



Esplanade Community Group

ECG Newsletter

6.2.21

The Neighborhood

Crowds have flocked to see the **Mute Swan pair** who built a nest on the Charles River and have been raising a family of five cygnets (baby swans), the first of which hatched Monday May 24.





In a sad update, we learned this morning that the mother swan died on the nest on June 1. Dad was seen swimming with the cygnets.

See more pictures and read about the swan saga [here](#)



Two free, grass-roots, **book exchange initiatives** have been taking place within walking distance of the Esplanade. Anyone can browse their freely accessible offerings seven days a week, 24 hours a day. All are encouraged to take a book or leave a book to share. We here at the Esplanade can support these two neighborhood initiatives. [Read more](#)

Meet Your Neighbors



We'd like to introduce **Vibha Pingle** who has lived in the Esplanade with her husband, Ashu, and their son, Kartik, since 2007. Vibha grew up in Delhi and did her undergraduate studies at the University of Delhi.

She then came to the US for her Master's and PhD in sociology at Brown University. In fact, it was at Brown in 1990 that she met Ashu.



In the late 1990s, Vibha traveled to South Africa and lived there for a couple of years as she studied how women escaped poverty. What strategies did the women use? Was community support essential? Had microloans helped women escape poverty? She wanted to use her research findings to have a practical impact, not just generate academic debate.

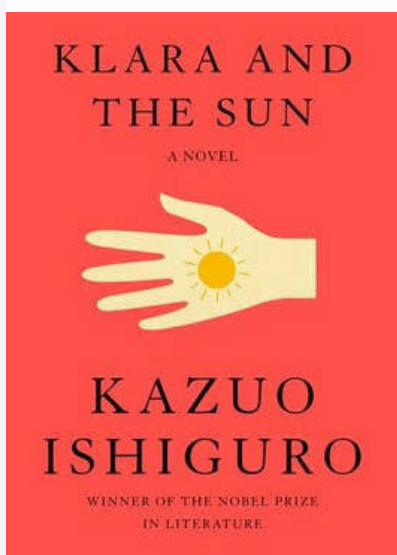
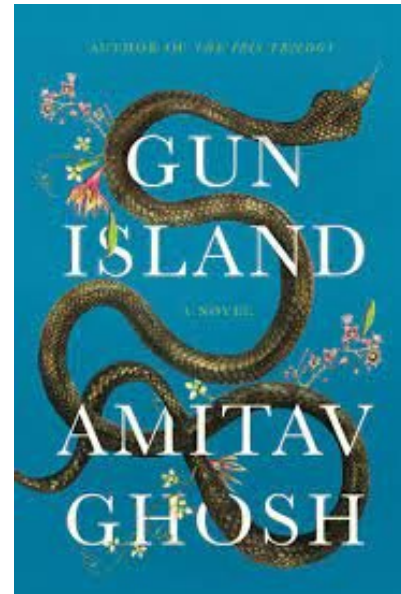
Pictures: Vibha and Family in Paris; Vibha in Namibia. [Read more](#)

[Read more interviews with](#)

neighbors here

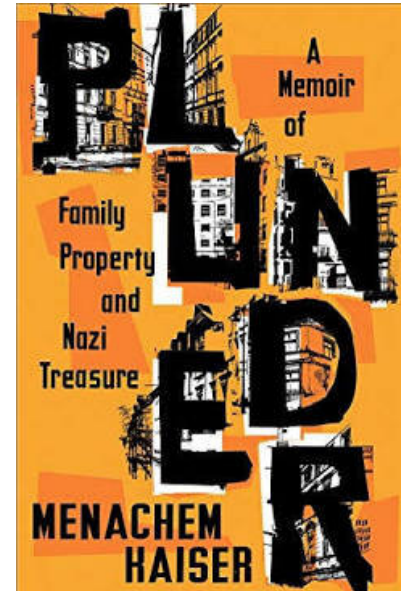
Reading

In the richly imagined, beautifully written novel ***Gun Island***, Amitav Ghosh uses storytelling, at times magic realism, to show individuals contending with strange and improbable happenings related to climate change. The narrator is Deen Ghatta, an Indian scholar and rare-book dealer who, like Ghosh, divides his time between India and Brooklyn. [Read more](#) (reviewed by Sissela Bok)



Did you begin your day by asking Alexa to play your favorite music or radio station? Or, did you converse with Siri over your phone? Our Esplanade book group talked over Zoom for their April book selection, called ***Klara and the Sun***. This 2021 best-seller by Nobel Prize winner Kazuo Ishiguro tells the story of an Artificial Friend (AF) who does all the things we expect from Alexa today, and more. [Read more](#) (reviewed by Jane Gould)

Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure was a book title that certainly grabbed my attention when I saw it reviewed in the *New York Times* in March, and a positive review it was. Menachem Kaiser has written a story with twists and turns and at least three different plot lines. He tells the story of his grandfather, a Polish Jew who fled the Nazis as they were arriving in his small town and ended up building a new life in Canada. [Read more](#) (reviewed by Bernie Aserkoff)



In October 2017 an object was detected traversing our solar system, a point of light moving away from the Earth that was given the name Oumuamua meaning “scout” in Hawaiian. Was it a comet, an asteroid, or another type of interstellar body? Oumuamua did not obey the accepted physical laws. ***Extraterrestrial*** by Avi Loeb describes the challenges caused by trying to categorize Oumuamua. [Read more](#) (reviewed by Fred Davis)

[Read more book reviews here](#)

Opportunities

From Jane Gould: Would you like to know more about social media and navigate it as easily as kids do? An Esplanade resident, Jane Gould, is developing a free, no-charge program called Mobility Mentors. It helps Boomers and similar age groups get familiar with more advanced features and apps on their smartphone. The prerequisite is a working knowledge of smartphones and how to download apps.

Jane is beta-testing a three-week immersion in Instagram, the Facebook app for pictures and photos. The Instagram intensive will focus on pictures of the Charles River, the Longfellow Bridge, and change of seasons on the Parkway. If you are interested in trying out Mobility Mentors for Instagram, email [Jane Gould](mailto:jane.gould@esplanade.org) to sign up.

From Nancy Crowley. [MIT Summer Series This Way: Remote Artist-Designed Walks and Experiences.](#)

You may think the world has enough Canada geese....



But not enough beautiful deck gardens



Linda Felter's deck. From Linda: "My spring pansies won't last much longer, and soon I'll be planting some Mexican Heather, which I love love love."

VISIT OUR (updated) ECG [WEBSITE](#)

Missed any of our newsletters or updates? Catch up on them [here](#).

Have tickets you can't use? Need a dog sitter? Something to sell? Let us know and we'll list your items in the **Beg, Borrow, Barter or Buy** column. Send your listings to [Esplanade Community](#).

Esplanade neighbors and newcomers to the building, whether owners or renters, are welcome to be part of the ECG and to receive our Updates, newsletters, and invitations to ECG events. Please pass along this update to new folks. To get on (or off) our mailing list just email [Esplanade Community](#).

Have ideas for these newsletters and updates? Want to write something? Send to [Jessie](#), [Mary Jo](#) or [Jane](#). Next newsletter early September 2021.

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