



# The BOOKMARK

The monthly newsletter of the Gale Free Library

## May Library News

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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



*New furniture installed in the Reading Room and Secret Stairs nook last month improves seating options and allows for the return of the puzzle table on the Library's first floor.*

### Art at the Library



Cristina Farrer returns to Holden for her second solo show at the Gale Free. A former schoolteacher with majors in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math, Cristina brings an innate understanding of the science behind flowers to her floral paintings. Come see how she is innovating the painted backgrounds that highlight her flowers. See page 2 for information about Cristina's program on Thursday, May 14.

**The Library will be closed Saturday, May 23 and Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day holiday.**

**Beginning Saturday, May 30 until Labor Day weekend the Library's Saturday hours will be 9am to 1pm.**

# Adult Programs

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## Art Workshop

Thursday, 5/14, 6pm

### Registration required

"Hydrangeas"

A Mixed-Media Painting Workshop with our May exhibiting artist, Cristina Farrer. Join us to make canvas panels with a collage background, then learn to paint hydrangeas using bubble wrap. Lots of creativity and fun are in store! All supplies included.



## Nature Journaling

Thursday, 5/28, 6:30-7:30pm

### Registration required

Discover the benefits of nature journaling! Learn how this practice can significantly improve your mental well-being while fostering a deeper connection with the natural world around you. This session will provide you with the tools to create your own nature journal, or bring your own journal to show off! This program is generously provided by the DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection for Wachusett Reservoir.

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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).

## Adult Take-Home Craft

### Begins 5/5

This month's craft is a "Make Your Own Felt-Ball Keychain." Stop by the Reference Desk for your craft. As supplies are limited, crafts are one per person.

## Ukulele Group

Wednesdays, 5/6 & 5/20, 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.

## Cooking Club

### Icebox Cakes

Tuesday, 5/12, 6pm

### Registration required

The classic icebox cake is a simple yet delicious combination of cookies and whipped cream. Let's learn how to assemble one with our guest presenter, Chef Colleen Kranich. We will talk about the versatility of a recipe, and Chef Colleen will bring one for the class to enjoy. Then everyone will make their own mini icebox cake to enjoy the next day!

## The Craft of Writing Workshop "Artful Loss"

Thursday, 5/14, 10:30am-12pm

Online via Zoom

### Registration required

Let's look at writing that shows us ways of addressing – even with a light and humorous touch – the inevitable losses of being alive.

## Mornings with Maggie

Saturday, 5/16, 11am-12pm

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.

## Classics Book Group

Tuesday, 5/19, 1pm

### Registration required

The Classics Book Group is back, *at a new day and time!* This month the group will be discussing *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf. Copies of the book can be picked up at the Reference Desk.

## Art Club

Wednesday, 5/27, 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 quotation 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

Please join us in the Program Room each Monday afternoon. All are welcome, from beginners to experienced! Come to see what others are knitting, or just sit and knit!

*Kidding Around Yoga  
with Miss Nicole*

Friday, 5/15, 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!

*Arthropod Petting Zoo  
with Professor Bugman*

Wednesday, 5/20, 4:20 PM

Ages 3+

**Registration opens 5/13**

Learn all about Arthropods, the most diverse group of animal life on the planet, during this exciting show-and-tell-and-touch program! Learn, see, hear, touch, and even smell the incredible adaptations these creatures have that help them survive in the wild world.

*Graphic Novel Book Club*

Thursday, 5/21, 4:20 PM

Grades 4+

**Registration opens 5/1**

This month's graphic novel book club will be a special one! We will bring descriptions of the favorite graphic novels we've read this year to decorate a bulletin board so that others can have recommendations from the community.

## Children's & Teens' Programs

*Our Saturday hours will change beginning on May 30!*

*We will be open from 9AM-1PM on Saturdays for the remainder of the summer.*

*The Children's Room always closes ten minutes before the rest of the Library.*

### *LEGO Club*

Wednesday, 5/6 and 5/13,

4:20 PM

Ages 6+

**Registration opens  
4/29 and 5/6**

Strap on your space suits and join in creating a LEGO space colony for this month's LEGO display.



### *LEGO Jr.*

Thursday, 5/7, 4:20 PM

Ages 4-5

**Registration opens 4/30**

3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF! Create space ships for this month's LEGO display.

### *Free-Play Friday*

Friday, 5/8, 3:30-5 PM

All ages

Hang out in the Program Room for some board game and Nintendo Switch fun! Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied by an adult. Parents are welcome to join in the fun!

### *Pokémon Club*

Wednesday 5/12, 4:20 PM

Ages 6+

**Registration opens 5/5**

Hang out with other Pokémon trainers and make some Pokémon-inspired crafts!

### *Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot*

Tuesday, 5/26, 3:30-5:30 PM

Grades 6+

**Registration opens 5/19**

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

**TEEN  
PROGRAM!**

### *Lapsit Story Time*

Thursdays at 10 AM

Ages 2 and under

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*

Thursdays at 11 AM

Ages 3-6

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



*Worcester to the Stars:  
The Goddard Rocket Centennial*  
The Museum of Worcester  
March 16-August 1

On March 16, 1926, Dr. Robert Goddard took a homemade liquid-fuel rocket to Ward Farm in Auburn and launched it successfully. The launch would be the beginning of the space age and would change the world. This exhibit celebrates Worcester-born Goddard's New England can-do spirit and ability to achieve his highest dreams, and highlights his life, his years as a student at Worcester's South High, and his professorship at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Clark University.

The Museum's newest exhibit features artifacts and images from Clark University, WPI, Roswell Museum & Art Center, NASA, Smithsonian Institution, Fort Devens Museum, David Clark Company and private collections.

*Image and information courtesy of the  
Museum of Worcester.  
Visit [worcesterhistory.org](http://worcesterhistory.org)  
for more information.*

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

# Local History

## Sculptor Andrew O'Connor, Sr.

The next time you visit the Gale Free Library, take a few minutes to view two of our treasures—bas-relief framed medallions of two of the first members of the Board of Trustees of Damon Memorial, Henry Waterman Warren and Alonzo Knapp Learned. You'll find Mr. Warren's marble medallion in the bay-window area of the Reading Room on the west wall, and Mr. Learned's bronze medallion between the two front entrances in the arched portico of the original entrance to the Damon Memorial (Highland Street).

Both framed medallions are the work of Andrew O'Connor, Sr. (1846-1924)\*, who was born in Scotland but emigrated with his family to the United States when he was a child. While working as a stonecutter in Worcester, O'Connor Senior also began sculpting. From 1899 to 1908 O'Connor and his family lived at 38 Highland Street, the first house north of Bascom Parkway. In 1900, O'Connor was photographed in Holden creating a monument for the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, "Wounded Lion," which stands today on the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland.



Henry W. Warren (1838-1919) and sons operated a highly successful tannery in Holden after his return to New England from the South following the Civil War. While living in the South, Warren oversaw a former plantation and taught literacy to freedmen and freedwomen. Warren's wife, Dora, presented his framed medallion to the Damon Memorial in 1921.



Alonzo K. Learned (1844-1920) not only served as a Trustee, but was also the much-loved principal of Holden High School for 30 years, a career that began when HHS was only six months old. His framed medallion was presented to the Damon Memorial by the Holden High School Alumni Association in 1921.



O'Connor's "Wounded Lion" monument on site in Maryland.

**\*\*Andrew O'Connor, Sr. is the father of the better-known sculptor Andrew O'Connor, Jr. (1874-1941), whose work includes "Lincoln of the Farewell Address."**

## Staff Picks



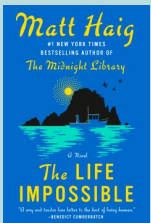
*Dog Hiking  
New England*  
By Jill McMahon  
and Kristen Valenti



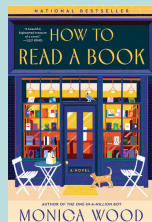
*The Guncle  
Abroad*  
By Steven Rowley



*Our Missing Hearts*  
By Celeste Ng



*The Life Impossible*  
Matt Haig



*How To Read A Book*  
By Monica Wood

## Judy Reviews

*A Change of Habit:  
Leaving Behind My Husband, Career,  
and Everything I Owned to Become a Nun*  
by Sister Monica Clare



Sister Monica Clare is the Sister Superior at the Community of St. John Baptist, an Episcopal convent based in New Jersey, and a spiritual counselor specializing in religious trauma, mental illness, and addiction. Before becoming a nun in 2012, she worked as a photo editor in L.A. and performed in an acoustic rock duo and an improv comedy troupe. --Penguin Random House



From the time Claudette Powell was a child watching the movie *The Nun's Story*, she wanted to be a nun and part of a community dedicated to God and good works. Her parents were not churchgoers but she went to a Baptist church with her grandmother, where she enjoyed peace and tranquility. Her parents' relationship was chaotic and abusive. She didn't discover until later in life that her father was addicted to amphetamines and had mental health issues. He erupted into violent rages and beat her mother. Unable to keep a job, the family moved several times and eventually her parents divorced.

Claudette wanted to serve God, but her mother's Southern expectations of womanhood caused her to believe she should have a job, marry, and raise a family. Claudette went to New York University on a partial scholarship. She became a standup comedian, performing with an improv group. She followed a secret spiritual ritual of attending different churches, reading the Bible, and praying. She married a narcissistic man, but felt unloved, was extremely unhappy, and eventually divorced.

Meanwhile, Claudette's desire to become a nun remained very strong. She began to explore the journey of faith, during which she learned that nuns are not only part of the Catholic faith, but also the Episcopalian. Around the year 2000, she was confirmed in the Episcopal Church. She then prepared to visit a religious community where she would do vocational work while living with the community's sisters for one to two months.

Claudette also learned that debt must be paid off before she could join a convent and that she would have to submit to psychological testing. In 2012, at the age of 46, Claudette joined the Community of St. John Baptist, making her final vows in 2018. She is currently St. John Baptist's Sister Superior and will soon become an ordained priest.

*Judy is a member of our staff--you will see her at both the Circulation and Reference desks.*