

# January Newsletter



## Ed & Hazel Richmond Public Library

**Vision:** Expanding Minds. Empowering People. Enriching Community.  
110 N. Lamont St.  
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Dear Reader,

This month's author is **Alexander McCall Smith**. **R. Alexander "Sandy" McCall Smith**, [CBE](#), [FRSE](#) (born 24 August 1948), is a British-Zimbabwean writer and [Emeritus Professor](#) of Medical Law at the [University of Edinburgh](#). In the late 20th century, McCall Smith became a respected expert on [medical law](#) and [bioethics](#) and served on British and international committees concerned with these issues.

Alexander McCall Smith was born in [Bulawayo](#) in 1948 in the British colony of [Southern Rhodesia](#) (present-day [Zimbabwe](#)), the youngest of four children.<sup>[5]</sup> His father worked as a public prosecutor in Bulawayo. McCall Smith was educated at the [Christian Brothers College](#) in Bulawayo before moving to Scotland at age 17 to study law at the [University of Edinburgh](#), where he earned his [PhD in law](#). He soon taught at [Queen's University Belfast](#), and while teaching there he entered a literary competition: one a children's book and the other a novel for adults. He won in the children's category.

McCall Smith is a prolific author of fiction, with several series to his credit. He writes at a prodigious rate: "Even when travelling, he never loses a day, turning out between 2,000 and 3,000 words [a day] – but more like 5,000 words when at home in Edinburgh. His usual rate is 1,000 words an hour." He has gained the most fame for his [No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency](#) series, featuring Mma Precious Ramotswe and set in [Gaborone](#), [Botswana](#). The first novel was published in 1998. By 2009, the No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series had sold more than 20 million copies in English editions.

According to his publisher in Edinburgh, Polygon (an imprint of Birlinn Books), "He was, until 2005, a professor of medical law at the University of Edinburgh, but gave up the position to concentrate on his writing and now writes full time."

He published 30 books in the 1980s and 1990s before he began the series that has brought him the world's notice. In 2008 he wrote a serialized online novel [Corduroy Mansions](#), with the audio edition read by [Andrew Sachs](#) made available at the same pace as the daily publication. He wrote more than ten chapters ahead of publication, finding the experience of serialized publication to be "a frightening thing to create a novel while his readers watched. 'I am like a man on a tightrope.'



[Wikipedia](#)

## Upcoming Events

*Driscoll Health Plan-Prenatal*  
January 8, 2020  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
*U.S. Census Taker*  
January 8, 2020  
10:00 a.m.  
*Food Handlers Class*  
January 13, 2020  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
*Alzheimer's Support Group*  
January 16, 2020  
10:30 a.m.  
*Library Board Meeting*  
January 16, 2020  
9:00 a.m.  
*Movie Afternoon*  
January 23, 2020  
2:00 p.m.  
*Garden Club*  
January 23, 2020  
9:00 a.m.  
*Mahjong Club*  
Every Tuesday  
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
*ESL Class*  
Monday & Tuesday  
5:00 p.m.  
*HSE(GED) Class*  
Wednesday & Thursday  
*Story Time*  
Every Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. & 10 a.m.

## Library Hours

Sunday – Closed  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
& Friday - 8:30 am – 5:00 pm  
Wednesday 8:30 am – 7:00  
pm  
Saturday – 11:00 am – 3:00  
pm  
**FYI –**  
**\*We still have our Coupon**  
**Exchange Program. So if**  
**you need coupons, please**  
**come visit the library.**  
**\* Library Closed 1/20/20**  
**for MLK**



## Children's Corner

Mr. Kippy's Story Time – Every Tuesday at 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

### New Titles in the Library

#### Adult Fiction

*The Peppermint Tea Chronicles* – Alexander McCall Smith  
*Once a Spy* – Mary Jo Putney  
*Active Measures* – Marc Cameron  
*Quantum* – Patricia Cornwell  
*The Library of the Unwritten* – A.J. Hackwith  
*Kiss the Girls and Make Them Cry* – Mary Higgins Clark  
*Imaginary Friend* – Steven Chbosky

#### Young Adult/Junior Fiction

*Ali Cross* – James Patterson  
*Teen Titans Raven* – Kami Garcia

### Children's Book Review

Submitted by Waconda Clayworth

#### **Fox Tails**

Illustrated and written by Amy Lowry

This is a nice amalgamation of four famous fables. Beautifully illustrated and easy to follow. A good follow up is to read the actual tales. The author's note on the history and the morals of these tales is a good discussion starter for young readers.

#### **We share One World**

by James E. Hoffelt

Illustrated by Marty Husted

You want your children to know and appreciate other countries and other cultures. The gorgeous illustrations and the peaceful themes throughout are a good start to do so for the new year.

#### **The Good Dinosaur/ The Essential Guide**

Written by Steve Bynghall

Arlo is an Apatosaurus. He goes on an exciting adventure with the help of Spot. The Survival Test is good for us humans as well as for Arlo, Spot, Henry and Ida (his parents), Libby and Buck (his siblings). There is a lot of reading in this vividly pictured saga- all interesting and exciting.

## OverDrive is Now Available!!

OverDrive is the leading global digital distribution platform, offering the industry's largest catalog of eBooks, audiobooks, music, streaming video and periodicals.

## In the Library

### Koha Online Catalog

Visit our website at

[www.aransaslibrary.org:8000](http://www.aransaslibrary.org:8000)

### Reserve a Librarian

Need help with computers, job applications, resumes, laptops, and more. Reserve a librarian we are here to help.

### TexShare Database

Library of Texas exclusive online resources for genealogy, business, health, and homework. Ask a librarian for information.

### New Library Activities!

#### Don't Forget to Attend!

Every 4th Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m., we will host an Afternoon Movie at the Library featuring a just released movie. This month's feature film is an action, drama, sci-fi rated PG-13 titled **Gemini Man**. **Gemini Man** is about a retiring assassin, Henry Brogan (Will Smith), who finds himself pursued by a mysterious killer that can predict his every move. Discovering that he's being hunted by a younger clone of himself, Henry needs to find out why he's being targeted and who the creator is.

**Mission:** In Striving for public service excellence, The Aransas Pass Public Library is a welcoming community center whose staff, resources, programs, and services provide for the needs of our diverse community.