



GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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GUILDERLANDLIBRARY.ORG

DECEMBER 2023



Holiday Tips From Your Friends at GPL

At GPL, we have so many resources to help suit your holiday needs! Here's just a sampling:

■ If you want to make sure you're gifting the best possible products this year, use your library card to log into **Consumer Reports** (under the **Research & Learn** tab on our website) and read reviews. Or, take a different approach, and hand-make your gifts with ideas from **Creativebug**. This handy online resource also has tips for hosting a party, setting a table, gift wrapping and more.

■ If you were asked to bring the dessert, impress your family and friends by borrowing one of our **cake pans** or a set of **cookie cutters**. You can even borrow a **KitchenAid Mixer** to whip up something really fancy.

■ If you're staring down a long weekend with relatives and not sure how to keep them entertained, check out a **board game** from our Library of Things (we have over 100 to choose from). We even have extra **video game controllers** so you can enjoy playing Mario Kart with your cousins from out of town.

■ Let's talk New Year's resolutions. Searching for a new career? Check out **Brainfuse** and **Cypress Resume** to get feedback on your cover letter, learn basic computer skills like Microsoft Office 101, and more.

■ Maybe 2024 is the year you'll finally research your family history? Visit the Library for free access to **Ancestry.com** today. Register for our **Intro to Ancestry-Library Edition Zoom program** with Genealogist Lisa Dougherty on 12/11 at 6 pm to help get you started.

There is so much you can do with your GPL library card! Visit www.guilderlandlibrary.org/learning-tools and <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/things> to explore these

resources. Ask us how you can fully access your library card!
—Kristina Ronald, Adult Services Department Head



Cafe' Rewards!

December Special: Enjoy a FREE cup of coffee with purchase of a breakfast sandwich with your GPL library card! Stop in for breakfast, lunch, a beverage or a quick bite. Browse the variety of handcrafted items for sale, and check out the **used book nook!**



Live Virtual Author Talks with Q & A Session [R] Recordings Available

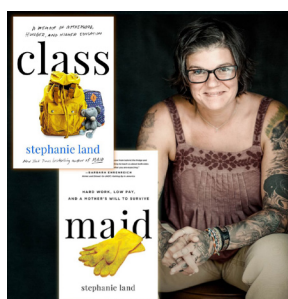
Let's Talk World Building with YA Fantasy Fiction Author Victoria Aveyard Tuesday, December 5 @ 7 pm

Join us as the instant #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the **Red Queen** and **Realm Breaker** series, Victoria Aveyard, chats with us about YA fantasy fiction, world building, and her incredible body of work.



Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education: An Author Talk with Stephanie Land Tuesday, December 12 @ 2 pm

You're invited to an afternoon chat with *New York Times* bestselling author Stephanie Land on her new memoir, **Class: A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education**, following up **Maid**, which inspired the hit Netflix series.



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday—Thursday.....9:30 am–8 pm
Programs & meetings may continue post-closing
Friday.....9:30 am–6 pm
Saturday.....9:30 am–5 pm
Sunday.....1–5 pm

All programs are in-person, unless otherwise noted.

Cafe' Con Mel Hours:

Monday—Friday.....8:30 am–4 pm
Saturday—Sunday.....9 am–2 pm

ADULT PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

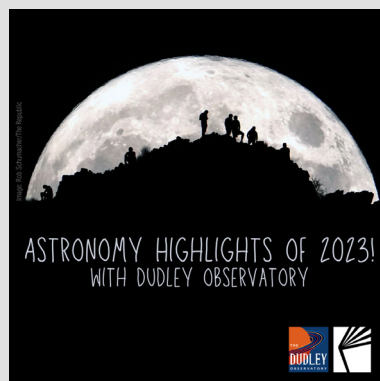
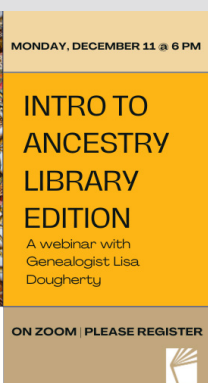


Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition on Zoom: with Genealogist Lisa Dougherty

Monday, December 11 @ 6 pm

Virtual

Interested in your family history? You can use the world's leading genealogy website, **Ancestry.com**, free of charge—right in your local library! Join professional genealogist and longtime Ancestry user Lisa Dougherty on Zoom for tips on how to utilize this vast resource. Topics covered include which records can be found; effective searching; dealing with variations in spelling; and how to save your findings to bring home. Learn how Ancestry Library Edition can help you discover more about your family tree! **[R]**



Astronomy Highlights of 2023: A Zoom Program with Dr. Mindy Townsend

Tuesday, December 12 @ 6 pm

Teens & Adults

Virtual

Are you excited for the upcoming solar eclipse that's happening in April, 2024? We are! But did you know that

there were a lot of wonderful astronomical happenings this past year? Join us on Zoom for this special presentation by Dr. Mindy Townsend, Astronomer for the Dudley Observatory at Siena College, as she shares some of the past year's highlights from the astronomical world. You'll learn about a rare comet, the super blue moon, and multiple meteor showers. Dr. Townsend will also suggest stargazing tips and apps you can use for identification. Consider checking out one of our two powerful telescopes for your own winter stargazing party! **[R]**

Some programs are already full! Please refer to our online Events Calendar, and make sure you are subscribed to our digital weekly eNews ("GPL News")!



GPL Cabaret: The Jeanne O'Connor Quartet

Friday, December 15 @ 6:30 pm

The incomparable Jeanne O'Connor Quartet will present a jazzy, holiday-inspired performance at the next GPL Cabaret! Hailed as "a captivating jazz singer" by Jim Dwyer

of the *New York Times*, O'Connor will be joined by Peg Delaney on piano, Pete Toigo on bass, and Bob Halek on drums. Jeanne O'Connor has performed at many famous jazz spots, including New York's Blue Note, Elaine's, the Rainbow Room, and Smoke. As a member of the Royal Bopsters jazz vocal group, she recently brought her sultry alto vocals to NYC's famous Birdland jazz club, and toured Istanbul and Austria in June 2022. You're sure to hear songs from the Great American Songbook, along with an array of holiday tunes to get you in the mood for this special season. Enjoy something sweet along with coffee, tea and hot chocolate! **Register now—space is limited. [R]**



Manet and Degas: Making the World Modern

Friday, December 22 & 29 @ 6:30 pm

Teens & Adults

Virtual

Édouard Manet and Edgar Degas, born only two years apart, were friends, rivals, and at times, antagonists who worked to define

modern painting in France. Both artists portrayed life candidly, sometimes shocking the art world with their highly original visions. Join art lecturer Janet Cohen Mandel for this two-part talk on Zoom, which will prepare you to enjoy the Metropolitan Museum of Art's superb Manet/Degas exhibition, closing January 7th. **[R]**

Technology Help

Wednesdays @ 10 am, 11 am or 12 pm

Feeling a little stuck with technology? Coach Donna can provide you with 1:1 tech assistance, including:

- ▶ Internet Searches
- ▶ Microsoft Word & Excel
- ▶ Emails
- ▶ Facebook Basics
- ▶ Printing, Scanning, & Faxing...and more!

Reserve your customized session with Donna today! **[R]**



ADULT PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS [R]

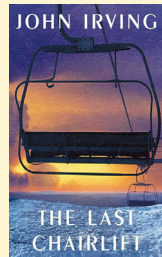
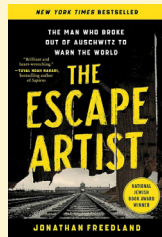
Night Owls Book Club

Mondays @ 6:30 pm

Hybrid: choice of in-person or virtual
Led by various librarians. Reading the most talked-about fiction and nonfiction titles.

December 11: *The Escape Artist*,
by Jonathan Freedland

January 8: *Lessons In Chemistry*,
by Bonnie Garmus

Book Discussion with
Albany Guardian Society

Thursdays @ 6:30 pm via Zoom
Led by Librarian Maria Buhl

December 14: *The Last Chairlift*,
by John Irving

December Movie:
*Are You There God?
It's Me, Margaret*

Monday, December 18
@ 1:30 & 6 pm

Take a break with us for a favorite coming-of-age story. When her family moves from the city to the suburbs, 11-year-old Margaret must navigate new friends, conflicting feelings, and adolescence. Rated PG-13.

NYS Snowmobile
Safety Course

Two Nights:
Wednesday,
December 27 &
Thursday,
December 28
@ 4-8 pm
Ages 10 through
Adult

New York State offers this eight-hour single operator training course for snowmobilers of all ages, beginning at age 10. This course provides fundamental information which all snowmobilers should possess in order to ensure the safety of riders and other trail users. Successful completion of this course results in a NYS Snowmobile Safety Certificate Course award.

PLEASE NOTE:

- mandatory attendance both nights
- attendees 14 and younger: please have a parent attend with you (parent does not need to register)
- snow date (if needed): Friday, December 29 [R]

NYS
SNOWMOBILE
SAFETY
COURSE

December
27 & 28
4-8 pm



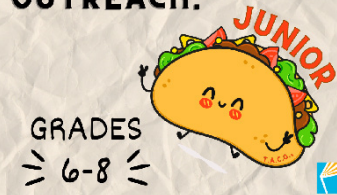
YOUTH PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Suburban Sounds
Community
Chorus

Sunday, December 17
@ 2 pm

Family/All Ages

We're pleased to welcome back Suburban Sounds for an enjoyable afternoon of seasonal music. Take a break from the hustle-busle and get into the holiday spirit with this traditional performance by a well-established local choral group! Come one, come all—no registration required.

TEEN.
ADVISORY.
COMMUNITY.
OUTREACH.Junior Teen Advisory
Community
Outreach (TACO)

Tuesday, December 5
@ 6 pm

Grades 6-8

Middle schoolers are invited to earn volunteer credit by participating in our Junior Teen Advisory Community Outreach (TACO) meetings. Give us your input to help

us make GPL your favorite destination. Invite a friend! [R]

Family Board Games

Thursday, December 7

@ 3-6 pm

Ages 3+

Drop in for some board game fun! There will be a variety of classic and new board games and card games suitable for young children, older kids, and whole families to play together. No registration is necessary.

Family
Board
Games!THE
REALM EXPLORERS
BOOK CLUB

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 9TH
@ 11AM

Realm Explorers:
Science Fiction &
Fantasy Book Club

Saturday, December 9
@ 11 am

Ages 16 through Adult

Join our new book club! *Realm Explorers* meets bimonthly to discuss science fiction and fantasy novels. Titles include Adult/Young Adult books, plus graphic novels. This month, we're reading **Legends & Lattes** by Travis Baldree. Copies are available at the Information Desk, or you can borrow a digital copy from Libby or Hoopla. [R]

YOUTH PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



Please choose only one storytime per week, and remain with your child for the entire time.

Storytimes

**Tuesday-Thursday
@ 10:30 am**

Through December 21

Come to GPL for stories, socialization, silliness and smiles!

► **Tuesdays:** Toddlers
Ages 18-36 months

► **Wednesdays:**
Families, Ages 0-5 years

► **Thursdays:**
Preschoolers, Ages 2.5- 5

Parent Playdate

**Monday, December 11
@ 11 am**

Infant-Age 3

with Caregiver Looking to meet other parents or caregivers? Join us for a special hour of open playtime! Get to know others in the community, and explore all that the Library has to offer. Light refreshments will be available. While your child plays, the time is yours to relax and enjoy as you both make new connections. **[R]**

**Stitch Your Own Ornament**

Tuesday, December 12 @ 4 pm

Grades 6-12

Learn how to embroider your very own winter-themed ornament! We'll learn two different kinds of stitching, and you'll be able to finish your ornament at home

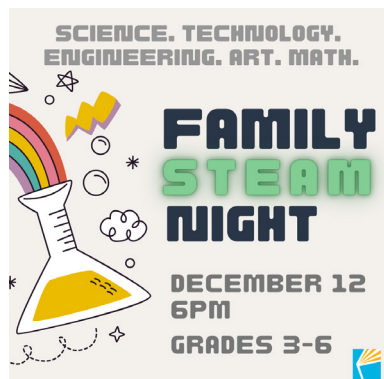
with the instructional guide provided. This is a beginner-level class—no experience is necessary. **[R]**

Family STEAM Night

**Tuesday, December 12
@ 6 pm**

Grades 3-6

Come explore fun STEAM topics with local schools and colleges for an evening of hands-on learning fun with your family! This month, we're welcoming students from Shaker High School's Robotics Club. **[R]**

**Winter Solstice Spell Jars for Teens**

**Wednesday,
December 20**

@ 5:30-7:30 pm

Grades 6-12

Drop in the Foundry anytime between 5:30-7:30 in

preparation for the Winter Solstice.

Participants can choose from a variety of herbs, spices, flowers, and other natural materials with "magical" properties to concoct their own spell jars. All supplies will be provided.

**Interactive Movie: elf**

**Thursday,
Dec. 21
@ 5:30pm**

Grades 4-12
Registration required.

**Interactive Movie: Elf**

**Thursday,
December 21**

@ 5:30-7:30 pm

Grades 4-12

Get ready for a magical and interactive movie night featuring the heartwarming holiday classic, *Elf*, as this beloved 2003 movie marks its 20th anniversary!

Play Elf bingo while laughing along to the movie; make winter-themed crafts; and decorate cookies with your fellow tweens and teens. The fun begins at 5:30 pm; the movie will start promptly at 6 pm. **[R]**

NEW Kids Graphic Novel Club

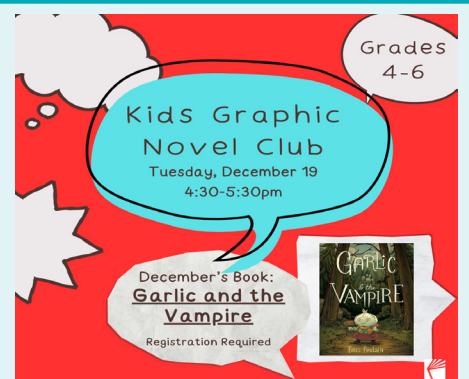
**Tuesday,
December 19**

@ 4:30 pm

Grades 4-6

Have you heard? The Kids Graphic Novel Club meets after school monthly to talk about the book selection, complete fun activities, enjoy some snacks, and meet other graphic novel lovers!

For the December meeting, we're reading ***Garlic and the Vampire*** by Bree Paulsen (2021). All participants will receive a **free copy of the book** to keep! **[R]**



YOUTH PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES

**Drop-In Video Games**

**Wednesday,
December 27
@ 2-4 pm
Elementary Through
High School**

Drop by anytime between 2pm-4pm to play video games on our Nintendo Switch consoles! Challenge

others to rounds of Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and Mario Kart 8 as you help us unlock new characters and items. We may have some other games available, too. **Note:** Super Smash Bros. Ultimate is rated E10+ (everyone ages 10 and up) and Mario Kart 8 is rated E (everyone).

LEGO Free Play

**Thursday,
December 28
@ 3-6 pm
Ages 3+**

We're breaking out our sizable LEGO collection, so you can build to your heart's content! Stop by anytime between 3-6 pm to construct your inspired creations.

**Fright Club Movie: The Muppet Christmas Carol**

**Thursday, December 28
@ 6 pm**

Family / All Ages

All are welcome! Bring the family for this light-hearted retelling of the classic Dickens tale of miserly, miserable Ebenezer Scrooge, rattled by three ghosts to melt his icy heart in time for an outpouring of holiday goodwill and cheer.

Rated G.

Big Fun for Little Ones

**Friday, December 29
@ 10:30 am
Infant-Age 5 with
Caregiver**

Come to an open playtime for caregivers with young children! There will be light refreshments, music, toys, and comfortable spaces to relax and enjoy each other's company.



ADDITIONAL NEWS

Winter Community Card Drive

Through December 11

Spread a little joy and brighten a Community Caregivers client's day!

- Create or repurpose card(s) sized no larger than 4" x 5"



- Use a general winter/holiday theme, and our supplies in the Tawasentha Room, if desired
- Optional: add an uplifting message / sign the card(s)
- Envelopes will be provided, but if your card comes with one, please include. Please do not seal.
- Community Caregivers will address / mail the cards
- Postage stamps donations are appreciated!
- Drop off your card(s) in the marked bin in our lobby.

Thank you for spreading kindness to our neighbors!

**Community Arts Corner**

Normanskill Strummers—Ukulele

**Thursdays, December 14 & January 11
@ 6:30 pm**

The Strummers have been making ukulele music at GPL since 2018. Sessions are open to all skill levels. Songs and chords will be viewed on a large screen, and each month brings a different theme. If you don't have an instrument, ukuleles are available for loan at the Library. Everyone is welcome!

Guilderland Guitar Group

**Wednesdays, December 6 & January 3
@ 7 pm**

No matter your skill level, if you are interested in playing guitar, the newly formed Guilderland Guitar Group is for you. Bring your guitar, bring some music, and be ready to have some fun. We'll share tips and tricks, strum some chords, and enjoy learning and playing together.

ON THE CALENDAR

**CLOSED December 24 &
December 25**—Christmas

December 31—New Year's Eve

Exhibit—Bird Photography by Seung-Yeon Lee

Drop-In Knit & Stitch—Tuesdays @ 10-11:30 am

Let's Talk: Coffee & Conversation for Seniors

Wednesdays @ 11 am-12:30 pm

**Drop-In Genealogy Assistance
with Lisa Dougherty**

**Wednesday, December 13
@ 5:30-7:30 pm**

**Capital District Knitting Guild
Monday, December 11 @ 6-8 pm**

**GPL Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, December 21 @ 6 pm**

In-person and streamed on our YouTube channel. Public commentary to:
pc@guilderlandlibrary.org

DECEMBER

