



# The BOOKMARK

The monthly 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](mailto:galefreelibrary@gmail.com)



*An amaryllis in bloom in the Reading Room this January. Thank you to the Friends of the Gale Free Library for a hint of spring this winter.*

## February Library News

### Cozy Up To Your Library!

This winter, join us for some cozy evenings at the Library! We'll have our Program Room set up with tables, comfy chairs, snacks, and a fireplace (faux, but just as comforting!). Feel free to read, knit, work on a puzzle or quiet game, or finish a project you've brought from home. Our toasty, cheerful room is yours for the night! Thursday, February 12 and 26, 6-7:30pm. No registration necessary.

### Reminder

The Library will be closed Monday, February 16 for Presidents' Day.



During February and March, we will be exploring the practice of Hygge (Hoo-guh). The official website of Denmark describes Hygge as “taking time away from the daily rush to be together with people you care about -- or even by yourself -- to relax and enjoy life’s quieter pleasures.” To help observe the many different facets of this practice, we thought it would be fun to create a bingo sheet of activities (including many that can be done right at your library!). To add to the fun, we have Hygge-related prizes that we’ll be giving out for taking part. To learn more, and to pick up an activity sheet, please visit the Reference Desk!



### *Art in the Program Room*

In February, an exhibition of artwork by Matthew C. Waite will be featured.

*Landscapes in Different Forms* is an exhibition that focuses on the wide range of styles, media, and narratives that Matthew enjoys painting. This show represents some of his favorite creations. Matthew’s inspiration for these pieces ranges from hiking in the Swiss Alps to daily interactions with his local landscapes.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Gale Free Library for sponsoring art in the Library.

## Adult Programs

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*Classics Book Group*  
Tuesday, 2/17  
1pm

### **Registration required**

The Classics Book Group is back, at a new day and time! For our first meeting of the year, we’ll be discussing *Strangers on a Train* by Patricia Highsmith. Copies of the book can be picked up at the Reference Desk.

*Cooking Club*  
“Finger Foods”  
Tuesday, 2/17  
6:30pm

### **Registration required**

The smaller the food, the tastier it is, right? We love all types of finger foods, both sweet and savory. It’s great to be able to put a bunch of different items on a plate and enjoy everything. Great at parties, tailgates, friendly get-togethers, and even at work. We bet you have at least one recipe for a delicious finger food. We’d love to taste them and get the recipes!

*Ukulele Group*  
Wednesday, 2/18  
6-7pm  
Ages 16+

Join us for our Ukulele Group! Whether you are new to the ukulele or more advanced, we welcome you to join this group, where you can play together, learn from each other, and have fun! If you are new to the group, please contact the Reference Desk to let us know you’ll be attending.

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*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](mailto:galefreelibrary@gmail.com).*

*The Craft of Writing Workshop*  
“Complicated Love”  
Thursday, 2/19, 10:30am-12pm  
Online via Zoom

### **Registration required**

Let’s abandon clichéd love and discuss poems that address the complexities of romantic relationships. No prior experience needed. Open to all who enjoy reading and writing. You will NOT be required to write or share your work.



*It’s a Pooch Party for Mornings with Maggie*  
Saturday, 2/21  
10:30-11:30am

Our friend Maggie will be back to celebrate her birthday! Stop by for some extra special treats for Maggie and her visitors. Maggie and her person, Kelly, are a therapy team certified through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. No registration required.

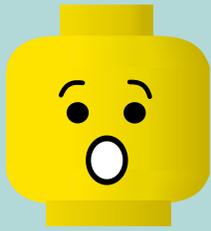
*Art Club*  
Wednesday, 2/25  
6-7:30pm  
Ages 16+

### **Registration required**

Join us for our monthly Art Club! Bring your own supplies or use ours. We have watercolor paints and paper, brushes, pastels, colored pencils, graphite, pens, collage materials, and more! There will be no specific project. Each month, we’ll have a quote or a book or an image available to inspire a(n optional) response. This program is intended for patrons of all abilities.

*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!



*LEGO Club*

Wednesday, 2/4 and 2/11

4:20 PM

Ages 6+

**Registration opens  
1/28 and 2/4**

Come build apartments for fantasy creatures for this month's Rainbow Acres LEGO display! This is Mr. Kevin's favorite engineering challenge!

*LEGO Jr.*

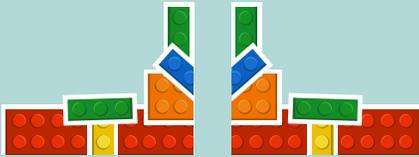
Thursday, 2/5

4:20 PM

Ages 4-5

**Registration opens 1/29**

Come help build fantasy vehicles for this month's Rainbow Acres LEGO display!



# Children's & Teens' Programs

*Kidding Around Yoga with Miss Nicole*

Friday, 2/13, 10 AM

Ages 2-5

**To register, please email [communityconnections@wachusettcfce.com](mailto: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!

*Hands on Nature Presents: Owls and Their Prey*

Thursday, 2/26

4:20 PM

Ages 5+

**Registration opens 2/19**

Learn about the fascinating world of owls and their prey. Practice owl calls, and dissect a real owl pellet!

**Please note: There are no live owls at this program.**



*Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot*

Tuesday, 2/24, 3:30-5:30 PM

Grades 6+

**TEEN PROGRAM!**

**Registration opens 2/17**

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.

*Lapsit Story Time*

Ages 2 and under

Thursdays at 10 AM

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

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!

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](http://bit.ly/gflkidsemail).

You can also keep up with us on the Gale Free Kids Facebook page at [galefreelibrary.org](http://galefreelibrary.org).

# Museum Passes

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## *Lunar New Year Celebration* The EcoTarium February 15

The EcoTarium invites visitors to a Lunar New Year celebration, featuring a live Lion Dance performance by the SUN Lion Dance Team from the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts (SEACMA)! Visit the events calendar at [ecotarium.org](http://ecotarium.org) for more information.

## *Maple Days* Old Sturbridge Village February 18th - March 15th

Join Old Sturbridge Village for "Maple Days" on select dates in February and March, when the Village's working sugar camp demonstrates maple sugaring as it was done in early 19th-century New England. See the entire sugarmaking process, from tapping the trees to "sugaring off," and learn why maple sugar was more commonly used than maple syrup in early New England. Costumed historians will also cook period foods made with maple products, and the tinner and cooper will make maple-related items. Visit [osv.org](http://osv.org) for further information.

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

# Local History

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## Children's Room Firsts

*In anticipation of the forthcoming reopening of the Children's Room, Local History has been researching the history of the Children's Department, from locations to services. The research will culminate in an exhibit on the Library's services for children. Until the exhibit is in place, we thought that you might like to hear a few of the facts behind this much-loved department.*

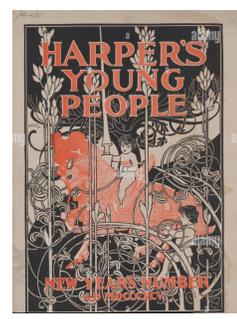
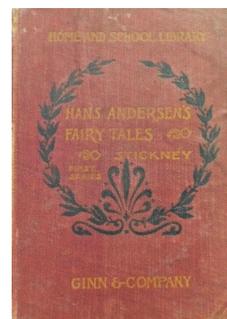
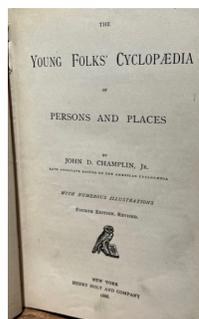
Although the Damon Memorial was dedicated on August 29, 1888, the Gale Free Library wasn't ready to open until three months later, on November 30. The first Librarian, M. Addie Holden, had a mountain of books and periodicals to catalogue and record in the Library's formidable accession book before anything could be circulated. Among the initial 100 accessions are the first two nonfiction books made available to Children:

*The Young Folks' Cyclopaedia of Common Things and  
The Young Folks' Cyclopaedia of Persons and Places,*  
both by John D. Champlin

The first three works of fiction, accessioned several months later, were *Stories of the Old World* by Rev. Alfred J. Church and *Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales*, J. H. Stickney, ed., two volumes

And the Library subscribed to two magazines for youngsters—*Harper's Young People* and *St. Nicholas*.

As you can see from the illustrations, children's books and magazines looked far more like reading material for adults. Their content also leaned heavily toward the moralistic, or instilling the values and virtues of the prevailing society in children. Changes in the very nature of children's literature, however, were under way, as Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and Edward Lear's *Book of Nonsense*, among others, had already demonstrated.

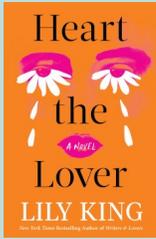


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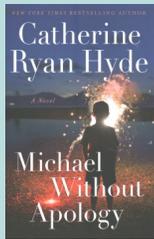
Local History content is provided by our Local History Librarian, Nancy Richards.

# Books We Love!

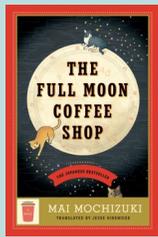
Seasonal Reading Reviews  
by Judy in Circulation



*Heart the Lover*  
By Lily King



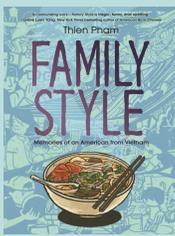
*Michael Without Apology*  
By Catherine Ryan Hyde



*The Full Moon Coffee Shop*  
By Mai Mochizuki



*Be Ready When the Luck Happens*  
By Ina Garten



*Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam*  
By Thien Pham



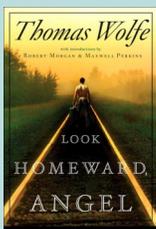
*A Death in The Family*  
By James Agee



*A Wrinkle in Time*  
By Madeleine L'Engle



*Ann of Green Gables*  
By L. M. Montgomery



*Look Homeward, Angel*  
By Thomas Wolfe

## Winter: A Time of Rejuvenation



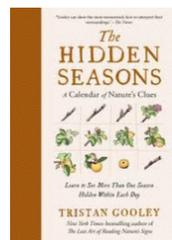
*The Pleasures of Wintering*  
by Erin Niimi Longhurst

According to Erin Niimi Longhurst, the author of *The Pleasures of Wintering: Winter-Inspired Rituals for Rejuvenation, Serenity, and Joy*, wintering is the act of withdrawing from the world to seek and rejuvenate, just as nature does in the quiet winter months. In a sense it is human hibernation, or embracing a slower pace of life through meaningful and reflective behaviors.

The book is organized around the five senses, with suggested activities (brewing your own herbal tea), exercise ideas (daily walks, yoga, and massage), recipe ideas (fermented foods and canned fruit), and creative projects (needlecrafts and artwork) to help readers find moments of peace and tranquility in the extremely fast-paced world in which we live.

There is something for everyone in this book including illustrations, photographs, and meaningful quotations related to the theme.

Erin Niimi Longhurst, a British/Japanese writer, is currently working on her fourth book. She lives in East London with her husband, son, and dachshund named Milhouse.



*The Hidden Seasons: A Calendar of Nature's Clues*  
by Tristan Gooley

The book *The Hidden Seasons: A Calendar of Nature's Clues* by Tristan Gooley is a month-by-month guide to how plants and animals respond to the seasonal changes of temperature, rainfall, sunlight, and darkness. The author has opened his book in late February, because that is when we begin to see changes happening in the natural world. Some plants are starting to push out of the ground, showing the start of leaves or flowers, while others remain dormant, waiting for warmer temperatures. Explore how nature evolves and thrives throughout the changing seasons. You will uncover the hidden clues in nature and a better understanding of the way nature works throughout the year.

Tristan Gooley is a British writer and natural navigator, which is a method of finding your way by using nature as a guide. He set up a navigation school in 2008. Students learn to use the sun, moon, stars, weather, land, sea, plants, and animals for guidance. He is a New York Times bestselling author of many books on the exploration of nature. He has led expeditions on five continents, climbed mountains on three continents, and is the only living person to have flown solo and sailed solo across the Atlantic. A resident of West Sussex, England, Gooley is married and has three sons.