



GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 7

GUILDERLANDLIBRARY.ORG

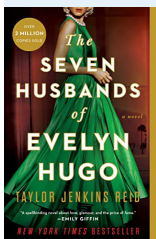
JANUARY 2024

2023 TOP PICKS! 117,449 CHECKOUTS



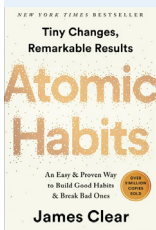
Top Adult Fiction

- 1) *Demon Copperhead*—Barbara Kingsolver
- 2) *Mad Honey*—Jodi Picoult
- 3) *Under the Tulip Tree*—Michelle Shocklee
- 4) *Lessons in Chemistry*—Bonnie Garmus
- 5) *Verity*—Colleen Hoover



Top eBooks—Libby by Overdrive

- 1) *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*—Taylor Jenkins Reid
- 2) *The Midnight Library*—Matt Haig
- 3) *Lessons in Chemistry*—Bonnie Garmus
- 4) *A Court of Thorns and Roses*—Sarah J. Maas
- 5) *Demon Copperhead*—Barbara Kingsolver



Top Audiobooks—Libby by Overdrive

- 1) *Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones*—James Clear
- 2) *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*—Taylor Jenkins Reid
- 3) *I'm Glad My Mom Died*—Jennette McCurdy
- 4) *Lessons in Chemistry*—Bonnie Garmus
- 5) *1984*—George Orwell



Top Hoopla Titles

- 1) *The Things We Do for Love, Part One* (TV)
- 2) *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (Audiobook)
- 3) *Demon Copperhead* (Audiobook)
- 4) *Just the Nicest Couple* (Audiobook)
- 5) *Remarkably Bright Creatures* (Audiobook)



Top Kanopy Videos

- 1) *The Little Murders of Agatha Christie: Season 1*
- 2) *The Prisoner*
- 3) *9 Songs* (Uncut)
- 4) *The Last Resort*
- 5) *Born and Bred: Season 4*



Top Library of Things Items

- 1) Wi-Fi Hotspots
- 2) Chromebooks
- 3) Museum Passes
- 4) Power Banks
- 5) Nintendo Switch Lite

Library Director Tim Wiles Announces Retirement

Following ten years at the helm, Library Director Tim Wiles is retiring, effective February 2, 2024. He has led GPL through significant advances over the past decade,



most notably the nine million-dollar building renovation and expansion project, which officially concluded with the opening of Café con Mel in September, 2023.

Tim inherited a facility in need of a makeover, and set out to renovate many aspects of the building and grounds based on public input. Strong community support, plus about 1.3 million dollars in NYS grant funds, bolstered dramatic, long-anticipated improvements, including:

- **room to grow:** new Children's Library wing with double-sided aquarium; Foundry Teen Room; additional meeting/study rooms; flexible event spaces
- **enhanced safety:** new roof; sprinkler system; enlarged, reconfigured parking lots; unisex ADA-compliant restrooms; loading dock upgrade; more security cameras
- **green initiatives:** LED lighting; solar panels; high efficiency HVAC system; low-flow toilets
- **technology advances:** RFID and automated materials handling (the first library in the area to do so); self-checkout; exterior digital sign; assistive listening technology
- **local history implements:** Fuller's Tavern (1795) fireplace mantel; Crounse House (1833) front door; Greulich's former cow and our present lobby mascot, Greufus

During Tim's tenure, we expanded our electronic holdings and services significantly in concert with UHLS, including forging new partnerships with neighboring library systems.

continued on page 6

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.

Café Con Mel Hours:

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

ADULT PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



Winter Reading 2024: *Where We Come From*

January 1-31

All Ages

We're participating once again in Beanstack's Winter Reading Challenge! This year's theme is ***Where We Come From***. We challenge our community to read and log at least **10,000 minutes**

this month. By logging your reading minutes and completing fun activities, you'll earn badges featuring beautiful artwork from this poetic picture book for all ages. Register for a Beanstack account as an individual or family. The top-performing libraries and schools will earn special prizes sponsored by Lerner Publishing, including signed copies of the book. Register as an individual or family here:

<https://guilderlandlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

Fright Club: *The Shining*

Pick Up Kit: January 2-7

Movie: Tuesday, January 30 @ 6 pm

Fright Club's first four months of 2024 feature a stellar Stephen King lineup! Horror fans, this is right up your dark alley. Register for your kit; pick it up; read and journal at your own pace, then watch the movie. February's selection: ***Misery***. [R]



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS [R]

<https://guilderlandlibrary.org/book-discussion>

Night Owls Book Club

Mondays @ 6:30 pm

Hybrid: in-person or virtual

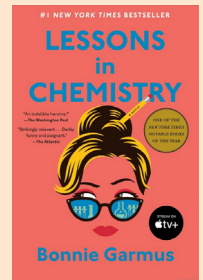
Led by Librarian Maura Powers-Smith. Monthly group reading the most talked-about fiction and nonfiction titles.

January 8: *Lessons in Chemistry*

by Bonnie Garmus

February 12: *An Immense World*

by Ed Yong



NEW Hopeless Romantics Book Club

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

Led by Librarian Sam Christenen-Tripi

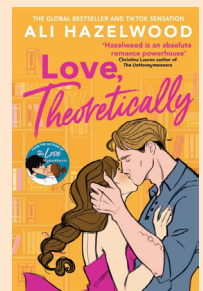
Monthly group reading romance titles, from historical and contemporary picks to newly-popular romantasy.

January 17: *Love, Theoretically*

by Ali Hazelwood

February 21: *My Roommate is a Vampire*

by Jenna Levine



Coming in February: **NEW Read It & Eat! Cookbook**

Club on Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm, featuring Kelly Senyei's ***The Secret Ingredient***. Register now and choose your recipe at the Information Desk.



AARP Tax-Aide Services

This year, AARP Tax-Aide preparation by trained and IRS-certified

volunteers will be offered at GPL on **Mondays, February 5- April 8, 9:30am-4 pm** (except the February 19 holiday). *Appointments are required; no walk-ins.*

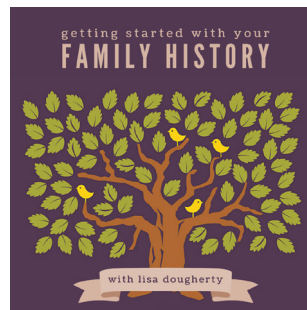
To make an appointment during January:

Call (518) 313-6324, beginning at **9 am**. Lines may be busy; please be patient. **Please do not call the Library.** Intake booklets will be available at the Adult Information desk for you to complete in advance of your appointment.

Bring to your appointment:

- ▶ Photo ID
- ▶ Social Security card for everyone listed on the tax return
- ▶ Copy of your 2023 return
- ▶ All 2023 W-2s and 1099 forms
- ▶ End-of-year brokerage statements
- ▶ Checking account information (for direct deposit)
- ▶ All supporting documents for itemized deductions

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. <https://bit.ly/GPLTaxAide2024>



Getting Started with Your Family History

Tuesday, January 9 @ 6 pm

If you've always wanted to learn more about your family history but have no idea how to begin, this class is for you!

Professional Genealogist Lisa Dougherty will guide you through basic steps to get

started, then offer interactive searching tips based on your own family. This class is limited to eight participants, who are encouraged to bring a family document, story, or picture. Bring your laptop or tablet, and start making discoveries! [R]

Technology Help

Select Wednesdays @ 10 am, 11 am or 12 pm

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

LIVE VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS [R]

Start the new year off right! Register online for these live presentations, followed by Q & A sessions. Can't make it? You can access past presentations anytime!

Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with Rebecca Searle

Wednesday, January 10 @ 8 pm

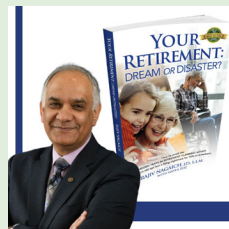
New York Times Bestselling Author of *One Italian Summer*, *In Five Years*, and *The Dinner List*



Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster? How to Avoid the Hidden Traps in Retirement Planning Advice, with Rajiv Nagaich

Tuesday, January 23 @ 2 pm

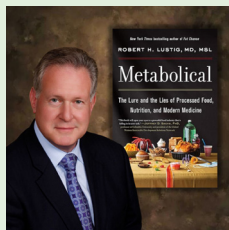
Expert in U.S. Elder Law and Host of Two Popular Public Television Shows



The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine: An Author Talk with Dr. Robert Lustig

Tuesday, January 30th @ 2 pm

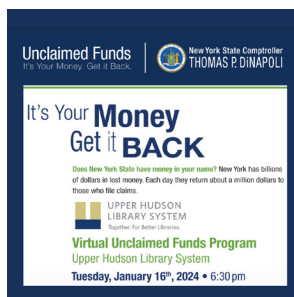
Physician and New York Times Bestselling Author of *Fat Chance*



It's Your Money: Get it Back!

Tuesday, January 16 @ 6:30 pm Virtual

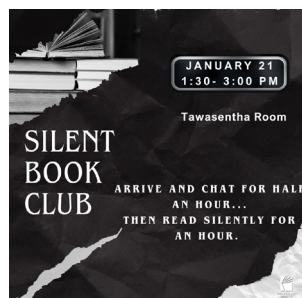
Does New York State have money in your name? New York has billions of dollars in lost money. Each day they return about a million dollars to those who file claims. Join us for a virtual session with the Office of



the New York State Comptroller on how you can claim your money from the Office of Unclaimed Funds. *This program is brought to you by the Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) Space is limited. [R]*

NEW Silent Book Club Sunday, January 21 @ 1:30 pm

Tired of deadlines? Not interested in discussions? Want to read your favorite book in quiet? Try the Silent Book Club! Bring a beverage, snack, and a book (or two!) We'll chat for the first half-hour, then silently read for the next hour. This is an opportunity to enjoy reading at the Library among others. [R]



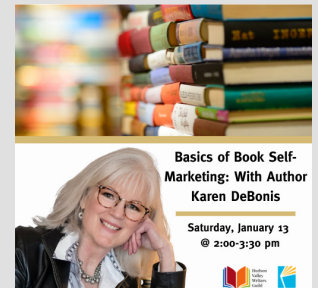
GPL ACADEMY

This adult programming series emphasizes lifelong learning on a wide variety of subjects, all designed to educate, inspire and spark community. Enjoy!

The Basics of Book Self-Marketing: with Author Karen DeBonis

Saturday, January 13 @ 2 pm

NEW DATE! Have you written and published a book, but have no idea how to market it? If so, this workshop is for you! Troy author Karen DeBonis wilted at the thought of marketing her memoir **Growth: A Mother, Her Son, and the Brain Tumor They Survived** (Apprentice House Press, 2023), published by a small press. But in the process, she had absorbed a wealth of information and realized she actually knew what to do. She'll share the secrets she gained with you. [R]



Tempestuous Beauty: How Flowers and Gardens Have Inspired Art Through the Ages

Tuesday, January 30 @ 6:30 pm Virtual

Artists have long been drawn to the natural world to stimulate their creativity. The rich symbolism, diverse

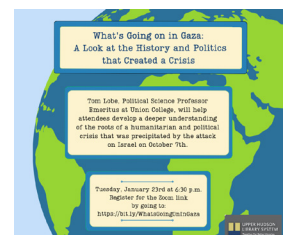


color palettes, and delicate, changing nature of flowers have been a source of inspiration across cultures for centuries. Art Lecturer Janet Cohen Mandel introduces an array of images from throughout art history, some iconic and some unfamiliar, reminding us why flowers and gardens give us hope, nourish our souls, and elicit happiness. Just what the doctor ordered in the dead of winter! [R]

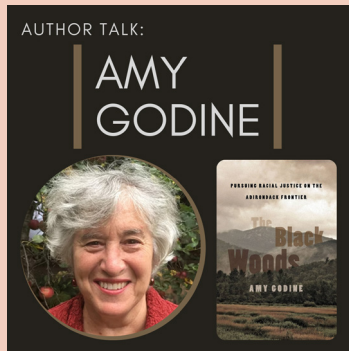
What's Going on in Gaza: A Look at the History and Politics that Created a Crisis

Tuesday, January 23 @ 6:30 pm Virtual

Tom Lobe, PhD, Political Science Professor Emeritus at Union College, will help us develop a deeper understanding of the roots of a humanitarian and political crisis that was precipitated by the attack on Israel on October 7. *This program is organized and led by staff at the Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS), which coordinates programs and activities to assist and complement the resources and efforts of its member libraries. [R]*



ADULT PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



Tales from *The Black Woods*: Author Talk with Amy Godine

Tuesday, January 23
@ 6:30 pm

Special Event!

Writer Amy Godine aims to challenge entrenched ideas about Adirondack exceptionalism. In *The Black Woods*, Godine

recovers a robust history of Black pioneers who carved from the wilderness a future for their families and their civic rights. Her immersive story returns the Black pioneers and their descendants to their rightful place at the center of this history. With stirring accounts of racial justice, and no shortage of heroes, *The Black Woods* amplifies the unique significance of the Adirondacks in the American imagination. [R]

Computer Coach

Friday, January 12 & 26
@ 10 or 11 am

Volunteer Computer Coach Robin covers Apple tech! Learn how to use anything from an Apple Watch to an iPhone to a MacBook.

One-on-one appointments with Robin last one hour.

Devices covered include:

► Apple computers (Macbook, Macbook air, etc.)

► Apple TV

► Apple Watch

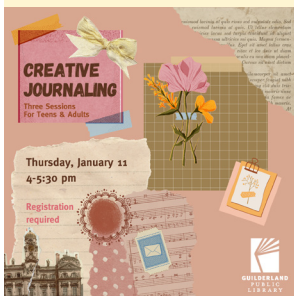
► iPad

► iPhone

Reserve your customized session with Robin today! [R]



ADULT / TEEN PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



Creative Journaling

Thursdays, January 11,
February 8 and March 14
@ 4 pm

Teens & Adults

Have you ever wanted to start a journal? Start the new year off right by journaling your personal goals. This program will allow participants to work together in a fun, collaborative

environment to create their very own personalized journal. Explore jot journaling, gratitude journaling, art journaling and more—the only limit is your imagination. We'll provide blank journals and craft supplies to get you started on your journaling journey. Feel free to bring your own materials as well. Each session builds upon itself; please plan on attending all three sessions. [R]

YOUTH PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Senior Teen Advisory Community Outreach (TACOs)

Thursday, January 4
@ 6 pm

Grades 9-12

Be a TACO! Earn volunteer credit by participating in this fun group for teens! This is a low-key meeting where participants give us input on programs, books, and the Foundry Teen

Space, as well as complete short volunteer projects for GPL and/or the community. Snacks & drinks are provided. [R]

**TEEN.
ADVISORY.
COMMUNITY.
OUTREACH.**

GRADES
≥ 9-12 ≤
REGISTRATION
REQUIRED



Family Board Games!



Family Board Games

Saturday, January 6
@ 11 am-1 pm

Ages 3+

Kids, teens and families: drop in for board game fun! Try games from our Library of Things you can check out, plus others. There will be a

variety of classic and new board games and card games suitable for young children, older kids, and families to play.

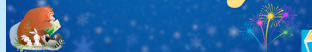
Stitch Your Own Bookmark

Tuesday, January 9 @ 4 pm
Grades 6-12

Learn how to hand-embroider your own bookmark! We'll learn at least two different kinds of stitching, and you'll be able to finish the bookmark at home with a guide. This is a beginner-level class. [R]



Storytimes return January 9

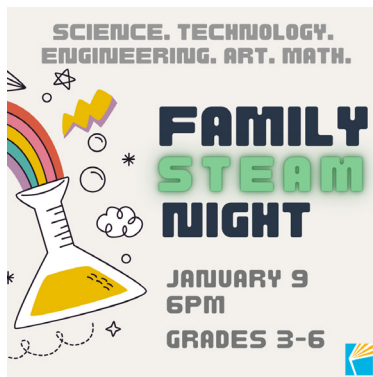


Storytimes

Returning January 9
Tuesdays-Thursdays
Ages 0-5 with caregiver
A fresh season of storytimes begins, incorporating both familiar and new elements! Four early literacy sessions are now offered:

- **Tuesdays at 10:30 am:** Family Storytime (infant-age five)
 - **NEW: Tuesdays at 2 pm:** Baby Storytime (0-18 months)
 - **NEW: Wednesdays:** Sky Friends (infant-age five)
 - **Thursdays:** Preschool Storytime (ages 2.5-five)
- No registration is needed.

YOUTH PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

**Family STEAM Night**

**Tuesday, January 9
@ 6 pm**

Grades 3-6

Come explore fun STEAM topics with local high school and college presenters. This month, we welcome the RPI Engineering Ambassadors. Participants will learn about land rovers on

Mars and create their own rovers to keep astronauts safe. [R]

Color Happy! Kids' Coloring Club

**Thursday, January 11
@ 4 pm**

PreK-Grade 2

Let's read a story together to inspire us to "color happy" at the Library! Join us for an hour of colorful activities and explore a rainbow world of pencils, pens, markers, crayons, stickers, and assortment of coloring pages. Supplies provided us, inspiration provided by kids! [R]

**Drop-In Snowflake Decorations**

**Saturday, January 20
@ 11 am**

Family / All Ages

Help us decorate the Children's Library for winter by making a snowflake! Drop in and use a variety of supplies. We'll display your unique creations on our windows for all to see. All children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.



Help us decorate the Children's Library for winter by making a snowflake!

DROP-IN SNOWFLAKE DECORATIONS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
11:00AM - 12:00PM**

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR CAREGIVER.
NO REGISTRATION NEEDED.

**Parent Playdate**

**Monday, January 22
@ 11 am**

Infant-Age 3 with Caregiver

Looking to meet other parents / caregivers? Join us for a special hour of open playtime! While you're here, enjoy getting to know other adults and their little ones, and check out all that the Library has to

offer! Light refreshments will be available while your child plays and you both enjoy making new connections. [R]

**Teen Study Hall & Virtual Tutoring**

**Wednesday, January 17
@ 5:30-7:30 pm**

Grades 9-12

Working on homework, studying for a test, or just need a quiet space to focus? We have everything you may need for a productive evening, including comfy seating, snacks, mindful

brain-breaks, and access to our new virtual live tutoring service, **Brainfuse**, offering:

- live tutors in math, science, reading/writing, social studies, PSAT/SAT, ACT, AP and state tests
- 24/7 writing lab for feedback on essays/papers
- foreign language lab, and more!

LEGO Free Play

**Thursday, January 18 @ 3-6 pm
Ages 3+**

It's time to build with LEGOs! Stop by the Children's Program Room to build the most awesome LEGO creations you can imagine. Pictures of all creations will be posted in our GPL Kids & Families Facebook group.

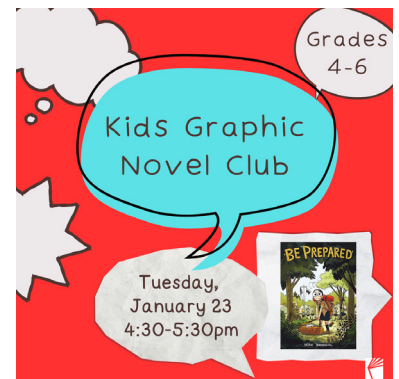
**Kids Graphic Novel Club**

**Tuesday, January 23
@ 4:30 pm**

Grades 4-6

The Kids Graphic Novel Club meets monthly to talk about the book selection, complete activities, enjoy snacks, and meet other graphic novel lovers! January's selection is **Be Prepared** by Vera Brosgol (2018).

Participants will receive a free copy of the book to keep! [R]

**Art Room**

**Wednesday,
January 31
@ 3-6 pm**

Ages 3+

Calling all budding Picassos and Rembrandts: bring your creativity to the

Library! Drop in anytime and use our wide variety of arts and crafts supplies to create your very own masterpiece(s).



COLORFUL PET PORTRAITS
WITH SHAWN DELL JOYCE

JANUARY 27 @ 2 PM
VIRTUAL

MATERIALS PROVIDED!

Paint a Colorful Pet Portrait: On Zoom
Saturday, January 27 @ 2 pm
Ages 12-Adult Virtual

Only a couple spots left! Paint a pet portrait to give as a special gift, or keep it for yourself! In this Zoom program you'll learn how to use a value scale and "paint by numbers" to create a unique and colorful version of any pet! Shawn Dell Joyce will take you step-by-step through the process, teaching you to see color as value and mix colors. We'll provide you with all the supplies: an 8 x 10 canvas, a charcoal or soft pastel stick, and a set of acrylic paints. We can even lend you an easel (limited supply). **[R]**

Coffee Talk: Q&A with Café Con Mel

"Mel" is Melanie Partak (right). She operates Café Con Mel at GPL with Joy Mercado Anderson (left). Mel has Puerto Rican roots, while Joy has a Filipino heritage. They enjoy meshing their distinct cultural cuisines with American classics, offering up an eclectic menu for all ages and palates to savor.



Q: How did you come up with the concept of operating a coffee shop inside of a library?

A: GPL had planned to open an onsite café as part of its 2020-2021 building project. It was one of the top requests received from the public. The Library put out an RFP in July 2021, seeking a suitable vendor, which did not yield any viable candidates. We were operating in Cohoes at the time, but were ready for a change. After applying, it took another 1.5 years and a unanimous vote from the GPL Board of Trustees to officially open our doors on September 6, 2023.

Q: Are you part of the library staff or independent?

A: We are independent. We're proud to work with the Library to offer this amenity to the public. Patrons who stay at GPL for hours appreciate having access to freshly-prepared food and drink, without having to leave or use the vending machine.

Café Rewards!

January Special: Enjoy a FREE krinkle milk 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!



Library Director Tim Wiles Announces Retirement continued from page 1



Tim's instantly-recognizable license plate

We built on a strong legacy of programming and made it even better. We diligently navigated the pandemic in 2020-2021 while under construction; adopted fine-free status; and added the Guilderland Farmer's Market in 2022. We've been voted a top five library in the *Times Union's* "Best Of" poll for the past four years running—thank you!

As Tim stated: "Through it all, I have been privileged to work with some very fine library professionals at every level of this organization. I thank each of you, past and present, for the energy you have brought to our shared workplace. I thank this wonderful community for your continued support, including countless committed volunteers who have helped us immeasurably."



Coming full circle, Tim plans to continue his involvement by once again becoming one of those volunteers, serving on the Guilderland Public Library Foundation.

"While it is time for me to step down, I am excited for the future of this Library, and look forward to enjoying its collections, programs, services, and café as a patron for many years to

come." **Thank you for all of your contributions, Tim. Best wishes to you in this next chapter!**

ON THE CALENDAR

THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED:

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day

Monday, January 15—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

CLOSING EARLY:

Friday, January 19—Closing at 5 pm

January Exhibit—Friends of the Pine Bush

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

Let's Talk: Coffee & Conversation for Seniors

Wednesdays @ 11am-12:30 pm

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 16

@ 11:30am-4:30 pm Go to redcrossblood.org for appointments; walk ins welcome

Guilderland Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, January 18 @ 6 pm In-person and streamed on

YouTube. Public commentary: pc@guilderlandlibrary.org

JANUARY



American Red Cross