



## A New Era

by Library Director  
Tim Wiles

As the library continues to wrap up final construction details and restore services in the wake of diminishing COVID numbers, I thought I'd take some real estate here in the newsletter to provide an update on the

status of various items. We've got exciting news to report to you on a few fronts!

### GPL Goes Fine Free

After our library closed on March 13, 2020 due to COVID (Friday the 13th, a fateful anniversary that is fast approaching), we made the decision to waive late fees, a practice that has continued for the past two years. Meanwhile, our board deliberated on whether we should make this policy permanent, joining the growing fine free movement gaining traction throughout American libraries.

I am happy to report that beginning this month, **we are officially fine free!** We're instituting this policy in conjunction with our friends at Altamont Free Library, becoming the 21st and 22nd of the 29 Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) local public libraries to make the switch.

The basic concept is that library fines don't really help get overdue materials back faster. But they do create shame and anxiety among library users, particularly kids, and often contribute to lifelong negative associations with libraries. Innovators who think outside the box have found that waiving the fines permanently creates goodwill, brings lots of overdue material back to the library, and, most importantly, increases library use.

***The fine-free model keeps materials coming back and is less labor intensive, which ultimately saves taxpayers money.***

The incentive to bring borrowed items back so your friends and neighbors can use them is a positive motivation, rather than a negative one. Now, if library patrons lose items or don't prioritize returning them, they will be billed for the replacement cost of the items after 30 days. This keeps materials coming back. It's also far less labor-intensive for library staff, which ultimately saves taxpayers money.

### Automatic Renewal Starts


Along with going fine free, effective immediately, all 29 UHLS libraries have instituted automatic renewals for most items that are checked out. Books and most other materials are automatically renewed by our computer system—saving you effort, and reducing fines at those libraries that still charge them. Between going fine free and instituting automatic renewals, our industry is really moving from a punishment model to an honor system. For most library workers and users, these are welcome changes.

### Building Update

We've finally received some of the computers that were on order for months, and have deployed twelve of them—six for adults and six for kids. They were held up due to the worldwide shortage of computer chips, along with related supply chain and transportation issues.

Most of our furniture has also arrived at this point, and we now have 86 chairs distributed throughout the library. Chairs may not be immediately visible from the front service area, so please feel free to wander the facility, where you'll find several seats clustered near the the aquarium, the Children's Library, the area which looks out on our back Literary Garden, and the fireplace.

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**COVID Update**  
**PLEASE NOTE: Masks are strongly recommended, but not required.** We will continue to closely monitor public health guidance. All March programs are virtual and require registration on the Events tab of our website.

### LIBRARY HOURS

Monday—Thursday.....	9:30 am–9 pm
Friday.....	9:30 am–6 pm
Saturday.....	9:30 am–5 pm
Sunday.....	1–5 pm

**Masks are strongly recommended, but not required.** Curbside pick up is available with 24 hours notice. Public computers are available.

## ADULT PROGRAMS &amp; RESOURCES



### Genealogy with Lisa Dougherty

**Wednesday, March 9 @ 6-8 pm**

Ready to explore your family tree, or need help continuing your research? Professional Genealogist Lisa Dougherty offers family history consultations on a virtual basis. Lisa's extensive experience includes serving as genealogist-in-residence at the

Irish-American Heritage Museum in Albany. Visit her website at: [www.upstatenygenealogy.com](http://www.upstatenygenealogy.com). [R]

### Computer Coach

**Monday, March 14 & 28 @ 6:30 pm**

Consult with computer coach Robin from the comfort of home to help you get the most out of your **Apple device**. She can also assist with the **Learning Express** tool on our website to help you craft a winning **résumé**. Sign up for your 1:1 virtual hour-long technology appointment with Robin today! [R]



### Learn Libby with the Experts! A Virtual Training Session

**Tuesday, March 22**

**Basics: 10-10:40 am**

**Tips & Tricks: 10:45-11:15 am**

Learn more about Libby, your digital resource for:

- eBooks, audiobooks, magazines

- Kanopy—streams TV and movies for all ages; also includes The Great Courses
- ArtistWorks—learn how to play musical instruments from world-class musicians

This two-part Libby webinar is chock full of information to help you get the most out of this extensive digital resource. Can't attend live? Sign up anyway—both sessions will be recorded and emailed to all registrants. Libby replaces OverDrive, which will be phased out later this year. Don't wait—download Libby, which carries over all of your Overdrive account information, take advantage of this webinar, and start exploring now! [R]

### ON THE CALENDAR

#### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Sponsored by Senator Michelle Hinchey

**Tuesday, March 15 @ 1-6 pm**

#### GPL Board of Trustees Meeting

**Thursday, March 17 @ 6 pm**

Streamed live on **YouTube** and archived for later viewing.

Public commentary to: [pc@guilderlandlibrary.org](mailto:pc@guilderlandlibrary.org)



### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS [R]

[guilderlandlibrary.org/book-discussion](http://guilderlandlibrary.org/book-discussion)

#### Night Owls Online

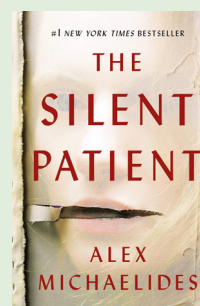
**Mondays @ 7:30 pm**

Led by Librarian Maura Powers-Smith.

Reading the most talked-about fiction and nonfiction titles.

**March 14: *The Silent Patient*, by Alex Michaelides**

This best-selling psychological thriller mixes macabre plot twists and Greek tragedy, resulting in a satisfying page-turner.



#### Memoirs in the Morning

**Wednesdays @ 10:30 am**

Led by Librarian Josalyn Wilder.

Reading the best current biographies.

**March 16: *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, by Stephanie Land**

This memoir delivers an unflinching look at America's class divide, as seen through the lens of a single mother striving to rise above. Can't

make the virtual discussion? Join our Memoirs in the Morning group on [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com) to participate anytime.

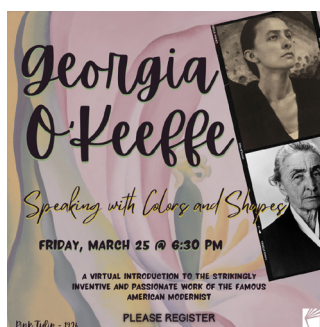
#### Green Reads

**Thursdays @ 6 pm**

Led by Librarian Maria Buhl in collaboration with Albany Guardian Society. A book and film discussion group on nature, health, and the environment.

**April 7: *Honeyland* documentary**

This widely-acclaimed 2019 Sundance award winner profiles a solitary beekeeper in Macedonia, exploring the broader impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and exploitation of natural resources.



#### Women's History Month Special Presentation

**Georgia O'Keeffe: Speaking with Colors and Shapes**

**Friday, March 25 @ 6:30 pm**

Artist Georgia O'Keeffe has given us astonishing abstract images, radical depictions of giant flowers, dramatic cityscapes, glowing landscapes, and haunting

bones against a stark desert sky. We'll explore how her strikingly inventive works conveyed independence, adventure, and passion, and how her portfolio has become an indelible part of the mythology and iconography of the American artistic landscape. [R]



## YOUTH PROGRAMS &amp; RESOURCES

**Live Virtual Storytimes**

**Thursday,**  
**March 3 & 17 @ 10:30 am**

**Tuesday,**  
**March 8 & 22 @ 4 pm**  
**Infant through age 5**

Based on your feedback,  
we'll meet via Zoom

**alternating Thursday**

**mornings and Tuesday afternoons.** When registering, you'll find ideas on props to make the experience more interactive as we read books, sing songs and have fun together! **[R]**



**Kits** For Kids & Teens

**Activity Kits for Kids & Teens [R]**

As of this writing, the following kits are available for online registration. Don't delay, sign up today for these popular kits!

**Grow-a-Clover Grades 3-5**

Make your own luck!  
Each bag will contain a

White Ladino Clover grow kit and a booklet full of at-home, outdoors, and virtual activities. Register, then pick up your kit Tuesday, March 15 through Sunday, March 20.

**Spring Scratch Art Grades 6-12**

We'll supply everything you'll need to make cool scratch art to enjoy this spring season. Register, then pick up your kit Tuesday, March 22 through Sunday, March 27.

**Sensory Play 6-24 months**

Playing together helps babies' brains and bodies grow, plus bonding opportunities with their caregivers. Each kit includes a toy or two, plus ideas on engaging with your little one. Register, then pick up your kit Tuesday, March 29 through Sunday, April 3.

**Baby & Me Yoga**

**Mondays,**  
**March 21 & 28**  
**@ 2:30 pm**

This 30-minute yoga class is intended for both new mothers and their babies. Moms will learn how to stretch

and ease back into movement postpartum, focusing on core and pelvic floor exercises. You'll discover a gentle way to bond, play, and relax with your baby. Classes will be held via Zoom in two sessions. Ideal for ages 3 months and up. **[R]**

**Web & Social Media Resources****► Discovery Pages Wednesday, March 9**

Look for new Discovery Pages the second Wednesday of each month, featuring eBooks, audiobooks, crafts, music, and more. For March, we're focusing on the early childhood and middle school age groups. You'll find it all at: [guilderlandlibrary.org/gplkids](http://guilderlandlibrary.org/gplkids).

**Early Childhood**

**Spring**



**► The Foundry** is the name of our new teen space. It's also a place online where teens can discover new books, activities, events, learning tools, volunteer opportunities, music playlists, and so much more. Check it out! [guilderlandlibrary.org/teens](http://guilderlandlibrary.org/teens)

**► GPL Kids & Families Facebook page** keeps parents and caregivers informed on our Youth Services offerings.



Like and follow us for updates (as well as our main page and GPL Cafe Chat page). Find us on Instagram, too!

**► GPL's YouTube channel** features engaging children's content, including read alouds and storytimes.

**Meet Marley!**

You might have "herd"—our cow mascot Greufus now has a baby sister! We adopted a dairy calf named Marley, who lives at Dutch Hollow Farm in Schodack Landing. She's growing fast! Follow Marley's progress here: [guilderlandlibrary.org/gplkids](http://guilderlandlibrary.org/gplkids)



**Our double-sided fireplace provides a colorful and cozy quiet reading spot. The mantel was fashioned from wood harvested from the historic Fuller's Tavern nearby.**

### A New Era continued from Page 1

Speaking of the fireplace, we finally got it working just as the cold winter weather arrived. Patrons seem to be relishing quiet reading time by its cozy surroundings. Just like the aquarium, it is visible from both sides of the installation. Drop in soon to enjoy some comfortable hearthside reading!

Within the next couple of weeks, we plan to have our five study rooms available again (we formerly had three in the old building). We'll let you know when they're ready for use. Meeting rooms will take a little longer, again due to supply chain issues, but we're making progress.

## Board Candidates

U.S. Citizen \* Guilderland School District Resident  
18+ years old

**Deadline:**  
Monday,  
April 18

**Vote:**  
Tuesday,  
May 17

### Board Candidates and Budget Election

It's that time of year when the library prepares to hold its annual election, asking Guilderland voters to approve our annual budget and either elect, or re-elect, library board members. The election is held at the five Guilderland

elementary schools on the third Tuesday in May, which falls on **Tuesday, May 17** this year.

This year, we have four trustee slots open, two for five-year terms and two for one-year terms. If you're interested, check out <https://bit.ly/2022GPLBoardCandidates>, or pick up an information packet at our circulation desk. The deadline for submitting all paperwork is **Monday, April 18**.

Serving as a board member involves significant time and effort. If you are unsure whether or not you want to run, I'd be happy to chat with you about the commitment involved. Contact me anytime at **518.456.2400 ext. 113** or email me at [wilest@guilderlandlibrary.org](mailto:wilest@guilderlandlibrary.org). While it can be time-consuming, libraries literally can't run without boards, so I thank you in advance for your interest.

### New Staff Members

In personnel news, we're turning over a new leaf here at GPL. Back in October, Assistant Director Margaret Garrett and Fiscal Officer Carol Kott both retired. Then in January, Reference Librarian Ann Wemple-Person accepted a new position elsewhere. We've had rather large shoes to fill.

We are pleased to welcome new Reference Librarian **Jill Tominosky** to our staff, who started at the end of February. We are also delighted that **Tim Reilly** of Guilderland will begin as our new fiscal officer in April. Last but not least, our new assistant director starting this month is **Natalie Hurteau**. She grew up in Guilderland and is coming home, so to speak, after 17 years of experience as a library director in Brunswick and Grafton, and as the manager of adult services at the Upper Hudson Library System. Natalie is also a former clerk, volunteer, and trustee at the Altamont Free Library. Welcome Natalie, Jill, and Tim!

Now, we're still figuring out how we'll deal with two administrators named Tim. I'm tempted to paraphrase Charles Dickens and remark that it may be the best of Tims, the worst of Tims...!

*Two*



**Six public computers near our adult reference desk, plus six in our Children's Library, stand ready for use.**



### How Did You Find It?

**GPL's monthly podcast  
New episode:**

**Friday, March 18**

This month, we'll get to know new GPL Assistant Director Natalie Hurteau, and talk about BookFlix with Kristina. Listen on all major platforms! We welcome your

feedback anytime at: [podcast@guilderlandlibrary.org](mailto:podcast@guilderlandlibrary.org).

### Dial A Story

**For children and adults**

Relax with a brief story!

Call **518.456.2400** and press **5**, then choose 1 for an adult story; 2 for a children's story; and 3 for an international story.

## DIAL A STORY

518-456-2400  
PRESS 5

CALL BACK REGULARLY TO  
HEAR NEW STORIES