

Submitted by Anna Bognolo, Director

January 2026

## Message from the Director

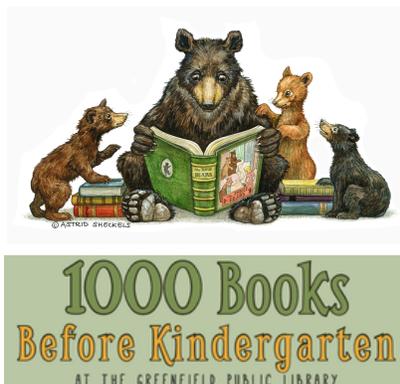
January has come in like a storm—literally! Our month has been busy with visitors, and our afternoons, especially in the teen and children's rooms, have been hopping. We love seeing so many young people using and enjoying the library.

This month, I want to focus on a topic that's both personal to me and very much in the spotlight: literacy among young people. Many are quick to place blame for declining literacy rates on the education system, but I believe the issue extends beyond the classroom. With so many ways to spend our leisure time, reading simply doesn't compete the way it once did. That said, reading isn't disappearing, it's evolving, and public libraries have a huge and important role to play in that evolution.

Recently, Massachusetts adopted legislation aimed at strengthening early literacy in public schools by providing additional support for students in grades K-3. While these efforts focus on school-aged children, literacy development begins well before kindergarten. At the GPL, we are proud to support families even earlier through our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, which encourages reading from birth through age five. Relunched in response to both declining literacy concerns and strong community interest, the program is already showing success, our youngest readers are meeting milestones and building strong early literacy habits (see photos!). As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words!

Beyond early literacy programs, the library plays many roles in encouraging a lifelong love of reading. First and foremost, we provide access to books in many formats. I've personally come to love audiobooks through Libby and Hoopla—they're convenient and engaging while I'm walking my dog, working outside, or even making dinner. We also bring people together around books through staff- and community-led book clubs, from fiction to graphic novels, for specific age groups as well as mixed-age groups. In addition, we offer author talks and author-led story times in our Children's Room, giving readers of all ages the chance to connect directly with stories and the people who create them.

While it's easy to feel discouraged by headlines about literacy rates, there is a lot of good work being done. You can count on your local public library to be here—for you and for our young people. And if you hear someone despairing about literacy, remind them to check out their local public library!



*Thank you to the Friends of Greenfield Public Library who generously support and fund all of the Library's programs.*



# Statistical Highlights (library usage):

- Number of library sponsored events: 23
- All non-library sponsored events: 13



## MONTHLY DOOR COUNT

Total: 12,886



## MONTHLY STUDY ROOM USAGE COUNT

Total: 361



## MONTHLY WIRELESS USAGE

Total: 2381

## Circulation:

- Patron borrowing: 22,003
- Newly added materials: 324
- Top borrowed titles:



# Professional Development:

In order to remain current and aware of happenings inside librarianship and adjacent professions, GPL staff participate in a variety of professional development opportunities. From monthly committee meetings to one-off training, staff are committed to ensuring they stay up-to-date and have the skills needed to fulfill their job duties and serve our community. We thank the Greenfield Public Library Foundation for their continued support of staff professional development.

Following are some of the professional development trainings that GPL staff have participated in the past month:

- Public Library Association (PLA) Town Hall: Exploring an AI-assisted Future in Public Libraries (Pamela McBride, Lisa Prolman)
- Common Seed Project Workshop at GCC (Nancy Little)
- Western Mass Youth Services Lunchtime Meet Up (Francesca Passiglia, Ellen Lavoie)
- ABOS Continuing Education Webinar: Next Steps in Serving Your Patrons Living with Dementia (Pamela McBride)
- Social Services in Libraries Roundtable (Anna Bognolo, Pamela McBride)
- Coalition to Build Community and End Loneliness (Anna Bognolo, Pamela McBride)
- Technology Learning Collaborative for Healthy Aging (Pamela McBride)
- Career Readiness and Resilience for Library Workers (Jeremiah Rood)
- Legislative Breakfast 2026, Sunderland Public Library (Anna Bognolo, Francesca Passiglia, Nancy Little)
- Strategic Planning (Anna Bognolo, Jeremiah Rood)

# In Our Galleries:



## Looky Here CALENDAR SHOW



2026 artists:  
 January - Pun Vacharavithayakorn  
 February - Ivy Zheyu Chen  
 March - Liz Durette  
 April - Julia Zanes  
 May - Pamela Acosta  
 June - Arantza Peña Popo  
 July - Annabel Willis  
 August - Clark Jackson  
 September - Sophie Page  
 October - Ben Styer  
 November - Hannah Rust  
 December - Nina Yagual

On exhibit through January  
in the Conference Room Gallery



Artist's Reception  
January 31  
10:30am-12:30pm

## EVOLUTION: FROM PHOTOJOURNALISM TO ABSTRACTION



## WORKS BY JOHN NORDELL

On exhibit through January  
in the Community Room Gallery



# Some January Highlights

GPL Children's Room presents:  
**LOCAL AUTHOR STORYTIME**  
 with  
**Susan LaScala**  
 with *Munchie the dog!*

**Saturday, January 17**  
10:30am  
Great for ages 4-8

**Tween Advisory Board**

Come join us for a fun, mini workshop where you'll learn to craft something unique and totally handmade by YOU!

**7 January 2026**  
3:45pm

Meetings once a month for kids ages 8-12  
Newcomers always welcome!

**Exploring your Identity Through Story**

notice your thoughts

for teens!

**Wednesday January 7**  
3:30-4:30pm  
Makerspace

Join mental health experts from the Community Health Center of Franklin County and use writing and art to explore some of the stories we have about ourselves and our lives and use this as inspiration to create 4 word memoirs.

**pre-registration recommended:**  
<https://bit.ly/3882654>

**WINTER ECOLOGY & HORTICULTURE WORKSHOP**  
*Setting the Stage for Spring*  
 With Horticulturist Erik Vegeto

- How plants survive winter
- Identify plants in winter
- Dormant-season pruning
- Plant cold protection
- Pest management
- Winter tool care

Learn what plants are doing beneath the snow and how you can care for your landscape during the cold months.

**Tuesday, January 13, 6pm**  
Community Meeting Room  
[earthgardeners.org](http://earthgardeners.org)

**CAT CASTLES!**

BRING YOUR OWN CARDBOARD WE'LL PROVIDE DUCK TAPE AND CUTTING TOOLS

**WEDNESDAY, JAN 7, 5:30 - 7 PM**  
AGES 12 - ADULT

SPACE IS LIMITED  
 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:  
[GREENFIELDPLIB.LIBCAL.COM/](https://GREENFIELDPLIB.LIBCAL.COM/EVENT/75370796)  
 EVENT/75370796

COPIES OF THE BOOK AVAILABLE FOR CHECK OUT  
 GET INSPIRED!

# In the News:

The GPL and Massachusetts Libraries received some great local media coverage during the month of November! If you missed the articles, you'll find the headlines below.

If you're unable to access them from your device, don't worry—we have print copies available in the library's Local History Room, and we can also help you access the digital versions. Just visit or call our Information Services staff for assistance.

## **My Turn: Libraries are long-term investments in community well-being**

Greenfield Recorder, January 13, 2026

## **"Libraries are not luxuries": Librarians advocate for \$1M increase in public library aid**

Greenfield Recorder, January 16, 2026

## **Letters: Libraries are Essential**

Greenfield Recorder, January 28, 2026

# Around the Library



Always an opportunity to learn something new at the library, from top left:

- A youth career counselor from MassHire, counselors are available every Tuesday afternoon to help young adults with job skills
- Making a cat couch during our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cat Castles program
- Learning about neurodiversity with mental health experts from Community Health Center of Franklin County
- Students learn the art of letterpress printmaking at our GHS satellite program, Library Club

# Library Snapshots:



*Mac's Movie Night*



*Drop In and Draw*



*Meet and Greet with Senator Jo Comerford & Representative Susannah Whipps*



*Local Author Storytime with Susan LaScala and her dog Munchie!*



*Dear Neighbor: Letters of Light During Dark Times*



*Needle Felting for Beginners*

# Upcoming Events of Note:

Here are some highlights for February

(more details available on our calendar at [greenfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://greenfieldpubliclibrary.org)):

## Winter Carnival 2026

activities at Greenfield Public Library

- Literary Quotes Walk (with ice sculptures)**  
All weekend long!
- Hot Chocolate and Board Game Social**  
In the Community Meeting Room  
Fun for all ages!  
Try out the Library's extensive boardgame collection.  
Friday 2/6, 2:00 to 4:30pm
- Winter Farmer's Market**  
In the Conference Room and Community Meeting Room  
Saturday 2/7 from 10am-1pm
- Yeti Snow Globes (Teen/Adult craft)**  
In the Makerspace  
Friday 2/6 from 3:5pm  
Saturday 2/7 from 10am-1pm
- Make a Yeti Valentine (Children's craft)**  
In the Children's Activity Room  
Friday 2/6 from 3:5pm  
Saturday 2/7 from 10am-1pm

## FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING!

**DROP IN FOR A FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE ROBIN NEIPP AND LEARN HOW TO CORRECTLY MONITOR YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE AT HOME!**

**MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 9  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
GPL CONFERENCE ROOM**

For more information visit:  
<https://greenfieldpubliclibrary.org/> or call (413) 772-1544

## Hang out and relax...

# DIAMOND PAINTING AND A PODCAST

...in the Teen Room

**Wednesday, February 4  
Tuesday, February 10  
2:30 - 4:30pm**

## MAKING HAUNTED MINIATURES

Looking for something a little different to spice up your February?

**WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY 5:30-7PM IN THE MAKERSPACE**

2/4  
2/11  
2/18  
2/25

- Join the talented Faith Reipold and help her assemble her latest spooky flipped dollhouse. Learn amazing spooked miniatures making techniques in a fun and relaxing setting.
- Come for the entire series or drop in for just one or two evenings.
- Pre-registration recommended but not required.

[greenfieldpl.libcal.com/event/16069279](http://greenfieldpl.libcal.com/event/16069279)  
Questions? Contact Francesca: 413-772-1544 x5120

## Stars in Your Eyes

a paper craft class

learn to fold paper stars three ways with Marsha Leovitt

**Friday, February 13  
10 am to 12 noon**

"Starting with the easiest pattern, we will cut, fold, assemble and sometimes glue to create these beautiful stars that make lovely hanging decorations."

All materials will be provided. Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended:  
[greenfieldpl.libcal.com/event/16097417](http://greenfieldpl.libcal.com/event/16097417)

or contact librarian Francesca at 413-772-1544 x5120

## February Vacation Week 2026

Greenfield Public Library Children's Room

Monday 2/16/26 - Presidents' Day - Library Closed

**Tuesday 2/17 -**

- Book Babies at 10am** - Lapsois, songs and a story for the youngest crowd, birth-18 months and their caregivers.
- Bead Bracelets from 12-2pm** - Beading supplies will be available to make bracelets. Great for ages 4-12.
- SUPER! Lego Club from 2:30-4pm** - More Lego, more fun! Free play held in the Community Meeting Room. Duplo available. Ages 3-12 welcome.

**Wednesday 2/18 -**

- Toddler Time at 10am** - Songs, rhymes, and stories for ages 18-36 months and their caregivers.
- Nintendo Switch Tournament from 11am-1pm** - Tweens are welcome for pizza and Switch game play on a big screen in the Conference Room. Ages 10-13.
- Pokemon Afternoon from 2-3:30pm** - An afternoon of Pokemon themed crafts- origami, coloring, make your own Pokemon card. Ages 4-12.

**Thursday 2/19 -**

- PJ Storytime and Dreamcatcher Craft at 10:30am** - Come in PJs for a cozy storytime followed by a paper plate dreamcatcher craft. Ages 3-6.
- Board Games from 12-2pm** - Enjoy board games for the whole family in the Activity Room. Ages 3-12.
- Make Graphic Novel Book Club Meeting at 3:30pm** - A monthly book club for fans of graphic novels! Pick up a copy of the book in the Children's Room in the month leading up to each meeting. Then join us for a talk, activity, and to choose our next book. This month's book is *The Mittenkeeper* by Kay Chalk.

**Friday 2/20 -**

- Drop-in Playgroup from 9:30am-11:30am** - Free play with a mix of toys and activities for little ones ages 0-5.
- Pepper Beads with Mac from 2-3pm** - Make a personalized pepper bead creation and see it melt together to become whole. Great for ages 6-12.

**Saturday 2/21 - Bead Bracelets from 12-2pm** - Beading supplies will be available to make bracelets. Great for ages 4-12.

## Kids' GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

**This month's book:**  
*The Moth Keeper* by K. O'Neill

- Pick up a copy in the Children's Room and meet on 2/19 to talk about the book.
- Club members will choose our next book at each meeting.

Choice selections made for 8-12 year olds.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19  
3:30 - 4:30PM**

School vacation week!

## FAMILY BOARD GAME NIGHT

Join us for a fun night of board games in our activity room.

**\*Now with more games for ages 3-5!\***

**February 23  
5:30 - 7:30pm**

## Catalog Searching Skills: A Hands-on Workshop

**Feb. 26, 10:30-11:30  
Conference Room**

A hands-on workshop in using the online library catalog to search for items (books and e-books, music, movies, and more), place holds, and use the advanced searching screen. You will also download and install the CWMARS app your smartphone or tablet!

If time allows, we'll use Novelist Plus to help you find your next great read!

Bring your own laptop or tablet or borrow one of ours!  
Space is limited to 15 participants and registration is required  
<https://greenfieldpl.libcal.com/events/15762660>

Use the QR code to register!