

BEYOND THE STACKS

Holyoke Public Library Newsletter

www.holyokelibrary.org

July 2018

THANK YOU to all of our Donors! You did it!

Nancy Kocsmiersky
Holyoke Library Development Office

"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give." -Winston Churchill

With the end of the Holyoke Library fiscal year, which runs from July 1 – June 30th, the library is very grateful for all of our generous donors who have helped us **raise over \$25,000!** It is because of you that we can continue to offer diverse and educational programming in the Children's room, Teen room, History room, and Adult events. Donors – You did it!

No matter what amount you contributed or which fundraiser you donated to, Thank you for all of your help. From our Fall fundraiser to our Mini Golf in the library event, our donors continue to stand beside the library in support of our patrons!

THANK YOU!

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Libraries Rock!

The Holyoke Library Summer Reading Program is in full swing.

Holyoke Library Children's Room



Anyone visiting the Holyoke Public Library this summer is encouraged to register for the Summer Reading Program, Libraries Rock! This program is open to adults, teens and children.

The children's program officially began on Monday, July 2nd and is open to students grades K-8. Children and their families simply have to pick up a reading log and start reading. Children are asked to read for thirty minutes a day, fill out their log, and return it to the library every Friday in July to pick up that week's prize.

Children who participate in all five weeks of the program will be invited to our **Summer Reading Party on Thursday, August 2nd at 1:00pm.**

At this event, all participants will be in the running for the Grand Prizes. Each child gets one ticket per 30 minutes of reading which they can put into the running for some great prizes including a Kindle and a Ukulele beginner set!

Call and register for any of our great free programs. If you have any questions please call Jason or Nathan at 413-420-8105 or the main desk at 413-420-8101.

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President's Letter



Jeremy Smith, Board President

Greetings Library Supporters,

Eagle-eyed readers of this column may be surprised to see my name instead of Terry Plum's. That's because I was "installed" as Board President during the spring of 2017 after Terry was forced to take a hiatus due to health matters that demanded his attention. We still consult with him on various library matters since the breadth of his knowledge and experience with libraries, and ours in particular, is vast. He occasionally comes to meetings and is a great sounding board for our ideas. I have big shoes to fill and I'm still in the process of growing into them.

One of the major items that Terry discussed in his spring 2017 column was our employee salaries. As he [noted](#), there have been no salary increases for ten, (now eleven), years and the library has proposed (following a regional salary study by an outside firm) a new salary structure. This structure would create a mechanism for correcting existing inequities as well as incentivizing better employee performance. It would also help the library be more competitive when recruiting new hires.

As of June 2018, our classification and compensation plan has been revised and submitted to the City Council by the Mayor. It is currently awaiting review and approval by the Ordinance Committee. We hope that the Ordinance Committee will see the benefits of approving this and pass it on to the full City Council for ratification. I believe this is simply a long overdue correction that will not have a huge impact on the overall city budget. It will also align Holyoke with our surrounding communities and establish a level playing field. **We encourage you to contact your Ward or At-Large City Councilor to encourage them to support this change.**

We are currently engaged in a strategic plan process that will help us identify immediate and long-term goals for our employees, Board, building, and

patrons. This is part of a recurring process in which the library evaluates current fiscal, human resources, programmatic, governance, and marketing practices in an attempt to make improvements based on demographic shifts, feedback from Holyoke residents, and internal review. We closely examine all facets of the library experience to make sure that we are responding to the needs of our community and strive to correct faults and introduce new services whenever possible.

The Friends of the Holyoke Public Library is currently engaged in a reorganization effort. The group is evaluating how they can best serve the library while responding to contemporary demands on people's time and methods of volunteering. The Board is working closely with members of the Friends to ensure that their efforts on behalf of the Library can continue far into the future. *See the Friends column in this newsletter for more info!*

As you can see throughout this newsletter, the library has been engaged in lots of exciting activities this spring with more to come over the summer. There are too many to mention, but here are a few highlights:

The Puerto Rican Cultural Project, in collaboration with the Library, continues to offer dynamic, unique, educational programs. This spring we saw lectures about the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and a screening of the documentary *Promesa*, which explores the pre-hurricane Maria economic crisis in Puerto Rico.



[Saber es Poder](#), a joint effort between the Friends and Holyoke Community College, which aims to strengthen the Library's resources on

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LIBRARY IS AWARDED DOLLAR GENERAL GRANT!

Recently, Teen Librarian, Rachel Dowd, applied for and was awarded a grant from Dollar General. With the help of Dollar General, the Teen room and the Children's room will be able to expand youth summer programs and many costs associated with the Summer reading program, ie: food/ snacks, incentives, and performances/ programs. The grant is intended to help boost literacy in communities by supporting summer reading programs. We were awarded \$1200 to use for our programs to support new readers, below level readers and readers of all abilities reach and exceed their grade level.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM EVERY WEDS 6/27-8/29

PLACE COMMUNITY ROOM

TIME 4-6PM

TEEN MOVIE SERIES- JULY 30

PLACE COMMUNITY ROOM

TIME 3:30PM

"The Cat Returns"- Classic Japanese Anime.

END OF SUMMER READING PARTY – AUGUST 2ND

PLACE COMMUNITY ROOM

TIME 1PM-2PM

Celebrate the end of the Summer Reading program. Enjoy snacks and find out which awesome readers win our big prizes! All are Welcome to attend.

TEEN MOVIE SERIES- AUGUST 13

PLACE COMMUNITY ROOM

TIME 3:30PM

"Howl's Moving Castle"- Classic Japanese Anime.

RADIOPLASMA RECORDING STUDIO SESSIONS*—EVERY THURSDAY EXCEPT AUG 2

PLACE 306 RACE ST

TIME 2PM-4PM

*Each session, we will be meeting in the Teen Room, and walking as a group to Radioplasma Recording Studio (located at 306 Race St). We will learn about media literacy, gain hands on experience with song recording, journalism, storytelling, and sound mixing!

PROGRAMA LECTURA DE VERANO 2018 DE LA BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA DE HOLYOKE:

Visite la Biblioteca Pública de Holyoke a partir del lunes, 25 de junio para inscribirte en el programa de lectura de este verano. El programa comienza oficialmente el lunes, 2 de julio y está abierto a estudiantes de los grados K-8. Sólo tienes que elegir un registro de lectura y comenzar a leer. Lee por treinta minutos al día, llena tu registro, y traelo a la biblioteca todos los viernes en julio para recoger el premio de esa semana. **Los niños que participen en las cinco semanas del programa serán invitados a nuestra fiesta de programa de verano el jueves, 2 de agosto a las 1:00 pm.**

Llama, regístrate y participa de nuestros grandes programas gratuitos que figuran a continuación. Si tienes alguna pregunta por favor llama a Jason o Nathan al 413-420-8105.



Nathan, Children's Librarian running a presentation for students.

SUMMER EVENTS:

July 18th at 1:00pm – Zoo On The Go

Zoo On The Go Presentations will provide information about, and interaction with, animals. Space is limited, so please register in advance.

July 19th & 26 at 2:30pm – G or PG Movie

Fun kids movies the last two Thursdays in July. Movies TBD the week of the event. Space is limited, please register in advance.

Free Lunch at the library

Rachel Dowd, *Teen Librarian*

In partnership with the **Holyoke Public Schools** and **Sodexo**, the library will be serving up lunch this summer for youth 18 and under! **Beginning June 25th, youth can stop by the library from 12-1pm for a delicious and nutritious lunch Monday-Friday until August 24th.**

Also coming...

In collaboration with **Holyoke Urban Bike School (HUBS)**, the library will be offering a Bikes and Books program. **From Tuesday July 10th to Tuesday August 14th from 3:30-5:30pm**, we will be gathering to read and discuss "The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora" and go for community bike rides. The program is open to youth 12 and up. Make sure to wear comfortable clothing and shoes and bring your bike! We will meet at the library and bike over to HUBS on 184 Suffolk St as a group. CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE! www.facebook.com/hplteenroom/

History Room News

Eileen Crosby, *History Room Archivist*

Visitors from far and near turn to the **Holyoke History Room**, on the Third Floor of the Library, to learn more about their family histories, their homes and neighborhoods, and the history of Holyoke. Highlights of the collection include historic maps of Holyoke, the Annual Reports from all Holyoke City departments (1850-1968), photographs and postcards, women's club scrapbooks, and the Holyoke Transcript newspaper (1880s-1993, on microfilm).



Unknown man being pied in front of Daniel F. Waters's Bookstore, 284 High Street, Holyoke, circa 1957.

During the past year, the History Room acquired several important new collections. The **Vincent D'Addario Photograph Collection** contains more than 20,000 images taken in Holyoke and surrounding towns during Mr. D'Addario's career as a freelance and newspaper photographer between 1954 and 1997. The collection, made up of negatives, prints, contact sheets, and enlargements, includes his news, commercial, portrait, and art photography, most made with his large format camera and developed in his home darkroom. D'Addario was the recipient of numerous awards recognizing his ability to capture fleeting moments with skill, humanity, and humor. Many of the items in the collection are unidentified, but others are organized by subject or date.



Vincent S. D'Addario

Other recent additions to the collection include historical materials from the **Holyoke Machine Company** (donated by James Sagalyn), the **Blanche Cavanaugh Historic Postcard Collection** (donated by her daughter), and large-format color photographs of South Holyoke, the Flats, and Churchill that were exhibited in 1983 as part of "**The Hidden Holyoke**" exhibit (donated by the photographer, Bill Ravanesi). We're grateful for these donations and volunteers have been busy organizing them for better access by the public and for future exhibits.

The History Room will enjoy the help of two summer interns, from Bard Micro-College and from Amherst College, who are assisting with additional collections processing and metadata projects.

The History Room also sponsors events—last year's events included talks by Llana Barber ("Latino City"),

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David Hernandez on immigration, Robert Forrant on the de-industrialization of the Connecticut River Valley, Eric Gradoia on Victorian architecture, and a series of Genealogy classes and drop-in sessions.

On Saturday, July 14, at 10:00 AM, Jonathan Gosnell will be here to present his new book, *Franco-America in the Making*, which explores the imprint left by members of the diasporic French family on North America.

See our website (below) to sign up for notifications of upcoming History Room events, including a return visit from Eric Gradoia in the fall on identifying architectural styles.

With the exception of August 13-19, the History Room will be open its usual 3 days a week all summer: Tuesday 10-6, Wednesday 12-6, and Thursday 10-4. We will also continue to have some select Saturday morning openings, so watch our website or Facebook page for those dates.

Friends of HPL Notes

Sandy Ward, *Friends Board member*

The Friends of the Holyoke Public Library, a volunteer-run organization since 1983, faced a significant crossroads in 2017 when informed that the IRS had dropped our 501c3 status. The Friends Board investigated how this occurred and spent time last summer questioning past practices and pondering new ways to operate. At the Annual Membership Meeting in September, we discussed whether to maintain a separate nonprofit corporation (including re-application to the IRS), or to become a volunteer committee within the Holyoke Public Library Corporation, which is also a nonprofit. We opted to join forces with HPLC, and are pleased that the HPLC Board welcomed this idea. We are still working out some details of the transition, but can report these relevant actions:

- **Mini Golf in the Library**, a successful fundraiser started by the Friends in 2016, transitioned to HPLC fiscal management for 2018. (See report of the 3rd Annual elsewhere in this newsletter.) The 4th Annual Mini Golf fundraiser is scheduled for **Saturday, April 6, 2019**. Friends volunteers, as always, will play a

large role in this FUN community event. Please let us know if you could help now (early planning) or this fall (outreach to potential sponsors).

- **HPLC accepted management of our 2017 *Saber es poder* grant from the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice to continue building our collection of resources on Puerto Rican and Latinx topics.** Friends member Kate Kruckemeyer helped the Library apply for second grant in 2018 for this work; another \$500 was awarded, to be matched by the Friends.
- **Friends Merchandise** (e.g., our historic ornament series, Holyoke afghans, and Holyoke books) will continue to be sold via the Circulation Desk and the small on-going Book Sale, which we started in 2015, will continue, with Friends volunteer stocking its shelves. Proceeds from both these sales will now go directly to the Library.



- We have engaged a lawyer to help us with the legal application to the Commonwealth to dissolve our corporation. A formal vote of our members will be necessary. Our Annual Membership meeting is planned for **Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 5:30pm**, at the Library. Save that date, and help us launch our new future.

Mini Golf in the Library

Sandy Ward, Friends Volunteer

The 3rd Annual “Mini Golf in the Library” fundraiser, hosted at the Library in April 2018, was a joyful community event that succeeded in raising \$6100. On Saturday, 233 people registered to play mini golf on the 18-hole course that led them through five levels of the Library. Laughter and smiles were everywhere. Free face painting added to the fun. This year’s event included a “Lucky Ticket” Auction, and a team competition, as well as the usual “Swing into Spring” Cocktail Party catered by Brennan’s Place, with an evening of mini golf for adults.

Let’s do it again! A 4th Annual is planned for **Saturday April 6, 2019**. Save that date, and contact co-chair Nancy Kocsmiersky, HPL Development Office (413-420-8109) if you have questions or would like to help. Volunteers welcome!



“It’s a hole in one!”

We thank these Event Sponsors and Hole Sponsors who made the 2018 event possible:

Ross Insurance Agency | Holyoke Gas & Electric Co. | Easthampton Savings Bank Foundation | Conklin Office Furniture | PeoplesBank | CareerPoint | Racing Mart Fuels - 330 Main | State Representative Aaron Vega | Valley Opportunity Council | Marcotte Ford | Mount Holyoke College | Open Square | Too Sketchy Dudes Comics | Homewood Suites by Hilton | Climate Action Now Western MA | Mass. Surgical Supply | La Rosa Funeral Home | Witman Properties | WayFinders | Holyoke Mall | Brad Matthew Jewelers | Aaron's Store



We also thank the many donors of auction items and in-kind services.

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Puerto Rican and Latinx history, cultural, and social movements, held its inaugural event in October 2017 with author Llana Barber who discussed her book [*Latino City: Immigration and Urban Crisis in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945-2000*](#). Saber es Poder is a curated collection within the library that “emphasizes historic and ongoing struggles to build community, resist oppression, and create social change, in an effort to inspire library patrons of all backgrounds to engage in building a positive future for Holyoke”.

We also hosted several engaging community talks and events on topics as diverse as gardening, clothes dyeing, Victorian dress, 19th century architecture, cross country biking, essential oils, KonMari, Therapy dogs, ukuleles, and more! The Holyoke History Room and Archives hosted several genealogy workshops and drop-in sessions. If you don’t already receive information about our programs, make sure to sign up at the front desk, our [Facebook page](#), or [website](#)

The Teen and Children’s areas continue to be engaged in a variety of unique and popular activities year round. As you read this, the Summer Reading Program will be underway. The five week program begins July 2, 2018. The Teen Room has been abuzz with an assortment of appealing activities such as button making, youth leadership workshops, [Radio Plasma](#) recording sessions, and Interactive Graphic Novel workshops with [Holyoke Codes](#). Where was this when I was a teenager?

It has been a productive first year of my presidency and I would like to thank the Director, the Library staff, the Board, the Friends, and especially Terry, for helping me along the way. We are a community-based organization and without the full support and dedication from that community, my success would be limited. Thank you!

In service / En servicio,
Jeremy Smith



VICTORIAN LADY – HISTORY RM WORKSHOP



UKULELE CLASS

Reading with Rooster



THERAPY DOG

STAY IN TOUCH!

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HOLYOKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

250 Chestnut St, Holyoke, MA 01040

413-420-8101, library@holyoke.org

Website: www.holyokelibrary.org/

Facebook : www.facebook.com/holyokepubliclibrary/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HolyokeLibrary>

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

Main Desk: 413-420-8101

Reference Dept.: 413-420-8101

Children's Dept: 413-420-8105

Teen Dept: 413-420-8119/
www.facebook.com/hplteenroom/

History Room: 413-420-8107
www.facebook.com/holyokehistoryroom/

Computer Room: 413-420-8118

Fundraising: 413-420-8109

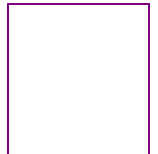
July 24th at 1:00pm – Eric Carle Music Makers

Use your creativity and problem-solving skills to transform everyday materials into musical instruments. Children will experiment with a variety of found materials to construct their own sound machine. Space is limited, so please register in advance.

August 2nd from 1:00pm-2pm – End of Summer Reading Program

Children who participate in the Summer reading program will be invited to our **Summer Reading Party**. At this event, all participants will be in the running for the Grand Prizes. Each child gets one ticket per 30 minutes of reading which they can put into the running for some great prizes including a Kindle, sit and Spin, Star Wars Lego sets and a Ukulele beginner set!

Holyoke Public Library
250 Chestnut St
Holyoke, MA 01040



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