

# VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY

Serving the Residents of the Nyack School District

**CURIOSITY • INSPIRATION • CONNECTION**

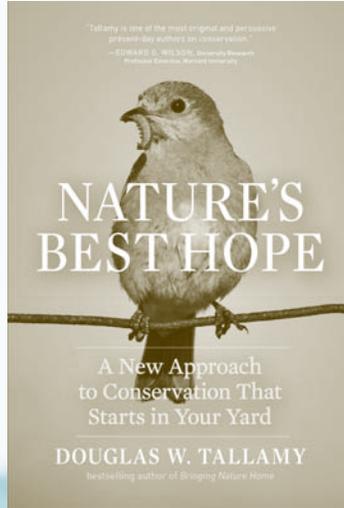
The Board of Trustees and Staff of Valley Cottage Library wish our wonderful community happy holidays and a healthy, safe New Year!

## Nature's Best Hope

Tuesday, January 4 at 7:00pm

Author and activist, Prof. Doug Tallamy discusses simple steps that each of us can — and must — take to reverse declining biodiversity; why we must change from an adversarial to collaborative relationship with nature; and why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope.

Presented in partnership with the Nyack Library, Cottage Creek Gardens, and the Nyack Library Seed Exchange.



## Branded Botanicals:

### Classifying Criminal Crops

Monday, February 28 at 7:00pm

Presented by Nuala Caomhánach, a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at New York University and evolutionary botanist at the American Museum of Natural History. Branded Botanicals

follows the stories of three crops historically classified as illegal: Marijuana, Heroin, and Cocaine. From opium dens to Coca-Cola to CBD oils, this talk will discuss the lives of plant taxonomists, biochemists, bureaucrats, and archivists and how, depending on the point in the production-consumption circuit these plants straddle, the licit-illicit legal boundary within the marketplace.

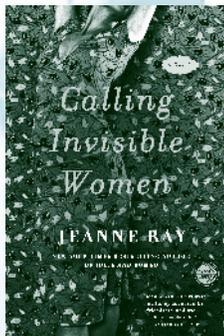


Stay up-to-date! Visit [valleycottagelibrary.org](http://valleycottagelibrary.org) for new programs & updates.

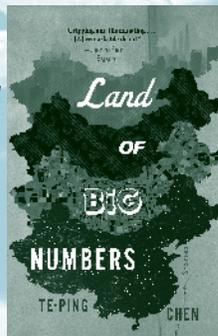
## Shelf Indulgence Book Club Tuesdays at 2 pm

New month, new genre! Join Anya and Megan 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. Each month a title from a new genre will be featured and discussed. Online registration required for in-person and online attendees. Ebook and audiobook versions of select titles available to checkout on Overdrive/Libby. Limited print copies of each book will be available to check out in the library one month prior to each discussion. A Zoom link will be sent out to all participants the morning of each meeting.

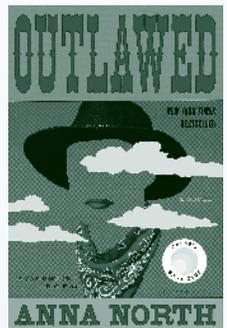
On January 11, start the year off with the satire *Calling Invisible Women: A Novel* by Jeanne Ray.



On February 8, we'll keep things short with story collection *Land of Big Numbers* by Te-Ping Chen.



And on March 8, travel to the Wild West in *Outlawed* by Anna North.



 = 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 upon request or as instructed in the program description.

Masks are required to enter the library regardless of vaccination status.

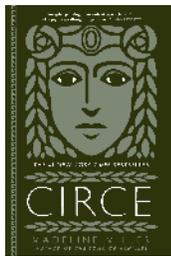
# Online Scholar-led Book Discussions

Select evenings at 7pm 

**Thursday, January 13**

**CIRCE by Madeline Miller**

Discussion led by Dr. Vara Neverow.

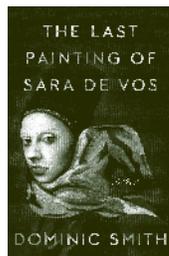


In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child — not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power — the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves.

**Thursday, February 10**

**THE LAST PAINTING OF SARA DE VOS by Dominic Smith**

Discussion led by Dr. Camille Serchuk.



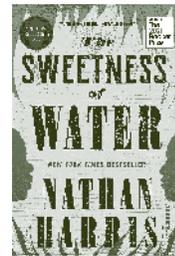
*The Last Painting of Sara de Vos* focuses on Ellie Shipley, an art historian and former forger attempting to learn more about obscure, but superbly talented, seventeenth-century Dutch painter Sara de Vos. Set in three different eras: the 1950s, the 1630s, and the year 2000, the plot revolves around the only known surviving painting of Sara de Vos, "At the Edge of a Wood."

**Thursday, March 10**

**THE SWEETNESS OF WATER by Nathan Harris**

Discussion led by Dr. David Turk

In the spirit of *The Known World* and *The Underground Railroad*, a profound debut about the unlikely bond between two freedmen who are brothers and the Georgia farmer whose alliance will alter their lives, and his, forever.



Dear Library Friends,

For more than nineteen years I have had the privilege and pleasure of working at Valley Cottage Library as Director. It has been a very busy time, one in which the culture of how we receive information has changed dramatically and Valley Cottage Library has always tried to respond quickly to the changing environment. This has been accomplished primarily through the very helpful and welcoming staff of Valley Cottage Library.

During my tenure, among other things, we created a dedicated Teen Corner for our 'tween and teen patrons. We also expanded the children's room creating space specifically targeted at the early literacy needs of our youngest patrons and their families. Additionally, we doubled the size of our parking lot and did so in a way to address the flooding we previously experienced in an environmentally impactful way earning us an award from the Town of Clarkstown. Not only that, the parking lot is beautiful and filled with many native trees, shrubs and plants.

I wanted to thank so many patrons for their unwavering support of the library these last many years. Your love for the library and our staff have been greatly appreciated. I am hopeful that the horizon for libraries is bright post-pandemic. Know that the library can accommodate your library needs with just a call or an email. We want to provide service the safest way possible for you.

On my retirement, I will wake up to a world of new possibilities. I intend to reignite my love of fine arts, get ready for my spring garden, spend more time with my amazing granddaughter and hopefully travel a little bit more. I leave you in very capable hands. Christy Blanchette has been appointed director by the Board of Trustees. Christy has been the Assistant Director at the Library for several years and is ready to take the lead.

Warmly,

Amelia Kalin



## Meet the Library's New Director!

The Valley Cottage Library Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Christy Blanchette to the position of Library Director. Over the course of her career, Ms. Blanchette has assumed a variety of supervisory and professional roles at our library, has managed the local history digitization for the Library Association of Rockland County, and worked for many years part-time at the New City Library.

"The Board of Trustees is excited to welcome Christy into her new role as Director. She is a homegrown talent that was groomed under the mentorship and leadership of the current Director, Amelia Kalin. She has demonstrated her dedication and love of our library through her more than 20 years of service. I believe Christy's experience, relationship with library employees, and enthusiasm for our library make her the leader we need going forward" said Arlette Mooney, President of the Valley Cottage Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. Blanchette is a graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas College (BA, English Literature) and Long Island University (MLIS). She holds a Certified Public Library Administrator certificate. She is a long-term resident of Valley Cottage and a goal-oriented athlete who thrives on finding ambitious challenges to test her physical and mental capacity.

Stop by and say hello!



# 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.

Masks are required to enter the library regardless of vaccination status.

## Winter Wellness Weeklies

### Online Gentle Yoga with Betsy Ceva **V**

Tuesdays at 11:00am

Join Betsy Ceva to gently explore and tune into the body with a meditative frame of mind while increasing flexibility, strength, and well-being. 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 and movement. No experience needed.

### Yarn Therapy **H**

Wednesdays at 11:30am

Meet with us in the community room and bring your projects. We will be adhering to library policy concerning distancing and mask-wearing. With policies changing lately, please call ahead with any questions.

A virtual option is still being offered - please contact Caroline at [cpape@rcls.org](mailto: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.

Chinese self-massage, Qigong, breathing and listening to peaceful meditative music effortlessly lead you to be calmer and quieter. All of these simple tools are forms of mindfulness meditation. Carole Brill, our instructor, has been practicing meditation for more than 50 years.

### Full Body Fitness: Motown Edition **V**

Fridays at 10:00am

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?

This printed newsletter contains only a sampling of our online programming. Visit our website calendar at [valleycottagelibrary.org](http://valleycottagelibrary.org) or sign up for our email updates to see new additions to our fall programs.



## VIRTUAL VCWRITES

First Thursday of every month at 7pm **V**

January 6, February 3, & March 3

(March 3 TBD whether virtual or hybrid)

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. Email Sean at [s.antonucci@rcls.org](mailto:s.antonucci@rcls.org) to receive submission guidelines and the Zoom link.

## Adult (ish)

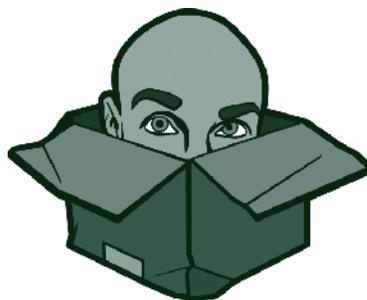
A Meetup for  
20- to 30-somethings!

### Adult(ish) Game Night **V**

Select nights at 6pm:

January 20, February 17, March 17

Banish boredom with our grown up game night, hosted via Zoom on select Thursdays this winter (and hopefully in person by Spring!). We'll bring the fun if you bring an extra device (smartphone/tablet) to use as your controller. Register on the library calendar to receive the Zoom link the day of the program.



## TEENS!

Looking for community  
service hours?

Consider submitting a review for VCL's new  
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](mailto: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: [valleycottageibrary.org/VCLTeens](http://valleycottageibrary.org/VCLTeens)

## BULLET JOURNALING 101

Tuesday, January 11th, 7-8pm

The New Year is a great time to start bullet journaling! Come learn the basics of bullet journaling, and take your organizational skills to the next level with design tips and tricks.

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DURING COVID

Wednesday, January 19th, 7-9pm

Joshua Marber, MS.Ed., will advise teens and their families on the college admission process in this COVID-19 pandemic. He will provide helpful information for what the colleges are requiring from your child, and how to visit the colleges safely. Joshua has more than 20 years of experience in the college fields working as an Admissions and Financial Aid Counselor. He currently sits on the Counselor Advisory Board at Ohio University.

## TEEN TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursdays, February 10th & March 10th, 7-8pm

What do you know? Come join our virtual trivia night on Zoom. Just bring paper, something to write with, and your brain!

## TOWER CHALLENGES

Tuesday, February 22nd, 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.

## 3-LINE ROMANCE CHALLENGE!

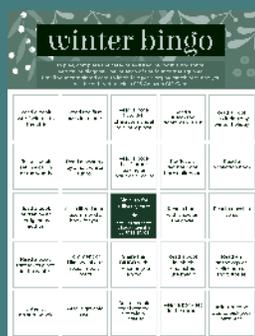
Submit a three-sentence love story on the VCL Teens webpage to enter the contest. The winner will receive a \$25 Amazon Gift Card and be featured on our Instagram! Visit the VCL Teen webpage for guidelines and submission information.

## SCRAWL: ROCKLAND TEENS WRITE, 2022

If you would like to be published, now is your chance to have your work included in this remarkable journal with professional editors. **Submissions are open until Tuesday, January 18th!** Visit the VCL Teen webpage for additional details.

# WINTER BOOK BINGO

Download the bingo sheet from the VCL Teen webpage and complete a row to be entered for a \$25 Amazon Gift Card! Deadline is March 31st.



# THE CHILDREN

Registration for Winter Virtual Programs occurring January 4 – March 27, begins on January 4. Registration for in-person programming is open to Nyack School District patrons only and will begin one week before each program. Registration is free and required for all programs (unless noted otherwise) and group size is limited. Register online at [valleycottageibrary.org/kids](http://valleycottageibrary.org/kids), in the Children's Room, or call 845-268-7700 during library hours. Please notify us of cancellations in order to allow more children to attend our programs.

## Family Programs

### Monthly Scavenger Hunt

**Ages 12 and under.** Earn a prize each month for finding the seasonal shape (pine trees, hearts, etc.) of the month hidden around 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, and send a picture of your completed craft to [vlkids@rcls.org](mailto: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, January 10, February 7, & March 7

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.)

### Winter Crafts at the Library

**Ages 3 and up with adult(s). No registration. Drop in all day during the span of each program.**

**Monday, January 17** – Decorate a Martin Luther King Jr. Day Peace Quilt Square.

**February 7-14** – Create a Valentine for the one you love.

### Virtual Pajama Storytime

Wednesday, January 26 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.

### Celebrate 'Take Your Child to the Library Day'!

Saturday, February 5, all day:

Come to the Library dressed as your favorite book character and take a special picture at the Library, which we'll share on social media!

**Book Character Hunt:** Find all your favorite book characters in the Children's Room and win a prize! We'll have search and find posters, crafts, Nyack Basics information, and other giveaways! For all ages with adult(s). No registration.

### Virtual Family Valentine Craft!

Wednesday, February 9 at 6pm: All ages with adult(s).

Create a family treasure with us over Zoom! Using fingerprints and ink, you can make a Valentine's masterpiece as unique as your own family. A Zoom link will be sent before the program, and craft materials will be available for pickup during the week before the program.

Registration for our Spring Programs, March 27 - June 18, will start on March 21.

## 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.

**January 18:** *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*, by Ryan T. Higgins. We'll read the story together, then color our own adorable 'Penelope' to take home.

**February 15:** *How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You?* By Jane Yolen, illustrated by Mark Teague. We'll read the story together, then make a fun dinosaur crinkle craft.

**March 15:** *The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess*, by Tom Gauld. We'll read the story together, then make a fairy tale castle to take home.

### 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.

**January 11:** *Winter According to Humphrey*, by Betty G. Birney. We'll discuss this entertaining story, then craft a cool cone tree forest.

**February 8:** *Frindle*, by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Brian Selznick. We'll discuss this wonderful story, then make a cute penguin craft to take home.

**March 8:** *The Wild Robot*, by Peter Brown. We'll discuss this fun robot adventure, then decorate a jeweled robot of our own.



**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 and get your first reading record.

## Programs for Age 5 and Younger

### Tiny Tykes

Select Fridays at 10:30am

January 14, January 28, February 11, March 4, & March 18

**Ages 2 mos.-23 mos. w/adult.** In-person movement, rhymes & music at the library. Please make alternate arrangements for other children. Register separately for each session.

### PreK Kids

Select Mondays at 10:30am:

January 17, January 31, February 14, February 28, March 14, & March 28

Select Thursdays at 10:30am:

January 13, January 27, February 10, February 24, March 10, & March 24

**Ages 2-5 years w/adult.** Join us for storytime at the library with great books, music, movement and beyond! Please make alternate arrangements for other children. 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. In-building programs may switch to remote virtual programs as dictated by local Covid conditions.

For programs in the library, Covid measures will be followed, including masks and social distancing.

## 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 [vkids@rcls.org](mailto:vkids@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: January 12 & March 2

**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.

### DINOSAURS!

Monday, January 24 at 5pm

**Grades 2-5.** How much do you know about dinosaurs? We'll test your knowledge at the library and then join their world in virtual reality.

### CHILDREN'S CRAFTS FOR GRADES K-2

Select Thursdays at 4:30pm: January 20, February 17, & March 17

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

### CHILDREN'S CRAFTS FOR GRADES 3-5

Select Mondays at 5pm: January 31, February 28, & March 21

**Grades 3-5.** Join Ms. Meredith at the library to make a cool craft! Register separately for each session.

### LEGO™ DOTS!

Wednesday, February 2 at 5pm

**Grades 1-5.** Let's build with LEGO® DOTS at the library! Create your own adorable Bag Tag Panda, share it with the group, then take it home!

### WHAT IS THE AURORA BOREALIS?

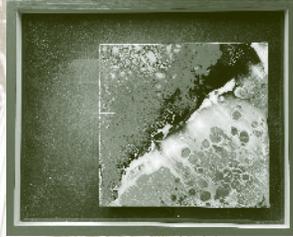
Wednesday, March 23 at 5pm

**Grades K-5.** Come to the library and we'll investigate the science behind the Northern Lights, then make a one-of-a-kind work of art depicting its splendor!

# IN THE GALLERY



December 1-29  
Simon Jeruchim  
"ESCAPE"



January 1-30  
Alan Galy  
Nuanced  
Alternatives

We are currently scheduling artists for 2022. Please contact Caroline Siecke-Pape at [cpape@rcls.org](mailto:cpape@rcls.org) if you are interested in exhibiting your work.

## VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

You are invited to our annual Association meeting scheduled for January 19 at 7:30 pm. Depending on the virus threat this meeting may be held in the library or virtually. A registration link will be posted for a virtual meeting on the library website. [www.valleycottagelibrary.org](http://www.valleycottagelibrary.org).

As an association library, we are a not-for-profit educational corporation supported by the public and administered by a seven-member Board of Trustees. Each year one or two trustees' 5-year terms end at which time the incumbent can run again and an eligible association member can also apply. An eligible association member is any registered voter residing in Valley Cottage. At this time, one seat is open for election; nominations are posted on the library's website. The election will take place at the Association meeting as will a review of the 2022 Operating Budget.

The Library's **budget vote** will take place from **10am-9pm on February 15**. Although Valley Cottage Library is not seeking additional funding from taxpayers, The Nyack Library will be requesting a modest increase to their funding. A **budget information** session will be held on **Tues., February 8, 2022 at 7pm** at The Nyack Library. All eligible voters in the Nyack School District are eligible to vote. As someone invested in the Library's future we hope you'll make a stop at the Library to cast your vote. If you are unsure of your poll location, please call Valley Cottage Library at 845-268-7700 or Nyack Library at 845-358-3370 X 218.

Contact Caroline Siecke-Pape at [cpape@rcls.org](mailto:cpape@rcls.org) to sign up for our weekly email newsletter.

## FOLLOW THE LIBRARY ON SOCIAL MEDIA



## Did you know?

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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

**Amelia Kalin, Director**

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet January 19, February 16, and March 16 at 7:30pm. The public is invited. Visit [valleycottagelibrary.org](http://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

845-268-7700 • [valleycottagelibrary.org](http://valleycottagelibrary.org)

Non-Profit  
US Postage

**PAID**

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:

December 24 – Christmas Eve – close at 1pm  
December 25 – Christmas Day – CLOSED  
December 31 – New Year's Eve – close at 1pm  
January 1 – New Year's Day – CLOSED

## Resident

Closings due to inclement weather will be announced on the library's answering machine (845-268-7700) and our website [valleycottagelibrary.org](http://valleycottagelibrary.org)