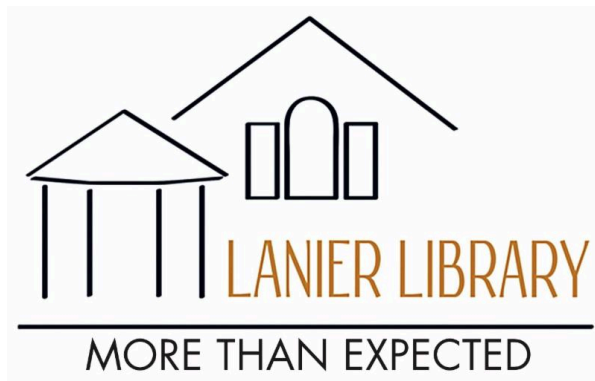


Volume MMXXV, May 2025



## Your Monthly News & Updates

### Programs @ Lanier

**Live @ Lanier**

**TRYON LANDRUM**  
**THE DARK CORNER**  
25  
**GREENVILLE COUNTY**

**Dark Corner Journey**  
*Glassy Mountain to the Valley*

By James Stehlik  
Greenville  
County  
Historian

**Matriarchs of the Dark Corner**

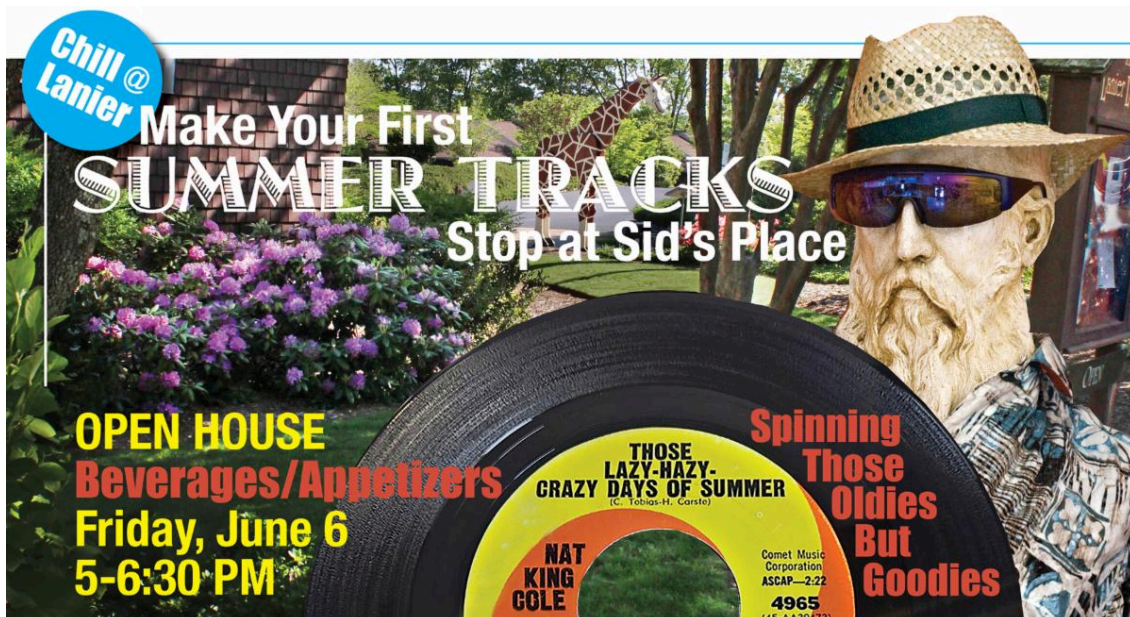
Wednesday,  
May 21, 1 PM

Live@Lanier, Wednesday, May 21, 1 PM, goes deep into The Dark Corner of SC, once disreputable for its gunfights, outlaws and moonshiners.

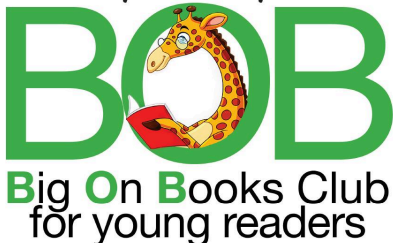
Greenville County Historian and author, Jim Stehlik, will take you across years and mountains and through forests to meet the matriarchal heads of the Dark Corner families that helped evolve the Greenville area into what we know today. For example, Martha Lindsey Plumey raised moonshining sons and daughters and purchased Glassy Mountain. Rebecca Hagood Hightower championed a wife's right to divorce a husband and own her own plantation. Sarepta Merritt Davis championed the Kingdom of Happy Land, a town of former slaves.

Jim will present a 200-year perspective with vintage pictures from his recently published: "*Dark Corner Journey: Glassy Mountain to the Valley.*" This is the third volume of his

trilogy.



You are invited on the 4th Tuesday of every month



### Big On Books (BOB) Club for Younger Readers

The BOB Club for K-12 will meet at Lanier Library on the fourth Tuesday of every month. This is a get-together for young readers to share thoughts and feelings about whatever they are reading, from Adventure to Zoology, fiction and non, and to get ideas of what they may want to read next. Lanier Library members and non-members are welcome. BOB (Big On Books) is the name of the giraffe presiding at the top of the Chestnut Street hill outside the Library.

### Chess Moves



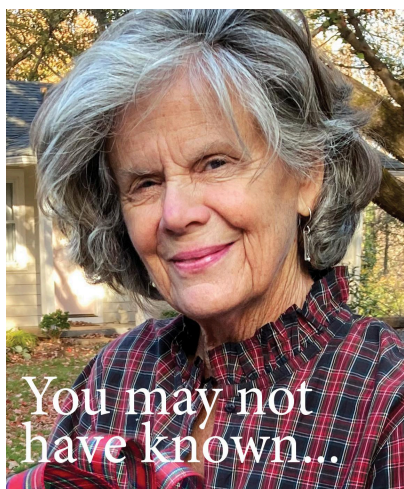
Interested in learning to play chess or improving your game? Join Lew Martin and other players on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm in the Holmes Room at Lanier. No experience is necessary and chess boards are provided.

## Board News



- Cindy Caldwell, President • Laura Peek, Vice President
- Timothy Boyce, Treasurer
- Doug Clark, Secretary • Derek Harrison, At-Large
- Eileen Mehta, Media Selection
- Vincent Verrecchio, Marketing Communications
- Denny Crowe, Membership (see NEW Board member profile below)

## Board Profile



### New Board Member Profile: Denny Crowe

You may know DENNY CROWE as Membership Chair of the Board who will be responsible for adding new members, keeping current members happy, and personally reminding them when to renew. You may also have participated in her and Cindy Caldwell's crafts workshops. She and Cindy, current Lanier President, met through the Tryon Garden Club about 7 years ago and decided to share the joy of decorating for the holidays with wreaths and floral displays.

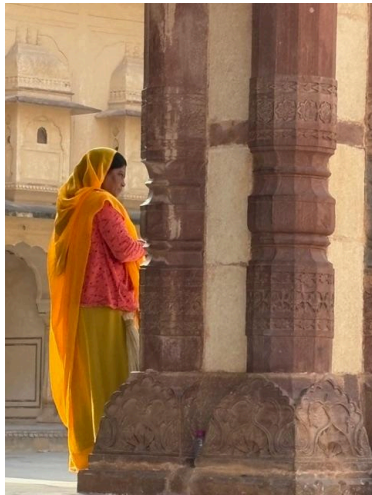
What you may not have known is that Denny graduated from Virginia Tech with a BA in Science and a minor in horticulture. Since birth she has been in the green industry. Her father owned a 100-year old seed company, and she's managed landscaping businesses and owned a commercial floral business for 15 years, decorating homes and event venues. She now gardens for the pleasure of seeing what blooms around her home on 1.5 acres. She says, "Peonies are stunning and fragrant...blooming for such a short time that it makes them special."

She remembers Lanier as "intriguing and charming" from the outside, and inside, the first time she entered, "I came to the Annual Holiday party with three granddaughters, not knowing what to expect. There was the historic ambiance and the welcoming warmth of everyone I met. The more I came to the Library, the greater my appreciation for the staff... sweet, eager to help."

A book lover since childhood, Denny remembers her first book, "Ferdinand the Bull." She says it's a toss up with "Pippi Longstocking" as to what would be her childhood favorite. She now favors fiction, mysteries, and a bit of science fiction.

She looks forward to helping grow the membership in the BOB Club for Young Readers. BOB (Big on Books) is the giraffe presiding outside at the top of the Chestnut Street hill.

## Note from the President



I recently traveled to Northern India with my partner, Richard, to celebrate his birthday with a trip we both had on our bucket list. The trip description promised Tigers, Temples, and the Taj, and it did not disappoint.

We traveled to the bustling city of Delhi, to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, and Jaipur, called the "Pink City" (also the location of the movie "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"). We visited Ranthambore Tiger Preserve and enjoyed safari jeep rides in search of wildlife. We were lucky to see tigers, monkeys, sloth bears, deer, peacocks and many other exotic birds.

The last leg of the trip included a visit to Varanasi, to witness a traditional aarti ceremony as we cruised along the Ganges River. From our boat, we could watch as devout Hindus bathed in the holy waters and offered lamps with candles to the gods, to remember those who have passed on. These ceremonies happen daily, but every twelve years there is a particularly auspicious time for pilgrims to gather. This event fell on the same dates as our trip, and we were part of an amazing celebration, more people than you can imagine, all hoping to be blessed by the holy waters.

India is not an easy travel destination. The trip itself is a brutal 15 hour flight. The contrasts between great riches and extreme poverty are always right in front of you. But even the poorest women are dressed in beautiful colorful saris. The locals we met were friendly and pleased to share their religion and culture. Mystical and spiritual, India changes you forever.

This was a trip I will never forget.

Namaste, **Cindy**



The Lanier Library board is looking for an individual who is interested in leading hospitality efforts at the library. If you would like to know more, please contact Jenny Purtill at 828-859-9535 or [thelanierlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:thelanierlibrary@gmail.com).

## Membership @ Lanier

### Membership Renewal Time

Is your membership about to expire? No need to come in to the library, just visit the library website by clicking on:

<https://thelanierlibrary.org/membership/online-membership-form/> and **renew online.**



If you aren't sure when your membership expires, please contact the library at 828-859-9535.



In the stairway to the LeDuc Room, you will discover four framed examples of Scherenschnitte: German for "scissor cuts." These silhouettes are paper cut-outs of scenes from Hans Christian Andersen stories. The three shown here, left to right, are *Cinderella*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Rumpelstiltskin*. The fourth is a variation on the lost children when they first find the witch's house.

When you consider the vision, patience, and skill to create such details, it is sad that we do not know the identity of the artist. Note, for example, Cinderella's hair and eyelashes, the bird in the tree over Hansel and Gretel, and the cat under the chair of the spinner. We know only that this art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century and our unique collection was a gift from Eva Brooks.

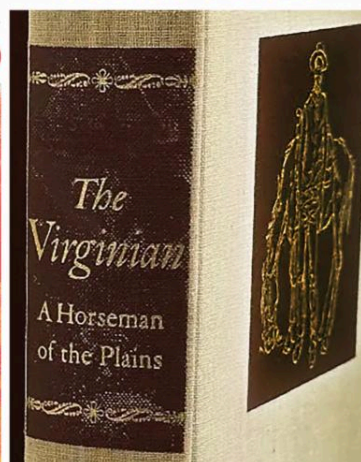
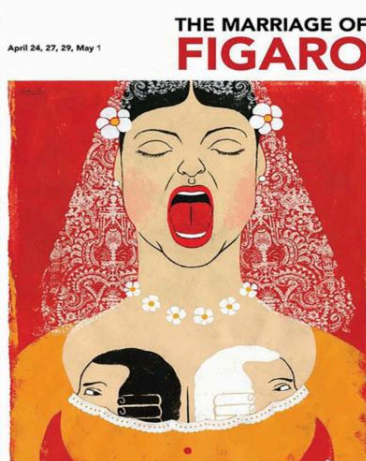


# Culture Quiz

CITY?

COMPOSER?

AUTHOR?



- Las Vegas, NV
- Dubai
- Berlin

- Beethoven
- Verdi
- Mozart

- Wister
- Grey
- L'Amour

**SCROLL TO BOTTOM FOR ANSWERS**

## Book Lovers May 3, 2025

Book Lovers will meet on May 3 to discuss books they've enjoyed (or not)! It's casual, enlightening, and there are no rules. Join the fun!

Here are current favorites.

### Fiction

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng  
 The Last Grand Tour by Michael McGregor  
 The Cafe with No Name by Robert Seathaler  
 The Lost Garden by Helen Humphreys  
 Anita De Monte Laughs Last by Xochitl Gonzalez  
 Outermark by Jason Brown  
 The Lieutenant by Kate Grenville  
 Baking Cakes in Kigali by Gaile Parkin  
 The Paris Express by Emma Donoghue  
 Will Trent by Karin Slaughter  
 Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon  
 The Dark Line by Tami Hoag  
 Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler

### Mystery

Midnight and Blue by Ian Rankin  
 What Time the Sexton's Spade Does Rust by Alan Bradley  
 Tooth and Claw by Craig Johnson  
 This Side of Murder by Anna Lee Huber  
 Some of Us Are Looking by Carlene O'Connor

No Strangers Here by Carlene O'Connor

### **Memoir/Biography**

Solito by Javier Zamora

Finding Freedom: A Cook's Story by Erin French

### **Nonfiction**

Dogland by Tommy Tomlinson

Kent State by Brian Van De Mark

## Nonfiction Book Club

The Nonfiction Book Club will meet at 1:30 on May 11 to discuss *On Tyranny: twenty lessons from the twentieth century* by Timothy Snyder. On June 8, the nonfiction book club will discuss *On Freedom* by Timothy Snyder.

## Orders & Acquisitions

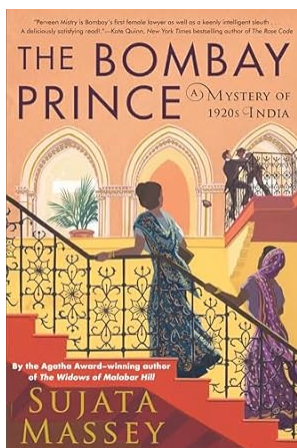
Below are the links to our **April** Acquisitions & Orders. Feel free to contact the library to put your name on the hold list for any you would like to read.

You can call us or **log in through the catalog on the website using your library card number for ID and PIN.**

And, as always, let us know if there is a book or DVD you think would enhance the collection.

Click here for **Orders.**  
Click here for **Acquisitions.**

## March Book Review



### ***The Bombay Prince - a Mystery of 1920's India***

As you walk into the Reading Room of the Lanier Library, have you noticed the bookshelf to the left of the double doors? Each month, Sandra displays a collection of books around a different theme. In March, the theme was "Explore Both Fiction & Nonfiction that Depicts a Distinct Time & Place".

I selected *The Bombay Prince* by Sujata Massey. I've never been to India but enjoyed this time travel experience as well as the mystery that it depicts.

The main character, Perveen, is a woman in her 20's who is "Bombay's Lady Solicitor". Through the author's depiction of Perveen we learn of the restrictions and privileges of the people in Bombay at the time when Gandhi was mobilizing the citizens to resist the British rule.

The *Bombay Prince* is the type of mystery that makes one want to keep reading to learn what will happen next. The author makes us feel we are with Perveen as she works to solve the death of a college student who consulted with Perveen prior to the student's death. At the back of the book, the author includes a glossary of the Indian words that are used in the story. I have read the rest of the books in this series, and I don't want them to end.

Submitted by **Robbie ter Kuile**

## Last Month @ Lanier



### PacJAM Jammed

On the evening of April 10, the fortunate members of the audience were treated to a wonderful concert by the seven members of the PacJAM Performers, an advanced group of PacJAM students. The concert even included an original song written by two members of the group.

Prior to the performance, director Julie Moore shared with us about the history of JAM programs, now located in seven states. The local

program, hosted by TFAC, has between 60 and 70 youth members as well as a number of adult participants. If you hear of an opportunity to see these students perform, mark your calendar. You won't be disappointed!



### Bird Migration

Thank you to Kevin Burke of Carolina Nature Tours and local birder Cheryl Day for a very informative program on bird migration in Western North Carolina on April 23rd.

We learned that spring is a great time to see warblers, vireos and flycatchers in the area. Kevin shared that he spent 20 minutes in Rogers Park and identified 21 species of birds.

Kevin and Cheryl recommend the following local areas for birding: FENCE, Laughter Pond, Harmon Field, and Lake Adger.

## Pets @ Lanier

*Lanier Library welcomes all library-friendly dogs & cats,  
but asks that they remain on leash or in their carriers at all times.*





Last month  
Gitte and  
Katydid  
stopped by  
with owner  
Jean Wright

## Displays @ Lanier

### **Sandra's Shelf Display**

Our May book display will feature nonfiction and fiction that deals with regional themes and will be titled *Celebrate Our Regional History*.

### **May Display Case**

A collection of items on loan from the Polk County Historical Association telling stories of the history of moonshining in Polk County.

### **Thank You**

Thank you to Julie Moore for filling the display case with musical items celebrating bluegrass and old time music.

## Poem of the Month

The Lanier Library Poetry Committee is pleased to introduce a poem of the month program. Each month we will be posting a different poem that we hope will inspire you. The poem will be in the monthly newsletter and posted at the library. Please let us know what you think of each month's selection.

### **It is Not Always May**

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The sun is bright, the air is clear,  
The darting swallows soar and sing,  
And from the stately elms I hear  
The blue-bird prophesying Spring.

So blue yon winding river flows,  
It seems an outlet from the sky,

Where waiting till the west wind blows,  
The freighted clouds at anchor lie.

All things are new; the buds, the leaves,  
That gild the elm-tree's nodding crest,  
And even the nest beneath the eaves;  
There are no birds in last year's nest!

All things rejoice in youth and love,  
The fulness of their first delight!  
And learn from the soft heavens above  
The melting tenderness of night.

Maiden, that read'st this simple rhyme,  
Enjoy thy youth, it will not stay;  
Enjoy the fragrance of thy prime,  
For O! it is not always May!

Enjoy the Spring of Love and Youth,  
To some good angel leave the rest;  
For Time will teach thee soon the truth,  
There are no birds in last year's nest!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Culture Quiz Answers

1. 26-foot tall metal rose sculpture by Isa Genzken, Las Vegas, NV
2. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
3. Owen Wister (1860-1938), the "father" of western (cowboy) fiction

Lanier Library | 828-859-9535 | [thelanierlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:thelanierlibrary@gmail.com)

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