

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



"A new year ... a fresh, clean start! It's like having a big white sheet of paper to draw on! A day full of possibilities! It's a magical world, Hobbes, ol' buddy... let's go exploring!"

— Bill Watterson, *It's A Magical World: A Calvin And Hobbes Collection*

Library News

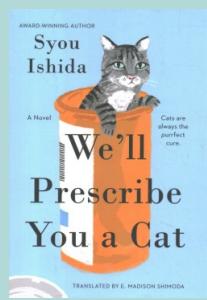
- The Library will close at 4pm on Wednesday, December 31 and remain closed Thursday, January 1 for New Year's Day.
- The Library will be closed Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Renovation continues in the Children's Room. See page 3 for Children's Programming.
- A reminder to patrons that, although the Children's Room is closed, Children's books are still expected to be returned by their due date. This allows staff the ability to rotate our smaller-than-typical collection. Patrons may return books to our C/W Mars partner libraries if it is more convenient.
- "The Bookmark" has been refreshed to reflect the new look of our website. If you haven't done so yet, be sure to check out our website at galefreelibrary.org.



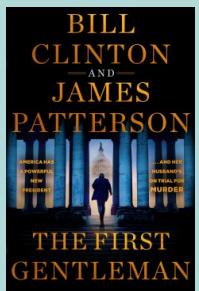
Staff Picks



Hotel Silence
by
Auður Ava
Ólafsdóttir



*We'll Prescribe
You a Cat*
by
Syou Ishida



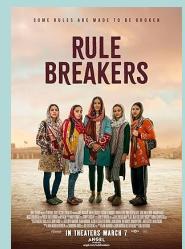
*The First
Gentleman*
by
Bill Clinton and
James Patterson



Hello, World
by Nate Bargatze
Hoopla



*The House in the
Cerulean Sea*
by T.J. Klune



Rule Breakers
2025 DVD



Elsbeth
Season 1
DVD

Adult Programs

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!

Ukulele Group

Wednesdays, 1/7 & 1/21

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! Each month, we'll offer two Wednesday night sessions--come to either or both! If you are new to the group, please contact the Reference Desk to let us know you'll be attending.

Art Workshop

Saturday, 1/10, 1pm

Registration required

Join Youth Arts for Humanity for a welcoming watercolor workshop led by Maggie Chang, Art Director of Youth Arts for Humanity, owner of Studio M Art in Lexington, and an art educator with more than 25 years of experience. Participants will learn watercolor techniques while creating artwork featuring simple natural subjects such as fruits, flowers, or plants. This workshop offers a relaxing, creative space for youth and community members ages 14 and up to express themselves, explore their artistic voice, and enjoy the process of making art. No prior experience is needed—just a willingness to try something new!

Mornings with Maggie

Saturday, 1/24

10:30-11:30am

Our friend Maggie will be back to spend some time with us and brighten our day! Maggie and her person, Kelly, are a therapy team certified through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. No registration required.

Art Club

Wednesday, 1/28

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.

Art in the Program Room

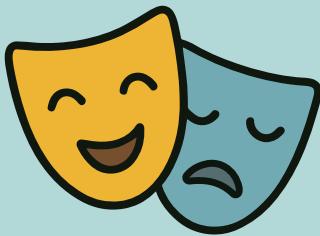
Youth Arts for Humanity

In January 2026, members of Youth Arts for Humanity will present artworks based on "Belonging: A Journey of Youth, Culture, and Identity" at Gale Free Library in Holden, Massachusetts. Their inaugural exhibition will explore what it means to find one's place in a world shaped by multiple cultures and influences. Many thanks to the Friends of the Gale Free Library for sponsoring art in the Library.

The Adult Take-Home Craft program takes a break in January. Check back at the beginning of February for the first craft of the new year!

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.



Big-Kid Creative Drama with Little Spark Theater
Tuesday, 1/20, 4:20 PM
Ages 6-8

Registration opens 1/13

Get ready to take 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?

Cuckoo Art Lesson with Mary Shepherd
Thursday, 1/29, 4:20 PM
Ages 5+

Registration opens 1/22

Join art educator Mary E. L. Shepherd for another special story time and art lesson!

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 at galefreelibrary.org.

Children's & Teens' Programs

Kidding Around Yoga with Miss Nicole
Friday, 1/9, 10 AM
Ages 2-5

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!

Graphic Novel Book Club
Thursday, 1/22, 4:20 PM
Grades 4+

Registration opens 1/8

Come read and discuss a title to be announced soon! 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, 1/27, 3:30-5:30 PM
Grades 6+

Registration opens 1/20

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

Beginning 1/15

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

Beginning 1/15

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



*Of Light and Air:
Winslow Homer in Watercolor*
Museum of Fine Arts,
Boston
Through January 19

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, houses the largest collection of Winslow Homer's watercolors in the world. The works' fragility and sensitivity to light means they have not been displayed together in nearly half a century.

This exhibition brings dozens of the MFA's Homer watercolors back into the galleries for a new generation to experience, alongside a selection of related oils, drawings, and prints by the artist.

With material ranging from Homer's childhood drawings all the way to his final canvas, left unfinished at the time of his death, visitors can follow the major chapters in his career and learn about the various environments—ecological, artistic, social, and economic—that shaped his enduring work in watercolor.

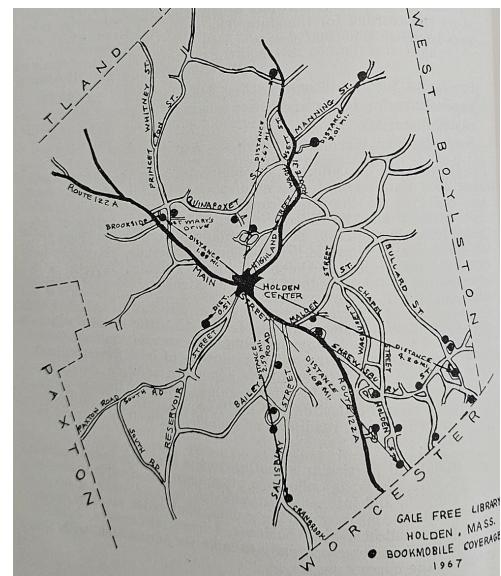
For more information or to reserve passes to this museum or other participants in our Museum Pass Program, please call the Reference Desk at 508-210-5569.

Local History

The Bookmobile

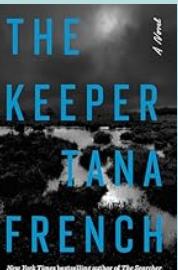
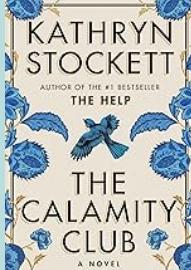
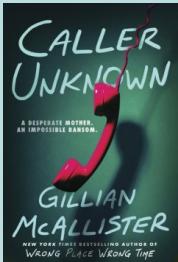
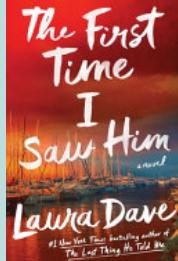
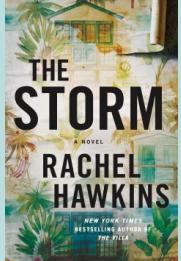
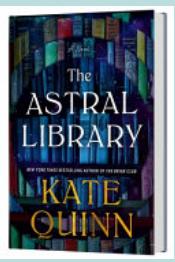
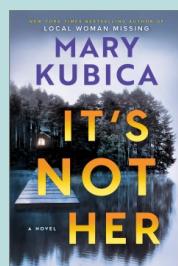
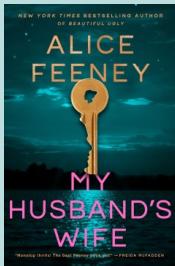
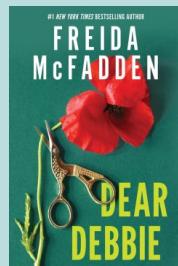
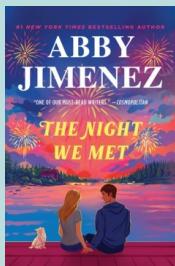
For more than 20 years, the community of Holden enjoyed the advantages of a bookmobile, a vehicle that brought books to patrons. As one of Head Librarian Helen Harding's many achievements, the Gale Free Library's year-around bookmobile service began in 1965, with the bookmobile operating two days a week for a total of eight hours. By 1968, the vehicle was active four afternoons, or 18 hours, a week during cold weather and 22 hours a week during the summer. Stops included not only neighborhoods, but also the residences of the homebound and the Holden Nursing Center. Eventually, Checkerberry Village, Colony Homes, and Holden Junior High* were added. The first vehicle the Library obtained for their bookmobile was a "secondhand" utility truck; it was replaced within four years with a converted 1969 Ford F500 truck. The first driver was Marian MacGregor, a member of the Library staff and the first woman in Massachusetts to obtain the driver's license required to operate such a vehicle! By 1983, the Bookmobile was making 26 stops during the cold months and 47 in summer. Use of the vehicle ended sometime after 1986 (no exact date has been found) when planning for and construction of the addition to the Damon Memorial were under way. With the coming of a main entry without steps and an elevator, the Library would no longer need to provide book delivery on such a large scale.

*The Junior High was added to the schedule temporarily after a fire in 1980 led to the need for a new school building.



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

New Releases Arriving in 2026!



Go Digital This Winter

With winter weather, darker evenings, and holiday closures upon us, it's easy to understand the appeal of our digital collection at this time of year! Libby is available to all patrons with a library card and Hoopla, Kanopy, and Freegal are available for Holden residents. Our digital library is not just for e-books and audiobooks--be sure to check out some of the unique offerings on each of these platforms.



Magazines in Libby

Over 6,000 Titles



BingePasses in Hoopla

110 choices



Kanopy

Thoughtful entertainment



Freegal

3 Free Downloads/week
3 Hours of Streaming/day

