



The Nesmith NEWS

December 2020

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From the Director's Desk

*Sylvie Brikiatis,
Library Director*

As we are coming to the end of 2020, it has been the shortest of years and the longest of years. Certainly it has been one for the record books.

This year has brought the retirement of two of our long term, front desk library assistants. We wish both Maureen Kingsley and Cathy Duvé the best in retirement. Maureen will be missed by our Sunday regulars. We will all miss Cathy's gorgeous hand-made decorations which often graced the circulation desk area. We hope to add new staff to the library in the New Year.

Now to address the elephant in the room. The pandemic has presented challenges for all of us. The majority of us have never experienced the like in our lifetimes. Sadly I made the difficult decision to close the building in March, but the staff quickly pivoted and found ways to provide services to the community. Initially we added more digital content to our ebook/audiobook services. As we slowly returned to working in the building, we made all of our materials available to the public by running eve-

rything to a table outside our door. Programming moved to virtual or outside. And eventually we were able to welcome patrons back inside the building, albeit with some minor adjustments (masks, time limits, hand sanitizer, Plexiglas, etc.). We have discovered some great services that will survive this time. Curbside pickup will probably be with us in some capacity from now on. It has been so convenient for so many people. Our mystery bag service has been a great hit. Fill out our online form with a little information, we will do the browsing for you, and you get to pick up a bag full of surprise materials to enjoy.

All of these wonderful things would not have been possible without this wonderful, creative, flexible, and dedicated staff. After the initial shock of our changed circumstances, everyone jumped into planning mode, came up with ideas of how to continue operations as smoothly as possible, used out-of-the-box thinking to pro-

vide a summer reading program for the town's children, and entertaining, educational programs for all ages.

I hope the community will share their stories of this time with us. There is a form on our website, where you can share your personal stories. We will be compiling a history to document this time. I did take a look at the town reports during the flu pandemic in 1918-19. There is only a one line mention by the school district about the impact of the flu. I'm hoping we can leave a better record for future generations about how this pandemic impacted our community.

Here's to a new year, growing and adapting our wonderful services for the community.

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Digital Resources Spotlight: Hoopla

Chelsea Paige,
Social Media / Emerging
Technology Librarian

Nesmith Library cardholders can enjoy items from Hoopla, our digital service, for all sorts of digital reading, listening, and watching. Borrow ebooks, audiobooks, comics, music, movies, and episodes of TV. All items on Hoopla are available all the time with no holds or waitlists, within our limit of four borrows per month per library card (it's a great time to make sure everyone in the family over age five has their own library card!). Visit <https://nesmithlibrary.org/library-cards-lending> for instructions and help signing up for a library card.

You can download the Hoopla app on your smartphone, tablet, Roku, Chromecast, or Alexa, or visit www.hoopladigital.com in the browser on mobile devices or on your computer. You'll be asked to sign up with an email address and password, and then enter your Nesmith Library card barcode number (all together, no spaces) to access Hoopla items.

Please reach out if you would

like help setting up Hoopla or any of our other digital resources. You can email me at cpaige@nesmithlibrary.org, call Nesmith Library when staff are available at 432-7154, or email the general staff inbox at info@nesmithlibrary.org.

Not sure what to start borrowing?

- Hoopla has a [Holidays Around the World](#) collection featuring movies, ebooks, and more for all ages.
- Families can enjoy a collection of [Bedtime Stories](#) ebooks together.
- Hundreds of items are recommended for [Homeschool with hoopla: Grades K-4](#) and [Homeschool with hoopla: Grades 5-8](#), and [Learning with STEAM: Titles for Kids and Teens](#).
- Hoopla features a collection of [Own Voices](#) titles (filter for Children's Only or view the collection for all ages).
- Hoopla's newest items: [Just Added!](#)



December Adult Programming

Maria Schroeter,
Adult Programming Librarian

Happy holidays! Has anyone else noticed all of the early decorating? I'm excited by it! I think we could all use some sparkling lights and joyous spirit a bit early this year. May you all have a peaceful, safe holiday, and cheers to a happy new year and brighter days!

Nesmith Library Book Group

We'll be continuing with virtual programming, except for the Nesmith Library Book Group, who will meet outside at least one more

time (weather permitting). This month we plan on meeting on Wednesday, December 9 at 4:30 p.m., but if another day of the week looks better weather-wise, we'll change the date accordingly. Look for an email from me as the date approaches. When we do meet, dress warmly and bring a lap blanket, if you wish. Oh, and don't forget your mask, please! This month we've been reading *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. If you didn't have

a chance to read the book, no worries! Come to the meeting and start with our next book (title to be revealed shortly!) and mark your calendar; we typically meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. In order to participate, you must have a Nesmith Library card or a card from one of the libraries in our consortium, you need to be over the age of 16, and you must register. Email me at mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org or call me at the library to register.

December Adult Programming Continued

Winter Backyard Birds



Have you been wondering about the feathered friends that you've been seeing at your bird feeder recently? Are you interested in participating in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count? Then join us (virtually) on Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. when we welcome back Steve Hale from Open World Explorers for Winter Backyard Birds! Steve will be using an interactive, bird-quiz format that will enable the audience to test their own knowledge and ask their own follow-up questions, as well as offering identifying tips for common, and not-so-common winter birds. Advice on attracting and feeding birds will also be discussed. The presentation will cover the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count and provide information on how newcomers can participate in a count near them.

Steve Hale holds university degrees in marine biology, evolutionary biology, and ecology. In April 2016, Steve formed Open World Explorers to more fully share his knowledge and experiences in ecology, ornithology, and Earth science, and to help others find personal value in the natural history and landscape of the area.

This online Zoom program is for ages 16 and up, and registration is required. Register online by visiting www.nesmithlibrary.org/calendar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Holiday Gift Tags Craft



With the holidays fast approaching, it's time to think about wrapping, and what does every present need...a gift tag! On Thursday, December 3, we'll help get you started on your gift wrapping with an adult takeaway craft. Included in each bag you'll find the materials to make six paper gift tags. All you need to supply is glue and minimal effort! As a bonus holiday treat, each takeaway craft comes with Lindor truffles, generously donated by Lindt Master Swiss Chocolatiers.

This takeaway craft is for Nesmith patrons ages 18 and up, and no registration is required. There is a limit of one craft per household, and they are only available until our limited supplies run out. Visit anytime during curbside hours (10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.) starting on Thursday, December 3, to pick up your craft. Call us at 432-7154 when you are at the library, and we will put the bag out on the table for you.

American Christmas Traditions

Traditions are a special part of Christmas, but have you ever wondered where our American traditions originated? Why do we kiss under the mistletoe, and why are poinsettias associated with this holiday? On Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m., discover the answers to these questions, along

with the fascinating real-life story of *The Night Before Christmas* (A Visit From St. Nicholas), when we welcome (virtually) Martina Mathisen to bring our shared history to life. Martina, in full period costume, will also entertain us with facts about some of our other American Christmas traditions, including where did the jolly old man in the red suit come from, anyway?



Martina Mathisen is an educational entertainer and an award-winning speaker from Illinois, who has performed at hundreds of organizations and facilities since 2012. A sample of Martina's work can be seen in a video promo for this program on her website: www.martinamathisen.com.

We are happy to be co-hosting this wonderful program with The Windham Historical Society!

This online Zoom program is for ages 16 and up (Santa spoilers!) and registration is required. Register online by visiting www.nesmithlibrary.org/calendar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you have any questions about registration for any of these adult programs, please call the Nesmith Library at 432-7154 or email Adult Programming Librarian, Maria at mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org.

Virtual Events For Children

Azra Palo,
Head of Youth Services

Avatar: The Last Airbender Extravaganza



Pickup: Monday, December 7, all day.

Virtual Event: Thursday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Ages: 7-12 years.

Registration required.

Love Aang and Korra? Then join us for a celebration of all things Avatar! We'll be meeting on Zoom on Thursday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. to do a virtual Avatar: The Last Airbender **escape room!** To complete the Avatar: The Last Airbender Extravaganza, we'll have an accompanying craft that will be available for pick up starting Monday, December 7 during curbside hours (10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.). Registration is required to receive a takeaway craft and to join us on the Zoom. You can register [here](#). Questions? Email Molly at mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org.

Toddler Storytime



Monday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Ages: 18 months to 3 years. with caregiver. Siblings welcome. Registration necessary.

Join us for toddler time with Miss Chris! We will read stories, sing, and maybe dance. This program is for toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years supervised by an adult caregiver. Toddler time lasts approximately 20-25 minutes.

Preschool Storytime

Thursday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Ages: 3-5 years.

Registration required.

It's time for a special holiday-themed storytime! We'll be singing songs and reading books from holiday traditions from all around the world. So join us on Thursday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. You can register [here!](#) Questions? Email Molly at mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org.

STEAM at Nesmith Library

Pickup: Monday, December 14, all day.

Virtual Event: Thursday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Recommended ages: 5+ years. Younger siblings welcome. Registration required.

Pick up your kit supplies starting Monday, December 14! Families will work in teams. Join us on Zoom Thursday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m. to share your creations virtually.

Questions? Email our Head of Youth Services Azra Palo at apalo@nesmithlibrary.org.

Takeaway Crafts

Our takeaway crafts continue into December! Supplies are limited, and they go fast. December will also include a couple of special holiday takeaways, so stay tuned.

Mondays. No registration required. All ages.

Questions? Email our Head of Youth Services Azra Palo at apalo@nesmithlibrary.org.

January Storytime Kits



Pickup: Monday, December 28, all day.

Virtual Events: To be announced.

Ages: 0-5 years.

At the end of November, we introduced our first ever storytime kits!

One storytime kit per family. Please register your family together, and note the children's ages, so that we can provide the age appropriate crafts.

Register for a storytime kit every month and join us virtually for special crafts, storytimes, and more!

Questions? Email Head of Youth Services Azra Palo at apalo@nesmithlibrary.org.

FLOW Bowl-a-thon

Friend of the Library of Windham presents

Bowl-A-Thon Event

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY BOWL-A-THON EVENT
COVID STYLE: MASKS REQUIRED

20% OF THE PROCEED WILL GO TO FLOW FOR THE NESMITH LIBRARY.

RAFFLES, BALLOON TWISTINGS AND THE BAR WILL BE OPEN.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
4 PM - 7 PM
PARK PLACE LANES
16 ROCKINGHAM ROAD
WINDHAM, NH 03087
603-898-4422

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Nesmith Library

8 Fellows Road
Windham, NH 03087

Phone:
(603) 432-7154

Website:
www.nesmithlibrary.org

Open Hours

Monday – Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone Hours

Monday – Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Curbside Pickup Hours

Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Nesmith Library will be
CLOSED
Thursday, December 24
and Friday, December 25
for Christmas. It will also
be closed on Friday, January 1 for New Year.

Dates to Remember

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| 12/1 Virtual Teen Advisory Group, 6:30 p.m. | 12/8 Board of Trustees, 7:00 p.m. | 12/17 Virtual Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Virtual STEAM Sharing, 4:00 p.m. |
| 12/2 Teen December Takeaway Kit, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Virtual Winter Backyard Birds, 6:00 p.m. | 12/9 Nesmith Library Book Group, 4:30 p.m. | 12/21 Children’s Takeaway Craft, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. |
| 12/3 Holiday Gift Tags Adult Takeaway Craft, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. | 12/10 Virtual Avatar: The Last Airbender Extravaganza, 4 p.m. | 12/24 Library closed for Christmas Eve |
| 12/5 FLOW Bowl-a-thon, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. | 12/14 Virtual Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; STEAM Takeaway Kit and Children’s Takeaway Craft, 10 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. | 12/25 Library closed for Christmas Day |
| 12/7 Avatar: The Last Airbender Extravaganza Takeaway and Children’s Takeaway Craft, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. | 12/16 Virtual American Christmas Traditions, 6:00 p.m. | 12/28 Children’s Takeaway Craft and January Storytime Takeaway Kit, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. |
| | | 1/1 Library closed for New Year’s Day |

