



# The Nesmith NEWS

December 2023

Volume 29

Number 4

## From the Director's Desk

*Sylvie Brikiatis,  
Library Director*

Here is a look at our year in review for 2023. What a year it has been! The theme seems to be updating and renewing.

Our brick walkways received a facelift and were relayed in May. The community was so patient and understanding with our almost daily changes in service levels during the construction. Who knew the pandemic would be excellent training for operating a building during a construction project? In total we had to close the building entirely on only one occasion. If you purchased a new brick or had an existing brick and still have not had a chance to scope out their locations, come on by before there is snow and ice covering the bricks.



Our teen area has received a much needed makeover with new furniture, carpets, a café style bar with charging ports, and a study pod, thanks to a Gold Award Girl Scout project by Eleni Mouyos, donations and fundraising by the Friends of the Library, the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), Windham Endowment, and DMC foundation.

Our catalog also received a facelift this year. The new interface is much more engaging, interactive, and easier to use. New public computers were installed and we continue to update all of our web-based services.

This year has also brought an unprecedented amount of change to our

staff as well.

We said good-bye to Kirsten Rickershauser in our Children's Room. She moved on to a wonderful full-time position at another library. Our other children's assistant, Chris Savukinas, retired. Replacing Miss Kirsten and Miss Chris are Courtney Wason and Kristina Young! Chelsea Paige moved on to another opportunity, and Stephanie Rinehart joined us just in time to help us with communicating all the changes to the building and services. No honeymoon period for her! Patrick Lord has taken a supervisor position at another GMILCS library but will stay on with us for the weekends. Vickie Freeston returns to our staff to pick up the hours that Patrick dropped. Nancy Vigezzi, our award winning Head of Technical Services/Assistant Director, is retiring at the end of November after a long career in libraries. We were fortunate to have her for her final 8 years. We wish her a fantastic retirement.

Sadly, we lost Elaine Rittenhouse who passed away after a short illness. Elaine had been with the library for 30 years. We all will miss her smiles and kindness.

It has been a very busy year. We are on track to break circulation and program attendance highs for our library. As my fifth year draws to a close as Library Director, I continue to be so grateful for the support that this community shows our library.

It is a pleasure working with this great staff, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library volunteers, and the countless other volunteers who give of their time to make the library a wonderful community asset.

We all look forward to serving our entire community in 2024!

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## December Adult Programming

Maria Schroeter,  
Adult Collection Development and  
Adult Programming Librarian

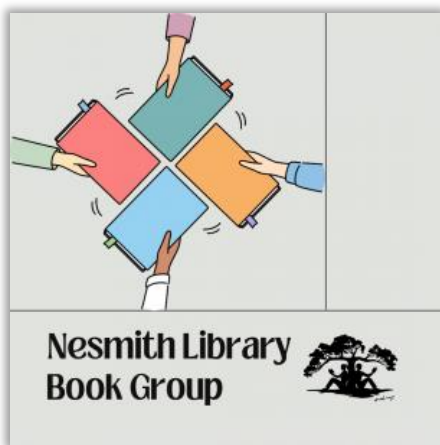
Happy holidays! I hope everyone experiences a little more sparkle and a little less stress this December...and squeezes in a little reading time!

### New Book Releases



In book publishing news, the highly-anticipated historical thriller, *The Frozen River*, by Ariel Lawhon (author of *Code Name Helene*) will be published on Dec. 5; and just in time for January resolutions, *Dinner Tonight: 100 Simple, Healthy Recipes for Every Night of the Week* will release on Dec. 26, and *Sugarless: A 7-Step Plan to Uncover Hidden Sugars, Curb Your Cravings, and Conquer Your Addiction* will be out on Dec. 19. All of these are already listed in our catalog and are ready for you to put on hold. If you need help putting an item on hold, just give us a call and we can walk you through it or do it for you.

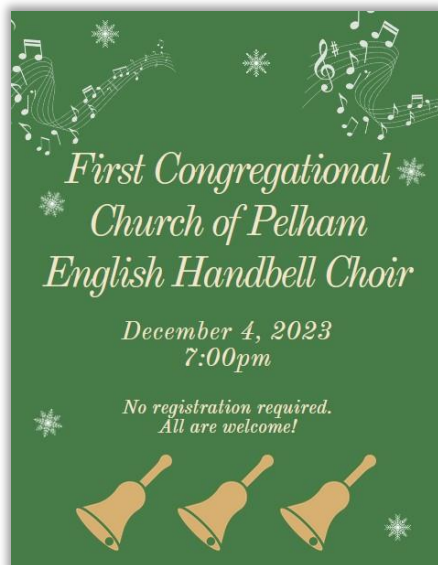
### Nesmith Library Book Group



The Nesmith Library Book Group will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:00 p.m. Currently, the book group is

not accepting new members, and the waitlist is full. However, if you are willing to travel down the road a bit to the Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson, they have 6 different book groups that are open to all, and they welcome Nesmith patrons! Find out more at [www.rodgerslibrary.org/book-groups](http://www.rodgerslibrary.org/book-groups).

### English Handbell Choir

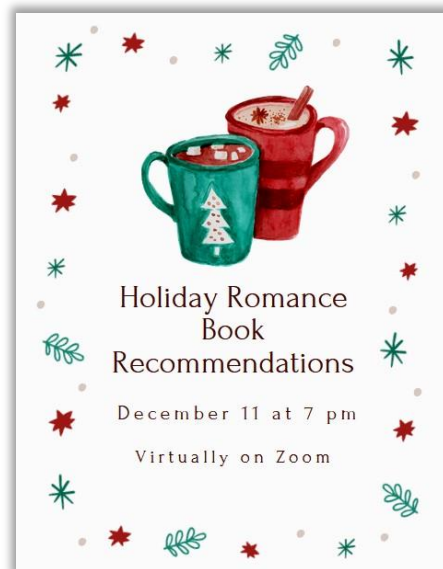


Join us on Monday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m., when the First Congregational of Pelham English Handbell Choir rings in the Christmas season with a concert of holiday music. This popular annual event has become a holiday tradition at the library, and we hope you can make it a part of your holiday season too. No registration is required, and all are welcome!

### Holiday Romance Book Recommendations

With the holidays right around the corner, take some time to relax and find some good holiday romance reads! On Monday, Dec. 11 at 7:00 p.m., John Charles will be joining us virtually via Zoom to give us his "best of 2023" list that will have your To-Be-Read pile tipping over and your holidays spent cozying up to a good

book. Bring your hot beverage of choice, but no need to bring papyrus and quill, we'll send out a list after the session. We hope you can join us! This event is presented in conjunction with Ashland (MA) Public Library.



After working in public libraries for 30 years, John Charles retired and then immediately went to work for the Poisoned Pen, Scottsdale's independent bookstore. In addition to reviewing for *Booklist* and *Library Journal*, John is the co-author of *Romance Today an A to Z Guide to Contemporary American Romance Writers*, *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Mystery*, and *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Ultimate Reading List*.

Adult programs are for ages 18 and up (unless otherwise noted) and registration is required. To register for these programs, visit our Events Calendar at <https://nesmithlibrary.org/calendar>.

For more information on any of these programs, or if you have any questions, please contact Maria at [mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org) or call the library at 603-432-7154.

## Teen Happenings

Molly Pevna,  
Teen Services Librarian

Don't be a cotton headed ninny muggins and miss all of the things we have going on in the Teen Department this month!

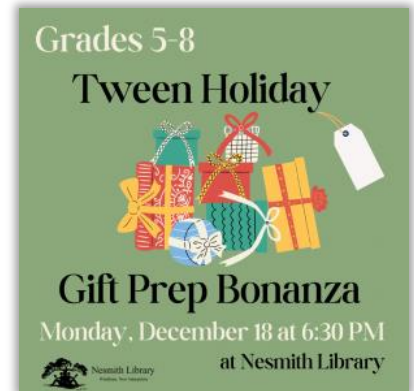
Have you always wanted to enter your plant mom era, but knew it would end badly? Now is your time with our **Teen Paper Succulent Takeaway Craft**, happening on Wednesday, Dec. 6. This one won't die because paper is already dead.

Are all of your friends home from school but you don't want to plan an entire get together? Don't worry, we have one already planned for you. Join us for the **Second Annual Teen Holiday Party** on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m. We're even doing a \$5 white elephant gift exchange for those that would like to participate. But you can also just come to eat cookies.



Our **Teen Advisory Group** meeting for this month will be happening on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to learn more about TAG, you're welcome to join us. If you're stuck on what to buy for

everyone this year or haven't had the time, now is your chance. Come to our **Tween Holiday Gift Prep Bonanza** on Monday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. Those in grades 5-8 are invited.



Questions? Please call the library at 603-432-7154 or email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).

## Special Events for Children

Azra Palo,  
Head of Youth Services

### Children's Mini "Gingerbread" Houses



Thursday, Dec. 14  
6:00 p.m.  
4-11 years. Registration required.

Young patrons ages 4-11 are invited to sign up for making their own gingerbread house on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6:00 p.m. We will provide the graham crackers, frosting, candy, and more. We ask that participants arrive promptly at 6:00 p.m. in order to have the full experience. Patrons are only required to bring their creativity for this fun winter holiday event. Registration opens up on Thursday, Nov. 30. Food will be part of the program, so please email Azra if you have any allergy concerns. Questions? Email Azra at [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Holiday Takeaway Craft

Monday, Dec. 18  
9:00 a.m.  
All ages. No registration.  
December is here with some

merry and cheer! Let's celebrate with a fun craft. Stop by Nesmith Library on Monday, Dec. 18 for a special holiday craft. They will be available while supplies last. Questions? Email Azra at [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org).



## December School Vacation Week

Azra Palo

### December Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, Dec. 26 – Saturday, Dec. 30  
All ages. No registration.



Nesmith Library Youth Services staff challenge you to complete our Scavenger Hunt, celebrating December Vacation Week! Children ages 0 to 12 can visit the Children's Room accompanied by a caregiver from Tuesday, Dec. 26 through Saturday, Dec. 30. Turn in your completed sheet to receive a small prize at the children's desk.

No registration is required, and prizes are available while supplies last. Questions? Email Azra Palo at [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Lego Drop-in

Tuesday, Dec. 26  
3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Ages 4-11. No registration.



We're hosting a special December Vacation Week Lego Drop-in at Nesmith Library, for children ages 4 to 11! There will be a prompt or two to explore, but the creativity is up to you. No registration is required, just drop by Nesmith Library on Tuesday, Dec. 26 between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. to explore with Legos.

Participants will have the option to display a Lego creation for the week in the Children's Room.

Caregivers must remain in the library while children are participating in the event. Children 5 and under must have a caregiver in the room with them. Questions? Email Azra Palo at [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Kids' Comic Club

Wednesday, Dec. 27  
2:00 p.m.  
Ages 6-11. Registration required.



Special daytime winter break edition of our popular monthly Comic Club! Inspired by the Cat Kid Comic Club graphic novel series, we invite elementary-aged comic fans to join us for our super fun monthly Nesmith Kids' Comic Club!

Each month we'll share what comics or graphic novels we've been reading, what we like (or don't) about them, and we'll work on creating our own awesome comics! Come ready to chat, draw, share, and collaborate.

This event requires registration

with your Nesmith Library card and registration opens on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Questions? Email Courtney at [cwason@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:cwason@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Preschool Painting: Messy Art Morning!

Thursday, Dec. 28  
10:30 a.m.  
Ages 3-5. Registration required.



Wondering what to do with all that creative energy over winter vacation? Join us at this special art event for preschoolers on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 10:30 a.m.

With the goal of exploring different tools, colors, and techniques, children ages 3 to 5 will use aluminum foil as their canvas to create a beautiful wintry painting to take home that day. Everyone's will be different and unique – we're here to have fun, get messy, and be creative! Children should wear play clothes – something they don't mind getting a bit painty!

Caregivers must be present with child throughout this event. Registration is required due to limited supplies, and it opens Thursday Dec. 14. Questions? Email Courtney at [cwason@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:cwason@nesmithlibrary.org).

## Monthly Children's Programs

Azra Palo

### Little Explorers

Saturday, Dec. 2

10:30-11:30 a.m.

1-3 years. No registration.

Toddlers are natural scientists, always curious about the world around them. This program includes sensory bin fun for toddlers ages 1 through 3 (and their caregivers) to explore the 5 senses together. Drop in anytime on Saturday, Dec. 2 between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. to squish, pour, smell, stretch, and listen to gentle music, while you meet other local families and have fun together! Siblings welcome. Questions? Email Courtney at [cwason@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:cwason@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Drop-in Paper Tree Craft



Wednesday, Dec. 13

3:30-5:00 p.m.

All ages. No registration.

Drop in for a winter themed craft on Wednesday, Dec. 13 between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Children ages 0 to 12 are invited to create a mixed medium tree that will be perfect to give to a friend or family member, just in time for the holiday season! No registration required. Questions? Email Azra at [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Create Club

Saturday, Dec. 16

2:00 p.m.

6-11 years. Registration required.



Children ages 6 to 11 can make art at Nesmith Library's Create Club on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 2:00 p.m. This

month we will be creating a flurry of snowflake art projects. Every snowflake is unique, including your child's creation. We will be creating watercolor resist and up-cycled puzzle piece snowflakes. Caregivers are welcome to join in or sit it out, but they must remain in the library as the children are participating in the event. Registration opens up on Sat., Dec. 2. Questions? Email Kristina at [kyoung@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:kyoung@nesmithlibrary.org).

### December STEAM

Thursday, Dec. 21

6:00 p.m.

6-11 years. Registration required.

During our monthly STEAM program, children learn about the world that we live in through science and art exploration. These hands-on activities are often messy and always fun! This month we will be learning about snow and making our very own melted snowman. Young scientists ages 6 to 11 are invited to register for our December STEAM program at the Nesmith Library on Thursday, Dec. 21 starting promptly at 6:00 p.m. This event requires registration with your Nesmith Library card. Registration begins Thursday, Dec. 14. Questions? Email Azra Palo at [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org).

## Storytimes

Azra Palo

### Toddler Storytime

Monday, Dec. 11 and Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 10:30 a.m.

18 months to 3 years. Registration required.

Caregivers with children ages 18 months to 3 years are invited to sing, dance, and follow along to stories and songs, Monday, Dec. 11 or Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 10:30 a.m. We ask that patrons choose only one day of the week to attend. Siblings are welcome. Registration is for the entire session. Questions? Email Kristina at [kyoung@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:kyoung@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Baby Storytime

Wednesday, Dec. 13

10:30 a.m.

0-18 months. No registration.

All babies and their caregivers are invited to join us Wednesday, Dec. 13 for Baby Storytime! Starting at 10:30 a.m., we will have stories, songs, dancing, and more for ages 0 to 18 months. Siblings are always welcome. Questions? Please email Courtney at [cwason@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:cwason@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Preschool Storytime

Thursday, Dec. 14

10:30 a.m.

3-5 years. Registration required.

We are inviting our young friends to join us for Preschool Storytime! On Thursday, Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m., Courtney will lead us in a fun storytime for ages 3 to 5 including songs, stories, and crafts. This is an independent storytime. For more info about our Preschool Storytime, please email Courtney, [cwason@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:cwason@nesmithlibrary.org).

**FLOW** Friends of the  
 Library of Windham

## 2023 WINTER BOOK FAIR

<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>12/6/23</b> 2:30pm-7:30pm (FLOW Members, Teachers and Senior Citizens only)</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY</b> <b>12/7/23</b> 11:00am-7:30pm</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY</b> <b>12/8/23</b> 11:00am-4:30pm</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY</b> <b>12/9/23</b> 11:00am-3:30pm</p>
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Come support your local library and peruse a large selection of children and adult books and media, including games and puzzles.

Multipurpose Room, Nesmith Library  
 8 Fellow Road Windham, NH  
[flowwindham.org](http://flowwindham.org)



## Nesmith Library

8 Fellows Road  
Windham, NH 03087

Phone:  
(603) 432-7154

Website:  
[www.nesmithlibrary.org](http://www.nesmithlibrary.org)

Twitter: NesmithLibrary  
Facebook: nesmithlibrary  
Instagram: nesmith.library

Library Director:  
Sylvie Brikiatis

### Service Hours

Monday – Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Nesmith Library will be closed Sunday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 25 for Christmas and Monday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.



## Dates to Remember

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|--|---|--|
| <p>12/2 Little Explorers, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>12/4 English Handbell Choir, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/6 Teen Paper Succulent Takeaway Craft, all day; FLOW Winter Book Fair Preview Day, 2:30-7:30 p.m.</p> <p>12/7-9 FLOW 2023 Winter Book Fair, 11:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>12/11 Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Library Board of Trustees, 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Virtual Holiday Romance Book Recommendations, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/12 Toddler Time, 10:30 a.m.; Teen Advisory Group, 6:30 p.m.</p> | <p>12/13 Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Drop-in Tree Craft, 3:30-5:00 p.m.; Library Book Group, 6:00-7:30 p.m.</p> <p>12/14 Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11:15 a.m.; Children's Mini Gingerbread Houses, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/16 Create Club, 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/18 Children's December Holiday Takeaway Craft, all day; Tween Holiday Gift Prep Bonanza, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>12/19 Second Annual Teen Holiday Party, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>12/21 Nesmith Knitters, 12:30-2:30 p.m.;</p> | <p>December STEAM, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/24 Library Closed</p> <p>12/25 Library Closed</p> <p>12/26 December Scavenger Hunt, all day; Lego Drop-in, 3:30-5:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/27 December Scavenger Hunt, all day; Children's Comic Club, 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>12/28 December Scavenger Hunt, all day; Preschool Painting, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>12/29 December Scavenger Hunt, all day</p> <p>12/30 December Scavenger Hunt, all day</p> <p>1/1 Library Closed</p> |
|--|---|--|