From the Director’s Desk

Sylvie Brikiatis,
Library Director

It’s hard to believe that with the close of this year I will have completed my first year as Library Director. And what a year it’s been, with lots of changes in staffing, new programs, and services.

In the spring we said good-bye to long-term librarian Diane Mayr who, over her 30 plus years tenure, filled many different roles at the library from Children’s Librarian to Assistant Director. From all reports she is enjoying her retirement. Nancy Vigezzi was promoted to Assistant Director upon Diane’s retirement and continues her role as Head of Tech Services as well. The Children’s Room staff has new faces with the addition of Azra Palo as Head of Youth Services and Molly Pevna as Youth Services Librarian. As a result we’ve seen lots of new children’s and teen’s programming. Long-time Children’s Librarian Jane McCue will be leaving us this week. A whole generation of Windham’s children have benefited from Miss Jane’s story hours. We wish her well in all her future endeavors. Maria Schroeter moved into the Adult Services positon and has been bombarding us with informative, entertaining, and interesting adult programming. Lastly, Chelsea Paige joined our team in a new position, Social Media/Emerging Tech Librarian. Those of you who follow our social media have seen that she has upped the library game.

We have also introduced a few new services this year. If you have not had the opportunity to try out Hoopla, you don’t know what you are missing! This is a new digital media service that allows you to borrow eBooks, eAudiobooks, eComics, music, TV shows, and movies. Feel free to give us a call or checkout the library website for information on how to use this great new service.

We have also added a few new services to make interacting with us easier. New card holders can now register for a card online and start borrowing e-content immediately, registered programs are migrating to online registration so you can register for programs when it is convenient for you, and we have added a newsletter service called Wowbrary that will send you weekly newsletters about our newest content. The service allows you to customize what you receive.

Lastly, while this is something that is not noticeable, we converted all of our lighting to LED which not only provides brighter lighting in some spaces but will reduce our energy consumption. Here’s to a new year and growing our wonderful services for the community.
Happy Holidays! With such a short time span between Thanksgiving and the holidays this year, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza will be here before we know it. Time to deck the halls, address your cards, and wrap the presents!

On Wednesday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m., we’ll help you decorate with a beautiful wreath craft that will remind you of a winter wonderland! We’ll be using an assortment of ornaments, ribbon, and one unexpected item to construct a fanciful and distinctive wreath. All supplies will be provided, but space is limited, so register early! This program is for ages 16 and up, and registration is required.

Have you always wanted to learn how to knit? Join us for our ongoing workshop. We’ll meet the first Tuesday of every month (December 3, January 7…) at 6:00 p.m. Bring your own needles and yarn, as supplies are not provided. This workshop is for ages 16 and up, and registration is required.

The Hampstead Stage Company will be here Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. to perform Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol. It is the delightful tale of the miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, and his clerk, Bob Cratchit. Through visits from the spirits of the season, Scrooge learns the true meaning of Christmas. All ages are welcome. Seating is limited, and refreshments will be provided. Registration is not required.

We’ve had a great year of programs and crafts, and I look forward to bringing you more fun and exciting events in the new year. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Strawberry Festival 2020 – Volunteers Needed

Planning has begun, and we need you! Attendance at monthly meetings is welcome, but not required.

• Sand Art
• Face Painting
• Balloon Art
• Bounce Houses
• Food

• Music
• Much, much, much more!

The Strawberry Festival is not only one of the largest community events in Windham each year, but it is also the Friends of the Library of Windham’s primary fundraising event. Funds raised go towards library improvements and technology, museum passes, scholarships, children’s programming, and much more.

To volunteer or get additional information, please email flow@flowwindham.org.

Thank you so much for your continued support!
Storytimes for All Ages

Azra Palo,  
Head of Youth Services

No registration is required for any of these storytimes and caregivers must be in the room with their child. There will be no regular storytime Monday, December 23 or Friday, December 27. Questions about storytime? Call us at 432-7154.

**Toddler Time, Mondays 9:30 and 10:30 a.m., Fridays 9:30 a.m.**

Join us for toddler time with Miss Chris! We will read stories, sing, and dance. This program is for toddlers ages 18 months to three years accompanied by an adult caregiver. Toddler time lasts approximately 20-25 minutes with time following the session for play and parent/child social interaction.

**Busy Bees Storytime, Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.**

Busy Bees are welcome to join Azra every Wednesday for baby storytime! Baby storytime is a great way to meet other caregivers and interact in a fun relaxed space as we shimmy, shake, rhyme, read, and more! Caregivers and little ones are given time at the end of storytime to socialize and play. All crawlers and movers (0-18 months) and siblings are welcome to join the storytime.

**Family Storytime, Fridays 10:30 a.m.**

Families of sizes and ages are invited to family storytime with Azra every Friday at 10:30 a.m. This storytime is all about getting up, moving, and music! There will be a story and a craft to go along with it.

A Jolly Good Cheer to December Special Events

Azra Palo

**Eric the Elf’s Lego Party**

Eric the Elf will make his way from the North Pole to share his latest Lego creation at Nesmith Library, Saturday, December 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m. All are welcome to enjoy a delicious hot cocoa bar and treats! Children of all ages can drop in to build with Legos and enjoy crafts in the children’s area. Registration is not necessary and supplies are limited.

**Soothing Santa**

Children of all ages are invited to the Soothing Santa event at the Nesmith Library on Sunday, December 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This calm and sensory-friendly event allows children with all spectrums of special needs to experience spending time with Santa in a comforting environment, before the library opens. Register now by calling the library (432-7154) to sign up for a 15-minute time slot. This program is open to all: you do not need to be a Windham resident to register.

**German Holiday Storytime**

Join local Katie Stapleton for a special German Holiday Storytime at the Nesmith Library on Tuesday, December 17 starting at 4:00 p.m. We will sample holiday treats, listen to stories and songs, do crafts, and more! Storytime guests are welcome to wear their holiday best. All are welcome and no registration is required.

**Hampstead Stage Company Presents A Christmas Carol**

Wednesday, Dec. 18 6:00 p.m.

Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol* is a story that is both timeless and universal. It is the delightful tale of the miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, and his clerk, Bob Cratchit. Through visits from the spirits of the season, Scrooge learns the true meaning of Christmas. In this charming tale, we hope to educate students about the class system of Victorian England and encourage them to help others who are less fortunate. All ages welcome. Seating limited. Refreshments provided.

**Special Storytime: Countdown to Noon, Dec. 27 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Join us for a SPECIAL Family Storytime at the Nesmith Library! On Friday, December 27, starting at 11:00 a.m., this New Year’s themed storytime will feature stories, crafts, snacks, and a ball drop! All ages are welcome and registration is not necessary.

Do you have questions about any of these special events? Email our Head of Youth Services Azra Palo at apalo@nesmithlibrary.org.
Teen Happenings at the Nesmith Library

Azra Palo

Teen Advisory Group
Tuesday, December 3
6:30 p.m.
The Teen Advisory Group (TAG) is a group of teen volunteers who help make the Nesmith Library a welcoming space for their peers. TAG meetings and projects count as community service hours and there will be snacks at each meeting. We will meet the first Tuesday of each month. Questions or want to get involved? Please see Molly in the teen area or email her at mpenva@nesmithlibrary.org.

Fandom Friday
Friday, December 27
3:30 p.m.
We all have a fandom, so why not find others who like the same thing as you! Each month we’ll be celebrating a different fandom from anime to Harry Potter. No registration is required. This is for grades 6-12.

Read-a-Thon
Monday, December 30
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Looking for something fun to do over the school vacation? Come join us for fun, food, drinks, and good reading. The Nesmith Library is sponsoring a teen Read-a-Thon to benefit the Shepherd’s Pantry on Monday, December 30. Teens ages 12-19 can drop in any time between noon and 4:00 p.m. for a bite to eat and spend some time reading to raise money for charity. Read books, magazines, eBooks, comics—anything you want, just read! Stay for a half hour or the entire four hours. It’s up to you. Community service hours have been approved for WHS students, so bring your forms with you. All participants are asked to please bring a donation of non-perishable food items and/or cash donations for the Shepherd’s Pantry. Sponsorships and donations are still being accepted from community members or businesses. If you would like to donate, please contact Teen Services Librarian Molly at 432-7154 or mpenva@nesmithlibrary.org.

Explora

Chelsea Paige,
Social Media/Emerging Technology Librarian

The Nesmith Library website is our home for all kinds of digital content, including program descriptions and registration information, links to our digital reading services, and a host of databases covering our patrons’ reference needs. From test prep, to school research, to language learning and what to read next, we’ve got you covered!

On our Databases page, you can scroll through all of our available options, or narrow the list by various topics. This month, we’re highlighting Explora, a search interface to make research more reliable and streamlined for patrons of any age. Explora for Kids (elementary), Explora for Middle and High School Students, and Explora for Libraries (adults/all ages) can help! Search Explora the same way you would search Google, but rest assured that you are getting the curated primary sources, journal articles, and scholarly research which provides a good foundation for student projects, and informed decisions about relevant topics for those of us not in school anymore. Not everything you find on Google is a reliable resource, but EBSCO and public libraries are making reliable resources easier to access than ever with search interfaces like Explora.
Windham’s Helping Hands “Giving Tree”

Windham’s Helping Hands “Giving Tree” is up at the Nesmith Library. You can help a child in our community enjoy the holidays by simply choosing a mitten from the tree, purchasing the item(s), and returning the gift(s) unwrapped to the library no later than Sunday, December 15. Please help put a smile on the face of a child. We appreciate your support and generosity.

Windham’s Helping Hands is a non-profit 501-3c organization supporting the Windham community.

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Toddler Time, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>Learn to Knit Workshop, 6:00 p.m.; Teen Advisory Group, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Busy Bees Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Winter Wonderland Wreath Craft,</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>12/5</td>
<td>Nesmith Knitters, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Time with Mr. Miloro, 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Toddler Time, 9:30 a.m.; Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Nesmith Quilters,</td>
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<td>12:30-2:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>12/9</td>
<td>Toddler Time, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>12/10</td>
<td>Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00-8:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Busy Bees Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; A Christmas Carol with Hamp-</td>
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<td>stead Stage Company, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>12/12</td>
<td>Time with Mr. Miloro, 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Toddler Time, 9:30 a.m.; Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>12/14</td>
<td>Eric the Elf’s Lego Party, 1:00-3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>12/15</td>
<td>Soothing Santa, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; last day for Giving Tree gifts</td>
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<td>12/16</td>
<td>Toddler Time, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.; Reading Buddies, 4:00-5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>12/17</td>
<td>German Holiday Storytime, 4:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Busy Bees Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; A Christmas Carol with Hamp-</td>
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<td>stead Stage Company, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>12/19</td>
<td>Nesmith Knitters, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Time with Mr. Miloro, 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>Toddler Time, 9:30 a.m.; Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Nesmith Quilters,</td>
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<td>12:30-2:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>12/21</td>
<td>Christmas Eve, library closed</td>
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<td>12/22</td>
<td>Christmas Day, library closed</td>
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<td>12/23</td>
<td>Family Storytime, 11:00 a.m.; Fandom Fridays, 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>12/24</td>
<td>Teen Read-a-Thon, 12:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>New Year’s Day, library closed</td>
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The library will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. It will also be closed on January 1, 2020 for New Year’s Day.