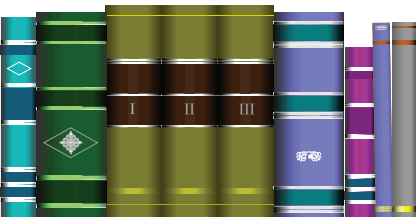




BOOKS

WHAT ARE THEY READING?



The Daily Astorian is inviting people to submit titles of books they are reading and share a few thoughts about the work. This week, the staff of the Astoria Public Library shared titles of what they are reading. To submit, send to news@dailyastorian.com



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

LAURA MEEKER

“Girl In A Band,” by Kim Gordon

Kim Gordon’s much talked about memoir has polarized readers, though it’s hard to understand how anyone could reject this beautifully written and inspiring book. Topics range from growing up in the sun-drenched Los Angeles sprawl to surf culture to the art scene to schizophrenia to no wave music and of course, Gordon’s deeply influential band Sonic Youth. Most striking to me was how much depth of meaning was revealed to be in Kim Gordon’s art, since Sonic Youth always appeared irreverent at a glance.

“A Nice Piece of Astoria,” by Matt Love.

Love’s goal in writing this guide was to counteract all of the bad writing that exists about Astoria — the kind of puff pieces that make us sound trite and too precious. Love has a knack for not only finding the good places, but then interacting with them in a way that reveals more than what is at the surface. He makes writing fun.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

**LIBRARIAN
JANE TUCKER**

“Fierce Conversations: Achieving Success at Work & in Life, One Conversation at a Time,” by Susan Scott

While the title might indicate Scott is discussing adversarial conversations, she defines fierce conversations as those in which we are able to authentically express ourselves. Engaging in communications that are robust, strong and powerful, individuals, corporations and organizations are asked to define core values and to identify what they are pretending not to know.

DAVID OSER

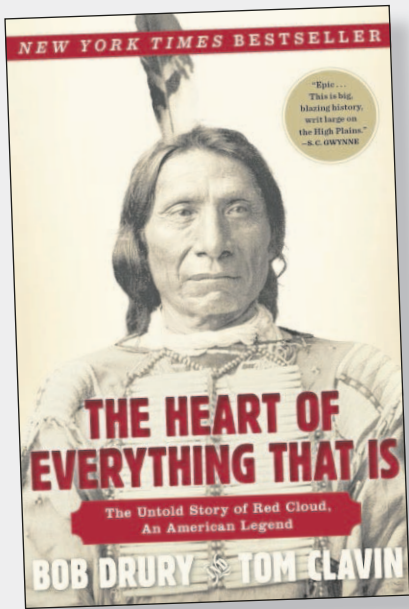
“The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism,” by Edward Baptist



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

MEGHANN LYNCH

“The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, an American Legend,” by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin



Fans of history looking for rich descriptions and vivid details will enjoy this title. The authors introduce a cast of characters from the Old West, some well-known and others more obscure, while telling the story of an American Indian chief who accomplished historic feats during the long battle

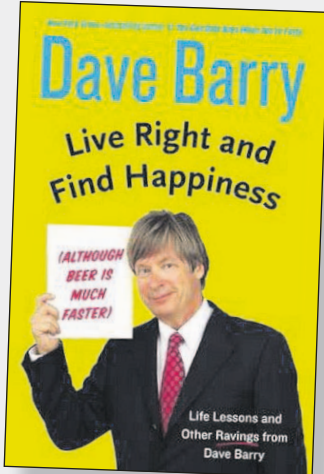
over the frontier and westward expansion.

“Joan of Arc: A Life Transfigured,” by Kathryn Harrison

An exploration of the brief life of a unique figure in history, this title follows Joan of Arc from start to finish. The author leans heavily on excerpts and quotations from primary sources to tell her story; as a reader who thinks that authors should write more original content and rely less on quotes, it seemed padded out in many passages. Despite this, the story was interesting and informative, especially if you know a little about Joan but have never learned the details.

“Live Right and Find Happiness (Although Beer is Much Faster): Life Lessons and Other Ravings from Dave Barry,” by Dave Barry

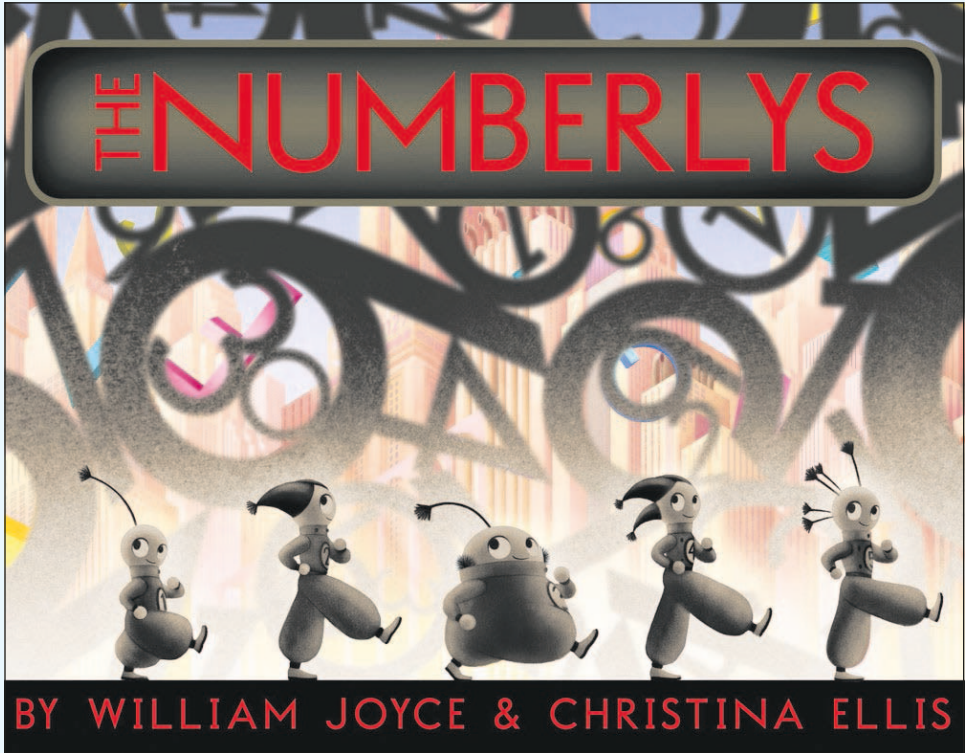
Barry is always good for a laugh. When you need a quick, fun read, this is a perfect break from any serious reading you might be engaged in.



PATTY SKINNER

“The Numberlys,” by William Joyce & Christina Ellis

“The Numberlys” is a great book to teach kids about numbers and letters. In a well-ordered industrial world of numbers, five friends decide they want something different. They put on their welding goggles and use cranes, gigantic gears and electricity to put whole numbers and number parts together in new ways. The result is the creation of the letters. Letters are then put together to create words that express feelings, colors and new ideas. The wonderful sepia tones of the industrial number world are transformed into brilliant colors associated with the new words. Kids and adults alike will love to pore over the intriguing details on each page.



LINDSAY JOHNSON

“Girl Genius,” by Phil and Kaja Foglio

From the Steam Punk fantasy world created in the original web comic, we get to follow a seemingly hapless young woman named Agatha. In a world where mad science is key, those with the knack are called Sparks, but for Agatha anytime she tries to pursue an idea, it is quickly dashed by strange headaches. Follow her story as one day she loses her precious locket, her place in the local college and all things normal in her life as mad Sparkiness abounds!

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