

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER 2024-2025 NEWS & EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Sundays at 2:30 pm IN PERSON. Free and for all ages to enjoy!

December 15 – Aidan Scrimgeour Jazz Trio

Aidan Scrimgeour is a musician based in Brooklyn but originally from Salem, MA. His trio draws from jazz and folk traditions—and since it's December—the music of Vince Guaraldi's Charlie Brown Christmas. He is excited to bring a new set of music to Groton!



January 19 – Alex Minasian Jazz Trio

Join us for an afternoon of jazz! The trio's selections will honor jazz legends, including Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk, and feature music from the Great American Songbook. Pianist Alex Minasian has performed in most of the country's most famous jazz rooms.

February 16 – Green Heron

Featuring Betsy and Scott Heron, the music of Green Heron stretches across the entire folk landscape. Old-time, folk, bluegrass, country, and blues are all represented as the band brings the back porch to the stage. The two songwriters weave the contemporary with the traditional and deliver high-energy performances.



Made possible by a grant from the Town of Groton's Lecture Fund.



Groton Public Library
99 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

**GPL Programs Are
Free and Open to All**

For more information on programs and to sign up:

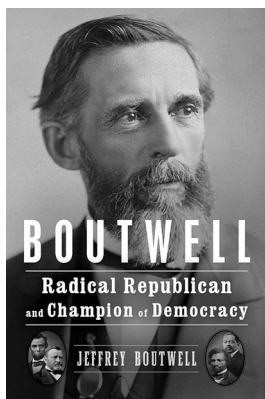
- * View our calendar at gpl.org
- * Email info@gpl.org
- * Call us @ 978-448-1167

All events generously supported by the GPL Endowment Trust and the Town of Groton's Lecture Fund.

Inaugural Book Launch for

BOUTWELL: Radical Republican and Champion of Democracy by Jeffrey Boutwell

Sunday, Feb. 2, 1-4 pm at the Groton Inn



In Jeffrey Boutwell's capable hands, the nearly forgotten nineteenth-century Massachusetts politician George Boutwell emerges as an Emersonian Representative Man . . . a self-made man of conscience. Richly contextualized and painstakingly researched, Boutwell is a classic political biography, a powerful and timely reminder that, while personality may win the day, character makes a legacy. —Megan Marshall, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Margaret Fuller: A New American Life

Born to a Massachusetts farming family, George Sewall Boutwell rose from library board member to the state's youngest governor. A convert to the new Republican Party, he helped draft its platform in 1860 and championed Abraham Lincoln as its presidential candidate.

In 1835 at the age of 17, George Sewall Boutwell made the best decision of his life – he moved to Groton ... In responding to a help-wanted ad... George would begin 70 years of living, working, and raising a family in Groton. —Jeffrey Boutwell, from the Groton Herald, 1/28/21

Presented in partnership with the Groton History Center.



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Information as of **November 15, 2024**. Check our calendar for **updates** and to **sign up**, or call 978-448-1167.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Sign up at gpl.org. Groton residents given first preference.

For All Ages:

Creative Kids Drop-In Craft Time. New craft every week in the Children's Room. Drop in for some freestyle crafting!

For Babies Through Preschool

Tales & Tunes for Tots

Story & music time for infants and preschoolers with popular entertainers, 10:30-11:15 am. Friday, December 6: Rockabye Beats | Friday, February 7: Music with Julie

Peapods Storytime for Ages 0-2 and Their Caregivers. Wednesdays, 10:30-11 or 11:15-11:45 am. Peapods will take a 3-week hiatus around the holidays, Dec. 18-Jan. 1.



No storytimes during school vacation weeks.

Storytime for Ages 3-5. Thursdays, 10:30-11 am:



- **Miss Jacquie aka "Strega Mama."** Stories & songs selected for the interests and attention of the preschooler. Meets Thursdays, except 3rd Thursday of the month. *No mtg. Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.*
- **Mirrors & Windows with Miss Sheila.** Meets the 3rd Thursday of most months. Next meeting is Jan. 16. Children hear stories where they see themselves reflected (like looking in a mirror) AND they learn something new about someone else (like looking in a window).

Music and Movement with the Family Partnership Center. Babies-preschool. Tuesdays: Dec. 10, Jan. 14 & 28, Feb. 11, 10:30-11:15 am. We dance, sing songs, play instruments, and read stories!

Hula Hoop Movement with Miss Emma. Ages 3-5. Thursdays: Jan. 23 & Feb. 13, 11:15 am-12 pm. Learn cool moves using a hula hoop! Games, dance, and movement. Hoops provided.

For School-Age Children

Book Worms for Grades 4 & 5. Meets the 1st Tuesday of every month, 4-4:45 pm. Talking about books helps boost a love for reading! Join Miss Carrie and have fun reading and talking about books with friends.

Book Bears for Grades 2 & 3. Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month, 4-4:30 pm. Miss Jennie leads this fun book club that encourages a love for reading!

Comics Club for Grades 3-5. Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 5-5:45 pm. Draw, write, and create your own comics or graphic novels! Bring your own project to work on or start a new one! Snacks & materials provided.

Cursive Club for Grades 3-5. Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month, 4-4:30 pm. Starts February 5. Learn and/or practice cursive writing in a fun atmosphere with Miss Carrie. Snacks and workbooks provided.

Read-Aloud with Jennie for Grades K-2. Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 4-4:30 pm. Listen to Jennie Fitzkee read aloud from the best children's chapter books! Join us starting December 5.

Special Events

- * **Stuffed Animal Sleepover! Grades K-5.** Tuesday, January 14, 6:30-7:30 pm. Wear your pjs, bring a blanket—and a stuffie!—to storytime, and then your stuffie will sleep over in the Children's Room! Who knows what they'll get up to overnight! You can pick up your stuffie the next day—they'll be extra tired!
- * **Felting with Rachel Benson. Ages 9-11.** Thursday, January 16, 4:30-6 pm. Learn the basics of felting and create a winter snowman ornament to keep!
- * **Squishmallow Bingo for Grades 3-5.** Friday, February 21, 2-3 pm. We will play bingo to win adorable Squishmallows! Open to kids in grades 3-5 **ONLY** (sorry, no exceptions). Space is limited, so please sign up.

All programs are supported by the GPL Endowment Trust and by a grant from the Town of Groton's Lecture Fund.

Read to Blitzen. Wednesdays, Dec. 11 & 18, 4-5 pm. More dates TBA. Children gain confidence by reading aloud to a non-judgmental, friendly dog. Blitzen is certified through the Pets & People Foundation. Sign up for a 15-minute slot.

STEAM Take and Made for Grades K-5. Available first week of the month. Grab an activity for a fun, easy at-home STEAM experience. Pick up in the Children's Room. First come, first served. No registration required.

Storylab for Grades K-2. Last Friday of the month, 4-5 pm: Dec. 27, Jan. 31, Feb. 28. Join Miss Nancy and Miss Lauren for a STEAM-based story and craft!

Lego Spike Essentials for Grades 3-6: Transportation. Saturdays: Jan. 4, 11, 25; Feb. 1, 2:30-3:30 pm. The course encourages creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving by challenging students to design, build, and test different transportation models using basic engineering principles and programming. Registration is for all four classes.

LEGO® Club for Ages 5-12. Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month, 4-5 pm. We supply the LEGOs—you the imagination!

Snapology for Ages 8-11. Kids learn and practice STEAM skills through research-based programs!

- Tuesday, December 10, 6-7 pm: Amusement Park Engineering: Kids build one customized amusement park ride and put everything together to create and play with one large park.
- Tuesday, February 11, 6-7 pm: Cubelets: Kids complete a variety of challenges with these robotic blocks!

Learn to Knit: Three-Class Series for Grades 3-5. Thursdays, Jan. 23 & 30, Feb. 6, 3-4 pm. Learn the basics of casting on and knitting with Miss Ellie and Miss Lauren. Kids who have knitting experience are welcome to come, too! Materials provided for new knitters. Space is limited and registration is for all classes.

Homeschool Programs

Homeschool Maker Space Meetup for Ages 6-9. Meets Thursdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 6 & 27, 1-2:30 pm. Children design and build their own creation using low-tech maker space supplies, such as Legos and craft materials. This session's theme is astronomy. All learning styles welcome—we are neurodivergent-affirming. Sign up for each class.

All Things Theater for Ages 10-Teens. Join us on Tuesdays, 2-3 pm. From improv to Shakespeare, this group will cover a variety of theater concepts and forms, such as readers theater, character studies, and script writing. This class is suitable for any experience level. *No meeting Dec. 24 or 31.*

Winter Reading Program: *Birds of a Feather Read Together!* **January 2-February 28. For Kids Pre-K-Grade 5.**



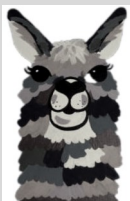
Register in the Children's Room and pick up your BINGO sheet starting Jan. 2.
For every BINGO you earn, receive a prize and raffle ticket for a grand-prize raffle!

T(W)EEN PROGRAMS (Grades 5 and Up)

MORE EVENTS NEXT PAGE...

LLAMA LOUNGE (Grades 5-8)

Every GDRMS Half-Day
11:30 am to 3 pm



Drop in with your friends, play board or video games, create with arts and crafts, or do some homework!

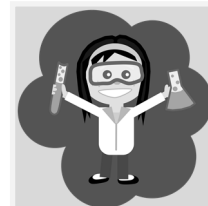
Dates this Winter:

Fri. Dec. 13, Fri. Jan. 17, and Fri. Feb. 7

Hands-on Science Lab (Grades 5-8)

Fridays 4-4:45 pm on
Dec. 6, Jan. 10 & Feb. 14

Different fun experiments every month!



ROBOTICS BATTLE-BOTS CHALLENGE (Grades 5-10)

Create a robot using LEGO® Mindstorms EV3 kits.
Compete for prizes!

Every first Wednesday, 6-7:30 pm
Dec. 4, Jan. 8 & Feb. 5

TEEN PROGRAMS (Grades 6-12)

Winter Crafting Fun (Grades 6-12)

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Learn to Knit a Scarf | Thu. Dec. 5 | 4-5:30 pm |
| Felt a Snowman with Rachel Benson | Wed. Dec. 11 | 6-7:30 pm |
| Make & Take Gingerbread Houses | Thu. Dec. 12 | 4-5:30 pm |
| Glass Holiday Trees with Periwinkle Art | Sat. Dec. 14 | 2-3 pm |
| New Year Vision Boards | Thu. Jan. 2 | 3:30-5 pm |
| Make & Take Snow Globes | Thu. Jan. 9 | 3:30-4:30 pm |
| Make & Take Hot Cocoa Bombs | Wed. Jan. 15 | 6-7:30 pm |
| Make & Take Infusible Mugs | Thu. Jan. 23 | 3-5 pm |
| Make & Take Pop-up Valentines | Thu. Feb. 6 | 3:30-5 pm |
| Make & Take No-Bake Chocolate Treats | Thu. Feb. 13 | 3:30-5 pm |
| Paint an Owl with Julie Harrold | Sat. Feb. 15 | 2-3:30 pm |
| Felt a Totoro with Rachel Benson | Wed. Feb. 19 | 3-4:30 pm |



YA at GPL



@gpl_ya

Henna Alchemy with Mandy Roberge

Sat. Jan. 25, 11:30-1:30 pm

Learn about henna and make your own to take home—then get a henna design from Mandy. *Drop-ins for henna design only begin at 12:30 pm.*

CRAM JAM STUDY HALL Drop-in study hall for HS finals

Wed. Jan. 22, 3-8 pm & Fri. Feb. 21, 3:30-4:30 pm

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Winter Campaign (Grades 6-10)

Saturdays, 2-4 pm

Starts 1/11 then 1/25, 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 4/5, 4/19, 5/3, 5/17 & 5/31

Participants are expected to attend all meetings if possible.

College Quest Workshop

for High School Students
and Parents

Wed. Feb. 12, 6-8 pm

Learn how to find the schools
that best match your needs!

READ LIKE A MACHINE!

YA Winter Reading (Grades 6-12)

January 1- February 28

Earn gift cards, free books,
and more! Log the minutes
you read on the Beanstack
app to win prizes!

More details at gpl.org.



BOOK DISCUSSIONS

If you love to read books and have fun, Miss Carrie has a book group for you! Snacks and fun guaranteed. Registration required.

Book Worm Masters (Grades 6 & 7) Second Tuesday of every month, 4:30-5:15 pm. Dec. 10, Jan. 14 & Feb. 11

Reading Rippers (Grades 8) First Thursday every month, 4:45-5:30 pm. Dec. 5, Jan. 2 & Feb. 6

Crackerjacks (Grades 9-12) Second Thursday every other month, 5:45-6:30 pm. Dec. 12 & Feb. 13

Pick up books at the Children's Room desk.

SQUISHMALLOW BINGO! (Grades 6-12)

Play bingo to win adorable Squishmallow prizes!

Friday Jan. 3, 4-5 pm

Friday Feb. 21, 3:30-4:30 pm

ESCAPE ROOMS (Grades 6-12)

Work together to solve problems, improve your skills,
complete puzzles, and break out for a prize!

Home for the Holidays

Thu. Dec. 19, 4-5 pm

February Road Trip

Thu. Feb. 20, 3-4 pm

MINECRAFT LIBRARY SERVER

Play on our library server anytime!

A Java Minecraft account is required.



Email teens@gpl.org for information on how to join.

DROP-IN TEEN GAME LOUNGE

Sibley Hall (Grades 6-12)

FRIDAYS 3-4:30 pm

Nintendo Switch and board games available.

Dec. 6 & 20; Jan. 10, 24 & 31; Feb. 14 & 28

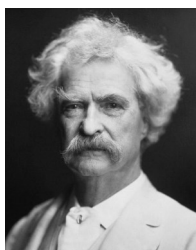


TEEN VOLUNTEERS

If you love GPL and GPL programs, help advise and assist the Teen Librarian by serving on our Young Adult Advisory Council. It's a great way to earn volunteer hours! We meet once a month on Wednesdays, 6-7 pm in person with Zoom option. Dates: Dec. 18, Jan. 29, Feb. 26. Contact teens@gpl.org for other opportunities.

All programs are supported by the GPL Endowment Trust and by a grant from the Town of Groton's Lecture Fund.

ADULT EVENTS



Seventy-Five Minutes with Mark Twain, Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 7 pm on ZOOM

Born Samuel Langhorne Clemens, Twain (1835-1910) was a humorist, journalist, lecturer, and novelist who garnered international fame for his travel narratives as well as for his adventure stories of boyhood, most especially *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), a book often considered the quintessential “great American novel.” A gifted raconteur and irascible moralist, he transcended the apparent limitations of his humble Missouri origins to become one of America’s best and most beloved writers.

Felt a Gnome with Rachel Benson, Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7 pm IN PERSON

Creating a needle-felted project with fiber artist Rachel Benson is a joy and a breeze! This month we’ll construct an adorable gnome loaded with personality. Space is limited so sign up early! *Residents who have not felted at GPL in the past three months will be prioritized until one week before the event.*

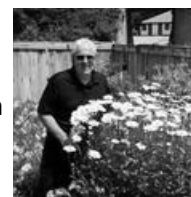


Drop-In Winter Craft at GrotonFest Winter, Saturday, Dec. 7 at 11 am–3 pm IN PERSON

Take a break for a few minutes to engage your creativity and create a unique winter bookmark! No registration required. Open to all ages.

Garden Layout & Design with Paul F. Split Horticultural Connection, Tue. Dec. 10 at 7 pm on ZOOM

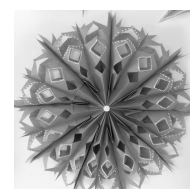
Learn to develop a garden space from the foundation up. Paul will cover the principles of mixed garden designs, including layout, site evaluation, light, soil profiles, irrigation, plant selection, maintenance, and budget. He will also discuss functions, colors, shapes, seasons, and more!



Author Marjan Kamali Discusses *The Lion Women of Tehran*, Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 pm IN PERSON



From the bestselling author of *The Stationery Shop*, a heartfelt, epic new novel of friendship, betrayal, and redemption set against three transformative decades in Tehran. In her signature “evocative, devastating, and hauntingly beautiful” prose, TLWoT is a sweeping exploration of how profoundly we are shaped by those we meet when we are young, and the way love and courage transforms our lives.



Snowflakes with Kimberly Stoney, Sunday, Dec. 15 at 1 pm IN PERSON

Enjoy a casual afternoon of wintery crafting with Kimberly. Participants will create whimsical winter snowflakes from the simplest of materials. *Wrap up in time to attend the Sunday afternoon concert!*



Masters of Song Series: Nat King Cole with Clint Edwards, Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7 pm on ZOOM

Explore the life and music of one of the 20th century’s great masters of song—an expert jazz pianist, inventor of the jazz trio, and a popular vocalist of the very highest order. Nat King Cole is the creator of such classics as “Straighten Up and Fly Right,” “Sweet Lorraine,” “Unforgettable,” and more.

Winter Door Swag Workshop with Heather Allen, Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 pm IN PERSON

This year we change it up a bit with a decorative door swag instead of a winter wreath. Participants can bring items from home (ribbon, pinecones, etc.) to add to their swag, but otherwise all other materials provided. *Due to the popularity and limited size of this program, only one person per household will be granted registration. Groton residents will receive priority for this workshop up to one week before the event. This event is intended for adults only.*

The Four Brontës with Bill Thierfelder, Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7 pm on ZOOM

Examine the lives and works of Anne, Branwell, Charlotte, and Emily Brontë, with an emphasis on the lesser-known but equally satisfactory writing of this remarkable family. What we discover is that there’s more to the Brontë siblings than *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*. It’s a story of triumph and failure, lost love and addiction, and the complications and abiding love of family life.



MORE ADULT EVENTS



The Degens' Work to Restore the Bialystok Cemetery, Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 pm IN PERSON

Hear how Josh and Amy Degen got involved with the restoration of a Jewish cemetery in Bialystok, Poland. Why Bialystok? What does the work entail? Learn how this restoration sparked local interest in the Jewish history of Bialystok which had 150,000 Jews up until June 1941 and now has less than 5. Why is this work important? How do we preserve memory?

Making Sense of Kim Jong Un's "Hermit Kingdom" with Brandon Gauthier, Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 7 pm on ZOOM

We will examine the broader history of North Korea since 1948 and the historical conditions that led to the emergence of the Kim family dynasty. Analyzing the history of U.S.-North Korean relations in particular, we will assess the decision-making of Kim Jong Un's regime to help us better understand continued tensions on the Korean peninsula in the present.



Felt a Scene with Rachel Benson, Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 pm IN PERSON

Creating a needle-felted project with talented fiber artist Rachel Benson is a joy and a breeze! This month compose a night scene out of felt. All materials provided at the time of the workshop. Space is limited so sign up early! *Priority given to Groton residents who have not participated in a felting event at GPL in the three months prior to the workshop until one week before the event.*

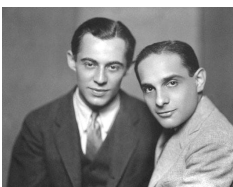
GPL's Third Annual Houseplant Swap! Saturday, Jan. 18 at 10:30 am IN PERSON

Do you have cuttings or offspring from a favorite houseplant or a plant that just isn't suited to your house anymore? Swap it for another! All plants should have at least some roots and be planted or ready for planting. Potting soil and pots available for any plants needing a temporary home! *Contributions are not required to participate.*



Paper Folding Workshop with Joyce Thomas, Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2 pm IN PERSON

Learn to create stunning cards or artworks using an easy paper folding technique. Iris folding started in Holland last century and its popularity is growing within craft circles. No art skills needed. Be prepared to be amazed by what you can make with scissors, paper, and tape!



Masters of Song Series: Rodgers Pre-Hammerstein with Clint Edwards, Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7 pm on ZOOM

Explore the early career of composer Richard Rodgers, his successful collaboration with lyricist Lorenz Hart ("Manhattan," *Connecticut Yankee*, *Jumbo*, etc.), and their eventual parting.

Groton Trails Committee Update with Paul Funch, Thursday, Jan. 23 at 7 pm IN PERSON

We continue our series of quarterly updates from the many conservation organizations throughout Groton. This month join Paul Funch of the Groton Trails Committee to learn the latest on their current projects, initiatives, and plans.



Cultural Perspectives in Chocolate with Cocoa Beantown, Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7 pm on ZOOM

Why do the Swiss love their chocolate so much? Why are the Japanese obsessed with Kit Kat bars? Learn about different perceptions of chocolate around the world while also picking up tips and tricks on how to learn more about a local food culture just by visiting a chocolate shop in this multi-cultural seminar.

Winter Seed Sowing with Seeds2Plate, Thursday, Jan. 30 at 7 pm IN PERSON

Find out why this seed-starting technique is growing in popularity. Get details on supplies, types of seeds to use, when and how to plant them, fertilization, and watering. Judith Taylor will lead a hands-on demonstration of these techniques—which are ideal for native plants.



EVEN MORE ADULT EVENTS



Collage Workshop with Kimberly Stoney, Saturday, Feb. 1 at 2 pm IN PERSON

Explore the world of abstract collage-making! Use colorful, transparent, and patterned papers to layer and compose collages. Through playful experimentation with color, value, and composition, you'll create dynamic abstract collages that reflect your personal imagery. This immersive experience is a great way to explore new techniques, nurture your creativity, and create expressive artwork.

***Boutwell* by Jeffrey Boutwell: Book Launch & Celebration at the Groton Inn, Sunday, Feb. 2, 1-4 pm—See page 1**

Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance with Bill Thierfelder, Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7 pm on ZOOM

Explore the contributions of Langston Hughes, one of the most visible writers of the Harlem Renaissance. His writing reflected the idea that black culture should be celebrated because of its value to the fabric of America and the world. Today, Hughes is recognized as one of the towering figures of American literature whose accessible poetry challenges us to explore the power of diversity to create unity.



Felt a Scene with Rachel Benson, Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7pm IN PERSON

Creating a needle-felted project with talented fiber artist Rachel Benson is a joy and a breeze! This month participants paint with wool to create a coastal scene. All materials provided. Space is limited so sign up early! *Priority given to Groton residents who have not participated in a felt-ing event at GPL in the three months prior to the workshop until one week before the event.*

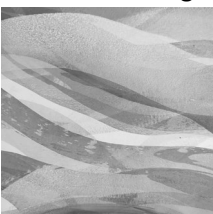
GPL's Third Annual Soup Swap, Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7 pm IN PERSON

Bring individual servings of one soup (plastic containers will be available for pickup in advance). Then go home with a variety of soups to stock your freezer for those cold winter nights when you don't want to cook but want something warm.



Puzzle Race, Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10:30 am IN PERSON

Put your puzzle skills to the test! Sign up on your own or join with a team. Each group will be given an identical puzzle. Whatever group finishes first wins bragging rights! If no groups complete the entire puzzle, the group with the largest percentage of the puzzle completed will win.



Abstract Squeegee Art with Beth, Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2 pm IN PERSON

Explore color and line through play and easily available materials. From atmospheric to intricate, fiery to calming, capture moods through paint and movement. All materials provided.

Emily Makrez of F-Word Farm Demonstrates Shio Koji, Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7 pm IN PERSON

Learn what koji is and the chemistry behind what makes this a wonder in the kitchen. Koji is the key element of miso, soy sauce, and sake. Emily Makrez, owner of F-Word Farm and educator on all things fermenting, farming, and foraging-related, will show you how to make shio koji—an incredible marinade and flavor booster that will make every burger or vegetable you cook turn out amazing.



Forget the Chicken Soup, I Want Chocolate! Why Chocolate Stirs our Emotions and Comforts Us in Times of Stress with Cocoa Beantown, Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 pm IN PERSON



At some point, someone in our life fed us chocolate. From that time onward, it became a part of our lives through holidays, birthdays, celebrations, and more. From neurotransmitters and ingrained positive associations to the all-consuming power of nostalgia, chocolate lovers will gain insight on the healing powers of chocolate and its mystical ability to connect people through time and space. Samples included!

ADULT EVENTS CONTINUED

Styling with Vintage & Thrifted Fashion with Ren Antonowicz, Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7 pm on ZOOM

Did you know that you can create a unique wardrobe that suits your “style personality” without breaking the bank? Join us for this fun styling workshop where we explore ways to treasure hunt for vintage and secondhand clothing and accessories that speak to you and will inspire a new way of dressing. Fill your own closet with a personalized wardrobe that will bring you joy for years to come!



Alternatives to Violence with Donna Nowak, Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7 pm IN PERSON

Donna Nowak has been volunteering inside MCI Shirley for 13 years with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). In group settings, the incarcerated build a sense of community by practicing the components of nonviolent behavior that lead to cooperation, self-esteem, and a new understanding of conflict. Come learn about the program, hear about life in a medium-security prison, and participate in some of the exercises that benefit us all!



Masters of Song: Hammerstein Pre-Rodgers with Clint Edwards, Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 pm on ZOOM

We will explore the early career of lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II and his successful collaboration with composer Jerome Kern (*Showboat*, “All the Things You Are,” “The Song Is You,” etc.), as well as the successes and struggles of his years prior to teaming up with Richard Rodgers to write *OKLAHOMA*!

Navigating the Intense Emotions of ADHD, Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7 pm IN PERSON

Join ADHD Coach Karen Roertgen to focus on the unique nervous system of people with ADHD, why emotions are so intense, and how to navigate these emotions in children and adults.



As always, check our calendar for updates and additional events!

BOOK GROUPS

NEW! CATCH UP WITH CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

Meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 7 pm to discuss classic literature as well as what exactly makes a book a “classic.”

Dec. 11 *Dubliners* by James Joyce

Jan. 8 *100 Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Feb. 12 *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

PROUST DISCUSSION GROUP

Delve into Marcel Proust’s fourth volume of *In Search of Lost Time: Sodom and Gomorrah*.

Meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 7 pm on

Dec. 17, Jan. 21 & Feb. 18.

THRILLING REALMS BOOK GROUP

Meets monthly to discuss horror, science fiction, and fantasy books on the fourth Friday of the month at 5 pm.

Dec. 27 *Severance* by Ling Ma

Jan. 24 *Maeve Fly* by C.J. Leede

Feb. 28 *Some Desperate Glory* by Emily Tesh

*All groups meet in person, with Zoom upon request.
Books are available to borrow at the Circulation Desk.*

PAGE TURNERS BOOK GROUP

Meets monthly (mostly) on the fourth Tuesday at 7 pm.

Dec. 17 *Eastbound* by Maylis de Kerangal

Jan. 28 *Trust* by Hernan Diaz

Feb. 25 *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean

MAD ABOUT MYSTERY GROUP

Usually meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7 pm.

Dec. 5 *Mother-Daughter Murder Night* by Nina Simon

Jan. 16 *The Word Is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz

Feb. 20 *Faithful Place* by Tana French

GREAT BOOKS GROUP

Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 7 pm.

Readings are selected from *The Civically Engaged Reader* from the Great Books Foundation.

Dec. 18 “The Lovers of the Poor” by Gwendolyn Brooks & “What We Don’t Talk About When We Don’t Talk about Service” by Adam Davis

Jan. 15 “Where Were We” by Dave Eggers

Feb. 19 Selections from *The Reveries of the Solitary Walker* by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “The Sweetness of Charity” by Maya Angelou, and “The Lamb and the Pinecone” by Pablo Neruda

ADULT DISCUSSION & ACTIVITY GROUPS

All groups meet in person unless otherwise noted.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Community conversations on tough topics. Meets at 2:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

Dec. 10 The Search for Purpose (Take 2)
Jan. 7: Empathy
Feb. 4 Energy and the Environment

LOS LITERARIOS: SPANISH LITERARY SOCIETY

This is a group for those who would like to discuss in Spanish what they are reading! Meets at 4 pm on the second Friday of every month on Zoom.

Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14

SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP

Led by native speaker and Spanish teacher Verónica Mazzu. Meets at 7 pm on the first and third Tuesday of every month on Zoom.

Dec. 3 & 17, Jan. 7 & 21, Feb. 4 & 18

KNITTING GROUP

Meets 1:30-3:30 pm every Thursday. Stitch, knit, explore a new craft, or troubleshoot your current project. All handi-crafts (and crafters!) welcome.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS FOR ADULTS

Meets at 11 am every other Saturday.

Dec. 14 & 28, Jan. 4 & 18, Feb. 1 & 15

FOREIGN FILM FAVORITES

Experience films from around the world followed by conversations. Meets the last Tuesday of each month at 3 pm.

Jan. 28 *Our Little Sister* (Japan)
Feb. 25 *The Sea Inside* (Spain)

PLANT-POWERED GROUP

A great place to explore non-meat options or a fully plant-based way of eating. Meets at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of every other month.

Dec. 10 Plant-Based Soup Swap
Feb. 11 Explore Shio Koji (see page 6 for details)

DEADLY PROSE MYSTERY WRITERS

Join this group on Zoom for helpful advice and support from others writing in the mystery genre. Meets 5-7 pm on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

Dec. 4 & 18, Jan. 8 & 22, Feb. 5 & 19

SPICE CLUB (Online only)

Sign up online and pick up your kit at the Circulation Desk.

December will be our final Spice Club. Thanks for a great run! We will wrap up by featuring vanilla beans!

TRIVIA TUESDAY (Online only). New quizzes every week emailed to your inbox, or find them on Facebook and Instagram! Winners posted online. *Sign up at gpl.org.*

Love our library programs?

If you do, then please consider giving to the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust. The Trust makes it possible for us to offer so many programs and to offer them all for free.

Go to gplendowment.org and click on "Ways to Give"

The Endowment funds 90% of our programs and program support, as well as museum passes, furnishings, equipment, and much more!

Groton Reads Is Coming in March 2025!

Groton Reads, our annual community-wide reading event, is coming! Read the page-turning novel *Finding Margaret Fuller* by Allison Pataki, then join in all our events!

In the company of Ralph Waldo Emerson and his circle of enlightened friends, the young, beautiful, and brilliant Margaret Fuller becomes "the radiant genius and fiery heart" of the Transcendentalists. She inspires Louisa May Alcott, sparks Nathaniel Hawthorne to create Hester Prynne, and forms close bonds with Henry David Thoreau and Emerson himself.



Never miss a program—
sign up for our biweekly email newsletter, *Check It Out!*
Email us at info@gpl.org, scan the QR code,
or go to gpl.org/how-to/join-our-mailing-list



VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAM SERIES VIA ZOOM

Thanks to a collaboration with four other libraries, we are able to offer virtual programs four nights a week, Monday-Thursday, with more events being added all the time! *When libraries share, everybody wins!*

HAUNTED EXPERIENCES

- * **Haunted Experiences with Jeff DePaoli**, Wed. Dec. 18 at 6:30 pm

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS (Recs) SERIES

- * **More Holiday Romance Book Recs with Booklist Reviewer John Charles**, Mon. Dec. 2 at 7 pm
- * **Lorelei of Lorelei's Lit Lair Looks Back at Favorite Romance Books in 2024 and What to Look Forward to in 2025**, Mon. Dec. 16 at 7 pm
- * **Historical Fiction Book Recs with Bestselling Author Jane Healey**, Tue. Jan. 14 at 6:30 pm
- * **Thriller/Horror Book Recs with Bookstagrammer Jody Blanchette**, Tue. Jan. 14 at 7:30 pm
- * **Women's Fiction Book Recs with Bestselling Author Kristan Higgins**, Thu. Jan. 16 at 6:30 pm
- * **Gal/Pal/Valentine's Day (and more): Book Recs with Lorelei of Lorelei's Lit Lair**, Mon. Feb. 10 at 7 pm

50+ JOB SEEKERS SERIES

- * **Interview Practice**, Wed. Dec. 4 at 9:30 am
- * **Marketing Plans: Plan Your Work & Work Your Plan**, Wed. Dec. 18 at 9:30 am
- * **TBD**, Wed. Jan. 8 at 9:30 am
- * **TBD**, Wed. Jan. 15 at 9:30 am
- * **TBD**, Wed. Feb. 5 at 9:30 am
- * **TBD**, Wed. Feb. 19 at 9:30 am

JAMIE NOVAK DECLUTTER SERIES

- * **What to Tidy When Company Is on the Way**, Thu. Dec. 5 at 7 pm
- * **Topic: TBD**, Thu. Jan. 9 at 7 pm
- * **TBD**, Thu. Feb. 6 at 7 pm

CULTURALLY CURIOUS: ART ON THURSDAYS SERIES

- * **Snowy Scapes and Celebrations: The Artist's Holiday**, Thu. Dec. 19 at 7 pm
- * **Devil with a Brush: Caravaggio's Dramatic Masterpieces**, Thu. Jan. 30 at 7 pm
- * **Rhythm and Hues: The Harlem Renaissance and its Legacy**, Thu. Feb. 27 at 7 pm

AUTHOR VISITS

- * **Author Nicole Tersigni Discusses *Cat People to Judge in Art and Life***, Mon. Dec. 9 at 7 pm
- * **Alka Joshi Discusses *The Jaipur Trilogy***, Mon. Jan. 6 at 7 pm
- * **Allison Brennan Discusses *See How They Hide: A Quinn & Costa Thriller***, Wed. Jan. 8 at 7 pm
- * **How Birds Created the World and Other Stories with Randi Minetor**, Mon. Jan. 13 at 7 pm
- * **Adam Haslett Discusses *Mothers and Sons***, Wed. Jan. 15 at 7 pm
- * **Leah Konen Discusses *The Last Room on the Left***, Wed. Jan. 22 at 7 pm
- * **Highlights of Charles Wood Irish's Story and Research Adventures with Cindy Wilson**, Thu. Jan. 23 at 7 pm
- * **Encounters with Killers with True Crime Author Katherine Ramsland**, Mon. Jan. 27 at 7 pm
- * **Thomas Perry Discusses *Pro Bono***, Wed. Jan. 29 at 7 pm
- * **Eliot Stein Discusses *Custodians of Wonder***, Mon. Feb. 3 at 7 pm
- * **Charles Fancher Discusses *Red Clay***, Wed. Feb. 5 at 7 pm
- * **Steve Berry Discusses *The Medici Return: A Cotton Malone Novel***, Wed. Feb. 12 at 7 pm
- * **Joseph Finder Discusses *The Oligarch's Daughter in Conversation with Author Lisa Gardner***, Wed. Feb. 19 at 7 pm
- * **Debut Author Panel with Karissa Chen, Tara Dorabji, Laurie L. Dove, and Jakob Kerr**, Mon. Feb. 24 at 7 pm
- * **Elinor Lipman Discusses *Every Tom, Dick & Harry***, Wed. Feb. 26 at 7 pm

OTHER TOPICS

- * **Robin Williams: The Man of a Thousand Laughs and Tears with Frank Mandosa**, Wed. Dec. 4 at 7 pm
- * **A Path Forward for Sub-Saharan Africa**, Wed. Dec. 11 at 7 pm
- * **Porcupines Don't Shoot Their Quills**, Thu. Dec. 12 at 7 pm
- * **Great American Unsung Heroes: Elizabeth Freeman**, Wed. Dec. 18 at 7 pm

In the Art Gallery: The Art Teachers of GPL, December 3, 2024 through February 2, 2025

All programs are supported by the GPL Endowment Trust and by a grant from the Town of Groton's Lecture Fund.

CREATIVE ART SERIES FOR ADULTS

The Art of Chapter and Verse with Sheila Devereaux (NEW!)



Discover the joy of poetry and unleash your creativity. Join us to read and discuss poems, then engage in simple yet inspiring art activities designed to spark your imagination. We welcome any level of experience with poetry or art! Intended for adults only.

Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am. Dec. 10, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11.

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) Workshops—LAST CHANCE!

Workshop 3: Revision Strategies and Beyond: Wed. Dec. 18 at 6 pm

This three-part workshop series is designed to equip writers with the tools and strategies they need to tackle National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) with confidence! Led by novelist Diane V. Mulligan, whose award-winning second novel began as a NaNoWriMo novel in 2009, this series will guide participants through the process of preparing and writing their novels and will culminate in a plan for post-NaNoWriMo revisions. Writers can join us for any session. Whether you're a seasoned writer or embarking on your first novel-writing adventure, this workshop series will provide you with the support and guidance you need to succeed in NaNoWriMo and beyond.



The Gelli Print Lab: Imagination and Inspiration. Saturdays, 10:30-1:30 pm, Jan. 11, Feb. 1

Explore gelli plate printing in this monthly gathering facilitated by Kimberly Stoney. This is a space to foster creativity and collaboration. Open to all experience levels. Materials provided.

Dynamic Drawing with Jill Pottle. Wednesdays, 10:30 am-1:30 pm, Jan. 8 to March 12 (10 weeks, no class Feb. 19). Learn the basics of using pencil and charcoal, drawing a variety of subjects. Learn how to draw with line, value, shape, and form using still life, landscape, and portrait.

Exploring Black Boston/Massachusetts: A Historical Series of Illustrated Talks

Four Wednesdays: January 15, 22 & 29, and February 5, 6-8 pm IN PERSON

Popular lecturer Joel Mackall returns to delve further into the lesser known history of black culture in Boston. Each session provides a comprehensive exploration of a time period tying black history in Boston, Massachusetts and New England to not only wider U.S. history but to the global histories that are largely hidden and disconnected.

| | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 15 | African Roots and Early Black Life Through the Revolution |
| Jan. 22 | Black Mass: From the Early Commonwealth to the Civil War |
| Jan. 29 | Black Boston During the Great Migration, World Wars, and Into the Civil Rights Era |
| Feb. 5 | Afro-Futurity: Contemporary Issues and Discussions |



AFRICAN ART SERIES ON ZOOM

One Sunday Every Month, September to May, at 2:30 pm

Spend time with African Art Curator **Jean Borgatti** from the Fitchburg Art Museum

This is an introduction to African art, its variety of forms, the depth of its history, and how it became an important player—first in Western culture, then continuing in a global world.

Dec. 8 Learning to Look: Forms and Materials

Jan. 12 Case Studies: Art in Cultural Context: Yoruba of Nigeria and Dogon of Mali

Feb. 9 Masquerade



GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

99 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Main/Circ: 978-448-1167
circulation@gpl.org

FB/Insta: GrotonPublicLibraryMA



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Groton, MA

Library Hours

Tue-Wed-Thu 10-9
Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, and Sun 1-5
Closed Mondays

Special Hours

- * **Thu. Dec. 19** **Open 12-9**
 Closed 10-12
- * **Tue. Dec. 24** **Open 10-2**
 Closed 2-9
- * **Wed. Dec. 25** **Closed**
- * **Tue. Dec. 31** **Open 10-5**
 Closed 5-9
- * **Wed. Jan. 1** **Closed**

WINTER 2024-2025
LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS!
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON
GROTON, MA

*Newsletter printing and mailing made possible thanks to
the generosity of the GPL Endowment Trust.*

GrotonFest
GROTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Saturday, December 7, 2024
Main Street, Groton MA 11am-3pm

**GrotonFest
Winter
@ the Library**

Saturday, Dec. 7, 11-3

Don't miss out on great offerings at your library!

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Artisan booths | Mary Poppins |
| Balloon animals | Face painting |
| Crafts for all ages | Art show |
| Hot chocolate | Hot cider |

Note: The top floor will be not be conducive to working, reading, or studying this day, but we are reserving rooms for those who need quiet areas. Please ask!

Winter Reading Programs
For Kids, Teens, and Adults!
January 2 through February 28

Keep track of your reading in the Beanstack app this winter and win some great prizes!

Check out gpl.org at the end of December for info.



MASSACHUSETTS
CENTER *for the* BOOK

2025 Reading Challenge

**Mass. Center for the Book
2025 Reading Challenge**

Go to massbook.org/readingchallenge for more info!

Library & Book Lovers Unite! Celebrate Valentine's Day at Your Library!

Drop by the Second Floor on **Friday, Feb. 14: 10-6** for Fun & Goodies! *Because we ♥ our patrons!*



Visit with friends, neighbors, and the library team in our café area for decadent hot chocolate, coffee, and home-made goodies! Take a treat to go or stay and chat with other book, library, and chocolate lovers and enjoy working on a collaborative art project together!

*Information as of **November 15, 2024**. Check our calendar for **updates** and to **sign up**, or call 978-448-1167.*