

VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY

Serving the Residents of the Nyack School District

CURIOSITY • INSPIRATION • CONNECTION

Stay up-to-date! Visit valleycottagelibrary.org for new programs & updates.

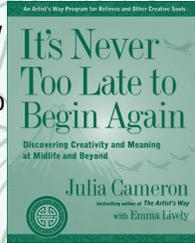
The Artist's Way Workshop: It's Never Too Late to Begin Again, Part II

Wednesdays at 7:00pm: April 6 – May 18

Calling all creatives (or wannabe creatives)! Join us in the library OR via Zoom for a 7-week continuation of the popular The Artist's Way Workshop program series, geared toward those who create art to live or simply wish to live more creatively.

This series will focus on Weeks 6-12 of Julia Cameron's *It's Never Too Late to Begin Again: Discovering Creativity and Meaning at Midlife and Beyond*. Newcomers and previous participants from any and all stages of life are welcome. Co-led by Adult Services Librarian Anya Berg and International Institute for Learning Grateful Leadership instructor and Artist's Way aficionado, Judith W. Umlas.

A limited number of print copies will be made available in the library to registrants. New to the series and the book? You may want to read Chapters 1-5 before the first meeting, or let us get you up to speed with a recap of the basic tasks during our first session. Online registration is required (one-time registration required for all 7 sessions). A Zoom link will be sent to participants the morning of each meeting.



Scenes of New York City: The Elie and Sarah Hirschfeld Collection

Thursday, May 26 at 7:00pm

Take a docent-guided virtual tour through the New York Historical Society's Scenes of New York City Exhibit.

A major exhibition to mark the landmark promised gift from philanthropists and art collectors Elie and Sarah Hirschfeld, Scenes of New York City features works by artists Norman Rockwell, Mark Rothko, Keith Haring and Françoise Gilot, among others. Join us virtually for a celebration of views of New York City seen through a remarkable collection of works including paintings, works on paper in various media, and sculpture.

This program is presented by a docent from the New York Historical Society Museum and Library. Registration is required to receive a Zoom link to the program.

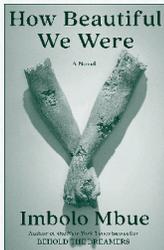
Did you know that New York Historical Society entrance passes are available to borrow from the library?



Shelf Indulgence Book Club **Tuesdays at 2 pm**

New month, new genre! Join Anya and Megan on the second Tuesday of every month at 2pm in-person OR via Zoom to indulge in a good book while exploring different genres of literature. Online registration is required for in-person and online attendees. A Zoom link will be sent out to all participants the morning of each meeting.

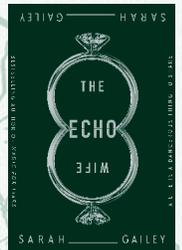
On April 12, take a look at the resilience of a community in *How Beautiful We Were* by Imbolo Mbue.



On May 10, we'll explore the language of and try to solve the mystery in *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones.

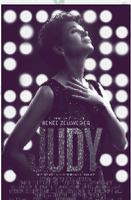


On June 14, we'll peer into the future of scientific possibilities with *The Echo Wife* by Sarah Gailey.



MONDAY MOVIE MATINEES - Mondays at 1:00pm

April 11
Judy
PG-13
1h 58min



April 25
Spencer
R
1h 57min



May 9
The Goldfinch
R
2h 29min



May 23
Where'd You Go, Bernadette
PG-13
1h 49min



June 6
King Richard
PG-13
2h 24min



June 20
Harriet
PG-13
2h 5min



 = VIRTUAL PROGRAM  = HYBRID PROGRAM

Registration required for all programs unless otherwise indicated. A hybrid program is an in-person program with the option to attend remotely. Zoom links will be sent as instructed in the program description.

Masks are recommended in the library.

Online Scholar-led Book Discussions

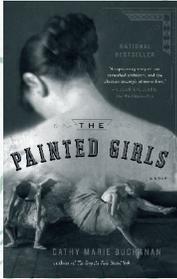
Thursday evenings at 7pm 

April 21

THE PAINTED GIRLS by Cathy Marie Buchanan

Discussion led by Dr. Camille Serchuk

Set at a moment of profound artistic, cultural, and societal change, *The Painted Girls* is a tale of two remarkable sisters rendered uniquely vulnerable to the darker impulses of "civilized society." In the end, each will come to realize that her salvation, if not survival, lies with the other.

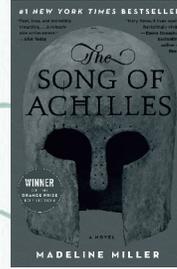


May 12

THE SONG OF ACHILLES by Madeline Miller

Led by Dr. Vara Neverow

A tale of gods, kings, immortal fame, and the human heart, *The Song of Achilles* is a dazzling literary feat that brilliantly reimagines Homer's enduring masterwork, *The Iliad*.



June 16

HARLEM SHUFFLE by Colson Whitehead

Led by Dr. David Turk

Harlem Shuffle's ingenious story plays out in a beautifully recreated New York City of the early 1960s. It's a family saga masquerading as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a social novel about race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem.



Thank you, Assemblyman Zebrowski!

The Valley Cottage Library community extends sincere thanks to Assemblyman Kenneth Zebrowski for securing \$42,000 in Bullet Aid funding to the library. The funds were used to improve the safety of the air quality in the library through the installation of iWave ionizers and to completely upgrade the technology infrastructure in the Community Room. Residents will benefit from this upgrade whether attending a program in-person or remotely.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Neighbor,

As we move through the various challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are boosted by the sentiment that we hear every day about how grateful our community is to be able to have the Valley Cottage Library. While the highlighted statistics provide a snapshot of our services, they don't fully capture the impact we have on the individuals who come into our building to be inspired, to connect and to satisfy curiosity.

In many ways, 2021 brought us closer to more normal conditions while also challenging us with progress that has not been linear. While our statistics continue to be below the years prior to 2020 when the building was filled with daily programs, community events and engagement, we all continue to be impressed with how we can continue and make an impact despite the limitations presented.

The Library staff continues their commitment to find new ways to bring high-quality service. Our professional and support staff worked together throughout the year to make each library experience a meaningful one whether you visited us virtually, in the building, or accessed materials through curbside.

Thanks to Bullet Aid secured by Assemblyman Zebrowski in 2021 our AV room is positioned to bring more vibrant remote and in-person experiences in the coming year.

Better days are ahead for our community, and the library will be right there to celebrate the hope that is brought to us in the many new beginnings we have every year.

Thank you for your support of the Library. If you haven't been in the Library for a while, we welcome you back to find out what we have in store for you. Our doors are open and we are ready to serve in both the old ways and new.

Christy Blanchette
Library Director

FACTS AND FIGURES OF 2021

LIBRARY DETAILS	
62	Hours per week (restored hours)
5,237	Active Cardholders
42,695	Library visits
7,627	Reference questions answered
1,683	Public internet users (not including wireless)
31,462	Interlibrary loan transactions
65,217	Total physical items circulated
16,015	Total electronic items circulated
MATERIALS OWNED	
88,851	Adult, Children, & Teen books
13,727	Audio visual materials
87	Magazine subscriptions (print)
35,592	Downloadable books (Adult, Children, & Teen)
12,918	Downloadable audio & video (Adult, Children, & Teen)
PROGRAMS	
286/3,869	Adult programs/Attendance
187/520	Children's programs/Attendance
2,351	Children's passive programming Scavenger Hunt & Take and Make
14/51	Teen programs/Attendance
HOMEBOUND SERVICE	
59	Deliveries of materials to residents
EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS	
59/212	Sessions and attendance
ADULT DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS	
37	One-on-one sessions

ADULT PROGRAMS

V = VIRTUAL PROGRAM **H** = HYBRID PROGRAM

Registration required for all programs unless otherwise indicated. A "hybrid" program is an in-person program with the option to attend remotely. Zoom links will be sent upon request or as instructed in the program description.

Rockland County Office for the Aging Information Session **V**

Thursday, April 7 at 3:30pm

Rockland County Office for the Aging will present on current and upcoming programs and services available to Rockland County residents. NY Connects staff will be available to answer any questions and assist with any program referrals.

This is a virtual program and registration is required to receive a Zoom link on the day of the program.

Wellness Weeklies

Online Gentle Yoga with Betsy Ceva **V**

Tuesdays at 11:00am

Betsy's classes incorporate a strong but gentle physical practice, deep attention to breath and a weaving of meditation and inner awareness into every moment. No experience needed.

Yarn Therapy **H** Wednesdays at 11:30am

Meet with us in the community room and bring your projects. A virtual option is still being offered - please contact Caroline at cpape@rcls.org for the Zoom link.

Tools for Relaxation and Mindfulness

Meditation **V** Thursdays at 11:00am

Learn easy and gentle practices for deep relaxation that you can incorporate into your daily life. Carole Brill, our instructor, has been practicing meditation for more than 50 years.

Full Body Fitness: Motown Edition **V**

Fridays at 10:00am (through May 27th)

Welcome to our low impact, full body fitness class with Katie Patchell. All you need is plenty of space to move around in, weights (any size, including cans!), comfy shoes, and a water bottle. Are you ready to get moving to Motown's greatest hits?

ARTISANS WANTED!

for our
Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday
December 3
10am-4pm

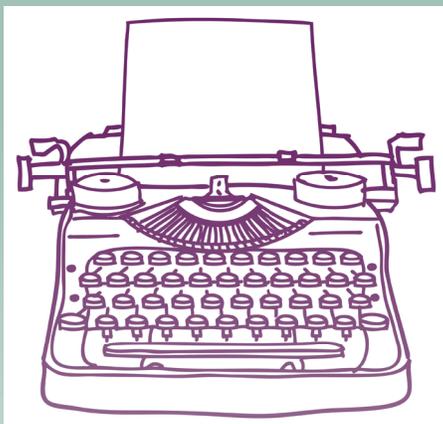
IT'S BACK!!

We're getting ready for our annual craft fair and we are looking for artisans who are proficient in their craft.

As a juried show, we require interested parties to submit 10 digital photos of your work to cpape@rcls.org along with your contact information. No phone calls please. Decisions will be made on the week of the deadline. Cost for space is \$30.

Submission Deadline
is Monday, October 3

This printed newsletter contains only a sampling of our programming. Visit our website calendar at valleycottage.library.org or sign up for our email updates to see new additions to our programs.



VCWRITES

First Thursday of every month at 7pm **H**
April 7, May 5, and June 2

Join our librarian, Sean, for a monthly writing workshop. Participants share their work via email two weeks before the meeting, and then receive feedback at the monthly sessions. For submission guidelines and more information, please email Sean at s.antonucci@rcls.org

Adult(ish)

A Meetup for
20- to 30-somethings!

Adult(ish) Game Night **H**

Select nights at 6pm:
April 21 & May 19

Calling all 20-to-30 somethings! Banish boredom with our grown-up game night, now in person! Join Megan and Anya in the Library OR via Zoom. We'll bring the fun if you bring an extra device (smartphone or tablet) to use as your controller. Online registration required. A Zoom link will be sent out to all registrants the day of the program.



TEENS!

Looking for community
service hours?

Consider submitting a review for VCL's
Teen Blog! *Grades 6-12 Only*

STEP ONE

Check out the Teen Services tab for "Kat's in the Stacks"

STEP TWO

Decide what you would like to recommend to other teens and write a review

STEP THREE

Email your review to khohlfeld@rcls.org

STEP FOUR

Receive one hour of community service per accepted review!



Kat's in the Stacks

TEEN CORNER

All upcoming programs and other offerings are displayed on the VCL Teens web page: valleycottagelibrary.org/VCLTeens

NY PROJECT HOPE: TEEN SESSIONS

Every other Wednesday beginning March 16th, 7-8pm

Would you like some help coping with the emotions and challenges brought on by Covid? Register to join these free, anonymous, confidential Zoom sessions for some additional support. Provided by Astor Services for Children & Families.

SWITCH IT UP

April 11th, May 16th 7-8pm

Video Games & Pizza! Bring your own Nintendo Switch, or play with the library's on our big screen.

TOWER CHALLENGES

April 28th, 7-8pm

How high can you get your tower? Team up and try your hand at making towers out of unconventional objects as fast as you can! Silly prizes will be granted to the master architects.

MINIATURE GAMING DAY

Saturday, May 21st, 10am-3pm

Join us for a day of tabletop miniature gaming on a grand scale! Hosted by Next Gen Gaming, this event will inspire players to collaborate and tackle new challenges. Student gamers will have the opportunity to play strategy based miniatures games on 3D boards complete with painted figures, terrain, and features reminiscent of some of the famous conflicts in history.

HAIKU CONTEST

In honor of National Poetry Month, try your hand at a Haiku! The winner of the contest will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and have their poem featured on the @vcl_pages Instagram. Submissions are open through the end of April.



creativebug®

Calling all crafters! Whether you are an experienced knitter or a novice painter, our newest digital resource, Creativebug, has a video tutorial for you! Learn a new craft or further develop your techniques today with Creativebug and your Valley Cottage Library card.

Find this creative resource on our website Databases page.

THE CHILDREN

Registration for in-person programming is open to Nyack School District patrons only and will begin one week before each program. Virtual program registration will start one month before the program. Registration is free and required for all programs (unless noted otherwise) and group size is limited.

Register online at www.valleycottagelibrary.org/kids, in the Children's Room, or call 845-268-7700. Please notify us of cancellations.

 = VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Registration is required to receive a Zoom link on the day of the program.

Family Programs

Monthly Scavenger Hunt

Ages 12 and under. Win a prize each month for finding the seasonal shape of the month hidden in the Children's Room! No registration.

Take and Make Crafts

Every Monday the Children's Room will have a new craft ready for pickup for children to do at home on their own anytime! Stop by the Children's Room or the Library entryway vestibule to pick up. Send a picture of your completed craft to vlkids@rcls.org for a prize and to have it posted on our social media! No registration. (Crafts available during library hours, while supplies last.)

Yoga for Kids

Mondays, April 4, May 2, and June 6

4:15pm: ages 2-4 years

5:15pm: ages 5-8 years

Join Valerie Vendrame in a lively introductory yoga class for children in the library. Developing body awareness, strength, and flexibility; building balance, coordination, and agility; and learning useful ways to calm and nurture our minds and bodies are just some of the benefits of this fun practice. Children should wear comfortable clothes. Register separately for each session.

Homeschool Hangout

Tuesday, April 5 at 6pm

Join Ms. Alexis, homeschooling parent and Children's Room staffer, for a fun-filled evening especially for homeschooling and homeschool-curious families in the library! We will have fun activities for the children and not-at-all boring conversations for the adults. Alexis will be available to answer your questions about homeschooling in NY State and to share information about how the library is here to support you!

Virtual Pajama Storytime

Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30pm

Ages 2 and up with adult(s). Wear your PJs and grab your favorite snuggly friend for this fun virtual family storytime. A Zoom link will be sent before the program.

Caring Cards & Crafts for Memorial Day

May 1-22

All ages. Drop in the Children's Room anytime to make a card for a local senior citizen honoring service men and women on Memorial Day! Decorate and write a note on your card, then we'll give them to Meals on Wheels to deliver them to seniors and brighten their day.

'S ROOM

Programs for Elementary School Children

Picture Book Pals: Book Clubs for Grades K-2

Select Tuesdays at 5pm in the library

Books will be available at the Children's Room Desk one week prior to the program.

April 12: *Library Lion*, by Michelle Knudsen, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. We'll read the story together, then make a friendly lion craft to take home.

May 17: *Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School*, written and illustrated by Mark Teague. We'll read the story together, then make a talking dog puppet.

Bookaneers: Book Clubs for Grades 3-5

Select Tuesdays at 5pm in the library

Books will be available at the Children's Room Desk one month prior to the program and registration will begin on March 7.

April 26: *The Library of Ever*, by Zeno Alexander. We'll discuss this magical adventure, then craft a colorful hot air balloon to take home.

May 24: *A Boy Called BAT*, by Elana K. Arnold with pictures by Charles Santoso. We'll discuss this delightful story about an unlikely friendship, then make a sweet skunk craft.



1000 Books Before Kindergarten: This program promotes reading to newborns, infants, toddlers, and children up to Kindergarten. The goal is to have read 1000 books before your child starts Kindergarten. Stop by the Children's Room any time to sign up, get more information, and your first reading record.

Programs for Age 5 and Younger

Open Playtime

Mondays from 10am-1pm - April 4-June 6 (no program May 30)

Ages 5 and under. It's playtime in the Storytime Room, no matter what the weather brings! A great chance to meet other local families while you enjoy books, games, toys and puzzles with your little one(s). No registration.

Blooming Babies

Select Fridays at 10:30am, April 8, April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10

Ages 2 mos.-12 mos. or pre-walkers w/adult. In-person movement, rhymes & music at the library. Please make alternate arrangements for other children. Register separately for each session.

Springtime Toddlers

Select Thursdays at 10:30am

March 31, April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9

Ages 13-24 mos. or walkers w/adult. Weekly storytime with books and beyond in the library! Please make alternate arrangements for other children. Register separately for each session.

PreK Storytime Fun

Select Tuesdays at 10:30am, March 29, April 12, April 26, May 10

Ages 2 - Kindergarten. Children must be 2 years old by April 1. Join us for storytime at the library with great books, music, movement and beyond! Register separately for each session.

All programs are in-person in the library, unless marked (V) for virtual Zoom programs, or 'at home' for take away activities.

S.T.E.A.M. Programs

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)

FUN WITH TANGRAMS

Ages 5 and up. What is a Tangram? A Chinese geometric puzzle consisting of a square cut into seven pieces that can be arranged to make various other shapes. Every month the Children's Room will have a new tangram project ready for pickup for children to do at home on their own anytime! Stop by the Children's Room or the library entryway vestibule to pick up, and send a picture of your completed tangram to vlkids@rcls.org by the end of that month for a prize and to have it posted on our social media! No registration. (Tangrams available all month, during library hours, while supplies last.)

LEGO™ CHALLENGE

Select Wednesdays at 5pm

April 6, May 11, June 8

Grades K-5. Join us at the library to participate in the LEGO™ Challenge of the Month! We'll build a creation with the special theme of the month, then share it with the group. LEGOs™ will be displayed temporarily in the library. Register separately for each program.

CHILDREN'S CRAFTS FOR GRADES K-2

Select Thursdays at 4:30pm

April 7, May 5, June 2

Gr. K-2. Join Ms. Elizabeth at the library to make a fun craft together! Register separately for each session.

MAKE YOUR OWN SOAP!

Wednesday, May 4 at 6pm

Grades 2-5. Bring on the bubbles with this safe, easy, melt and pour method of soapmaking. Create a variety of shapes, colors, and scents with glycerin soaps. Make them for yourself, or as a gift for Mother's Day! A full list of soap ingredients will be provided. (Please notify us of any allergies when registering.)

Cool Camouflage

Wednesday, June 1 at 4:30pm

Gr. 2-5. Come to the library and we'll take a look at some amazing methods of camouflage! We'll have fun testing our eyes to find some very well-hidden animals in their natural environments!

Registration for our Summer Programs,
June 18 – Sept. 17, will start on June 8.

Did you know?

Valley Cottage Library is FINE FREE on our Children's and Young Adult materials (with the exception of our video game collection)!

IN THE GALLERY

APRIL
Nyack Student
Art Show

MAY
Louis Spitz

JUNE
Joan Koppel



Please contact
Caroline Siecke-Pape at
cpape@rcls.org if you are
interested in exhibiting
your artwork.

Contact Caroline Siecke-Pape at cpape@rcls.org to sign up for our weekly email newsletter.

FOLLOW THE LIBRARY ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Mobile Hotspots

Connect up to 15 devices to
T-Mobile's 4G network using one of
our new mobile hotspots! Mobile
Hotspots are available to borrow
for adult Valley Cottage and Nyack
patrons only.

Library Amnesty Week April 4-9

Celebrate National Library Week

Come to the library during National Library Week to
have your overdue fines on Valley Cottage Library
materials waived so that you can begin borrowing
again!

Terms and conditions:

- Must be a Valley Cottage Library cardholder
- Only fines on Valley Cottage Library's materials are eligible
- Amnesty only applies to fines—not lost or damaged items

Valley Cottage Community Cleanup Saturday, April 30th from 10-2pm

Show your civic pride and help spruce up your community on **Saturday, April 30th from 10-2pm** as we host a neighborhood Great American Cleanup event. In conjunction with Keep Rockland Beautiful, the Library will be sending out groups of volunteers to help remove unsightly garbage and refuse from our hometown. All cleanup supplies will be provided. Community service letters will be available. Register to participate at www.keepprocklandbeautiful.org. Questions? Contact Ashley Maraffino at amaraffino@rcls.org.
**Rain Date: Sunday, May 1, 11am- 3pm.* For other cleanup events around the County, see www.keepprocklandbeautiful.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Frank Dwyer, Vice-President
Marjorie McLoughlin, Treasurer
Michael Mark, Secretary
Kevin Graham, Trustee
Herbert Lerner, Trustee
Melissa L. Roy, Trustee

Christy Blanchette, Director

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet
April 20, May 18, and June 15 at 7:30pm. The
public is invited. Visit valleycottagelibrary.org
to confirm the dates in the event of a schedule
change or a change of venue.

VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY

Member of the Ramapo Catskill Library System

110 Route 303, Valley Cottage, NY 10989

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Monsey, NY
Permit No. 9002

Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10:00am - 9:00pm
Friday & Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday 12:00 - 4:00pm

Holiday closings:

Easter Sunday, April 17
Memorial Day observed, Monday, May 30

Sunday Closings beginning June 26 through September 4

Resident

