

The BOOKMARK

Newsletter of the Gale Free Library

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Holidays in Holden, a two-day holiday celebration organized by the Town of Holden's Recreation Department, is scheduled for Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7. On Friday night, ride throughout town on a trolley to visit local restaurants. The trolley runs from 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM.

The following day the event will be held throughout the center of town with entertainment, food and drink, visits with Santa, and more. This year *Holidays in Holden* will conclude with a fireworks display at Wachusett Regional High School following the "Parade of Lights."

At the Gale Free Library, a special story time featuring Mrs. Claus will take place at noon on Saturday, December 7. Join us at the Library with your children for a magical story time! For more information about *Holidays in Holden*, visit the Recreation Department's website at holdenma.myrec.com.

Library Hours

Monday 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Tuesday 9:30 am-8 pm
Wednesday 9:30 am-8 pm
Thursday 9:30 am-8 pm
Friday 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Saturday 9 am-4 pm

Contact Us:
508-210-5560
galefreelibrary@gmail.com

Library News

- The Library will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas Day. The Library will reopen Thursday, December 26 at 9:30am.
- The Library will be closed Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day. We will reopen Thursday, January 2 at 9:30am.
- Our Classics Book Group will discuss *Silas Marner* by George Eliot this month. See page 2 for more details.
- Mountview Middle School artists are featured this month in the Upstairs Lobby. See page 2 for more details.
- The popular Beeswax Candles Cottage Craft program returns to the Children's Room. See page 3 for registration information.

Adult Programs, Art Exhibits

Art at the Gale Free Library



Mountview Middle School Art Show Throughout December Upstairs Lobby

A favorite among our patrons, the twice-a-year Mountview Middle School Art Show is back! Featuring 21 works of art by middle school artists (grades 6-8), this show always astonishes viewers with the extent of the young talent in town. Visit the Upstairs Lobby starting December 3 to see the art.



Call for Art

We are currently accepting applications for our 2025 Exhibit Season! We welcome proposals for exhibits from solo artists or small groups looking to exhibit their art for one month in the Program Room or Upstairs Lobby. Please note, art shows are intended as exhibits only; per Library policy, the Gale Free Library does not facilitate or participate in any onsite sales of artwork. For more information, visit our website at galefreelibrary.org under the "How Do I..." tab and then "Exhibit or See Art at the Library." Please reach out to Alana at agarrigues@cwmar.org or 508-210-5569 with questions.

For more information about art, adult programs, or mobile printing at the Library, please contact the Reference Desk at 508-210-5569 or email us at galefreelibrary@gmail.com.

Adult Take-Home Craft

Starts Monday, 12/3

Please visit the Reference Desk for your kit.

This month's take-home craft is "Festive Pine Cones"! Pick up your DIY craft kit at the Reference Desk (while supplies last). Every bag will contain free supplies and instructions. No registration required.



Cooking Club "Holiday Cookie Swap"

Tuesday, 12/10

6:30pm

Registration required.

It's time for our 9th annual Cookie Swap! Please bring bagged samples of one of your favorite cookies, along with your recipe. You will go home with a collection of assorted cookies and a bunch of new recipes that you can make for the holidays!



Mobile Print Services at the Library

The Library has made printing from your own device easier than ever! Princh is our new mobile print app. With it, you can print securely from your phone, tablet, or computer here at the Library, or print from your Wi-Fi at home and pick up your print job that same day. To get started, visit the "How Do I..." tab from our website at galefreelibrary.org and select "Use the WIFI/printing/public computers," or call us at the Reference Desk at 508-210-5569.



Classics Book Group Thursday, 12/19 6:30pm Registration required.



Join us as we discuss *Silas Marner* by George Eliot. Copies of the book can be picked up at the Reference Desk.



Weekly Knitting & Crocheting Group

Mondays, 1-2:30pm

We offer an in-person meeting, as well as a virtual meeting. (No registration is needed for the in-person meeting. For the virtual meeting, please contact the Library for an invitation.) All are welcome, from beginners to experienced!

Children's & Teens' Programs

Mrs. C Story Time

Saturday, 12/7, 12 PM

In the Program Room

Visit with Mrs. C for a magical story time during *Holidays in Holden!*



Morning Yoga

Saturday, 12/14, 10 AM

Ages 6-9

In the Program Room

Registration opens 12/7

Join local yogi mother-daughter team Mrs. Erin and Lily for some weekend stretching to educate the mind, body, and spirit. Students will learn some basic yoga poses and philosophy, practice relaxation skills, and develop body awareness, all while having fun!



Beeswax Candles

Cottage Craft

Tuesday, 12/17, 4:20 PM

Ages 6+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 12/10

Create a beautiful centerpiece or gift out of all-natural beeswax sheets!



Kidding-Around Yoga With Miss Nicole

Friday, 12/20, 10 AM

Ages 2-5

In the Program Room

To register please email

communityconnections@wachusettcfce.com.

This is not your typical yoga class! Little ones learn some basic poses with lots of music, movement, and literacy incorporated. Yoga helps children manage anxiety and improve emotional regulation, all while developing strength and flexibility!

LEGO Club

Wednesday, 12/4 and 12/11

4:20 PM

Ages 6+

In the Program Room

**Registration opens 11/27
and 12/4**

Build part of the LEGO Holiday Village at this month's LEGO Club.

LEGO Jr.

Thursday, 12/5

4:20 PM

Ages 4-5

In the Program Room

Registration opens 11/27

Make some LEGO ornaments to deck out our trees!

Teen Program

Dungeon Master Class

Tuesday, 12/10

3:45 - 5:45 PM

Grades 6+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 12/3

Learn the basics of DMing to run your very own D&D game! This program is for experienced players who want to learn how to run a D&D game. We will not be playing D&D this month.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Thursday, 12/19

4:20 PM

Grades 4+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 12/2

Read and discuss a graphic novel (to be announced soon), and learn about making comics! Once you register, visit the Children's Room to borrow your copy of the graphic novel.



Story Times



Lapsit Story Time

Ages 2 and under

Thursdays at 10 AM

(Except 12/26)

In the Program Room

Join Miss Rachel for songs, short picture-book stories, and more. This story time will focus on routine, repetition, and early literacy skills like ABCs and 123s.

Preschool Story Time

Ages 3-6

Thursdays at 11 AM

(Except 12/26)

In the Program Room

Join Mr. Kevin for lots of laughs and fun stories! This story time will focus on picture-book stories, and include some games or activities and of course, Mr. Kevin's great sense of humor!

Want info about all the goings-on in the Children's Room sent right to your inbox?

Sign up for our new email list at bit.ly/gflkidsemail.

*You can also keep up with us on the Gale Free Kids Facebook page
and at galefreelibrary.org.*

Museum Moments, Local History

Museum Moments

Georgia O'Keeffe and
Henry Moore

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Now through January 20, 2025

The exhibition is an unprecedented collaboration with the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, the Henry Moore Foundation, and the San Diego Museum of Art. The exhibit presents about 90 works by Moore and 60 by O'Keeffe, and also draws from the Boston MFA's modernist collection. For more information please visit mfa.org.

Holiday Happenings at the Ecotarium

Frosty Festival
December 7 & 8

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Visit the Ecotarium for a winter festival that will light up your holiday season! Take holiday pictures by our seasonally decorated Explorer Express Train, join our zookeepers for a live animal-painting session and keeper chat, listen to live musical performances, participate in fun holiday-themed crafts, get your face painted, experience interesting and engaging educational programs, and more! Local food trucks will be on site with refreshments available for purchase!

Noon Year's Eve Celebration

Tuesday, December 31
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Ring in the New Year and participate in the annual kid-friendly countdown at noon! You can also make a time capsule, launch a rocket, and add to the Ecotarium's resolution wall.

Find out more about both events at ecotarium.org.

For information about the Gale Free Library's Museum Pass Program, please contact the Reference Desk at 508-210-5569 or email galefreelibrary@gmail.com.



Local History

Did you know that five different histories of the Town of Holden have been published thus far, beginning in 1841? To introduce our patrons to these histories, Local History plans to present excerpts from each book in the current and several subsequent issues of "The Bookmark." Copies of all five histories can be checked out from the Library.

Excerpts from S. C. Damon's

The History of Holden, Massachusetts, 1667-1841, cont'd.

Note: Our readers may remember from their history courses some of the struggles that not only the military, but also the citizenry faced during and after the Revolutionary War (1775-1783). Various efforts were made to alleviate some of the suffering.

"... To prevent monopoly upon such articles as were considered the necessities of life, the [Holden] Selectmen, and Committee of Safety were empowered, by an Act of the Provincial Congress to establish ultimium [sic] prices.

" 'Farming labor from the 20 th June, not to exceed 3 shillings per day.

Wheat,	6s	0d per bushel;
Indian Corn	3s	0d " "
Spanish potatoes,	1s	1d " " in the fall;
" "	6s	6d " " in the spring;
Beans,	6s	0d " "
Clean flax seed,	6s	0d " "
Turnips,	0s	8d per bushel;
Apples,	0s	8d " "
Horse keeping over night,	1s	4d
Oats,	0s	2d per mess;
Lodging,	0s	3d per night;
Potluck,	0s	8d per meal;
New England flip,	0s	9d per mug;
West India flip,	0s	11d " "
Good grass-fed beef,	0s	2d per lb.;
New Milk,	0s	2d per quart;
Tobacco,	0s	7d per lb.;
A glass of New England rum 2 coppers;		
Doctor's travel, 6d per mile—out;		
Shop joiner to have 3s per piece for common colored chairs with bottoms;		
<i>the rest of their work in the same proportion' "</i>		

Despite the hardships of the war years, many of the parishioners of the First Congregational Church shared willingly with their pastor, The Reverend Joseph Avery, many necessities, including "a piece of beef; a pail of soap; a loaf of bread; a few candles; 2 quarts of milk; a cheese and 4 lbs. of butter"; "a piece of beef and of pork; also a sparerib; 3 candles; some malt and a piece of bread, also two wash tubs and 30 nails, and a few hops"; "some beans"; "a piece of veal and a calf's head"; "some cloth for a shirt."***

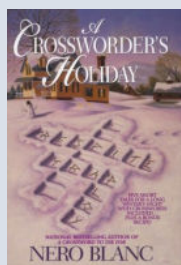
*According to the Reverend Damon, this list, which he found in the second volume of the Holden Town Records, "might be enlarged." Note that the abbreviation "s" stands for shilling and "d," for pence. "Mess" can mean an undefined yet context-dependent amount of something edible that, in the above instance, might mean enough for one meal.

**From The Reverend Avery's memorandum book, dated 1782.

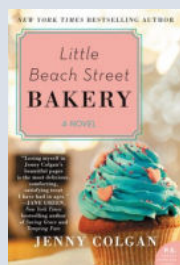
Local History content is provided by our Local History Librarian, Nancy Richards.

Be on the Lookout for...

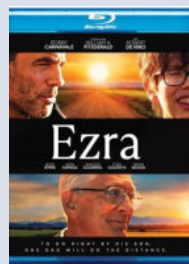
Staff Picks



*A Crossworder's
Holiday*
By Nero Blanc
Spencer



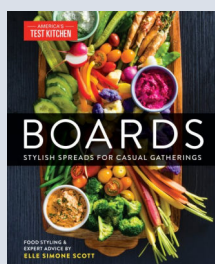
*Little Beach Street
Bakery*
By Jenny Colgan
Nancy Ch.



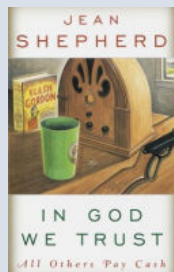
Ezra
DVD-R-2023
Wendy



The Briar Club
By Kate Quinn
Nancy E.



Boards:
*Stylish Spreads for
Casual Gatherings*
By Elle Simone
Scott,
America's Test
Kitchen
Katy



*In God We Trust:
All Others Pay Cash*
By Jean Shepherd
Spencer

It's Winter--Are You Ready for a New Mystery Series?



Linda Castillo is the NY Times bestselling author of the Kate Burkholder crime thriller series, which is set in a small English-Amish community in Ohio. At present there are 16 books, interspersed with 11 short stories. This is my favorite mystery series, and I eagerly await the new novel every year. Mystery, thriller, intrigue, and romance--it doesn't get much better!

In her first book, *Sworn to Silence*, published in 2009, Castillo introduces Kate Burkholder, the Chief of Police of Painters Mill, Ohio. Kate is formerly Amish, but decided to leave the community after a terrible incident. Her Amish roots give her great understanding of the culture and the ability to communicate in the German dialect of Pennsylvania Dutch. Suddenly, there is a serial killer on the loose in the pleasant Painters Mill community. The deaths are very similar to the killings that occurred 16 years ago. But why the 16-year gap if it's the same killer? State agent John Tomasetti, who has his own troubling past, is thrown together with the Chief of Police to solve this series of murders.

The Burning is the most recent installment in the series and is a bit more grisly than normal, but the author gives the historical background of the Amish, which makes the mystery more intriguing. The victim is burned at the stake, and Kate is removed from the task force when her brother is considered a suspect. But Kate continues to investigate and once again puts herself in peril.

A complete listing of Castillo's series can be found on the website fantasticfiction.com or at Novelist Plus, which can be found under the Reader's Advisory tab on our website, galefreelibrary.org. All books are available in print and on Libby and Hoopla in both e-book and audio format.

This review courtesy of Judy from the Circulation Department.

