



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-1 pm

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



Get Ready for Summer Reading 2025!

“Level Up At Your Library,” the Gale Free Library summer reading program, begins this month! For information on how to sign up for Children’s summer reading, see page 3. Adults and young adults ages 16 and up, watch for ways to enter in early June at our entryway-table display, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Library News

- The Library will be closed Thursday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.
- Beginning Saturday, May 31 until Labor Day weekend, the Library’s Saturday hours will be 9am-1pm. The Book Cellar’s Saturday hours are 10am-12pm during the summer months.
- The Flying High Dogs return to the Library lawn this summer! See page 3 for more details.
- Watch our Library pollinator garden grow! The garden, planted in mid-May by the Children’s Room staff, parents, and kid volunteers, is in the center of the sitting area next to the Library parking lot.
- Looking for timely Library news? Sign up to receive updates on our weekly Adult Programs by clicking on the link on our website’s homepage (galefreelibrary.org) and by following us on Facebook and Instagram!

Adult Programs, Art at the Library

Dream Weaving Workshop

Thursday, 6/12

6-7:30pm

Join Alejandra Spruill for a hands-on collage workshop focused on weaving personal stories and dreams using paper as our main medium. In this session, you'll explore intuitive collage techniques to create a layered, woven, visual representation of your inner landscape.

All materials will be provided, but please bring a photograph that holds personal meaning to you—this image will serve as the centerpiece of your collage and help guide your creative process.

No prior art experience is necessary—just come with curiosity and a willingness to explore.

On Display in the Program Room



Janet Lynn McClish was a female pioneer in the world of commercial photography. After relocating to Massachusetts with her husband, Janet transitioned from her commercial career back to her artistic roots as a freelance studio photographer.

She had long admired Anna Atkins, a 19th-century botanist and one of the first female photographers, known for her cyanotype images of plants. Inspired by Atkins and her own deep love of plants and gardening, Janet began a personal project using a now rarely used, slow-reacting photographic wet process and Kodak AZO contact printing paper to create "lumen prints." She created these prints by placing plant matter directly onto the paper, exposing it to sunlight for hours, and then scanning and enhancing the images digitally before making an archival print.

This exhibition presents a selection of these botanical impressions, a quiet yet powerful celebration of nature, light, and time. Aside from one show in New York City many years ago, this work remained unseen until now. Janet's artwork is presented by her husband, Vern McClish.

Adult Take-Home Craft

Starts Tuesday, 6/3

Please visit the Reference Desk
for your kit.

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

Ukulele Group

Wednesdays, 6/4 and 6/18

6-7pm

Ages 16+

Registration required.

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!

Cooking Club

"New England Brunch"

Tuesday, 6/10

6:30pm

Registration required.

Join author Tammy Donroe Inman as she shares her favorite regional recipes, the stories behind them, and the pleasures of seasonal baking. Samples will be provided. Donroe Inman is the award-winning author and photographer of *New England Brunch* and *New England Desserts*. She also wrote *Wintersweet: Seasonal Desserts to Warm the Home*, which was praised by the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and the *Boston Globe*. A former editor for *Boston* magazine, she got her start testing recipes for *Cook's Illustrated* magazine and the TV show *America's Test Kitchen*.

The Craft of Writing Workshop with Jennifer Freed "Cut-Tighten-Rearrange"

Thursday, 6/12

10:30am-12pm

Online via Zoom.

Registration required.

Revision is as important as putting words on the page. Let's look at writing that doesn't quite work, and discuss how we'd fix it.

Art Club

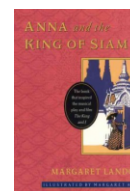
Wednesday, 6/25

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.



Classics Book Group Thursday, 6/26 6:30pm

Join us as we discuss *Anna and the King of Siam* by Margaret Landon. Copies of the book can be picked up at the Reference Desk.

Mornings with Maggie

Saturday, 6/28

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 certified therapy team through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. No registration required.

Every Monday

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!

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

The Buzz About Bees

Wednesday, 6/4, 4:20 PM

Grades K+

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 5/28.

Learn all about bees with local beekeeper David Driscoll! There will be an observation hive outside for this program, so you will be able to see the bees at work.

Little Spark Presents Little Kid Creative Drama

Saturday, 6/7, 10 AM

Ages 2-5

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 5/31.

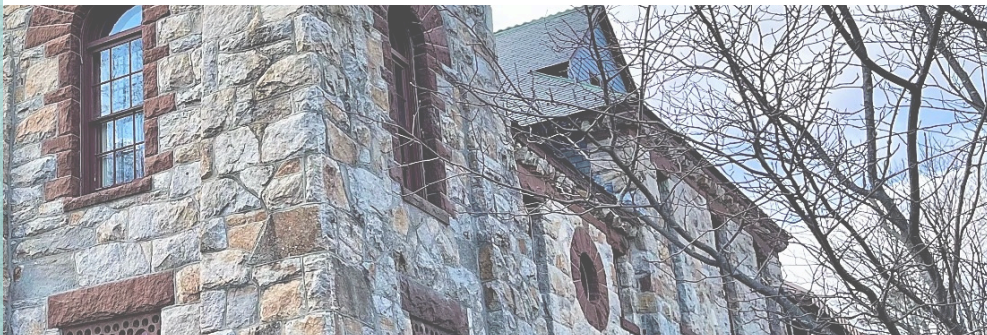
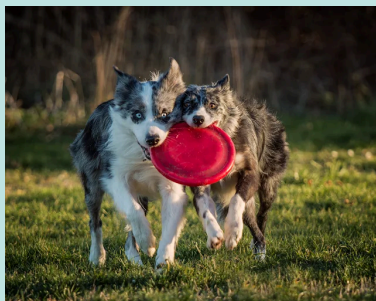
It's time for a zany, silly, super-fun theater experience! We focus on senses, feelings, and movement through energetic and imaginative play. Children build confidence, social awareness, empathy, and problem-solving skills.

Flying High Dogs

Tuesday, 6/24, 1-2 PM

On the Library lawn.

See Mike and his four award-winning flying high frisbee dogs. This is no ordinary game of frisbee! With stunt-performing, high-jumping pups, this educational, interactive, dynamic show is guaranteed to entertain and thrill all ages! *Thank you to the Holden Cultural Council for sponsoring this event.*



Summer Reading Sign-Ups Begin Monday, June 16th!

Take your reading to the next level this summer! Sign up and get a pack of creature cards, a reading-minutes-and-achievement tracker, and a coupon to Davis Farmland!

Summer Reading Check-Ins Begin Monday, June 23rd!

Each week that you check in, you'll get a prize, and for every 3 hours you read, you'll earn a set of trading cards. For every six achievements you complete, you will earn a free book!

Dragon Egg Crafts

Wednesday, 6/25, 3-4pm

Ages 5+

In the Program Room.

Create a unique dragon egg and draw the creature that will hatch from it!



Dungeons and Dragons

Thursday, 6/26, 2-5pm

Grades 6+

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 6/18.

Join the party for a third level adventure with a guest DM! This session is appropriate for new and experienced players alike. You can come with your own third level character or choose from a premade sheet.



Story Times



There will be NO story times this month as we prepare for summer reading! We will be back the first Thursday after the 4th of July (7/10).



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 Passes, Local History

Summer Roads

Museum passes made
for the summer!

Boston Children's Museum

Our seasonal museum pass to the Boston Children's Museum is available until the last week of September. The pass, which is available Wednesday through Sunday, admits up to four people at half price.

Davis Farmland

A children's discovery farm in Sterling, with farm animals, a spray park, and more. Visit davisfarmland.com for more information. The Library pass admits up to four guests at \$10 off per ticket. (Parties of guests must include a child under the age of 12; not valid holidays.)

Mass State Parking Pass

The Library currently has two circulating passes that offer free parking for in-state vehicles at Massachusetts state parks.

The Trustees of Reservations

Our Trustees "Go Pass" admits two adults and two children at the equivalent admission price of a Trustees Family Membership. Trustees locations, such as Castle Hill on the Crane Estate in Ipswich and Naumkeag in Stockbridge, span the state. If you're visiting sites in Massachusetts this summer, consider checking out Trustees locations near you and taking advantage of the Library discount.

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 D. F. Estes'

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

The Reverend Estes' description of the six-year-old Damon Memorial building, home of the Gale Free Library and Holden High School, continues:

"The [main school] room* is admirably lighted by five windows on the west side and three on the south, being at the left and back of the pupils, while a broad wall space between the south windows and the bay, directly opposite the teacher's platform, affords an agreeable relief from the glare of the mid-day sun.

"On the east side is a very ample fire-place of pressed brick, with a handsome oak mantel. Connecting with the schoolroom on the east is a recitation room about fourteen by thirty-two feet, so arranged that it may be used as two rooms on occasion, and another, sixteen by twenty-three feet, occupies the northwest corner of the building. This room has closets for chemical and physical apparatus. The basement of the building, besides the steam heating apparatus for both direct and indirect radiation, contains also a well lighted, pleasant southeast room with a handsome fireplace and mantel, which is appropriated to the use of the school as a lunch room. Water is supplied for all purposes from a well sunk on the premises. There is an outer door on the north side for the boys, and one at the northerly extreme of the west side for the girls, with connecting corridor and covered way, giving convenient access to outbuilding and yard.

"Turning now to the portion of the building devoted to the library, we enter the tiled vestibule, seven by eight feet, and from this the space railed off from the main room, to be used as a waiting room. The room devoted to the storage of books, like the story throughout, is fourteen feet high, occupies the southwest corner of the building, and is thirty-one by forty feet. It is lighted by nine lofty windows. Shelving is now arranged for five or six thousand volumes, and should need arise, the book room could be arranged to accommodate twenty thousand. It is separated from the waiting room by a screen, the upper part of which consists of an arch of open timber work, the lower part being the desk for the delivery of books, and the supplementary railing. At the northwest corner of the building, and connecting with the book room is the librarian's work room which is about twelve by twenty-five feet, and has an outside door."

*The main school room is the main space of today's Children's Room.

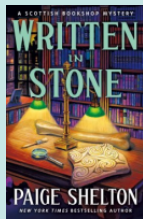
Local History content is provided by our Local History Librarian, Nancy Richards.

Be on the Lookout for...

Staff Picks



The Fox Wife
by Yangsze Choo
Nancy E.



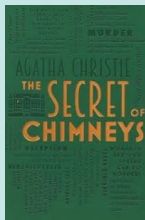
Written in Stone
by Paige Shelton
Nancy Ch.



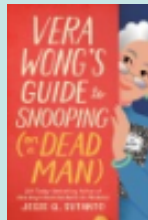
Inside Man
DVD-2024
Spencer



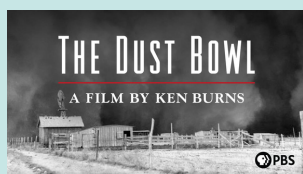
Wicked (Pt.1)
DVD-PG
"Was wicked good!"
Wendy



The Secret of Chimneys
by Agatha Christie
This book turns
100 in June!
Spencer



*Vera Wong's
Guide to
Snooping (on a
Dead Man)*
by Jesse Q.
Sutanto
Katy



The Dust Bowl
Documentary by Ken Burns
Streaming on Kanopy
Judy

Judy Reviews

More or Less Maddy by Lisa Genova



More or Less Maddy is the seventh book written by Lisa Genova. Genova has a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Harvard University, and with writing inspired by neurological diseases and our shared human experiences, she has captured a special place in fiction.

Our protagonist, Maddy Banks, is a vibrant, ambitious, stressed-out freshman at NYU. It's normal to feel overwhelmed between schoolwork, exams, navigating life in the city, and a recent breakup, but Maddy never quite feels like she fits in her world or with her family. When she starts feeling very low, she is prescribed an antidepressant. She then begins to feel wonderful, but soon spirals into a wild and terrifying mania. Maddy's world is turned upside down when she is diagnosed with bipolar disorder. She embarks on a journey of self-discovery and healing.

Maddy learns to manage the highs and lows of her illness. She learns by developing coping mechanisms to navigate the complex effects bipolar has on her identity, her relationships, and her future. She deals with setbacks, failures, and the stigma often associated with a mental-health diagnosis. To establish a stable foundation, Maddy learns to lean on her family and friends for support.

The author, with her deep insight and empathy, has created a moving novel that makes a complicated mental-health issue understandable. The book is infused with hope, compassion, and humanity.

You might also be interested in Lisa Genova's other books.

Still Alice (2007)

Left Neglected (2011)

Love Anthony (2012)

Inside the O'Briens (2015)

Every Note Played (2018)

*Remember: The Science of Memory and
the Art of Forgetting* (Nonfiction 2021)

Judy is a member of our Circulation staff.