

The BOOKMARK

Newsletter of the Gale Free Library

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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



While we no longer have a bookmobile, the Gale Free still honors the tradition of reaching out to all patrons living in Holden. The Book Express celebrates its 25th anniversary this year—see page 4 for the full story!

Library News

- The Library will close at 3pm on Monday, December 8 for Staff Recognition.
- The Library will be closed Thursday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday and on Thursday, January 1 for New Year's Day.
- Our Cooking Club's annual Cookie Swap takes place this month. See page 2 for more details.
- Children's programming continues while the Children's Room renovations continue. See page 3 for more information.

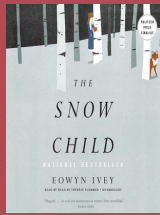


Adult Programs, Staff Picks

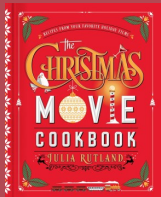
Our Staff's Seasonal Favorites!



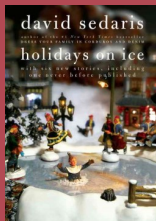
*The Secret
Christmas Library*
by Jenny Colgan



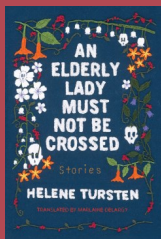
The Snow Child
by Eowyn Ivey



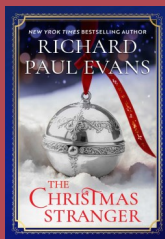
*The Christmas Movie
Cookbook*
by Julia Rutland



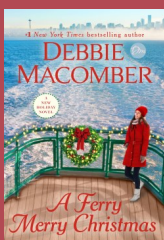
Holidays On Ice
by David Sedaris



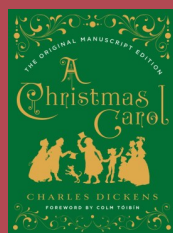
*An Elderly Lady
Must Not
Be Crossed*
by Helene Tursten



*The Christmas
Stranger*
by Richard Paul
Evans



*A Ferry
Merry Christmas*
by Debbie Macomber



A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens

Adult Take-Home Craft
Starts Tuesday, 12/2
Please visit the Reference Desk
for your kit.

This month's take-home craft is
"Winter Blooms"! Pick up your
DIY craft kit at the Reference
Desk (**while supplies last**).

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!

Cooking Club
Annual Cookie Swap
Tuesday, 12/9
6:30pm

Registration required.

One of our favorite days of the
year--our annual Cookie Swap!
Please bring bagged samples
of your favorite cookies, along
with your recipes. You'll go
home with a bag full of
assorted cookies and a bunch
of new recipes that you can
make for the holidays!

December "Art in the Lobby"
This month talented artists from
Mountview Middle School are
featured in our Upstairs Lobby.



*The Reference Staff wishes you a happy holiday season!
Program planning is under way for the upcoming year--
stay tuned to see what we have in store!*



Do you find you're occasionally missing out on our fun and FREE
program offerings for adults? Subscribe to our Adult Programs
Update, "Page Through Our Programming," to get weekly updates
delivered directly to your email! See the link to subscribe on our
website at galefreelibrary.org, or contact us at the Reference Desk
at either 508-210-5569 or galefreelibrary@gmail.com.

*For more information or to register for a program, please
contact the Reference Desk at 508-210-5569 or
email us at galefreelibrary@gmail.com.*

Children's & Teens' Programs

Meet Mrs. C
"Holidays in Holden"
Saturday, 12/6
2:30—3:15 PM

In the Program Room.

Mrs. C will be visiting for a magical story time during "Holidays in Holden"! You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear tales of the North Pole and meet the woman behind the magic.

Improv for
Dungeons and Dragons
with Little Spark Theater
Tuesday, 12/9
4:20 PM
Ages 9+

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 12/2.

Come explore your D&D character with fun improv games! We'll try out different scenarios to see how your character would respond. With this class you'll get to know your motivation even better, making for the best game play!

Beeswax Candles Craft
Thursday, 12/11
4:20 PM

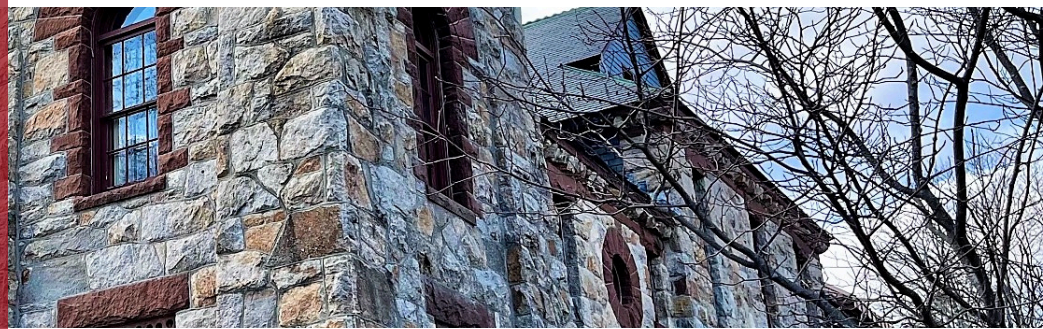
In the Program Room.

Registration opens 12/4.

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

Want info about all the goings on in the Children's Room sent right to your inbox? Sign up for our email list at bit.ly/gflkidsemail.

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



LEGO Club
Wednesdays, 12/3 and 12/10
4:20 PM
Ages 6+

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 11/26 and 12/3.

Help build part of the LEGO Holiday Village at this month's LEGO Club!

LEGO Jr.
Thursday, 12/4
4:20 PM
Ages 4-5

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 11/26.

Make some LEGO ornaments to deck out our trees!

Ready, Build, Play with
Community Connections
Friday, 12/5
10 AM
Ages 2-5

In the Program Room.

No registration required.

Join us to read, build, and play! Children expand their problem-solving skills, and develop social skills as they build.

Graphic Novel Book Club
Thursday, 12/18, 4:20 PM
Grades 4+

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 12/4.

Come read and discuss *Anzu and the Realm of Darkness* by Mai K. Nguyen! We will also discuss art and how graphic novels are made. Once you register, visit the Reference Desk to borrow your copy of the graphic novel.

TEEN PROGRAM!

Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot
Tuesday, 12/16
3:30-5:30 PM
Grades 6+

Registration opens 12/9.

Join the party for a second-level adventure! This session is ideal for new and experienced players alike. You can come with your own first-level character or choose from a premade sheet.

Story Times



Lapsit Story Time
Ages 2 and under
Thursdays at 10 AM
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
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, along with Mr. Kevin's great sense of humor!

Museum Passes, Local History

Museum Moments

Arms and Armor Up Close:
Legion III Cyrenaica
at the Worcester Art Museum
Saturday, December 13
11am–3pm

Free with Museum admission.

Celebrate the opening of Worcester Art Museum's Arms and Armor Galleries with weekly reenactments, demonstrations, and interactive displays!

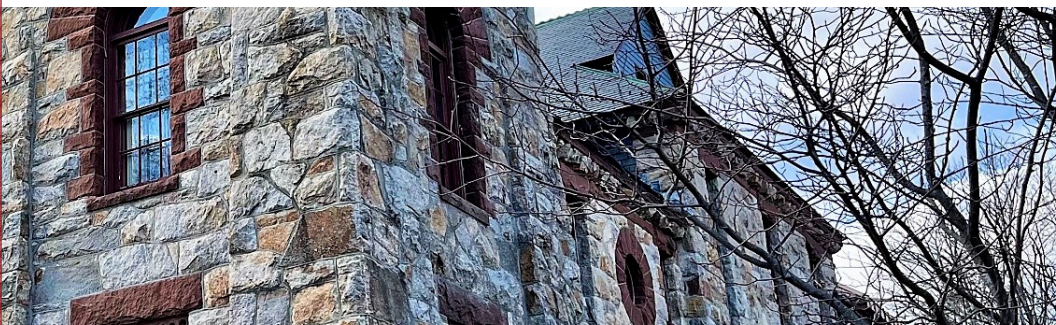
Legion III Cyrenaica is a Roman living history organization with membership throughout the New England region. The group researches, reconstructs, and presents this historical Legion as it may have appeared in Egypt and later in Syria during the Roman Empire (covering 40–400 CE). The Legion functioned primarily as military police, based outside Alexandria and manning road stations and watchtowers along the trade roads in the Koptos region.

While the main focus of the group is on the arms, armor, and military functions of the Roman Legion, the group also features non-citizen Auxiliary and non-military/civilian aspects.

Program subject to change. Please check our website worcesterart.org.

This presentation will be held outside the Arms and Armor Galleries, and reservations are not required to attend. Timed-entry reservations are required to enter the Arms and Armor Galleries.

For more information or to reserve passes to these or other participants in our Museum Pass Program, please call the Reference Desk at 508-210-5569.



Celebrating
25 YEARS!

Local History

The Book Express

Public libraries have long employed a variety of ways to get books into the hands of patrons, ranging from, in the early days, physically setting aside requested titles at the “Check-out” Desk to hand delivering books to local nursing homes to today’s promotions of new titles on Facebook and Instagram. What many of us may not know is that meeting patrons’ needs has always been directed toward **everyone**, including children younger than 13 years old* and adults who for one reason or another, whether temporarily or not, can’t leave their homes. Furthermore, crises like the COVID-19 pandemic have presented particular challenges and prompted unique solutions to making certain that all patrons have access to the materials they not only want, but also need to help them navigate, stay informed, and endure.

This year the Library is celebrating the **25th anniversary** of what is known as “**The Book Express**.” This program, a pleasant and polished outreach service that helps place Library materials into the hands of patrons who are homebound, whatever the reason or duration, grew out of the different methods of delivery and retrieval mentioned above. Overseen today by Assistant Circulation Manager Danielle Yanco, the Express requests that patrons complete an application in which they can note both the format(s) and type(s) of media they prefer, their favorite authors and magazines, and any other “reading or listening needs” they may have. Program participants also enjoy the following benefits:

- Having a librarian make their selections, based on their application and lists of specific titles, if desired;
- Making selections whenever they’re ready, rather than according to a set schedule;
- Having a librarian record checked-out materials for their future use;
- Enjoying materials for a full six weeks; and
- Frequently receiving a friendly note from staff in their bag of selections.

Volunteers at the Gale Free originally delivered selections to our homebound patrons, but today the Holden Senior Center provides pick-up, drop-off, and return services. Participants also have the option of designating an individual who will pick up and return items for them.

Please join us in celebrating this beneficial and much-appreciated service of the Gale Free Library. May “The Book Express” continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our patrons who cannot always make their way to us for many years to come.

*Books for “juveniles” (“children”) were available from the day the Library opened its doors in 1888, but these titles had to be checked out and brought home by responsible adults. The most likely reason? The cultural precept “Children should be seen and not heard.”

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