

BEYOND THE STACKS

Holyoke Public Library

www.holyokelibrary.org

January 2026

Thank you, Maria!

Maria Pagan, the Holyoke Public library director has Retired!

Maria Pagan has served as the Holyoke Public Library Director since 1996. However, she has worked at the library since 1985, over 40 years of service! She has made it her life's work to make sure library services are offered to the entire community of Holyoke, including the 50% Spanish speaking population. She has a Masters Degree in Library & Information Science from the University of Rhode Island and a Bachelors Degree in Natural Science from Colegio Universitario de Cayey-UPR.



Staff photo by DAVE ROBACK
Mari Pagan, of the Holyoke Public Library, chats with Gov. Deval L. Patrick before the governor's talk Thursday at the Massachusetts Latino Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations on a remarkable career and a well-deserved retirement! Thank You, Maria!

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HPL Board of Directors

Farewell Maria,

After more than 40 years of devoted service to the Holyoke Public Library Corporation, Maria Pagan is retiring.



Throughout her remarkable career, Maria's contributions to the Library, the Puerto Rican community, and the City of Holyoke have been truly immeasurable. She has been a steady and trusted presence during times of challenge and transition, and she also played an integral role in guiding the library through its transformation and beautiful building expansion, ensuring it remained a welcoming and vibrant resource for all.

Maria's dedication to the library has always gone far beyond her professional responsibilities—it has been a true labor of love. She has been a tireless advocate for diversity, inclusion, and community engagement, working to ensure that the library reflected and served the rich cultural fabric of Holyoke, particularly its Puerto Rican community. Her commitment to accessibility, education, and public service has strengthened the library's role as a cornerstone of the community.



Through her leadership, compassion, and unwavering belief in the mission of the Holyoke Public Library,

Maria has left an enduring legacy—one that will continue to guide and inspire staff, patrons, and future leaders for generations to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our deepest gratitude to Maria Pagan and wish her happiness, fulfillment, and the very best in her well-earned retirement.

George Mettey
President HPLC

Children's Room News

Holyoke Library Children's Room

Come to the Children's room for Storytimes on Mondays and Saturdays and Crafts and Games. Check the calendar for specific dates.



Craft Hour/ Hora de Manualidades

Wednesday/Miércoles
3PM



Game Night/ Noche de Juegos

Thursdays/Jueves
6PM



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

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 CLOSES 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.

Celebrate Black History Month 2/1 - 3/1



2026 marks a milestone of both progress and persistence in the United States, the 100th anniversary of federal recognition for Black Americans. What began as a singular week of learning and recognition called Negro History Week in 1926 has grown into an overall cultural observance of Black History throughout the month of February.

As we honor a century of commemoration, the message is as clear - and necessary-as ever:

**Black history is American history.
And remembering it strengthens us all.**

Come down to the library and take out some books, movies and other items celebrating Black history!

For More info, check out these links:

- [Black History Facts](#)
The History Chanel - Black History Facts
- [Black Cultural Connection](#)
Black History Little Known Facts
- [Biography - Black History Month](#)
- [Black History and Culture](#)

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

** 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 Library Staff member will help you to schedule a time when you may stop by and 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

Holyoke History Room Holyoke Public Library



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

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

History room events:

Wednesday, January 28: Drop-in Genealogy, 2:30 – 5:00. In the Computer Classroom.

Holyoke History Room
Free Drop-in Genealogy Lab

January 28

2:30 -5:00 PM Sala de Historia de Holyoke

Laboratorio de Genealogía

28 de enero

2:30 -5:00 PM

Get tips for getting started or going deeper with your family history research!

¡Obtenga consejos para empezar o profundizar en la investigación de su historia familiar!

2:30-4:30: Hillary Schau

3:00-5:00: Iris Alicea Flores
(also has expertise with Spanish-language resources)

Holyoke Public Library 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke

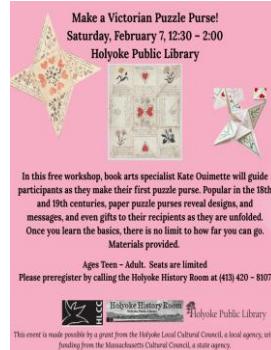
- General help, tips for organizing, or an intro to RootsMagic: ask Hillary (2:30-4:30).
- General help or a chance to dig into Spanish-language records: ask Iris Alicea Flores (3:00-5:00)
- Just getting started or want to help others with research? All are welcome.

Saturday, February 7, 12:30 – 2:00

Make a Victorian Puzzle Purse

Come learn the lost art of creating a puzzle purse for your Valentine (or for any occasion). This paper craft was popular in the 18th and 19th centuries. Puzzle purses are designed to reveal designs, messages, and even small gifts to their recipients as they are slowly unfolded.

In this free workshop, book arts specialist Kate Ouimette will guide participants through the making of their first puzzle purse. Once you learn the basics, there is no limit to how you can decorate and embellish it. Paper, templates, and decorative materials will be supplied.



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Ages Teen – Adult. Seats are limited.
Please preregister by calling the Holyoke History Room at (413) 420 – 8107

Holyoke History Room Holyoke Public Library

This event is made possible by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency, with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Edades adolescentes y adultos. Asientos son limitados.

Es necesario inscribirse previamente. Llame a la Sala de Historia de

Holyoke al (413) 420-8107.

Holyoke History Room Holyoke Public Library

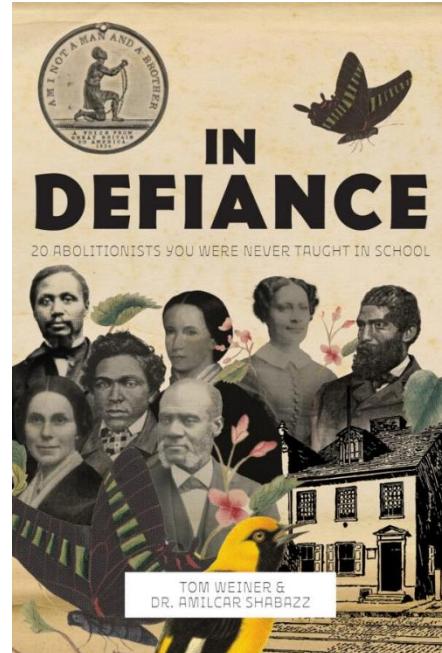
Este evento es posible gracias a un subvención del Holyoke Local Cultural Council, una agencia local,

con financiación del Massachusetts Cultural Council, una agencia estatal.

Ages Teen – Adult. Seats are Limited. Please preregister by calling the Holyoke History Room at (413) 420 – 8107. Leave your name and contact information.

*This event is made possible by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency, with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Saturday February 28, 11:00 – 12:30pm



At this special event, teacher/activist Tom Weiner and Dr. Amilcar Shabazz will talk about the making of their recent book, *In Defiance: 20 Abolitionists you were never taught in school*, and share often-suppressed stories of those who risked everything to end enslavement.

Starts at 11:00 AM in the Community Room. Free and open to the public. All are welcome.

Website: <https://holyokelibrary.org/history-room>

Email: historyroom@holyokelibrary.org

Telephone: (413) 420-8107

Teen Room News

Teen Room, 1st floor

Join us this 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 rsinahoo@holyokelibrary.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. We also have free public Wi-Fi at the library!



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.

Letter from the Director

The Holyoke Public Library is happy to introduce Jason Lefebvre as the new Library Director!

Hello,
My name is
Jason
Lefebvre and
as of January
5th I am the
new Director
of the
Holyoke
Public
Library.



I have been with the library in some capacity since 2005, starting in the Children's Room as the Evening Children's Library Assistant. I became the Children's Librarian in 2007 and moved to Assistant Director of the library in 2015. From 2019-2021 I left my position as Assistant Director to pursue a new challenge as the Access Services Supervisor for the Frost Library at Amherst College. During that time, I continued to support the library as a Holyoke Library Corp. board member. When the opportunity to return to the Holyoke library presented itself, I was thrilled to return as Assistant Director in the fall of 2021.

I love the city of Holyoke, and I love our library. It is an honor to be named the next Library Director. My goal is to continue the legacy of Maria Pagan by having a community first approach to running the library. I hope to expand the materials we offer, the programs we present, and increase the daily foot traffic into our beautiful facility.

If you have any ideas for improvement, please don't hesitate to call, email, or stop by in person and let me know your thoughts. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone in the Holyoke library community. Thank you.

Library Movie Night!



Family Movie Nights! ¡Noche de Películas para Familias!

Every month. All are welcome. /
Todos los meses. Todos están bienvenidos.
¡Bocadillos desponibles! / Snacks available!

Family Movie Night:
Thursday, February

19 at 6pm / jueves el 19 de Febrero a las 6pm:
Película/Movie: Lilo & Stitch 2025

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!](#)

Adult Programs

Abbey Buedinger, Reference Librarian

Mimic of the Masters -Series starting 1/31, then also 2/28, 3/28, and 4/25.

January 31st -The Mackintosh Rose (drawing) -- In this make-and-take workshop, participants will learn about Charles Rennie Mackintosh's body of work with a special focus on the Mackintosh Rose, and will use that knowledge to create drawings inspired by his work. All ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Led by local artist and educator Anne Thalheimer.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Ukulele Program -Series starting Jan 29th

The library is excited to host a Ukulele "learn to play" program starting January 29th for kids, teens

and adults. Ukeleles will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own instrument.

Where: Community Room

Time: 11am-1pm -Each class is 2 hours.

Note: Any children under 11years old must have a parent or guardian present at all times.



****Registration is required for all programs. Please email Abbey at abuedinger@holyokelibrary.org to register.**



Reference Room News

The library is happy to announce our new Reference/Outreach Librarian, Cal Sieh.



Cal has been working at the front desk at the library for several years. They are happy to continue to help the library patrons in a new and expanded capacity in the Reference department.

We are excited for what's to come! Feel free to stop by and say Hi!

We hope you will visit the 4th Floor.

- The right side of the floor is the Reference area.
- The left side of the floor is the Non-Fiction area.

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

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 Holyoke blanket, and Holyoke books) Sold at the Circulation Desk.
***These blankets make great birthday Gifts!**



Holyoke Historic Buildings blanket

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 happening on **May 2, 2026**.



SAVE THE DATE, and contact event Chair Nancy Kocsmiersky, HPL Development Office at nancy@holyokelibrary.org, 413-420-8109 if you have questions or want to participate.
[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

Last December, the Holyoke library in collaboration with the [Massachusetts Academy of Ballet](#) offered our third annual preview, with music and costumes, of The Nutcracker ballet.

Our historic building was a perfect period backdrop for this festive event. Many people were in attendance and were happy to participate.

Dancers in full costume—from mice to the Sugarplum Fairy—performed excerpts from the ballet and posed for selfies with visitors.



Check back in December 2026 for holiday fun!

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 at the library?

For more information about how to check out passes [click here](#). Click pictures below for museum info.



STAY IN TOUCH!

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.: 413-420-8106

Children's Dept.: 413-420-8105

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

History Room: 413-420-8107

www.facebook.com/holyokehistoryroom/

Computer Room: 413-420-8118

Fundraising: 413-420-8109

Tax Forms and More Links

The library provides information for Tax filing, government resources and more.

Check out these links:



[Tax Forms-Federal](#),

[MA tax form info](#)

- [City of Holyoke website](#)

Plus, more local and state links [HERE](#).

Looking for a new book, Music or Movie?



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.

Holyoke Public Library

250 Chestnut St

Holyoke, MA 01040

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