

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



Anna Ryan and Bethany Shaw
of BNA Makery.

This month, **Art at the Library** features BNA Makery in the Program Room with their interactive exhibit "Play"! BNA Makery is a collaboration between Bethany Shaw (right) and Anna Ryan (left). Their specialty is creating playful and whimsical mixed-media collages. They are passionate about building community through creativity and finding moments of joy along the way.

Bethany is an artist, illustrator, and graphic designer. She focuses on drawing, watercolor, and mixed media, both traditionally and digitally.

Anna is an artist, art educator, and social-emotional arts leader. She focuses on mixed media collage, painting, and creating art experiences for all.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Gale Free Library for sponsoring Art at the Library.

Library News

- Gale Free is forming an Art Club open to adults in the community interested in making art together. See page 2 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 2.
- Kids ages 9-11 can learn the basics of improv with the Little Spark Theater. See page 3 for more information.
- We are a partner library with the Mass Center for the Book's 2025 Adult Reading Challenge! See page 5 for further information.

Adult Programs, Art Exhibits



Gale Free Art Club Have you seen...?

The Gale Free Library has been brimming with artwork lately, from our gallery spaces upstairs to art and craft programs and workshops. Last year, we even kicked off twice-a-year themed

Community Art Shows open to everyone! Now that we know how creative Holden is, we want to connect creatives in town and make art together more often!

Join us for a monthly Art Club, starting on **Wednesday, March 26 at 6pm.**

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 adult patrons of all abilities. However, we embrace multigenerational art experiences. Children are welcome to join a registered adult.

Registration required.

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, 3/4

Please visit the Reference Desk for your kit.

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

Mornings with Maggie

Wednesday, 3/26

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.

Cooking Club

"A Dish Inspired by a City"

Tuesday, 3/11

6:30pm

Registration required.

Many dishes are named after the cities where they originated, including Buffalo wings, Boston cream pie, Chicago deep-dish pizza, etc. Maybe in your kitchen repertoire you have a special dish inspired by a city or a region which you'd like to share with others. Consider joining us! Please bring your dish inspired by a city along with the recipe.

Wool Felted Owls

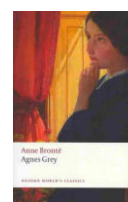
Wednesday, 3/19

6pm

Ages 16+

Registration required.

Are you looking to get crafty and learn a new art form?! Join local fiber artist Rachel Benson from The Fiber Web for this fun basic felting workshop. You will be guided step by step to create your own whimsical owl with colors of your choosing. All levels are welcome and all materials are provided.



Classics
Book Group
Thursday, 3/27
6:30pm

Join us as we discuss *Agnes Grey* by Anne Brontë. 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!



Gale Free Library's Spring Community Art Show

We are excited to announce our Spring Community Art Show, with a very fitting theme--"Spring"! 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! Please drop off artwork at the Reference Desk between March 3-8. All ages and abilities welcome. Save the date--we will have a **Community Art Reception on Saturday, March 22, from 11am-12pm.** Refreshments will be served.

Children's & Teens' Programs

Read, Build, Play with Community Connections



Friday, 3/7, 10 AM

Monday, 3/10, 10 AM

Monday, 3/24, 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: Theater Games

Tuesday, 3/18, 4:20 PM

Ages 9-11

In the Program Room

Registration opens 3/11



Come learn the basics of improv and get some energy out while doing it! This class is perfect for theater pros or newbies. We'll explore the basics of improvisation and acting through high-energy games, so get ready for some ridiculously fun shenanigans!

Wiggle Waggle Music & Movement with Miss Nicole



Friday, 3/21, 10 AM

Ages 2-5

In the Program Room

To register please email

communityconnections@wachusettcfce.com

Join us for this interactive music and movement program promoting receptive and expressive language, while supporting social, creativity, and listening skills. Loads of singing and dancing along with a story.

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 15; trees will be available to pick up at the library around April 22.



Courageous Lion Art Lesson with Mary E. L. Shepherd

Tuesday, 3/25

4:20 PM

Ages 5+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 3/18

Join art educator Mary E. L. Shepherd for this special art lesson and story time. We will read *I Am Courage* for inspiration, then explore line and shape by drawing a lion!



LEGO Club

Wednesdays, 3/5 and 3/12

4:20 PM

Ages 6+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 2/26 and 3/5

Pick one color and build something for the Color Town display!

Graphic Novel Book Club

Thursday, 3/27

4:20 PM

Grades 4+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 3/4

Read and discuss a graphic novel (title to be announced soon) and learn about making comics! Once you register, visit the Children's Room to borrow your copy of the graphic novel.



Lapsit Story Time

Ages 2 and under

Thursdays at 10 AM

In the Program Room

Story Times



Preschool Story Time

Ages 3-6

Thursdays at 11 AM

In the Program Room

Hands on Nature Presents Incredible Earthworms

Wednesday, 3/26

4:20 PM

Ages 3+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 3/12



Discover our humble earthworms and the important role they play in our environment. Develop a new appreciation for these incredible invertebrates while observing them with magnifiers! Bring your own clean glass jar to create a worm farm to take home!

LEGO Jr.

Thursday, 3/6

4:20 PM

Ages 4-5

In the Program Room

Registration opens 2/27

Pick one color and build something for the Color Town display!

Teen Program Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday, 3/11

3:45 - 5:45 PM

Grades 6+

In the Program Room

Registration opens 3/4

Join the party for a third-level adventure! 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.

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

Celtic Celebration
Old Sturbridge Village
Saturday, March 15 &
Sunday, March 16

Included with daytime admission

OSV celebrates cultural heritage through music, dance, storytelling, and poetry. Enjoy fiddle tunes, bagpipe demonstrations, music by Celtic musicians, and harpists. There will be performances by Lee Irish Dance School and an opportunity to learn a 19th-century dance with the Old Sturbridge Village dancers. For complete information, visit osv.org.

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.

"There are several villages in town [in 1894] which have received special designations, in some cases more than one. The name Holden belongs pre-eminently to the old central village, sometimes called the 'Center.' Jefferson (earlier Jeffersonville) now includes Eagleville, often familiarly called 'Brick City' on account of a brick house which was long the only brick building in town. Quinapoxet village and post-office lies [sic] at the distance of perhaps half a mile from the railroad station of that name, [lying between the station and] the smaller village which bears the names of Lovellville and Centerville. Quinapoxet is often colloquially styled 'French Woods,' on account of the large tract of woodland in the neighborhood, [sic] at one time owned by citizens of France. Unionville lies to the south, and nearer the center [of] the town. The little village in the northern part of the town claims the name of Ruralville, though it is usually spoken of as 'North Woods,' a name which the railroad station bears. The railroad stations toward Worcester from the Center are Dawsons and Chaffins, Dawsonville and Chaffinville lying a little way respectively to the west and to the east of the track. Bryantville lies close to the east of the Dawsons station."

.....

"At the annual town meeting, March 21st, 1887, the committee, which had been chosen the preceding November to investigate the matter of additional school accomodation [sic] at the Center, presented to the town the following letter:

'Minneapolis, March 15, 1887.

"Maj. Isaac Damon, Holden, Mass.

"Dear Sir : I have delayed sending to you my final decision in the matter of the public building to be erected on the Chenery lot, until I could look up the subject thoroughly. In accordance with your suggestion, your High School Principal has written a full and satisfactory letter touching the needs of the High School.

"I am now able to say, that, unless prevented by some misfortune, I shall commence the present season to erect upon the Chenery lot a building adapted to both High School and Library purposes. I design to have the walls completed and the roof on before next winter, and have the same fully completed ready for occupancy as early as September, 1888.

"This building and ground, together with some books, which we hope to add, my wife and I will present to the Town of Holden as a free gift, subject only to some simple and reasonable conditions as to care and support of the structure and its equipment on the part of the town. "I write this letter now, that the people of the town may have assurance that both School and Library accommodations will be provided for without any steps being taken by the town at its coming meeting.

"Yours very Sincerely,

"Samuel C. Gale."

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

Be on the Lookout for...

Massachusetts Center for the Book 2025 Reading Challenge

Are you looking for reading inspiration or motivation as we make our way through this year? Consider participating in the Massachusetts Center for the Book's 2025 Adult Reading Challenge!

Why participate in a year-long reading challenge? Reading challenges are not just about reading MORE books (though that's ok, too!), but also a fun way to introduce participants to new books and genres.

To participate in the Mass Center for the Book's Reading Challenge, start by visiting the MCB's website at massbook.org/readingchallenge to learn how the challenge works. Then simply read a book based on the monthly challenge (the March challenge is "A book about someone with a marginalized identity"). Once you've read the book, return to the MCB's website to log your book. Each month you log your entry makes you eligible for MCB's monthly drawing to win a free book.

Need book suggestions? MCB's site has suggestions or the Gale Free Library Reference staff can help you! Stop by or call us at 508-210-5569.



Author Spotlight Abby Jimenez

Abby Jimenez is a New York Times bestselling romance author who resides near Minneapolis, Minnesota, with her husband, three daughters, and four dogs. She writes heartwarming, laugh-out-loud romance novels, numbering two series and several stand-alone titles.

She is the founder of Nadia Cakes bakery, which is mentioned several times in the books, and the winner of numerous "Food Network" competitions with an international following. Her next book to be released in March is titled *The Fall Risk*.

"PART OF YOUR WORLD" SERIES

Part of Your World / Yours Truly / Just for the Summer

In the first novel, *Part of Your World*, readers get caught up in a modern-day, fairytale romance on the first page. Alexis Montgomery was born into an ultra-rich family of surgeons, and she is expected to continue the family legacy. Her world is turned upside down when she meets Daniel Grant, an easy-on-the-eyes carpenter who lives in a small town in Minnesota. There is a mutual chemistry, but she can't bring Daniel into her world and believes his world is too small for her. There is always a bigger theme in Jimenez's novels--physical, mental, emotional, and domestic abuse are interwoven throughout. Eventually, Alexis discovers what is important in life, and there is plenty of laughter to be found between the pages.

In the second installment of the series, *Yours Truly*, Dr. Briana Ortiz's life is definitely in a downward spiral. She is recently divorced, her brother is in renal failure and waiting for a kidney donor, and the promotion she was expecting has been delayed. When Briana meets a new physician, Dr. Jacob Maddox, working in the ER, she expects to dislike him but soon discovers the opposite. Dr. Maddox has recently ended a relationship with his girlfriend, started a new job, and struggles with chronic social anxiety which is heightened by new unfamiliar situations. Jacob writes a letter to Briana thanking her for the suggestion to provide cupcakes to win over the staff. Soon they are both exchanging letters and getting to know each other. This slow-burning romance is about second chances, friendship, and meaningful relationships.

Just for the Summer is the third book in the series. Justin and Emma both believe they are cursed. Each believes that after four dates, a kiss, and a breakup, their dates go on to meet their soulmates. They decide they will date each other to cancel out their curses and perhaps meet their soulmates. It's supposed to be a summer fling! Then Emma's toxic mother shows up unexpectedly and Justin assumes guardianship for his siblings. Despite all of life's challenges, maybe fate has brought the perfect couple together.