

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



The sepia-toned photograph now prominently displayed in the Library was taken the day the Damon Memorial and Gale Free Library were dedicated, August 29, 1888. A digitized photograph, enlarged and printed on ink-jet vinyl, was installed August 12, 2025 by Signarama of Worcester.

Library News

- September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month and it's a great time to remind patrons of the many services provided by their community library. See page 5 for more information.
- The Library will return to its typical Saturday hours, 9am-4pm, beginning Saturday, September 6.
- Our Cooking Club meets for a special Saturday program, "Indian Cooking Made Simple." For more information, see page 2.
- After being canceled because of the excessive summer heat, Flying High Dogs returns! See page 3 for details.
- It was wonderful to see so many patrons during our summer reading programs! Now that summer is winding down, kids are back to school, and new routines have begun, it is a perfect time to return those summer reading books. Your fellow patrons who are waiting for them will be grateful!
- Looking for timely Library news? Sign up to receive updates on our weekly Adult Programs by clicking on the link on our website's "Adult Programs and Events" page and by following us on Facebook and Instagram!

Adult Programs, Art at the Library

Cooking Club

“Indian Cooking Made Simple
with Sandhya Jain”

Saturday, 9/13, 11am-12pm

Registration required.

Join us as our special guest, Sandhya Jain, shows us how to prepare two gluten-free and delicious dishes. Curried Chana (garbanzo beans) is a quintessential on an Indian dinner table on a Sunday night or at any festive celebration. Aromatic basmati rice with onions and a hint of heat makes for an excellent accompaniment with the warming curry.

Sandhya Jain has been teaching Indian cooking classes for more than a decade and would love to share with you not only her recipes, but also the health benefits of Indian spices.

Art at the Library

Senior Center Photography Club: A Group Exhibit

Visit this group photography exhibit, featuring a number of Holden Senior Center budding photographers happy to share their creativity with the Town of Holden. The collection of 40-50 framed photographs will be on display in both the Program Room and Upstairs Lobby beginning September 3.

Save the Date

Join us for a public reception for the Senior Center Photography Group exhibit on **Thursday, September 4, from 4-5 pm**. Enjoy refreshments and visit with the photographers. Contact the Reference Desk with questions: 508-210-5569 or galefreelibrary@gmail.com.

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!

Adult Take-Home Craft Starts Tuesday, 9/2

Please visit the Reference Desk
for your kit.

This month's take-home craft is Fabric Sunflowers! Pick up your DIY craft kit at the Reference Desk (while supplies last).

Ukulele Group Wednesdays, 9/3 and 9/17, 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're attending.

*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.*

The Craft of Writing Workshop with Jennifer Freed

“Compression and the Art of
the Unsaid”

Thursday, 9/18, 10:30am-12pm

Online via Zoom

Registration required.

We'll look at ways a writer can lead a reader to leap from what is on the page to a whole history that's never fully told.

Art Club Wednesday, 9/24 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.

Mornings with Maggie Saturday, 9/30, 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.

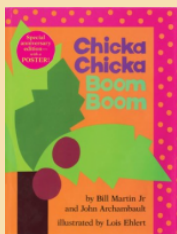
Children's & Teens' Programs

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Scavenger Hunt with Community Connections Friday, 9/12, 10-11 AM Ages 2-5

On the Library lawn.

No registration required.

Join Community Connections for an alphabet scavenger hunt. This program helps increase social, fine, and gross motor and problem solving skills, and is a fun way to build vocabulary!!



Flying High Dogs Wednesday, 9/17, 4 PM On the Library lawn.

No registration required.

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.



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 and galefreelibrary.org.

Dot Day Celebration and Art Lesson Tuesday, 9/16, 4:20 PM Ages 5+

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 9/9.

Join art educator Mary E. L. Shepherd for another special story time and art lesson! After listening to *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds, you'll explore negative and positive space as you make many thumbnail dot images in your own little sketchbook.

Graphic Novel Book Club Thursday, 9/18, 4:20 PM Grades 4+

In the Program Room.

Registration opens 8/25.

Read and discuss *Fresh Start* by Gale Galligan and learn about making comics! Once you register, visit the Children's Room to borrow your copy of the graphic novel.

Kidding Around Yoga with Miss Nicole Friday, 9/26, 10 AM Ages 2-5

In the Program Room.

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!

Story Times



Lapsit Story Time Ages 2 and under Thursdays at 10 AM (Starting 9/11)

In the Program Room.

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
(Starting 9/11)

In the Program Room.

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, Local History

Museum Moments

Formal Flowers,
A Tour for Gardeners
Castle Hill on the Crane Estate
Ipswich, MA

Sunday, September 14

Are you interested in how the formal gardens at Castle Hill have grown and changed over the years? "Formal Flowers" will take you on a detailed journey into the way the Italian and Rose Gardens were designed and planted in the Cranes' day, and how the gardens were re-imagined in 2016 and 2020. Visit thetrustees.org for more information and tickets.

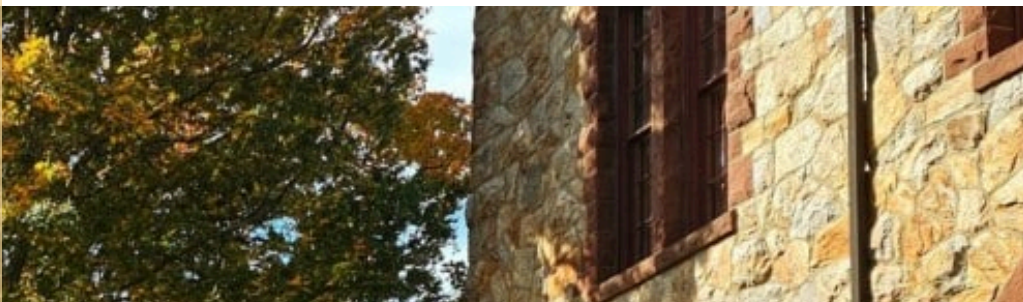
FallFest--
Apples, Animals, &
Agriculture
Old Sturbridge Village
September 13 & 14

Enjoy a day of family fun and educational adventure. Plus, visit the CowParade, a public art exhibit on display throughout the Village until the end of September! Visit osv.org for more information.

The Caterpillar Lab
at the Discovery Museum
Thursday, September 18
Friday, September 19
Saturday, September 20

Come see a variety of New England caterpillar species showcased on open-air displays of local plants. Times vary. Visit discoveryacton.org for more information.

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



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.

As with the Damon and Estes histories of Holden, the third town history was written at the request of the committee that organized an anniversary celebration-- Holden's 200th year or Bicentennial.

Excerpts from Florence Newell Prouty's
History of the Town of Holden, Massachusetts, 1667-1941
Continued from the August 2025 issue of *The Bookmark*

"CARE OF THE POOR Poor Farm Association

The annual report for the year ending January 1898 showed that they had cared for 30 to 36 inmates and 577 'tramps' and their outlay for that year was \$1,871.17. [\$1,000 in 1898 is currently worth \$38,730.72.]

On February 21, 1904, the Poor Farm buildings on Newell Road, which had been built about seventy-five years before, were destroyed by fire.

At that time there were twenty-one inmates. The establishment had cared for the poor of Holden, Hubbardston, Oakham, Rutland, Paxton, Templeton, Princeton, Phillipston and Westminster.

On March 1, at a meeting of the Association, it was voted to have each town care for its own charges for a time, at least.

Also, a resolution was adopted thanking the warden, Mr. Aaron L. Potter, for the efficient services during the past eight years, and for having all of the inmates brought to safety at the time of the fire.

In 1908 the town voted to join the Charlton Poor Farm Association.

[In 1927 the name of the Board of Overseers of the Poor was changed to the Board of Public Welfare.

The first board to serve under this new name was: George H. Marsh, Aaron L. Potter, T. Walter Howe.

In 1928, \$5,200 was appropriated and seventeen [persons] having a settlement in Holden were given aid.

In 1937 the town accepted a bequest under the will of Cora I. Dean to be known as the 'Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund,' the income only to be used for the relief of the worthy poor of Holden.

The town voted that this money be expended under the direction of the Board of Public Welfare.

In 1940 the expenditure for Public Welfare was \$29,512.07." [\$10,000 in 1940 is currently worth \$229,617.86.]

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

National Library Card Sign-up Month, Book Review

September is National Library Card Sign-up Month!

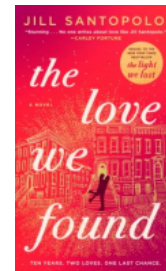
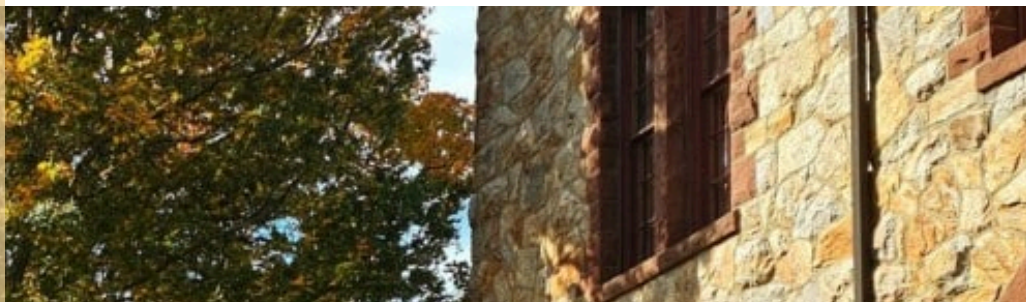
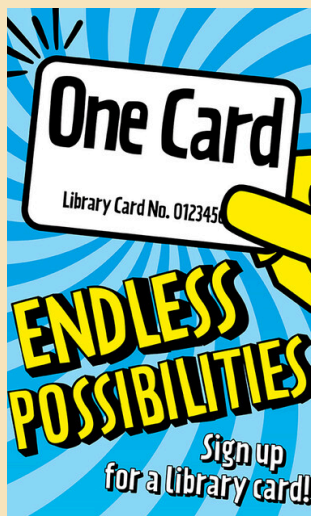
Stop by this month to get your "One Card" to endless possibilities including

- Books
- E-books with Libby and Kindle
- E-audiobooks with Libby
- DVDs and CDs (through C/W Mars)
- Museum Passes

Holden residents also have access to

- Kanopy: movie-streaming service
- Freegal Music: streaming and downloads
- Hoopla: E-books, e-audio, music, and video

See our website at galefreelibrary.org to see all our offerings!



Author Spotlight: Jill Santopolo

Jill Santopolo is an international best-selling author of fiction for both adults and children. Her books have been translated into more than 35 languages. She holds a BA in English Literature from Columbia University and an MFA in Writing for Children from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She also holds a certificate in Intellectual Property Law from NYU. She has travelled extensively in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, discussing writing and storytelling. She lives and works in Washington, D.C. and New York with her husband and daughter.

Review

The Light We Lost, published in 2017, is a romantic novel about the enduring power of first love. It is the story of Lucy and Gabe, who meet as seniors at Columbia University on September 11, 2001, that fateful day we will never forget. Together, they decide they want their lives to mean something and to make a difference. When they meet again a year later, perhaps it's fate and perhaps they will find life's meaning in each other. But then Gabe becomes a photojournalist assigned to the Middle East and Lucy pursues a career in television in New York.

The next thirteen years are a journey of dreams, desires, jealousies, betrayals, and love. Was it fate that brought them together? Was it a choice that kept them apart? Their journey keeps them on different continents but never out of each other's hearts.

The Love We Found, published in 2025, is the well-written, long-awaited sequel to *The Light We Lost*. It is the continuation of the story of Lucy and Gabe. It's been almost ten years since Gabe's tragic death when Lucy finds a small piece of paper in a box of his photos with an address in Rome. On an impulse, Lucy buys a last-minute plane ticket to Rome. Gabe's secret leads Lucy to meet Dr. Dax Armstrong, a New Yorker working in Italy. His touch awakens feelings in Lucy that have remained dormant for years.

But Lucy's old life awaits, along with a possible earth-shattering decision. Should Lucy and her ex-husband Darren tell their son, Samuel, about his biological father? Can Lucy move forward without regret and find new love?

This "Author Spotlight" is written by Judy from Circulation.