

Run or Walk (or Snowshoe, Skate, Slide, or Stroll) to the Kirkland Town Library by Laura Stoll

In 2019, when Kirkland Town Library Director Anne Debraggio hatched an idea to organize a half-kilometer run/walk around the theme of books, I was daunted. The most running I'd ever done was to get out of the rain so my books didn't get wet. We had to come up with a route that was only one-third of a mile long then figure out how to explain the event to the public and get them to actually sign up. Luckily our community had gotten used to our creative ideas and 50 people came! Over the years, we've adjusted the route and tweaked some details but it's always been a huge success.

We're looking forward to the fifth annual .5K on Saturday, February 25 at 9 a.m. If you're not a runner, either, never fear: this event is for everyone. You can walk, showshoe, skate, slide, or stroll the route, which is one-half of a kilometer (approximately one-third of a mile) around the Village of Clinton. The event begins and ends at the library where we'll greet you with cheers, prizes, and a goody bag.

Registration is \$5 per person with a \$10 family maximum. The fee is doubled if you don't have a library card but we can easily remedy that by getting you signed up. Stop at the KTL to sign up or register online by visiting www.kirklandtownlibrary.org.

In honor of this momentous event, here are some books and movies you could read or watch for a moment's rest in between your training walks and runs.

"Run" by Ann Patchett. An engrossing story of a fateful night and day that will change everything for one Boston family. At its center, "Run" is about what defines family and the lengths to which we will go to protect our children. (from the publisher)

"Walk The Line." This movie tells the story of Johnny Cash (Joaquin Phoenix) and June Carter (Reese Witherspoon), his love for her, and her rejection of him through the years. It's a true love story of two country music stars. (from the Mid York catalog)

"Winter Stroll" by Elin Hilderbrand. While preparing for Christmas at the Winter Street Inn, Kelley Quinn and his family find the holiday season thrown into chaos when three of their exes show up. (from the Mid York catalog)

"The Thirty-Nine Steps." The book is by John Buchan but don't miss the movie version directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Richard Hannay, who, despite claiming to be an "ordinary fellow," is caught up in the dramatic and dangerous race against a plot to devastate the British war effort. (from the Mid York catalog)

"Run" by John Lewis. This first book in a series of graphic novels tells the story of how John Lewis entered politics by working within the community and organizing a campaign that took him to one of the most important seats in Congress. (from the publisher)

"A Walk In the Woods" by Bill Bryson. Bill Bryson introduces readers to the history and ecology of the Appalachian Trail and to some of the other hardy (or just foolhardy) folks he meets along the way—and a couple of bears. (from the publisher)

"Where the Deer and the Antelope Play: The Pastoral Observations of One Ignorant American Who Loves to Walk Outside" by Nick Offerman. With wit, heartwarming stories and a keen insight into new and exciting ways to see both the past and the future of the country, the actor, writer, and woodworker takes a literary journey to America's frontier to celebrate the people and landscape that have made it great. (from the Mid York catalog)

Finally, if skating is more your thing (especially if you relish the competition), don't miss the movie "I, Tonya" starring Margot Robbie. "Based on the unbelievable but true events, I, Tonya is a dark comedic tale of American figure skater, Tonya Harding, and one of the most sensational scandals in sports history." (from the Mid York catalog)

We hope to see you at the .5k on February 25!