

# The Bookmark

Monthly Newsletter of the Gale Free Library

September 2023

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## Contents

*Library News*  
Page 1

*Adult Programs*  
Page 2

*Children's Programs*  
Page 3

*Be on the Lookout for...  
Window Restoration  
Project  
Staff Picks  
Art Exhibits*  
Page 4

*Local History and  
Museum Highlights*  
Page 5

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## Library News

- The Library will be closed September 2-4 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. We will be returning to our 9-4 Saturday hours on September 9.
- The Friends of the Gale Free Library is launching a fundraising campaign, "Windows of Opportunity." See page 4 for more information.
- In September, our Art Exhibit will feature Refugee Artisans of Worcester (RAW), a unique nonprofit project that works to support refugees in the city through recognizing the beauty of their traditional artwork. See page 2 for information on RAW's live demonstration on September 30 and page 4 for exhibit details.
- Our Adult Take-Home Craft Program begins! See page 2 for more details.
- "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" begins! One thousand books? That seems like way too many, right? Not at all! See page 3 for registration information.



## Volunteer With Us!

The Book Cellar, our used book store on the lower level of the Gale Free Library, is looking for volunteers to help with sorting, shelving, and sales of donated books. Whatever amount of time you have to give, we welcome your help and enthusiasm! Please call 508-210-5569 or stop by the Reference Desk to leave your contact information!

# Adult Programs

Page 2



## Join us for a demonstration with the Refugee Artisans of Worcester (RAW).

**Saturday, September 30 from 2-3:30 pm**

Gale Free Library Program Room  
23 Highland Street, 2nd Floor, Holden, MA

You're invited to watch the artisans at work. This is an open-house offering, allowing you to come and learn about the RAW organization as the artisans craft their wares. If you're brave, you may be invited to try your hand at their crafts as well! Families are welcome. On page 4, see more information about RAW's art and craftwork featured in our Program Room.

### ***Craft of Writing Workshop***

**Thursday, 9/7, 10:30am-12pm**

**Virtual via Zoom; registration required.**

#### ***"Letters"***

For next month's Writing Workshop, we'll be discussing "Letters" and looking at ways authors can use the form of a letter to help tell their story.

No prior experience necessary!

### ***Adult Take-Home Craft***

**Starts Monday, 9/11**

**No registration required.**

**Please visit the Reference Desk for your kit.**

We are now offering take-home craft kits for adults! Pick up your DIY craft kit at the Library (while supplies last). The September craft is a Transparent Dried Flower Bookmark. Every bag will contain free supplies and instructions. We hope you will enjoy making this craft at home!

### ***Classics Book Group***

**Thursday, September 28, 6:30pm**

**In-person; registration required.**

#### ***Frankenstein***

Join us as we discuss Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Copies of the book can be picked up at the Reference Desk.

### ***Cooking Club***

**Tuesday, 9/12, 6:30pm**

**In-person; registration required.**

#### ***"Pierogi!"***

Join us for "Pierogi" night, when we will be rolling, stuffing, cooking, and tasting pierogi, along with taking the leftovers (if any) home! Please bring a rolling pin and your favorite pierogi stuffing; we will provide the rest.

### ***Mindfulness for Well-Being***

**Thursdays, September 21-November 9, 6-7pm**

**Virtual via Zoom; registration required.**

Come join a friendly group and learn ways to use mindfulness for the purpose of increasing ease, balance, vitality, and connection. Themes we will explore this Fall include finding anchors of safety and places of well-being, cultivating gratitude, and developing resilience.

No prior experience needed--all are welcome!

### ***Weekly Knitting 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!

**Please contact the Reference Desk for more information or to register for our programs at 508-210-5569.**

# Children's Programs



## "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" Begins

Thursday, September 14

Register online at [galefreelibrary.beanstack.org](http://galefreelibrary.beanstack.org)

One thousand books? That seems like way too many, right? Not at all! You got this. It doesn't matter if your child is three, or just three months--there's no better time to start than now! Reading helps build social and emotional skills, sparks creativity and imagination, promotes bonding, and helps kids do well overall in school.

Registration for this online program will be open continuously.

## Story Times



### Lapsit Story Time

Every Thursday

Beginning September 14  
at 10AM

In the Program Room

Ages 2 and under

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

Every Thursday

Beginning September 14  
at 11AM

In the Program Room

Ages 3-6

Join Mr. Kevin for lots of laughs and fun stories! This story time will focus on picture book stories and include games or activities and of course Mr. Kevin's great sense of humor!

## Children's Programs



### Fall Sun Catcher Craft

Tuesday, 9/19 from 4-4:45PM (ages 5+)

In the Program Room. Registration required.

Create a sun catcher to decorate your window with autumnal flair!

## Teen Programs

### Pins for Worcester Pride

Friday, 9/8 from 3:45-4:45PM (ages 13+)

In the Program Room.



Central Massachusetts is lucky enough to get *two* Pride seasons! Come make a button to express and celebrate yourself year round.



### Anime Club

Friday, 9/22 from 3:30-4:30PM (ages 13+)

in the Program Room

Enjoy some snacks and the beginning of *Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood*. There will be some time to hang out and chat after the episodes. You are welcome to bring your own snacks provided they're not messy.

# Be on the Lookout for...

## "Windows of Opportunity"



Praised as "The Gem of Worcester County" on its completion in 1888, Gale Free Library, also known as the Damon Memorial, still sparkles in the town center of Holden, Massachusetts. A grand Romanesque Revival building, the library was given a major makeover and a modern addition in 1989. However, the original windows were only maintained at that time, not replaced; they're essentially unchanged since 1888.

Library and town officials agree it's time to fully restore these beautiful architectural features. "Windows of Opportunity," a fundraising campaign led by the Friends of Gale Free Library, aims to help out by raising \$200,000 toward the total restoration and repair of the 60 exterior windows in the original Damon Memorial building.

According to a commissioned study from the Boston architectural firm SOCOTEC, the carpentry costs are expected to total \$750,000, plus additional project expenses. The Friends campaign will provide a portion of the total costs, with the balance coming from potential grants as well as town appropriations. The goal is to preserve and protect the historic character of a truly unique building.

Says Library Director Susan Scott, "Those windows are an integral part of the architecture and of the experience of using this inspiring space. You could say we want to add new luster to this 'Gem of Worcester County.'"

The Friends of Gale Free Library is a 501(c)(3) public charity, and contributions are tax deductible. To donate or for further information, please contact Penny Morgan, Campaign Co-Chair, at [pguymor@gmail.com](mailto:pguymor@gmail.com) or 774-364-2011.

## Art Exhibits in the Program Room

In September, we will be featuring beautiful, handcrafted work created by the Refugee Artisans of Worcester (RAW). Refugee artisans create homemade wares, meeting household needs and keeping cultural wisdom alive. RAW is a unique non-profit project that works to support refugees in the city through recognizing the beauty of their traditional artwork. RAW was created to embrace the cultures and skill sets of Worcester, Massachusetts refugees while also working to financially support these new Americans. The project values recent and long-standing refugees by recognizing their dedication to hard work, ability to produce beautiful art, and willingness to try new projects. In addition, RAW complements the many refugee resettlement programs in the city by seeking community awareness and assistance. *The Library's Art Exhibits are supported by the Friends of the Gale Free Library.*

## Staff Picks

**Danielle**

*The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly*  
By Margareta Magnusson

**Wendy**

*Strange World*  
PG-2022

Disney animated adventure about living in harmony with nature and following one's own path in life. Excellent for all ages!

**Spencer**

*Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*  
By Edwin A. Abbott

**Magda**

*Remarkably Bright Creatures*  
By Shelby Van Pelt

**Katy**

*What Moves The Dead*  
By T. Kingfisher  
A haunting, modern retelling of "The Fall of the House of Usher."

# Local History and Museum Highlights

## Local History

As mentioned in last month's "Bookmark," essays involving the plaster busts and statues that were once part of Holden High School appeared occasionally in the school's newspaper-yearbook, "The Clarion." The following flight-of-fancy was published in the May, or Senior, issue for 1925:

### A Midnight Excursion of 1950

Slumbering peacefully one winter's night I was suddenly awakened by the sound of a clear voice. I opened my eyes and beheld a mysterious visitor. She commanded me to arise and follow her. Hastily dressing, I obeyed her summons.

We floated into the air, through several walls, and at last stood still, in the corner of a large room. My guide now mounted the pedestal from which, day in, day out, she had been accustomed to witness[ing] the activities of Holden High School.

"Fair Venus de Milo,"--for it was she--"why have you conducted me hither?" I demanded.

She dignified no reply, but remained motionless.

I looked about me. How familiar it all seemed and how happy I was to see it once more!

[Busts of] Washington and Lincoln regarding me serenely as in days long gone by, the [painting] "Roman Chariot Race," [the engraving] Portia, still imploring relentless Shylock, the old dictionary with its well-worn pages, and even the battered desks seem to welcome me back.

On a blackboard I now espy the word "Exam." Of course we used to hate exams. Yet it is almost with a thrill of pleasure that I recall the stress and strain and excitement, the hopes and fears. My mouth waters. Why is that? Hot dog! That is it! How delicious those hot dogs tasted between examinations!

Another notice attracts my attention: A "Prom." What a host of memories come back to me: the old town hall [gaily] decorated in the blue and silver; lively music; bright dresses; happy faces!

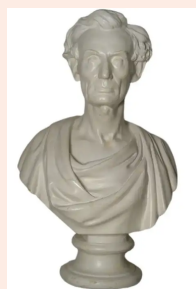
I look still farther: A Basketball Game! I seem to hear the whistle of the referee. Both teams, well-trained, alert, spring into action. A basket for Holden! Another! And another! With what zest we cheer them [on]!

I am now aroused from my reveries by the voice of my guide. I turn to obey, but she has vanished. I am about to call to her, when presently I find myself in my own room, alone, except for the delightful recollections of those dear old high school days.

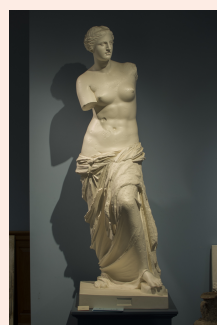
Lucile E. Eames '25



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Venus de Milo

## Old Sturbridge Village Sturbridge, MA



Fall is an amazing time to visit Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) in Sturbridge, Massachusetts! OSV is a recreated 1830s New England town on over 200 acres. Explore and chat with costumed historians as they work the tasks of the past in some of their 40 historical buildings. Be inspired by the stories of early 19th-century rural New England life.



Discounted passes to Old Sturbridge Village and other museums are available at the Reference Desk or by calling 508-210-5569.