

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

View News



If you've been to the Library this winter, or even driven by, you are sure to have noticed the boarded-up windows in the first-floor Reading Room and the second-floor Children's Room. Restoration of our historic windows is in progress off site and will continue in stages through June. All Library floors are accessible; as the work progresses, however, certain collections may be relocated temporarily. The staff at the Reference Desk is always available to assist patrons find particular items.

Library News

- The Library will be closed Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, February 18 at 9:30am.
- Join us for a very special celebration for our therapy dog Maggie's first anniversary! See date and details on page 2.
- Kids can make bookmarks to hide in Library books for Random Acts of Kindness Day. See page 3 for more information.
- The Gale Free's Community Art Show returns in March with a spring theme! For more information about how to participate, see page 5.

Adult Programs, Art Exhibits

Cześć!

Polish for Beginners

Thursdays 2/6, 2/13 & 2/20,
and Wednesday, 2/26

6-7pm

For ages 16 +

Registration required.

Learn the Polish language with our librarian Magda, a native Polish speaker, as your tutor and a friendly beginners' guide! The program will be held over 4 sessions.



Maggie's Anniversary!

Saturday, 2/15
10:30-11:30am

**No registration
required.**

It's Maggie's one-year anniversary at the Library! Each month, Maggie and her person, Kelly, come to the Library to spend time with us and bring smiles to our faces. Now it's time to celebrate her! Drop by anytime ~ treats for patrons and take-home goodie bags for their own pups will be provided!

Calling Ukulele Lovers!

We are trying to gauge interest in creating an informal group of ukulele players at the Library. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact the Reference Desk for more information at 508-210-5569.

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.

Adult Take-Home Craft

Starts Tuesday, 2/4

Please visit the Reference Desk
for your kit.

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



The Craft of Writing Workshop with Jennifer Freed "Yours Truly"

Thursday, 2/6
10:30am-12pm
Online via Zoom.

Registration required.

In this season of clichéd verse and heart-shaped chocolates, let's look at love poems that feel sincere, particular, and even humorous.

Cooking Club "One Pot Dishes"

Tuesday, 2/11
6:30pm

Registration required.

One pot dish is the answer when we're too tired to cook! Often a one pot dish involves minimal prep and time, with the stove or oven doing most of the work, saving time, stress, and, importantly, washing up. Do you have a favorite one pot dish recipe? Would you like to share it with us? Consider joining us! Please bring your one pot dish along with the recipe.

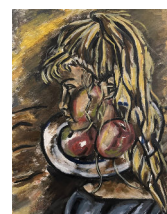


Classics
Book Group
Thursday, 2/27
6:30pm
**Registration
required.**

Join us as we discuss the second half of *Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak. 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!



Art in the
Program Room-
"The Girl with the
Ponytail:
A Cubist
Reinterpretation"
by Niele Dorchak

By creating a series of works that draw upon traditional artistic practices such as portraits painted realistically and still-life paintings, this exhibition aims to reimagine the possibilities of Cubism, inspired by Picasso's iconic muse, "The Girl with the Ponytail." In contrast, another series of works explores the innovative language of Cubism, a movement pioneered by Picasso himself. **Join us for an ARTIST TALK on Tuesday, February 25 at 6 pm.**

Children's & Teens' Programs

Random Acts of Kindness Day



Thursday, 2/13, 4:20 PM

In the Program Room

No registration necessary

Celebrate kindness by making kindness bookmarks and hiding them in library books! There will also be a surprise story-time reader before the craft.

Read, Build, Play with Community Connections

Friday, 2/14, 10 AM

Monday, 2/24, 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.



Little Spark Theater Presents: Big Kid Creative Drama

Thursday, 2/20, 3 PM

Grades 1 - 3

In the Program Room

Registration opens 2/13

Get ready to bring imagination to the next level! Little Spark brings theater into kids' lives to build their confidence, empathy, and sense of self. What better time than winter break to try something new and fun?



Neighborhood Forest Free Tree Sign-Ups

Register at <https://bit.ly/gfltrees> to receive a free tree to plant to celebrate Earth Day. Registrations close on March 15th; trees will be available to pick up at the library around April 22nd.



February Break is *Brick Week* in the Children's Room!

There will be LEGO and DUPLO bricks to build with in the Children's Room from Tuesday, 2/18 through Friday, 2/21!

LEGO Club

Wednesday, 2/5 and 2/12

4:20 PM

Ages 6+

In the Program Room

**Registration opens 1/29
and 2/5**

Come build a floor of the apartment building for the residents of Rainbow Acres, this month's LEGO display. Once they're built, we'll see how tall we can make the building!

Graphic Novel Book Club

Thursday, 2/27

4:20 PM

Grades 4+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 2/4

Read and discuss *Next Stop* by Debbie Fong 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

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 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

Harvard Lions Club presents
"Winter Fest 2025"

Fruitlands Museum
Harvard, MA

Fruitlands Museum and the Harvard Lion's Club are teaming up again to throw out the winter blues and awaken the Fruitlands hillside with a festival day of family-friendly activities. Join for a day of seasonal celebrations!

Activities include: 5K Road Race, Wassail the Orchard, Apple Cannons, Fairy Door Field, Mac and Cheese, Nature Walks on Fruitland Trails, Food and Beverages, Knit/Crochet Hat Contest, Fire Pits, Skillet Toss Contest, Snowman Glen, Chili Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Human Dog Sled Pull, Indoor Kid's Activities, Ice Sun Catcher Contest, Sledding on the Hill, Hot Chocolate Bar, Make a Candle, Winterland Photo Contest, and Snowflake Contest. Learn more about the day's events and register for races on the Lion's Club website. **Visit thetrustees.org for more information about registration.**

Event admission includes access to the Wayside Gallery and Grounds.

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 Addendum

The Library's Local History Librarian, Nancy Richards, will be away on medical leave for six weeks (January 21st to March 10th). Columns in "The Bookmark" will continue, but if you have any questions or need something researched, please email Assistant Director-Head of Reference Jennifer Rhoades at jrhoades@cwmar.org or stop by the Reference Desk. Upon her return, Nancy and her volunteers will turn first to the needs of our patrons, as recorded by our Reference Staff. *Thank you very much for your patience.*



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 D. F. Estes'

The History of Holden, Massachusetts, 1684-1894, cont'd.

"The natural forest growth [of Holden] consists of pine, oak, maple, cedar, hemlock, hornbeam, ash, chestnut, walnut, beech, and birch. Wild flowers abound. The Mayflower or trailing arbutus and mountain laurel grow in special profusion.

"From the only quarry which has been opened, building stone in a great variety of colors has been taken. It is supposed that the seams of the rock have been penetrated by gases of various compositions, so that the stone has been diversely and beautifully colored. Specimens of quartz and traces of gold and silver are also found in the same quarry.

"There are at least a dozen hills or marked elevations in Holden. The most conspicuous is 'Stone House' Hill, so called from the natural house formed by the projecting rocks. Indian relics have been found here, showing that the Indians observed and profited by the facilities for defence [sic] which it affords. It lies in the southern part of the town, overlooking the reservoir of the Worcester water-works, and rises to a height of one thousand one hundred feet. Its sides are rocky and precipitous, incapable of cultivation, so that it was long a resort for rattlesnakes, from which fact is derived the name by which it is often called, "Rattlesnake Hill."* The hill overlooking Eagleville, sometimes called Davis Hill, because [of] the site of the famous tavern so long kept by landlord Paul Davis, and the hill near Sterling line, rise to a height of eight hundred feet or more. It so happens, however, that the chief elevations lie on the borders of the town, and that the summits are in other towns. This is the case with Pleasant Hill, bordering on Princeton; Malden Hill in West Boylston; Winter Hill in Worcester; Asknebumskit Hill in Paxton; Pine Hill, also in Paxton; and Pound Hill and the elevation opposite, in Rutland.

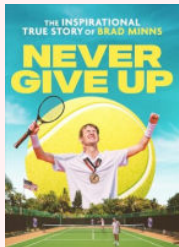
"The principal stream in Holden is the Quinapoxet River, formed by two main branches, one of which rises in Quinapoxet Pond, a body of water lying chiefly in Princeton, and Muschopauge Pond in Rutland, and flows past North Woods and Quinapoxet villages; and the other of which rises in Asknebumskit Pond, in Paxton, and flows through Eagleville, Jefferson, and Lovellville, uniting with the former branch in the meadow just below the last named village. This stream is also fed by Trout Brook, coming in from the north, and by two brooks from the south, one from Bryantville and the other from Chaffinville. The Quinapoxet River flows into the Nashua River, which in turn empties into the Merrimac. Tatnuck Brook, in the southern part of the town, flows through Worcester into the Blackstone. The city of Worcester has erected reservoirs along this stream and controls the valley as a part of its water supply. The waters of a single meadow in the southern part of the town are drained partly into the Merrimac, partly into the Blackstone."

*According to 18th Century Worcester Town Records, producing the tails of rattlesnakes killed "at their Dens & also at Stone house hill so called in Holdin [sic]" netted the hunter a sixpence bill of credit per snake.

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

Be on the Lookout for...

What Wendy's Watching This Winter



Never Give Up
2023 DVD
Inspirational
family film



It Ends With Us
2024 DVD



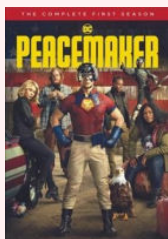
Ruby's Choice
2024 DVD
So good!



Wednesday
DVD-TV Series
Exceeded my
expectations!



Arcadian
2024-Rated R
Dystopian sci-fi
thriller



The Peacemaker
The complete first
season.
Ok, this one's a
Spencer pick :-)

Wendy from Circulation is our
go-to movie advisor!

- ALL AGES
- ALL ABILITIES

CALL FOR ART

March Community Show: Spring!

Public
Reception
Sat., 3/22
11 am - 12 pm

Get ready!

The Gale Free Library Community Art Show returns in March with a Spring theme!

What does Spring say to you? Flowers? Pastels? Bright colors? Baby animals? Sowing seeds? New beginnings? However you interpret the theme, collect or create your Spring artwork now and get ready to share it with your neighbors!

All ages and abilities welcome. Any 2D form of art is eligible: painting, poetry, photography. Unframed preferred; matted okay. Contact the Reference Desk with questions: 508-210-5569 or galefreelibrary@gmail.com

Drop off: March 3-8
(at the Reference Desk)

Pick up: March 27-31

The exhibit will be displayed in the Upstairs Lobby from March 6 - 27, 2025.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Gale Free Library for sponsoring art in the library. The Upstairs Lobby is elevator accessible, located at 23 Highland Street in Holden, MA.