Holyoke Public Library Celebrates its 150th Anniversary!

We are pleased to announce plans for the **One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Holyoke Public Library** – The library is planning a slate of initiatives for its 150th anniversary in 2020, driven by a deepened commitment to inclusion, community and lifelong learning. The yearlong celebration aims to bring more people the library—signaling the aspirations for the Library’s future.

The Holyoke Public Library, the most valuable learning and educational resource available to all for free, has always played a vital role in the community we serve.

“**The Library’s 150th anniversary is a moment to honor our past and, more critically, anticipate our future. Our Community continues to have challenges. And though the Library cannot meet all the needs our community has, we can help make a difference. In the coming years there is so much more to do. We will continue to provide the traditional core library services and develop new goals. For the coming year, as we celebrate 150 years of service, we will focus our efforts in providing more programs that are relevant to the needs and wants of our community, as well as broadening our impact and contributions to local economic development.**”

said Maria Pagan, Library Director.
HPL Celebrates 150th!

In honor of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary, the Holyoke Library will offer New patrons who apply for a new library card a limited edition 150th Anniversary card.

There will be several occasions to celebrate the Holyoke Library’s 150th anniversary in 2020. Below are a few planned so far:

- **On February 14**, the Library will host a Legislative Breakfast where local city, and state representatives will be invited to speak and discuss the role of libraries and how the government can help support and sustain their efforts in the community. Mayor Morse, Rep. Vega and Rep Velis are scheduled to attend. Free and Open to the public.

- **On March 7**, the library will host poet Dan Shanahan on a Saturday afternoon, where he will perform selections from his new book of Holyoke poems.

- **On April 4**, we will once again host the Mini Golf and Games at the Library event. There will be exhibits around the building detailing the history of the library.

- The Library will mark the 150th Anniversary with a **community birthday party** near the anniversary day of the signing of the Act of Incorporation that founded the library in April. Details will be announced at a later date.

- In **November 2020**, the Library will host a concluding fundraiser with proceeds designated to support future programming efforts at the library.

If you would like to make a permanent mark at the library for our 150th anniversary celebrations, consider getting a Brick donation! There are still spaces available at the Maple St staircase. Check out the [Buy a Brick Order form](http://www.holyokelibrary.org/events2.aspx).

Stay tuned to for more events at: [http://www.holyokelibrary.org/events2.aspx](http://www.holyokelibrary.org/events2.aspx)

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**Thomas J. Schwab (1927 - 2020)**

It is with a grateful heart that we remember Thomas (Tom) Schwab, a noted attorney, compassionate civic leader, and gifted musician, who passed away on January 14th.

Tom was an important part of the Holyoke Public Library, which he helped guide to its major renovation from 1996-2013. Tom worked tirelessly to plan and help coordinate the process to get approval and then funding for the library. He was also a kind and compassionate friend to those who knew him on the library board.

A celebration of his life and music is planned for the spring by his family.

All of Holyoke owes a debt of gratitude to Tom for his selfless volunteer work in and around Holyoke.
Welcome Frank!

Joining Mark our night custodian in keeping the building looking clean and sparkling is our new custodian Frank!

Frank is happy to stay behind the scenes making sure that all of the library spaces are kept well maintained. If you happen to see him or Mark around, please feel free to say “Thank You!” for all of their hard work.

We are excited to welcome as our new Evening Children’s Room librarian Charlie Pope.

Charlie is a recent graduate of Mount Holyoke College, where they studied English Literature and Spanish with a focus in creative writing.

Throughout high school and college, Charlie worked at the Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown in various positions, including teen event coordinator, library page, library intern, and circulation desk substitute.

Charlie loves reading (and art!) more than anything, and is quite partial to graphic novels, though they also love mysteries, fantasy, and classics. Some of their favorite authors include Agatha Christie, Carmen Maria Machado, Naomi Novik, and Neil Gaiman.

Meet our New Staff Members!

The Holyoke Library is happy to introduce our new staff members!

Everyone at the library is happy to welcome Veronica White as our new Teen Room librarian.

Veronica is a Mount Holyoke College and Syracuse University graduate, and a long-time Pioneer Valley resident. She is an avid reader, crafter, podcast listener, and gamer with a love for fantasy and YA fiction.

When she’s not running programs and causing havoc in the teen room, she’s dancing or whipping up some nerdy art at home. Please stop by the teen room to talk books, make art or just say hello any time!
**Children and Teen Room News**

Through a generous grant from **DiscoverE Engineers Week Grant**, the Children’s Room will be hosting STEM week activities during February vacation week 2/18-2/21.

Throughout the week there will be materials available in our new **Mobile Maker Space** for any kids to have fun creating and solving challenges.

During this week, we will have programming such as:
- **2/19 - Meet an Engineer** - learn about electrical engineering and work on fun STEM activity!
- **2/22 – Ice cream Science** - Make your own ice cream and learn how this delicious treat is created.

Ongoing Children’s Room Events thru the year:

**The Storycatchers Book Club**
Wednesday, February 26th, 6-7PM; Children’s Room
Students in grades 6 & 7 are invited to join a monthly book club! Our first read is *Book Scavenger* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman.

**Bookworm Book Club**
Tuesday, February 25th, 6-7PM; Children’s Room
Kids in grades 3-5 and their parents/guardians are invited to join this monthly Book Club! Our first book is *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown.

Pick up your copy of either book at the circulation desk in the Children’s Room. Registration is not required and these events are free. Please email cpope@holyokelibrary.org with any questions.

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**Teen Room News**

**Anime and Manga Club** – Tuesday Feb 11 at 3:30pm
Monthly time and space for teens to discuss, read, and share their favorite anime and manga series.

**Board game afternoons** are a great time to play old and new favorites like Bananagrams, and Connect 4.

**Dungeons & Dragons for Teens**
Dungeons & Dragons is a tabletop role playing game where players create characters and go on adventures. No supplies or experience necessary.

More events will be added - stay up to date by checking the teen programs page at [http://holyokelibrary.org/teenprograms.asp](http://holyokelibrary.org/teenprograms.asp) or by following us on Instagram @HOLYOKELIBRARYTEEN
Saturday, February 8, 11:00 AM: 
**Burial Grounds of Holyoke, with Bob Comeau**

If a person died in Holyoke in times past, where would that person have been buried? It depends! Bob Comeau draws on his extensive research into burial ground, cemetery, and church history to answer this question, exploring the many factors that determined burial places at different points in Holyoke’s history. The talk will focus on cemeteries and burial grounds established before 1900, including lesser-known graveyards that pre-date the founding of Holyoke.

While the talk is aimed at a general audience, genealogists will find Comeau’s case examples particularly useful. **Community Room.**

Wednesday, February 12, 4:00 PM: **Organizing your Family History Research**, with Hillary Schau.  

Saturday, February 29, 11:00 AM: **Going Paperless: Digitizing your Genealogical Research - Live, interactive webinar with nationally-known genealogist Melissa Johnson.**  
*(Limit 30. Pre-registration opens January 22.) Community Room.*

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 4:00 PM:  
**Using RootsMagic family tree software, with Hillary Schau.**  
*(Limit 12. Pre-registration opens February 5. Pre-registrants should be prepared to commit to all three sessions. Computer Classroom. Also watch for drop-in help sessions with Hillary starting March 25.*

and... the second in our 2019-20 Lecture Series: **Building Holyoke**

Saturday, March 28, 10:30 AM: **The Newton Brothers, Builders of Industrial Holyoke**, with Will Melton. Daniel H., John C., James, and Moses Newton, the sons of a lumber entrepreneur from Greenfield, Massachusetts, played an outsized role in advancing the nineteenth-century economic development of Holyoke. By 1900, the Newtons had built more than half of the city's paper mills and owned or operated Mr. Melton will chart the impact of the Newtons on Holyoke and explore the factors behind their entrepreneurial success. **In the Community Room.**
5th Annual Mini Golf and Games in the Library!

On Saturday April 4, 2020, the library will host the Mini Golf and Games in the Library event from 9:30-3:30pm and then the “Margaritas and Mini Golf” event that evening from 6 -9pm.

Fun for the whole family!
18 "holes" of mini golf INSIDE the library!

New for 2020: a tournament of Human Foosball outside the Library! Save the date!

Sponsors are still needed! Help make this fun event a success! Donors like you make all of the great activities at the library happen!

For more info: http://www.holyokelibrary.org/aboutfriendsgolf.asp
call: 413-420-8109
nancy@holyokelibrary.org