



JULY 2020

Off the Shelf

GALESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER | WWW.GALESBURGLIBRARY.ORG

CALENDAR

- July 9 TAB
- July 14 Tuesday Book Club
- July 16 Teen Book Discussion
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- July 21 Movie Club
- July 23 Food For Thought Book Club
- July 23 Buzzwords Book Club
- July 27 Dungeons & Dragons
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LIBRARY REOPENING FAQ'S

The GPL staff is eager to reunite with our library users face to face! Once the library opens to the public, we will have new protocol in place to maintain a welcoming environment free of risks and accessible to everyone. In addition to the following FAQ's, please visit our website for more answers to reopening questions. Our reopening date is To Be Announced.

Why is it taking the library so long to reopen?

The Galesburg Public Library staff and board are following the advice of medical experts and library leaders to reduce risks to our employees and our community. The library has unique risks which are different from other businesses and organizations.

We are taking precautions to reduce the risks associated with each of these elements by acquiring personal protective equipment, rearranging the layout of the building, writing new policies, monitoring symptoms of employees, and keeping up to date on local, state, and national guidelines to protect community health.

What precautions will you take to keep me safe?

Everyone entering our building is required to wear a mask. All items are being quarantined for three days after their return. To make it easier to observe social distancing guidelines, we will limit the number of people in the building at any given time, and we will spread out the chairs and computers available to ensure library users may stay distant from one another. We will set time limits to give everyone an opportunity to visit the library under these new restrictions, and we ask that anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 stay home.

What services will be available?

Once we open our doors, public computers will be available, as will the public copy machines and scanning, faxing, and printing services. We will have a notary public onsite and staff will be available to assist with information inquiries. Newspapers will be available for browsing while at the library.

Will I be able to check out books?

Yes! We currently offer curbside checkout service and will continue to do so into the near future. When we first open our doors, book browsing will be off limits, but you may request books, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs, and magazines from staff or by placing holds on your desired items and we will retrieve them for you.

May I bring my children to the library?

Yes! We look forward to seeing our littlest patrons again. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times, and anyone over the age of 2 must have a face covering while in the building. The children's library will be open, but book browsing will be off limits and we will not have toys available. One children's computer will be open, and our children's staff will be available to assist you.

What programs will you be hosting?

We don't expect to hold many in-person programs for the month of July, but we do have great digital content for all ages. Like us on Facebook to participate in our virtual book discussions, attend storytime, or play trivia with us!

I really need to use a computer. Can you guarantee me a slot?

You may reserve a time to use a computer by calling or emailing the library. This is the only way to guarantee a spot. If you do not have a reservation, computers and other services will be available on a first come, first served basis.

ADULT PROGRAMS

If we can safely and legally do so, our July book discussions will take place at the library and our usual offsite locations. If not, we will hold virtual discussions on Facebook in the library's GPL Online Book Discussion Group. Log into Facebook and visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2599070423642738/> to join the group. Newcomers are always welcome.

Tuesday/Thursday Book Discussions

Tue. July 14, 1:00 PM at TBD

Thur. July 16, 6:30 PM at TBD

The Guardians by John Grisham is currently on the best seller list. An innocence project works to free a man sent to prison for a murder he did not commit.

Food for Thought Book Club

Thur. July 23, 11:30 AM at TBD

Discussion of *Walking* by Henry David Thoreau. This essay is Always Available for download from the library's Overdrive ebook collection.

Buzzwords Book Club

Thur. June 23, 6:00 PM at TBD

Discussion of *Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love*, a laugh-and-cry-out-loud memoir from the star of Netflix's *Queer Eye*, Jonathan Van Ness. Van Ness, who grew up in Quincy, Illinois, shares the pain and passion it took to become the model of self love that he is today.

Tome Raiders Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club

Fri. July 31, 6:00 PM at TBD

Discussion of the second half of *Dune* by Frank Herbert, a stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics.

Movie Club

Tue. July 21, TBA

The library's movie discussion group will either meet to watch a new movie at the AMC or watch a movie in our own at homes and discuss it on Facebook in the library's GPL Online Book Discussion Group. The exact venue, time, and title will be announced at a later time.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWS

The Friends of the Galesburg Public Library are anticipating that we will be able to go ahead with the Fall Book Sale as planned on Oct. 16, 17 and 19.

As discussed at our last general meeting, this year the book sale will be organized by a committee. All planning and discussion for the book sale will be done by this committee, not at the general meeting. So the first step is to get a committee together. To this end, Friends Secretary Christine Sackey is compiling a list of everybody who wants to attend committee meetings. Please contact her at cmsackey8@gmail.com or 707-616-8850 to get your name on the list.

The book sales remain the main source of funds for the Friends to assist the library in its extra activities. Since we lost the opportunity to have a spring sale, this upcoming fall sale is important. Those of you who have ideas or opinions regarding the organization of the sale, by all means, sign up to be a part of the planning committee. Whether you want to volunteer to work at the sale or just help plan it, the committee is where this will happen. So please call Christine and get your name on the committee list.

At this time, we are still unable to accept book donations for the sale. Library Director Noelle Thompson assures us we have plenty of books for the fall sale even without further donations. The library will notify us when the staff is prepared to handle book donations and when it is safe for Friends volunteers to begin sorting books again.

The Friends continue to support library programs with funds from past book sales. The Summer Reading Program will award prizes supplied with funds from Friends of the Library. This year the gift baskets will include gift cards to shop at local businesses — a "double whammy" for the Friends, supporting both our library and our local businesses.

We hope this finds everyone doing well and continuing to follow the guidelines that keep our community safe.

Tai Chi Classes

We will not be able to hold tai chi classes in July, but plan to restart classes in August. Assuming it is safe and legal, we will hold a four-week beginner tai chi session every Tuesday in August at 9:00 am. Classes are free and open to anyone. Please check our website or Facebook page or give us a call for the most up-to-date information.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM @ GPL

This year's Summer Reading program, Dig Deeper @ Your Library, continues through July 24th. If you haven't already signed up, you've still got plenty of time! Visit our website at www.galesburglibrary.org for information on how to register. Click on "Summer Reading" under the Events and Programs tab. There are opportunities to participate online using Beanstack, an interactive online tool that helps you track your reading, or using a paper reading log if you prefer a screen-free experience.

Children enrolled in Summer Reading can read their way toward earning raffle tickets to be entered into end-of-summer prize drawings. Prizes include arts and crafts supplies, Disney plushies, engineering kits, games, gift cards, autographed books, and much more. In addition, every child who completes the program receives a free book of their choice and a gift certificate from one of our sponsoring businesses.

Teens can also win big by participating in Summer Reading. Each book read as a part of Teen Summer Reading earns a raffle ticket for cool themed book baskets, and completing the program by reading a total of eight books earns a coupon for free ice cream!

And don't forget, Summer Reading isn't just for kids! Galesburg Public Library offers Summer Reading for adults, too. Read eight books in eight categories and receive a \$5 gift card to Innkeeper's Coffee and raffle tickets to win one of several themed gift baskets filled with books and other treats.

Galesburg Public Library's 2020 Summer Reading program is made possible by these generous sponsors: Art Defined Studios, Blick Art Materials, Dovetail Rivet and Stitch, the Friends of the Galesburg Public Library, the Galesburg Public Library Foundation, Innkeepers Fresh Roasted Coffee, the Kiwanis Club of Galesburg, and Target.

NEA BIG READ UPDATES

The GPL is excited to announce that we are the recipient of a \$10,000 grant to host the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read in Galesburg for the thirteenth time! The Galesburg Public Library is one of 84 nonprofit organizations selected to receive an NEA Big Read grant to support a community reading program between September 2020 and June 2021. Our NEA Big Read will focus on *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. Activities will take place in April 2021.

The library will also be hosting our twelfth NEA Big Read of *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren this August 2020. Originally planned for April 2020 and postponed, we are working to reschedule as many programs as possible. Our Kickoff event, a free painting program in partnership with Art Defined, is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 1, and free books will be given away at that time. Please check our website or Facebook page in coming weeks for more information!

LOCAL HISTORY

BY EMILY DUGRANRUT

There's no question that life looks a little different right now. We're all handling canceled events, loneliness, and uncertainty of what's happening next.

One of those canceled events is the annual Railroad Days festival. Though we can't all come together to celebrate one of Galesburg's biggest and oldest events, we can take some time to learn about the history of the event.

Railroad Days as we know it began in 1978 in a joint effort between the Galesburg Chamber of Commerce and the Burlington Northern Railroad. The first festival drew 25,000 people from 28 states, and included tours of the railroad yards and depot, a block party on North Kellogg Street, and a flea market. The next year, a competition for the Railroad Days Queen was added. Julie Finley, a Galesburg resident, was the first winner of the competition. She told the Register-Mail a few years ago that "Railroad Days was the event of the year."

Over the years the festival changed and spawned other events. The battle re-enactment that is now part of Heritage Days, the Great Balloon Race, and Run Galesburg Run all started as part of Railroad Days. A carnival, bed races, classic car shows, and model railroad displays were added as well. Attendance has fluctuated throughout the decades, but Railroad Days always draws thousands of people from all over the country.

In the photo here, you can see thousands of people enjoying the various things Railroad Days had to offer back in the 1980s.

Galesburg history and railroad history go hand-in-hand, and that doesn't change even though the event isn't happening this year. Take a minute to share your favorite Railroad Days memories with us on our Facebook page, or email the archivist at archives@galesburglibrary.org.



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GALESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
40 E. SIMMONS ST.
GALESBURG, IL 61401

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61401

HOURS

To be determined. Please check our Facebook and website for updates to our hours.

Closed: Saturday, July 4

GPL MISSION STATEMENT

To serve the community as a general center of information, and to provide opportunity and encouragement for people to use its services and materials to meet their educational, personal, professional, recreational, and cultural needs.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TEEN NEWS

All teen events open to teens aged 12-18 or entering grades 7-12. Email our Young Adult librarian at johnd@galesburglibrary.org to sign up or for more information.

Teen Advisory Board Online

Thurs. Jul. 9, 6:00-6:40 PM

Join our Teen Advisory Board online! We will meet over Zoom to discuss library services for teens, as well as doing fun activities like trivia games and digital escape rooms.

You will need a free Zoom account and internet connection. The link to the Zoom meeting and the password to join will be posted on our website the day of the event.

Virtual Book Discussion: The Maltese Falcon

Thurs. July 16, 6:00-7:00 PM

We will virtually discuss the book *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett. We will meet online over Zoom. The library has a limited number of copies to give away, but you

may still join the discussion even if we run out of copies. You will need a free Zoom account and internet connection.

Dungeons & Dragons Club

Mon. July 27, 4:00-6:00

Create your own hero and join the adventure, in person at the library! New players are always welcome. Advance registration is required. Play will be moved online if circumstances warrant.

Dungeons & Dragons Club Online

Thurs. July 30, 4:00-6:00 PM

Want to play Dungeons & Dragons from the safety and comfort of your own home? The library's D&D club will be playing using the platform Roll20!

You do not need prior experience with either D&D or Roll20 to join, but you will need: a computer with internet access, the ability to voice chat, and an account on Roll20. Space is limited, so reserve your spot quickly!