



GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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GUILDERLANDLIBRARY.ORG

JANUARY 2021



Our very best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and happy year ahead!

Best of 2020

Need some inspiration for your next great read?

We've compiled two lists of stellar selections for your consideration! There's one for adults and young adults at:

<https://bit.ly/GPL2020AdultsBooks>

and one for children at:

<https://bit.ly/GPL2020KidsBooks>.

Check out these **Best of 2020**

lists, then check out your selections curbside from us!



Turning the Page

by Library Director Tim Wiles

Happy New Year from all of us here at Guilderland Public Library! Here's what's new in the new year:

Construction Update

As our mascot Greufus the Cow would say, things are moooving fast! We've put up all the support girders for our 6,555 square foot addition (**shown below**), which will eventually house our youth services department. The roof is on, and the exterior walls will be going up shortly. Soon it will be warm enough inside the addition to pour the concrete floor and begin framing.



Current view of our children's addition

In the existing building, all space once devoted to children's services, shelving for the book collection, and staff offices is currently empty and being renovated. All the walls you once

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January 1st-31st WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Winter Reading Challenge

Through January 31st

Last year, GPL had the honor of being named **one of the top-reading libraries in the U.S.!** Our prize was \$1,000 of books for all to enjoy. Can we build on that success to reach even greater heights in 2021? We think so! Let's all join forces this month for **Simon & Schuster's "Books Like Us" 2021 Winter Reading Challenge** and reach our goal of **3,500** items logged! Books, eBooks, magazines, newspapers, children's literature, manga, audiobooks, etc.—**it all counts!**

Sign up as an individual or family and log ALL of your January reading at: guilderlandlibrary.beanstack.org, or download the Beanstack Tracker App. Feel free to use the hashtag **#WinterRead2021** and tag us in social media posts, too.

Thank you—happy reading!



EXPANDED CURBSIDE HOURS

Checkouts - Normanskill Room Side Door:

Mon./Wed./Fri.....10 am - 4 pm
Tues./Thurs.....1 - 7 pm
Sat.....10 am - 2 pm
Sun.....2 - 4 pm

Returns - Parking Lot Sheds:

Mon - Fri.....9 am - 8 pm
Sat.....9 am - 2 pm
Sun.....1 - 5 pm

The library is currently closed to public browsing.

ADULT PROGRAMS

1:1 Apple Tech & Resume' Help
Tuesday evenings & Thursday mornings

Perhaps you could use a little help maximizing your **Apple** gadget, or crafting your resume' using the **Learning Express** database tool found on our website, from the comfort of home. Our volunteer computer coach, Robin, can provide **customized assistance** for



- **Apple Watch**
- **iPhone**
- **MacBook**
- **iPad**
- **Apple TV**

or help you mine the riches of Learning Express [see "job tools" here: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/learning-tools>]. Schedule your hour-long appointment **Tuesday evenings starting at 6:30 pm** or **Thursday mornings starting at 10 am** on the Events tab of our website, indicating the topic of interest in the Notes field. An email address and the ability to meet online is required. **[R]**



NYS Talking Book and Braille Library 101
Wednesday, January 13 @ 1 pm

The New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) is

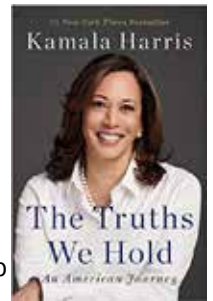
a free library service for residents in Upstate New York who have difficulty reading standard print due to blindness, low vision, a diagnosed reading disability, or a physical disability. New York State Senior Librarian Jane Bentley will provide a virtual overview of TBBL services, discuss eligibility, and explain how patrons can access books and magazines. Registrants will receive a Zoom invitation via email two days before the program. *Jane Bentley is a Senior Librarian with the New York State Talking Book and Braille Library, providing support and training to library patrons, plus outreach to community groups and institutions.* **[R]**

BOOK DISCUSSIONS



Night Owls Online
Monday, January 11 @ 7:30 pm

This month's selection for our virtual Night Owls book discussion group is ***The Truths We Hold: An American Journey* by Kamala Harris**. Please place a hold on a copy for curbside pickup. Call us at **518.285.0050** or email us at ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org for assistance placing a hold, then register on the Events tab of our website, where you will find further instructions. **[R]**



Advance notice!

Reaching for the American Dream: Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novels

A Virtual Reading and Discussion Series with Paul Grondahl



February 3, 17; March 17, 31; April 14 @ 6:30-8 pm

Through five Pulitzer-winning novels, this virtual discussion series looks at how authors have depicted the striving to better oneself and achieve the American dream—and how, despite our efforts, we often end up unfulfilled or clashing with other elements of society. Your moderator is Paul Grondahl, author, award-winning journalist, Guilderland resident and the current Director of the New York State Writers Institute, at University at Albany. The five books to be discussed are:

- Humboldt's Gift*** by Saul Bellow
- Interpreter of Maladies*** by Jhumpa Lahiri
- American Pastoral*** by Philip Roth
- A Visit from the Goon Squad*** by Jennifer Egan
- Underground Railroad*** by Colson Whitehead

To learn more and to register for this virtual series, visit our Events calendar on the Library's website. Limited to 15 people; please plan to attend all five sessions. **[R]**

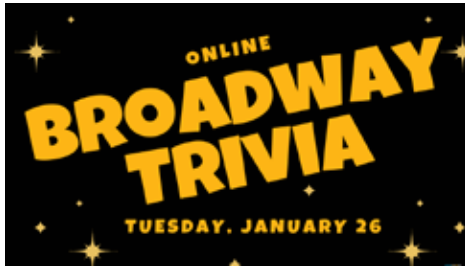
Mediterranean Cooking with Cornell Cooperative Extension
Thursday, January 21 @ 6 pm

Learn nutritious cooking techniques using healthier oils, tasty vegetables and hearty whole grains for a heart-healthy diet. This virtual lesson will include a live cooking demonstration. Registered participants will receive recipes, ingredient list and equipment needed prior to class so they can join in the fun! Registrants will receive a Zoom invitation via email two days before the program. **[R]**



ADULT / TEEN PROGRAMS

Broadway Trivia Night
Tuesday,
January 26
@ 7 pm



We're reprising our popular virtual trivia nights, testing what you know about the most endearing and enduring Broadway productions with 20 show-stopping questions! We'll be quizzing you on your knowledge of musicals, behind-the-scenes facts, and amazing songs that still haven't left your playlist rotation. Team captains (playing individually or as a team) should be 16+ years old and will be responsible for communicating to the hosts. **Team captains and anyone needing the virtual meeting login information should register. [R]**



Snowed In Winter Box for Teens
Registration Open

Beat the winter doldrums this year and register now to pick up a Snowed In Winter Box! The box will contain a teen book for you to keep,

some treats, and fun activities to pass the time! Boxes will be available at Curbside Pick-up Monday, January 11 through Wednesday, January 20. When registering, please list any food allergies in the Notes field. **[R]**

National Dress Up Your Pet Day
Thursday, January 14



Join GPL staff as we celebrate National Dress Up Your Pet Day! Get creative and adorn your pet(s) in a comfortable, safe and "fetching" costume and snap a picture, then share your photo(s) with us! We'll compile all submissions received into an online photo album for everyone to enjoy. Please send your pictures to us at: **ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org** by January 14th.

*Programs will be held online, using one of our videoconferencing platforms. You'll need a computer with a microphone and webcam, tablet or a smartphone, to participate. **Registration is required, indicated by [R].** Click on the Events calendar on www.guilderlandlibrary.org to register. We'll email you the link in advance.*

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Grab & Go Storytime Kits for Preschoolers
January 11: Pets
January 25: Superheroes



Every other Monday in January, we'll have a storytime kit available for you and your little one(s).

Each thematic kit will contain suggestions for books, rhymes, and songs to share together—and one or more fun surprise activities. Storytime kits are recommended for **ages 2-5** and are available on a **first come, first served basis**.

STREAM Kits for Grades K-5
Pick up starting January 22



STREAM learning encompasses: **S**cience, **T**echnology, **R**eading, **E**ngineering, **A**rt and **M**ath in dynamic ways.

Register in advance, then pick up a winter-themed kit with four fun STREAM- based activities starting January 22. **[R]**

Virtual Cartooning Workshop for Grades 3-7
Saturday, January 23
@ 2:30 pm



GPL welcomes award-winning cartoonist and illustrator **Rick Stromski** as our guide for this fun hands-on session! We'll

practice drawing expressions, genders, and age differences, creating completely different characters just by altering a line here or there. Using the same approach, we'll also draw many different kinds of animals. Participants will need plenty of paper and their favorite drawing instrument(s) handy as they follow along. Parents can try their hand as well! Please register on the Events tab of our website; we'll email the Zoom link in advance of the program. **[R]**

THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED:
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 18
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VIRTUAL MEETING:
Thursday, January 21
@ 6 pm on Facebook

Public commentary may be submitted at any time to: **pc@guilderlandlibrary.org**. Board Meeting archives may be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/GPLBoardMeetings>

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knew are gone, and the floor has been dug up where necessary to allow for more public restrooms. Saws that cut into existing concrete flooring are quite loud! Electrical, mechanical, data cabling and sprinkler system work is going on throughout the building, and some emergency escape windows are being turned into doors.



The former children's and fiction areas

On the west end of the building adjacent to Mercycare Lane, you'll see a small room being erected outside the Normanskill Room. This is the new water service room that will bring enough water pressure into the building for our new sprinkler system. When our building was built in 1992, the prevailing school of thought in library construction was that a community had spent a lot of money on its book collection, and didn't want a sprinkler system to ruin the books in the event of a false alarm. Thankfully, we've evolved enough as a society to realize that the books can be replaced, but the lives of library users, who often include small children and folks of retirement age and above, are irreplaceable. Several local firefighters have expressed gratitude that we are taking this proactive safety step.

When I last wrote an update, the public restrooms had been gutted down to the plumbing, and now they are beginning to rise anew. Drywall installation is complete, and fixtures will not be far behind. Work has also begun on the first of five



new public single-use bathrooms, which are ideal for families with small children, people with special needs, and those needing a gender-neutral option.

In order to facilitate this major construction, we've moved the entire collection and almost every staff member. I'd like to thank the public

Public bathroom renovations are progressing

EXCITING NEWS! You can now get even more digital magazines from home with your Guilderland Library Card—over 3,200 titles! Download the Flipster app for current and back issues of over 15 popular magazines, such as People, Fortune, and Rachael Ray. Or download Overdrive's Libby app to access eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines all in one convenient spot. New eMagazine titles in Overdrive include Rolling Stone, WIRED, The Economist, and so many more. **Visit guilderlandlibrary.org/e_library to explore all of our digital offerings available at your fingertips!**

for bearing with us. I'd also like to publicly thank the staff who have proven to be extremely adaptable during this major upheaval.

COVID-19 Update

Construction is actually the lesser of our concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our board is evaluating resumption of in-person browsing at the library, based on established metrics. We may have an update after the January 21st board meeting (which will again be held virtually). See our Facebook page to watch the meeting streamed live on the 21st at 6 p.m., or watch it anytime thereafter; or go to <https://bit.ly.GPLBoardMeetings> to view archived meetings.

As I write, most local libraries have reverted entirely to curbside service. For those of you with a desire to browse the stacks of a physical library, you can check the Upper Hudson Library System website [<https://www.uhls.org>] for a frequently-updated list of services available at all public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Your library card works at any of them. Please call a library first to verify their services haven't changed—many are contemplating changes as we speak, and at some, an appointment is required.

Our virtual services are, to quote a fellow director, "Rockin' as usual, 24/7." You can listen to audiobooks, read eBooks, request physical materials for curbside pickup, stream video and audio from our website, all with your library card. You can also access magazines—over 3,200 titles!—and read the *New York Times* online for free. Visit our website to explore the options available at your fingertips.

Curbside Update

On January 3rd, GPL started curbside pickup on Sundays from 2-4 p.m., becoming the first UHLS library to provide such service on Sundays. You may be wondering why Sunday service is uncommon and curbside hours are limited, compared to pre-pandemic schedules. In short, it is because providing curbside service is about five times more labor intensive than normal library operations. Patrons enter the side door of our Normanskill Room (to the right of the Little Free Library) to pick up their requested materials, following all coronavirus safety precautions. We also recently added Sunday returns, 1-5 p.m.

As we venture forward with both caution and intention, we look forward to the day when we can once again welcome you through the front doors of **Guilderland's Gathering Place!** Stay well.