



Sweet news: The *macaron*, that pretty melt-in-your-mouth French treat, is suddenly *everywhere*—and shipping nationwide from certain bakeries. Try macaroncafe.com or miette.com to snag a box of your own.

CENTERPIECE-WORTHY
Branch out

Bring fall's bursts of color indoors. A simple glass vase transforms a foliage display into naturally beautiful art. Choose a bouquet of maple, oak, sweetgum, dogwood, or persimmon leaves, which typically develop the brightest hues.



BOOKIN' IT
Reading habits, revised

In honor of International Literary Day, Sept. 8, find a new way to experience your favorite page-turner or build your autumn reading list.

Try an audible book
Listening to a book is a multitasker's dream. Push play while doing a repetitive activity like washing dishes, gardening, or driving. For a guaranteed good title, download one recognized with a 2011 Audie Award, theaudies.com.

Spread the word
Swap e-books through ebookfling.com, which allows Nook or Kindle users to lend or borrow titles for a 14-day "fling." For a lower-tech option, host a book swap or set out a free box of old faves at a place where people hang out. Laundromats and coffee shops are good spots—just ask permission first.

Find a new favorite
Check pulitzer.org or nationalbook.org for reads given the highest honors and recognition.

IN REMEMBRANCE
9/11 Day of Service

It's been 10 years since the World Trade Center attack, and the 16-acre memorial—featuring two 30-foot pools—is set to open on the anniversary. However you honor the day, declared a National Day of Service, do support a cause or perform a good deed. 911dayofservice.com makes it easy to record your doings, or explore and post about a cause that's close to your heart.

GOOD READ
Message in a flower

Learn the hidden message in the bottle—er, flower vase—through Vanessa Diffenbaugh's debut novel, *The Language of Flowers* (Ballantine). The Victorian language of flower meanings—at the heart of this book—is the connection to the world for foster-care child Victoria. In choosing flowers, she discovers a gift for helping others. We'd choose lisianthus (meaning *appreciation*) to convey our sentiments for this beautiful story.