

BEYOND THE STACKS

Holyoke Public Library

www.holyokelibrary.org

October 2025

The Summer Reading program was Great!

The Summer Reading program ran from June 27th through August 2nd for kids and teens. Adult programming lasted until August 8th.

The Holyoke Public Library hosted a kickoff party on June 27th which had many people playing games, doing the scavenger hunt and eating Free ice cream!



Over the course of the summer, we had 5,673 building visits and Circulation Staff handled 1,125 questions at the main desk. We also had three days in July when we had over 300 visits to the building. This is excellent!

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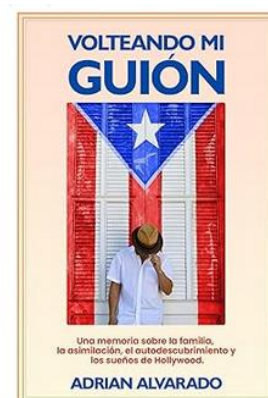
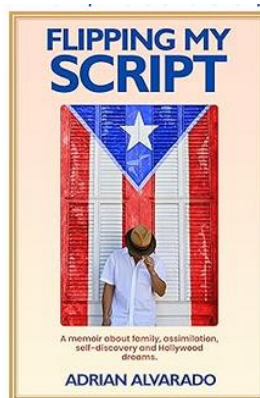
Fall Programming

This fall the Reference/Adult, Teen and Children's librarians are planning some fun and educational programs for patrons to enjoy. [Check our calendar](#) regularly for more events for all ages.

Some Fall programming:

October 4 – Puzzle Swap and Race - 2pm in the Community room. Open to 13 and up.

October 11- 1pm - In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Holyoke Public Library presents **Conversation with Actor and Author Adrián Alvarado.**



Flipping My Script is Adrián's journey — a deeply personal memoir that chronicles his struggle with assimilation, the hardships of poverty, and the battle against stereotypes. It's a story of finding his identity in two contrasting worlds, one offering opportunities and the other rich with culture and love.

En celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana, la Biblioteca Pública de Holyoke presenta **Conversación con el actor y autor Adrián Alvarado**

November 8 – 2:30pm- Keir White Music –

This local vocalist will be performing love songs, standards, ballads, and soft rock that will uplift all.

December 11- 2pm – The Fanfare Brass Ensemble - a 10-part group. Featuring Classical and popular Music. [check out a sample](#)

December 6 and 20 – 9:30am, 12/17 5pm – DIY Gift Wrapping -all ages event- You bring your gifts and the library will provide paper and tape.

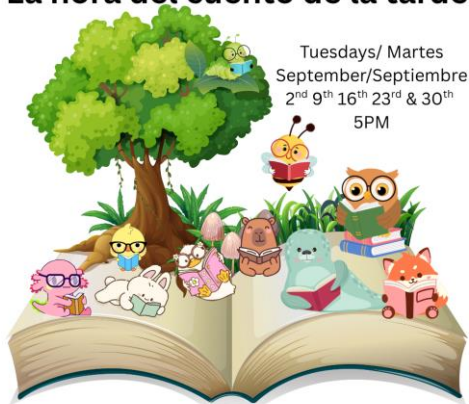
Children's Room News

Holyoke Library Children's Room

The Children's Library has many activities planned for fall. We also provide access to quality educational programming year-round.

Come to the Children's room for Storytimes and Crafts this Fall. Check the calendar for specific dates.

**Afternoon Story Time/
La hora del cuento de la tarde**



The library also offers many online educational and fun sites to keep you children engaged.



Animated classic storybooks introduce early learners to the delights of reading



The World Almanac for Kids includes exclusive online-only material as well as content from award-winning The World Almanac, Chelsea House, and Facts On File sets and series!



Each topic area provides resources for homework, reports, and projects. All kids can explore age-appropriate subjects while developing online research skills with a trusted content source! Check it out now through the Holyoke Public Library!

Call our librarians, Nathan or Rene at (413)420-8105 for more info.

Children's Room Newsletter

Keep up to date with everything happening in the Children's Room by subscribing to our newsletter! Fill out [this form](#) or email rpellissier@holyokelibrary.org to subscribe!

Library Hours

FALL HOURS

September 2025- May 2026

Monday - Thursday - 8:30am to 8:30pm

Friday - Saturday - 8:30am-4:00pm

*Closed Sundays, select Saturdays & Holidays
Check the library calendar for specific dates.

*** IF Holyoke CITY HALL CLOSSES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER THE HOLYOKE LIBRARY IS ALSO CLOSED.**

Computers shut down 30 minutes before closing time.

Holyoke History Room

The History Room has more limited hours than the rest of the library: please [click here for details](#).

Don't have a Public Library Card?

Click [here](#), to get information on how to get a card.

Mobile Printing and Faxing Available

Need to print from your computer or mobile device? Don't have a printer? Use this:

- Printing from your laptop or mobile device:

Open your browser, go to print.princh.com and enter the 6-digit library code (109284) to select the printer or click this link Princh.com, to have the number prepopulated.

- When printing at the library: locate the print guide poster near the printer and scan the QR code.

-Once on Princh.com, Upload your document, enter your email, proceed to the **Print Release Terminal** and pay for your print job.

- Then, once your documents are sent, come to the library to pick them up. [Click for more info](#)



Need to send a Fax?

From your phone or computer/tablet, go to Faxscan24.com and follow instructions to input fax number and payment. Also, Fax in person from the fax machine on the first floor. \$1.75 for the first page and \$1.00 for every page after that (20 pgs max per scan) Pay with credit/debit card or buy a prepaid card at the front desk.

A Day in the 'Yoke 10/11

["A Day in the Yoke"](#) is a city-wide celebration in Holyoke held on Saturday, October 11, 2025.



The day begins with [Doors Open Holyoke](#) - including a self-guided or guided tour of our historic Holyoke Library (see pg 4 for more info)

Also, [The Great Holyoke Brick Race](#),

[Paper City Food Fest](#), and



[The Wings of Peace Festival](#), among others.

Community Resources



[413Cares.org](#) is a community platform that connects residents of Western Massachusetts to the services they need. Food, shelter, education, and other needed services.

This site does not provide case management to support individual needs. For this help call 2-1-1.

ONLINE RESOURCES

***NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON! ***

** A library card is needed to access some of our online resources. Don't have a Public Library Card? Get one from the Holyoke Public Library! Come down to the main desk and fill out a form. Then a Staff member will help you to schedule a time to pick up your new library card. To learn what you can access with your Holyoke Public Library card, check out [re-Discover Your Public Library](#).*

THE LIBRARY OFFERS MANY ONLINE RESOURCES WHICH CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE AT [HPL ONLINE RESOURCES](#), [E-CATALOG](#)(eBOOKS, AUDIO, ETC.) [YOUR VIRTUAL LIBRARY](#) OR [CHILDREN'S ONLINE RESOURCES](#)

SOME OF THESE ONLINE SITES INCLUDE:

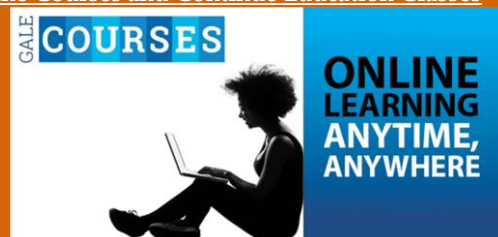
NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Explore our new full-color image edition of The [Springfield Republican](#)! All you need is a Holyoke library card number.

Check out other Massachusetts newspapers [here](#).

EDUCATION

[Online Courses and Continue Education Classes](#)



[Online Non-Credit Courses Tutorial](#)

[History Room Digital collections](#)

[Genealogy Resources online](#)



LEARN NEW SKILLS

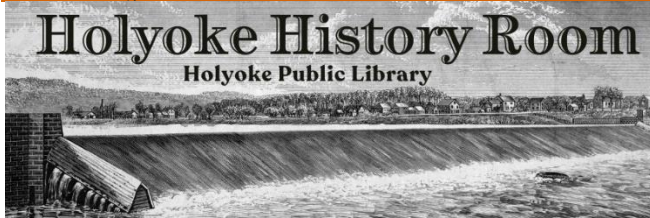
[Rocket Languages Tutorial](#)



Try Rocket Languages, just use your library card!

History Room News

Eileen Crosby, Archivist



Reading Room hours: Tuesdays 10:00 – 2:00 & 3:00-6:00; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00 – 4:00.

*[See website for upcoming closures.](#)

Upcoming events:

Thursday, October 9: Finding our Abuelitas / Encontrando a Nuestras Abuelitas with Iris Alicea Flores – 4:30 - 6:30 – A Family History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month Event. Pre-registration for the workshop strongly recommended: 413-420-8107. Limited to 12.



Discover the strategies of Hispanic genealogy that make it possible to learn more about your female ancestors. In this presentation, Latina professional genealogist Irisneri Alicea Flores will cover:

- The social roles that were expected of our grandmothers.
- The life circumstances they experienced — and how these are reflected in historical records.
- The Spanish surname system: how it works, when it may not apply, and how it can help you trace your female ancestors.
- Case studies that bring these techniques to life.

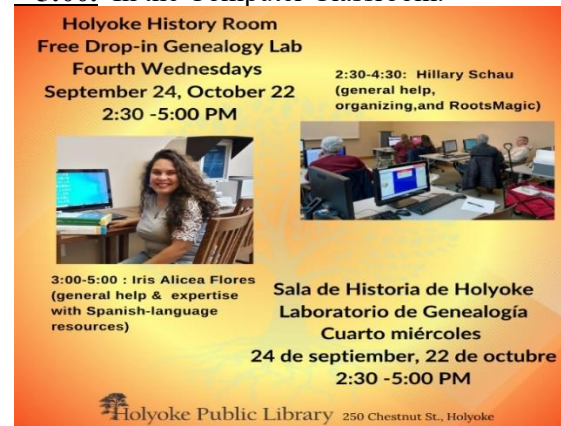
Descubre las estrategias de la genealogía hispana que te permitirán conocer más sobre tus antepasadas. En esta presentación, la genealogista profesional latina Irisneri Alicea Flores abordará:

- Los roles sociales que se esperaban de nuestras abuelas.
- Las circunstancias de vida que ellas enfrentaron y que se reflejan en los documentos históricos.
- El sistema de apellidos hispanos: cómo funciona, cuándo no se aplica y cómo puede ayudarte a localizar a tus antepasadas femeninas.
- Casos de estudio que ilustran estas técnicas en acción.



Saturday, October 11: Doors Open 2025 - Guided tours at 10:30 and 12:30 of our historic neoclassical building, with a focus on Library history and the transformative renovation in 2010-2013. The History Room will also be open for visitors 10:00 – 12:30 (except during the guided tour).

Wednesday, October 22: Drop-in Genealogy, 2:30 – 5:00. In the Computer Classroom.



- General help, tips for organizing, or an intro to RootsMagic: ask Hillary (2:30-4:30).
- General help or a chance to dig into Spanish-language records: ask Iris Alicea Flores (3:00-5:00)
- Just getting started or want to help others with research? All are welcome.

Monday, November 17, 5:30: A House in Holyoke through Time: The Smith family homesteads.

Website: <https://hol yokelibrary.org/history-room>

Email : historyroom@hol yokelibrary.org

Telephone : (413) 420-8107

Teen Room News

Teen Room, 1st floor

We're having a fun time at the Teen room. From summer reading programs to our fall activities such as these below. All Teens are invited!

Join us this Fall and Winter for fun Programs!

Sign up NOW for the Teen email to keep up with all of the activities! [TEEN EMAIL](#). (Click link, then scroll down to sign up.)



Come and enjoy crafting at 4:00 on Thursday afternoons in the Teen Room.

Also check out our online resources: [Community Resources](#), [School Help](#) or [Homework Help](#).

Stay tuned for more events, check the [Library Calendar](#)

Questions, suggestions? Feel free to email at rsiniaho@hol yokelibrary.org or call 413-420-8119. CHECK OUT our Instagram PAGE! <https://www.instagram.com/holyokelibraryteens/>

Computer Lab

The Holyoke Public Library Computer Lab, and all public computers in the building, are easily logged into with your library card number. If you do not have a library card, please see staff to receive a temporary Guest Pass for a one-time login number.

** NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON! **

-Contact us with any questions about these changes.

Need Computer Help?

If you need some quick assistance with computer-related needs (such as internet searching, document editing, resume-building, etc.) please see the Computer Lab staff on the library's 3rd floor and they can assist or direct you.

For learning about computers or technology topics, we offer free one-on-one (or group at request) tutoring sessions and classes! See our [Computer/Technology Tutoring page](#) for more information on scheduling your classes or contact us at (413) 420-8118.

Hispanic Heritage Month

* September 15 – October 15 *



Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of Hispanic and Latino history and culture. While we celebrate Hispanic and Latino communities beyond this month, from September 15 to October 15 we give extra recognition to the many contributions made to the history and culture of the United States, including important advocacy work, vibrant art, popular and traditional foods, and much more. Check out some books and read more about Hispanics/Latinos: [History](#), in [Novels](#), [In Spanish](#)

As was once noted by Holyoke Public Schools, "Holyoke is a multicultural city with 81 percent of our students and more than half of our city's residents identifying as Latino or Latina, so this recognition is especially important here. "

Library Movie Night!



Family and Adult Movie Nights! /
¡Noche de Películas para Familias y Adultos!
 Every month. All are welcome. / Todos los meses.
 Todos están bienvenidos.
 ¡Bocadillos disponibles! / Snacks available!

Family Movie Night: Thursday, October 23rd at 6pm / jueves el 23 de Octubre a las 6pm:

Película/Movie: TBD

Adult Movie Night: Wednesday, October 15th at 6pm / miercoles el 15 de Octubre a las 6pm:

Película/Movie: **The Shining**

Visit the calendar to see what's showing every month / Visita el calendario para ver que presentación va a ver el próximo mes.

Every month patrons will vote for the movie.

*****Sign up for our Email list and stay up to date on all library events/opportunities. [JOIN US!](#)**

Reference Room News

Reference librarians are available to provide guidance in every aspect of the research process.

Adult Programming: (see more on pg. 1)

October 21st - Tuesday at 6:30pm to 8:00pm -

Oracle and Intuitive Card readings- in the Community Room.

Mahjong with our lovely volunteer Sue will continue this fall! [Check our website](#) for exact dates.

If you have any questions or suggestions for books, please feel free to contact the Reference Department at 413-420-8106 or by emailing Aria at aacevedo@hol yokelibrary.org, or Abbey at abuedinger@hol yokelibrary.org

Librarian's Adventure

Abbey Buedinger, Reference Librarian



I went to the **Haskell Free Library and Opera House on July 26th**. Part of it is in Derby Line, Vermont and the other part in Stanstead, Quebec. You can cross the border within the library itself, but you have to exit the side you came in through. The library/opera house is not an official border crossing. You cannot cross the border outside the building on the property. The US side uses the main entrance and the Canadian side uses an emergency/smaller exit to go in and out. Both have their own parking lots and even street address for both countries. The patrons who live in Canada and are members of the library, used to be able to enter and exit from both the US and Canadian side, but this was changed.



They have a mix of English and French just like we have a mix of English and Spanish collection here. Staff can be both from the US and Canada.

They also show off the old way libraries used to keep track of what is in and out of

their collections by using wooden books with the titles on the spine. These are now only on display.

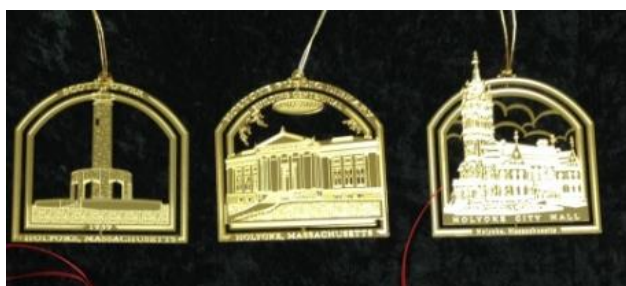
They offer a 30-minute tour where you learn the history of the library and the Opera House. For more info: <https://www.haskelloperahouse.org/>

Donate Support the Library!

We hope that you will be able to support us and experience firsthand the pride we take in our library and in supporting our patrons. You can donate by check and mail or drop it off at 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke to: Attn/Development Office or online at www.holyokelibrary.org and click on the [DONATE BUTTON](#).

You can also support by buying **Library Merchandise** (e.g., the historic ornament series, and Holyoke books) Sold at the Circulation Desk.

***These ornaments make great Holiday Gifts!**



Scott's Tower, Library Centennial and City Hall Ornaments

Mini Golf and Games At the Library 2026

The Annual Mini Golf and Games at the Library, ¡Minigolf y juegos en la Biblioteca! event is planned for late April/May 2026.



SAVE THE DATE, and contact event Chair Nancy Kocsmiersky, HPL Development Office at

nancy@hol yokelibrary.org, 413-420-8109 if you have questions or want to help.

[Check out our website](#) for pictures and info on the past Mini Golf and Games events.

Sponsors, Donors and Volunteers are needed and appreciated! Thank you.

'Nutcracker' Preview 12/6

At 11:00 AM the [Massachusetts Academy of Ballet](#) will offer a free preview, with music and costumes, of The Nutcracker ballet.

Our historic building provides a period backdrop for this festive event. Free DIY gift-wrapping and refreshments will be available in the Community Room.

Dancers in full costume—from mice to the Sugarplum Fairy—will perform excerpts from the ballet and pose for selfies with visitors.



Join us for a morning of holiday fun!

When: December 6th, Saturday - performance at 11am. Come earlier for activities and seat!

Where: Main Reading room across from lobby

Check the library calendar [here: HPL CALENDAR](#).

*****Sign up for our [Email list](#) and stay up to date on all library events/opportunities. [JOIN US!](#)**

Museum Passes Available

Did you know that you can get discount or free entrance to local museums from the library?

For more information about how to check one out [click here](#).



STAY IN TOUCH!

HOLYOKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

250 Chestnut St, Holyoke, MA 01040

413-420-8101, library@holyoke.org

Website: www.holyokelibrary.org/

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/holyokepubliclibrary/

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

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

Main Desk: 413-420-8101

Reference Dept.: 413-420-8106

Children's Dept.: 413-420-8105

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

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

Computer Room: 413-420-8118

Fundraising: 413-420-8109

Holyoke Public Library
250 Chestnut St
Holyoke, MA 01040

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

* HPL Annual Meeting

On **Wednesday, October 29, 2025** the library will be having the Annual Meeting to review Fiscal Year 2025, discuss the upcoming year's plans and to vote for the new Board.

Where: Community Room

When: 5:30pm

Members of the Holyoke community are invited to attend.

Looking for a new book, Music or Movie?

Wowbrary

The newest stuff at your library

Wowbrary regularly informs you by email and/or RSS about your chosen public library's newest books, movies and music. **Wowbrary** makes it easy for you to place a hold on a new title. **This is a free user service** supported by grants, donations, sponsorships, book sale commissions and volunteers. To receive a copy of Wowbrary via your e-mail, [click here](#) to subscribe.