

January Movie Group

Mount Vernon at Home's Movie Group, led by Board Member Kathi Hanrahan via Zoom, is unique in that participants are assigned two movies to watch in the month. They can watch one, both, or choose their own. When the group gets together, attendees enjoy providing their reviews and critiquing the direction, story, photography, special effects, and more. The group welcomes suggestions for interesting features or documentaries to add to the watch list and encourages other "movie critics" to join the lively discussions. January's movies are:

Out of the Past (1947, Prime Video) – Film Noir

A private eye (Robert Mitchum) escapes his past to run a gas station in a small town, but his past catches up with him. Now he must return to the big city world of danger, corruption, double crosses, and duplicitous dames. Crooked gambler Whit Sterling (Kirk Douglas) had hired Jeff to track down his former girlfriend who shot Whit and made off with \$40,000. (National Film Registry, Best Classic Movies, Rotten Tomatoes, 93%)

The Shop Around the Corner (1940, Prime Video) – Classic Christmas Story

Alfred (James Stewart) and Klara (Margaret Sullavan) are employees at Matuschek and Company, a general store in Budapest. They are constantly at odds with each other, butting heads and disagreeing on almost everything. Both are enamored of their respective pen pals, who serve as welcome distractions in their lives. Little do they know, they are each the other's pen pal and, despite outward differences, have unwittingly fallen in love through their letters. (Rotten Tomatoes, 99%)

Holiday Bonus Movie

Tim Burton's ***The Nightmare Before Christmas*** (1993, Prime Video) – Animated Musical Fantasy
The film follows the misadventures of Jack Skellington, Halloweentown's beloved pumpkin king, who has become bored with the same annual routine of frightening people in the "real world." When Jack accidentally stumbles on Christmastown, he plots to bring Christmas under his control by kidnapping Santa Claus and taking over the role. But Jack soon discovers even the best-laid plans of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry. (Wikipedia, Rotten Tomatoes 95%)