to help patients cure their ailments. They are finding that [biblio-therapy](#), whose origins can be traced back to the ancient Greeks, works. Using *fiction* to get into one's self-conscious and

*(Continued on p. 4. "Reading Fiction...")*

*Save the Date: Book Sale!*  
*January 26th-29th*

## Membership Renewal

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

Individual \$15  
 Senior (55+) \$10

Student/Teacher \$5  
 Sponsor/Business \$50

Family \$25

*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

2017 is right around the corner as we celebrate the December holidays.

In November, Noonday Nosh read Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* in which 'candlestick salad' was part of a grand meal. Candlestick salad is a pineapple ring on a lettuce leaf, with an upright half a banana topped with a red maraschino cherry. I smiled as I remembered the individual candlestick salads that appeared on my family's holiday table in the early 50's.

Noontime Nosh is reading Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* for December. Capote writes of cold weather in the deep south and cutting a holly tree covered with red berries, bringing it home and making the tree magical with a battered string of lights, paper cut-outs, and bits of real cotton retrieved from the fields after the harvest.

I hope you'll read the Roswell Reads book, *The Underdogs*, take part in associated activities, and come to the

March luncheon. The book is an interesting one and authors' remarks are always fascinating.

Thank you for your donations and purchases that made our October book sale a big success. Our next book sale is January 26-29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Please continue to support the Friends by your donations of CDs, DVDs, books, magazines, and vinyl records.

Do consider joining a book club, either the evening Mystery club or Noontime Nosh; or perhaps a zumba or yoga class here at our library.

Many patrons use the AFPLS.org web site to search for book titles and to put books on hold. There is Overdrive on the home page to download audio books and e-books. Also on the home page, Hoopla allows the streaming of movies and TV shows using your library card. Technology is ever changing and ever increasing the ways we obtain information and get our entertainment.

Looking for digital magazines? On the AFPLS.org home page, in the

center, are Flipster and Zinio; both give you free access to magazines. Flipster, the next generation digital newsstand, allows offline viewing via the Flipster app for iPad, Android tablet and Kindle Fire.

Zinio, another source of magazines found on the home page, allows check out, reading, and downloading cover-to-cover editions of magazines. All magazines are simultaneous-access with no limits to the number of issues checked out. A patron may keep issues indefinitely. There are over 290 magazines available including Spanish language titles. The Zinio app is available for iPhone, iPad, Android, and Kindle HD/HDX devices.

Now is the season to find your warmest, coziest seat and settle in to enjoy your library's resources in the comfort of your home.

Have a joyous holiday season and a safe, healthy New Year.

*Cora Cramer*



(Reading Fiction...continued from p.3)  
one's psyche from within is finding favor with therapists because it's not only effective, it's pleasurable.

In their 2013 book, *The Novel Cure: From Abandonment to Zestlessness: 751 Books to Cure What Ails You* by Ella Berthoud and Susan Elderkin, the authors, recommend remedies in the way of titles but don't discriminate between emotional and physical pain. They call their book, "[A] medical handbook—with a difference."

"Whatever your ailment, [their] prescriptions are simple: a novel (or two) to be read at regular intervals. Some treatments will lead to a complete cure. Others will simply offer solace, showing you that you are not alone. All will offer the temporary relief of

your symptoms due to the power of literature to distract and transport." It might be just what the therapist would order for you.

Based on the success of *The Novel Cure*, the authors have now written *The Story Cure: An A-Z of Books to Keep Kids Happy, Healthy and Wise*.

Reviews from unusual sources:  
[Time Magazine](#): "Read a novel: it's just what the doctor ordered."  
[The Economist](#): "Textual Healing"

**Note:** If you search the AFPLS catalog, you must use this title, *The Novel Cure: From Abandonment*, to find it.

