Serving the Residents of the Nyack School District

FOCUS Newsletter - Spring 2023

Valley Cottage Library

Curiosity • Inspiration • Connection

Stay up-to-date! Visit valleycottagelibrary.org for new programs & updates or to sign up for our weekly email newsletter.

V = Virtual Program  H = Hybrid Program

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.

Art & Craft Supply Swap
Saturday, May 13
12:00-4:00pm
Do you have so many art and craft supplies that you don’t know what to do with? Bring them to the library and swap them for supplies that you would use or would like to try.

Here’s how it works:

• Drop off your unopened or clean, gently-used supplies from Monday, May 8 through Friday, May 12 in the Library Gallery during operating hours.
• Return on Saturday, May 13, 12-4pm to browse supplies brought in by others, and take home what you want.
• Stick around and chat with neighbors, friends, and other art and craft enthusiasts.
• You do not need to donate something to take something.
• Leftover supplies will be donated to the Nyack Center.

Artists’ Celebration for PFLAG
Rockland’s Rainbow Coloring Book
Tuesday, June 20 at 6:00pm
"Rainbows are for Everyone"

In honor of Pride Month 2023, PFLAG Rockland created a new coloring book with wonderful works contributed from 24 talented artists.

Many of the works includes a rainbow, the symbol of the LGBTQ+ rights movement. The iconic rainbow flag was first created by Gilbert Baker in 1978 and has become the global emblem of the LGBTQ+ community and its proud legacy.

“Rainbows are for Everyone” Coloring Book is great for children and adults. This extra special coloring book features 24 unique designs created by talented local artists that can be found nowhere else.

Please join us to meet the artists, see the coloring book and make a difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

A Note to Our Patrons

On Sunday, February 5th, the extreme cold temperature caused a burst sprinkler pipe resulting in extensive flooding through the adult non-fiction area. The Valley Cottage Fire Department responded quickly which saved the library from even more severe water intrusion. THANK YOU VC firefighters for your fast and capable response.

The great majority of our books were spared. The water severely damaged walls and carpeting.

In the coming months, there will be disruptions to service and increased noise as we repair the library and install carpeting throughout the entire adult area.

Please check our website for announcements of closures that may be necessary to perform all of this work safely.

With this disaster comes opportunity, and we look forward to serving our community with a brand new look on the other side of this challenge.

Christy Blanchette
Director

We want to know!

The Valley Cottage Library is working on establishing a new strategic plan. Help us by completing our short survey. You can find the survey linked on our website or through the QR code below:

Respondents will be entered to win one of five $30 gift certificates to the following Valley Cottage businesses: David's Bagels, Wilma's Tea Cosy, Valley Pizzeria, Aroma Thai, or Dee Maria's.
Scholar Led Book Discussions  THURSDAYS AT 7:00PM

April 13: Mercury Pictures Presents
by Anthony Marra
Led by our scholarly stand-in, Katie Karkheck.

Written with intelligence, wit, and an exhilarating sense of possibility, Mercury Pictures Presents spans many moods and tones, from the heartbreaking to the ecstatic. It is a love letter to life’s bit players, a panorama of an era that casts a long shadow over our own, and a tour de force.

May 11: The Girl With the Louding Voice
by Abi Daré
Led by Vara Neverow, Professor of English at Southern Connecticut State University.

A powerful, emotional debut novel told in the unforgettable voice of a young Nigerian woman who is trapped in a life of servitude but determined to get an education so that she can escape and choose her own future.

June 8: O Pioneers! by Willa Cather
Led by David Turk, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

At once a sophisticated pastoral and a prototype for later feminist novels, O Pioneers! is a work in which triumph is inextricably enmeshed with tragedy, a story of people who do not claim a land so much as they submit to it and, in the process, become greater than they were.

US Citizenship Information Session
Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00pm
Are you interested in becoming a US citizen? Learn what you need to know to become a Naturalized United States Citizen. If you have been a Permanent Resident (“Green Card” holder) for five years and have the ability to speak, read, and write basic English, you may be ready to apply for U.S. Citizenship! Lisa Delmonico from Literacy Solutions, NY will describe what you need to know before applying for citizenship, including the qualifications for applying, the special exemptions, and the obstacles that might come in your way.

Tools for Relaxation and Mindfulness Meditation
Thursdays at 11:00am
April through June
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, the instructor, has been practicing meditation for more than 50 years.

Seed Saving Basics
Monday, May 22 at 7:00pm
Seed saving can be a rewarding garden activity. By saving seeds from your garden, you save money, preserve genetic diversity, experience better flavored crops, and truly connect with your garden. It’s very easy to do with simple everyday tools.

Curious Crafters
Last Monday of every month at 7:00pm
March 27, April 24, and May 22
Looking for company while your hands are busy with yarn or textiles? Join us for a knitting/crocheting/sewing/fiber arts session to share your projects and hang out. All are welcome!

Yarn Therapy
Tuesdays at 11:30am
If you like to knit or crochet, join our “therapy” sessions. Bring your yarn and tools. Come in to knit, crochet, and socialize. Bring friends or meet new people. Yarn donations are greatly appreciated.
**THE BOOK AND PUB CLUB**

**Select Tuesdays at 7 PM**

The Book and Pub Club meets in local bars and restaurants for librarian-led book discussions over food and drinks. For participants 21+.

**April 18:** *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer at Mumbai Dreams, 9 Ingalls St., Nyack

In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer takes us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise” (Elizabeth Gilbert).

**May 23:** *The Cherry Robbers* by Sarai Walker at Prohibition River, 82 Main St., Nyack

Sarai Walker, the acclaimed author of the cult-hit novel *Dietland*, building off the Gothic tradition of Shirley Jackson, brings to life this riveting, deliciously twisted feminist tale, a gorgeous and provocative page-turner about the legacy of male power and the cost of female freedom.

**June 13:** *Siren Queen* by Nghi Vo at El Cúñao, 44 Route-303, Valley Cottage

*Siren Queen* offers up an enthralling exploration of an outsider achieving stardom on her own terms, in a fantastical Hollywood where the monsters are real and the magic of the silver screen illuminates every moment.

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**COOKBOOK CLUB**

*WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00PM*

Join Katie and Ashley for a reprisal of the Cookbook Club - part book club and part potluck. Register and make a copy of your recipe at the Reference Desk. Bring one batch of that recipe to the event and share it with other participants. Have dinner with us and your neighbors while learning how to cook something new. Registration is required and is done in person at the Reference Desk beginning roughly one month before the event.

**Smitten Kitchen Keepers**

*by Deb Perelman*

**April 12**

Here, in her third book, *Smitten Kitchen Keepers: New Classics for Your Forever Files*, Perelman gives us 100 recipes (including a few favorites from her site) that aim to make shopping easier, preparation more practical and enjoyable, and food more reliably delicious for the home cook.

**Snacks for Dinner**

*by Lukas Volger*

**June 14**

In *Snacks for Dinner*, Volger transforms snack spreads that are not only quick to make, but also deeply satisfying.

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**Shelf Indulgence Book Club**

**SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 2:00PM**

New month, new genre! Join Anya and Megan in person OR via Zoom to indulge in a good book while exploring different genres of literature.

**April 11: Thriller**

*Killers of a Certain Age*

by Deanna Raybourn

They’ve spent their lives as the deadliest assassins in a clandestine international organization, but now that they’re sixty years old, four women friends can’t just retire – it’s kill or be killed in this action-packed thriller by *New York Times* bestselling author Deanna Raybourn.

**May 9: Nature Writing**

*Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers.

**June 13: Biographical Fiction**

*The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams.

Set during the height of the women’s suffrage movement and with the Great War looming, *The Dictionary of Lost Words* reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men. Inspired by actual events, the author has delved into the archives of the *Oxford English Dictionary* to tell this highly original story. *The Dictionary of Lost Words* is a delightful, lyrical, and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words and the power of language to shape the world.
Family Programs

Monthly Scavenger Hunt
Ages 12 and under. Win a prize each month for finding the shape 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 to pick up, and send a picture of your completed craft to wclkids@rcls.org to have it posted on our social media! No registration. (Crafts available during library hours, while supplies last.)

Guessing Jar
April & May
Ages 5-11 years. Can you guess the number of items in the jar? Come to the Children's Room and fill out a slip with your contact info as well as your guess! Winners will win a prize and will be announced at the end of the month. No registration.

Movie: Farmageddon, A Shaun the Sheep Movie
Monday, April 3 at 4:30pm
Ages 3 and up. (87 min., Rated G) Watch a movie on the big screen with friends! When an alien with amazing powers crashes on Earth, Shaun the Sheep goes on a mission to shepherd her home before a sinister organization can capture her. No registration.

Caring Cards & Crafts for Memorial Day
May 2-22
All ages. Drop in to make a bunny puppet to use in telling stories! No registration.

Take and Make Crafts
April 3-8
Open Playtime
Mondays from 10:00am-1:00pm
March 27-June 12 (no program May 29)
Ages 5 and under. It's playtime in the Storytime Room, no matter what the weather brings! Meet other local families while you enjoy books, games, toys and puzzles with your little one(s). No registration.

Spring Baby Blossoms
Fridays at 10:30am, April 14 – May 19
Ages 2 -12 mos. or pre-walkers w/adult. Weekly storytime with great books, songs and movement, rhymes & music. Please make alternate arrangements for other children.

Toddlers Tales
Thursdays at 10:30am OR 1:00pm. [Please register for only one time slot.]
April 13 - May 18
Ages 13-35 mos. or walkers w/adult. Weekly storytime with great books, songs and movement, rhymes & music. Please make alternate arrangements for other children.

PreK Storytime
Ages 3-5 years. Children must be 3 years old by the start of the series.
Series I: Mondays at 4:30pm. May 1, 8, 15
Weekly storytimes with great books, songs and a craft! Parents & siblings welcome! Register separately for each series.

Play-Doh™ Math Club
Monday, May 22 at 4:30pm
Ages 3-5 years. Let's have fun using Play-Doh™ to make some favorite Spring things, then we'll share them with the group. We'll also use Play-Doh™ to make patterns and pieces to do some simple math.

Celebrate Earth Day!
April 15-22
Ages 3 and up. Children can drop in all week to use recycled materials to create a colorful collage of something found on the Earth. No registration.

Celebrate National Library Week: “There’s More to the Story”
April 23-29
All ages. Children can drop in to make a bunny puppet to use in telling stories! No registration.

Caring Cards & Crafts for Memorial Day
May 2-22
All ages. Drop in to make a card 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. No registration.

Family Game Night
Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00pm
All ages. Families + Games = Fun. Join us for a night of board games and card games with a variety to choose from.

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

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Programs for Age 5 and Younger

Open Playtime
Mondays from 10:00am-1:00pm
March 27-June 12 (no program May 29)
Ages 5 and under. It's playtime in the Storytime Room, no matter what the weather brings! Meet other local families while you enjoy books, games, toys and puzzles with your little one(s). No registration.

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Ages 13-35 mos. or walkers w/adult. Weekly storytime with great books, songs and movement, rhymes & music. Please make alternate arrangements for other children.

PreK Storytime
Ages 3-5 years. Children must be 3 years old by the start of the series.
Series I: Tuesdays at 10:30am. April 11, 18, 25
Series II: Mondays at 4:30pm. May 1, 8, 15
Weekly storytimes with great books, songs and a craft! Parents & siblings welcome! Register separately for each series.

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The Valley Cottage Library

is a proud champion of Nyack Basics!

PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

**Picture Book Worms:**
**Book Clubs for Grades K-3**

*Select Wednesdays at 4:15pm*
*Books will be available at the Children's Room Desk one week prior to the program.*

**April 12**
*The Crayon Man* by Natascha Biebow, illustrated by Steven Salerno.
We will learn about the invention of crayons and then experiment with colors.

**May 10**
*The Paper Kingdom* by Helena Ku Rhee, illustrated by Pascal Campion.
In this touching story there is paper and there are dragons. So, let’s make a paper dragon!

**Graphic Novel Nation:**
**Book Clubs for Grades 3-6**

*Select Wednesdays at 4:15pm*
*Books will be available at the Children's Room Desk one month prior to the program.*

**April 19**
*Lightfall: The Girl & the Galdurian* by Tim Probert.
In this book we will explore the Land of Irpa and then create our own fantasy landscape magazine collage.

**May 17**
*Aster and the Accidental Magic* by Thom Pico, illustrated by Karensac.
In this action-packed novel, Aster goes on an adventure but not without her sidekick, Buzz. Since we are going on an adventure with her, we will also need a sidekick!

**S.T.E.A.M. PROGRAMS (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH)**

**Symmetry Drawing**
*Ages 5 and up.* Have fun combining art and math as you take a drawing of half an object, try to match it as you complete the other half, then color in your whole picture! Every month the Children's Room will have new symmetry drawings ready for pickup for children to do at home on their own anytime. Send a picture of your completed symmetry drawings to vclkids@rcls.org by the end of that month to have it posted on our social media! No registration. (Symmetry drawings available during library hours, while supplies last.)

**Making Maple Syrup**
*Tuesday, March 28 at 4:30pm*
Grades K-3. Is there anything going on with sugar maple trees in the winter? Lots more than you'd think! Local Master Gardeners will show you how to make maple syrup, then see if you can taste the difference between real maple syrup and other sweeteners. There will be BINGO and other fun activities as well!

**Origami**
*Thursday, March 30 at 4:15pm*
Grades 3-6. Let’s brush up on our folding skills by trying our hands at origami animals, airplanes and more.

**Everything You Need for a Treehouse**
*Tuesday, April 11 at 4:30pm*
Grades 2-5. We’ll read *Everything You Need for a Treehouse* by Carter Higgins, illustrated by Emily Hughes, then put your engineering building skills to work and build your own treehouse!

**Children’s Crafts Program**
*Select Tuesdays at 4:30pm, April 18, May 16*
Grades 1-3. Join Ms. Elizabeth at the library to make a fun craft together! Register separately for each session. [Note—we will get a bit messy so please wear old clothes or bring a smock.]

**LEGO™ Challenge**
*Select Thursdays at 5:00pm, April 20, June 8*
Grades K-5. Come and build with LEGO™ bricks – a different theme each time! Share your creation with the group and then LEGO™s will be displayed temporarily in the library. Register separately for each program.

**Library Mouse**
*Monday, April 24 at 5:00pm*
Grades K-3. It’s National Library Week! We’ll read *Library Mouse* by Daniel Kirk, make a craft, and play a Library Mouse game.

**Spring Activity Sheets**
*Tuesday, May 2 at 4:15pm*
Grades K-5. Word Searches, Mad Libs™, mazes, coloring pages, and more. Let’s bond while we do some fun activity sheets!

**Graph Paper Programming**
*Wednesday, May 31 at 4:30pm*
Grades 2-5. Can you give step by step instructions to help someone draw a picture, just like a computer programmer? We’ll use simple graph squares to learn basic programming skills to reproduce pictures, and have some laughs along the way.

Registration for our Summer Programs, June 17 through September 16, will start on June 1.
Teen Corner
Call or visit valleycottagelibrary.org to register

**Teen Programs are for grades 6-12 only unless otherwise specified.**

**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.

**Teen Movie Nights**
Select Mondays at 6:30pm
Come see some movies on the big screen!
Popcorn provided.

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**Sunday Concerts at 1:30pm**
Registration is required.

**Caryn Block**
April 23
Impressionism: An Exploration in Music, Art, and Literature
Caryn Block will present a live performance and discussion of the Impressionist period composers for the flute, their lasting contributions and finally, twentieth contemporary works for solo flute influenced by this school.

**Trio Cabrini**
April 30
Taking their name from a boulevard in Washington Heights, Trio Cabrini showcases unique and delightful programs highlighting their unusual combination of instruments.

**Marc Berger**
May 7
At this special concert, Marc will perform songs from the album RIDE and share some unforgettable stories about his experiences as an easterner in the Western mountains and desert.

**Doug Munro and La Pompe Attack**
May 21
Lead by guitarist Doug Munro, La Pompe Attack presents an exciting updated interpretation of the hot swing sound of Django Reinhardt coupled with Doug’s own unique and highly entertaining style of playing.

**Middle School Graphic Novel Club**
Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00pm
April 18th, May 16th, June 20th
All middle schoolers are invited to participate in our graphic novel club! We vote for our next read at every meeting and the selections will be posted on the VCL Teens webpage. Snacks will be provided.

**Young Masters Recital Series**
Founded by Carole Brill

**Marie Mayz**
June 11
In September 2022, Marie’s debut album Leo Brouwer: Cuban Sketches for Piano was released by the ZOHO music label, featuring premiere recordings of piano works by Leo Brouwer as well as original compositions and arrangements.

**Virtual Author Talk Series**
Visit valleycottagelibrary.org under the “Events” tab for more information and a complete list of speakers.

Brought to you in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium

- Kate Beaton, *Hark! A Vagrant*
  - Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00pm

- William Kent Krueger, *Fox Creek*
  - Thursday, April 27 at 8:00pm

- Britt Hawthorne, *Raising Anti-Racist Children*
  - Wednesday, May 3 at 1:00pm

- Jena Friedman, *Not Funny*
  - Wednesday, May 10 at 8:00pm

- Courtney Summers, *I’m the Girl*
  - Saturday, May 20 at 2:00pm

**Super Auto Pets Tournament**
Monday, May 15
6:30-7:30pm
Have you played this strategic auto battler with adorable animals? Join us for a super auto tournament and test your skills! It’s free-to-play if you want to get some practice in beforehand! Pizza will be provided.

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<td>Black Panther</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>PG-13</td>
<td>2h 14m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td>Inside Out</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>PG</td>
<td>1h 35m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12th</td>
<td>The Greatest Showman</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>PG</td>
<td>1h 45m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Virtual Author Talk Series**
Visit valleycottagelibrary.org under the “Events” tab for more information and a complete list of speakers.

Brought to you in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium

- Kate Beaton, *Hark! A Vagrant*
  - Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00pm

- William Kent Krueger, *Fox Creek*
  - Thursday, April 27 at 8:00pm

- Britt Hawthorne, *Raising Anti-Racist Children*
  - Wednesday, May 3 at 1:00pm

- Jena Friedman, *Not Funny*
  - Wednesday, May 10 at 8:00pm

- Courtney Summers, *I’m the Girl*
  - Saturday, May 20 at 2:00pm

**Young Masters Recital Series**
Founded by Carole Brill

**Marie Mayz**
June 11
In September 2022, Marie’s debut album Leo Brouwer: Cuban Sketches for Piano was released by the ZOHO music label, featuring premiere recordings of piano works by Leo Brouwer as well as original compositions and arrangements.
Dear Neighbor,

In 2022 the Library made leaps towards returning to full library programming and operations. While the beginning months of 2022 brought Omicron concerns, as we moved into spring and summer programming began in earnest in unrestricted group sizes.

The library and our community responded to the return of large-scale community events such as the Great American Cleanup, the Holiday Craft Fair and our first ever Children’s Clothing Swap.

In-person summer reading programs delighted our children and families and the return of Sunday concerts captivated our audiences with the beautiful sound of live music.

And the library didn’t just stop at returning old favorites, we have been innovating and growing ensuring that we meet new needs. Hotspots were added to our circulating collection and a Scannx machine has become a welcome favorite to many.

The Valley Cottage Library’s participation in a number of outreach events in 2022 such as the African-American Day Parade, Pride Day, a Senior Fair, a poolsid visit at Mountainview Condominiums and a Sustainability Day allowed us opportunities to highlight our services, and offer a personal invite to our community to come on in to the Library.

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
TRUSTEE VACANCY
The Valley Cottage Library seeks a volunteer for our Board of Trustees. Registered voters residing in Valley Cottage may apply for an interview. Submit a resume and letter of interest to vcltrustees@rcls.org.

Valley Cottage Community Cleanup
Show your civic pride and help spruce up your community on Saturday, April 29th* 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.keeprocklandbeautiful.org. Questions? Contact Ashley Maraffino at amaraffino@rcls.org.

* Rain Date: Sunday, April 30 11am-3pm. For other cleanup events around the County, see www.keeprocklandbeautiful.org

Library Hours:
Monday-Thursday
10am-9pm
Friday & Saturday
10am-5pm
Sunday
12-4pm*

Holiday Closings:
Easter Sunday, April 9
Memorial Day observed Monday, May 29

*Sunday Closings beginning June 25 through September 3