

Greensboro Free Library

News and Notes from GFL

Fall/Winter 2020



Thank You

Thank you to our patrons and supporters, near and far. Because of you we have kept our doors open and the books and information flowing when so many other touchpoints in life seem to have fallen away.

We are particularly grateful we can provide a positive and familiar space for our youngest and oldest patrons in this time of uncertainty. A smile, an outdoor gathering with new friends and old, and a kind word or note all lifted the spirits of so many these past months. We are reminded of the ties that bind our community.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors over the years. Your support through funding, volunteering, and cheerful encouragement has made it all possible.

We thank you.

Collective Art Creates Unity Clay Tile Mosaic Gathers Community Together

On three sunny fall days, 15 students gathered at GFL to create art and build connections. Local artist Emma Podolin shared her love of working in red clay, “the people’s clay,” as she called it. The children absorbed Emma’s knowledge of sgraffito, appliqué, and surface design techniques and applied it to their own individual tiles.

While Emma is “amazed witnessing how children work so differently,” the tiles came together into a seamless mosaic. Kids have “an endearing natural gravitation toward working together,” Emma noted. As she further explained, “the project came about from a desire to gather.”

Working with GFL and WonderArts, Emma and the team decided on a three-part, outdoor class. After two working classes, 45 people gathered at GFL to listen to music and enjoy local autumn treats as they placed the tiles into a mosaic “representing unity in a time of disconnect.” The children then took their tiles home.

Emma noted, “As we head into colder weather when gatherings will become more rare, the tiles will serve as a keepsake of the project. It is as if parcels of our community are distributed to each home.”

Thank you to WonderArts for partnering with GFL on this project.



Students with tile mosaic.
Photo by Vanessa Fournier.



Emma in her studio.

GFL Needs You!

Through donations from supporters like you, GFL continues its mission to provide resources and programs for lifelong learning and access to the world of information.

Please send your check in the enclosed return envelope, visit us on the web at www.greensborofreelibrary.org/support for easy online giving, or contact Becky Arnold about legacy planning.

What's New

Discovery Kits

Want to learn more about genealogy? How about frogs or space or puppetry? Our popular Discovery Kits make it happen with all-in-one kits for you to check out and explore. Search the GFL catalog (keyword: Dkit) for a full list. Curious about a topic you don't see on our list? Contact GFL's Youth Services Librarian with your ideas. We're adding new kits all the time!

Kanopy Films

GFL proudly brings you "thoughtful entertainment" with our new on-demand film service. Kanopy offers thousands of independent and foreign films, Great Courses, documentaries, Kanopy Kids, and more. Register for free access on our website using your email and library account.

SOAR

Sharing Our Amazing Resources (SOAR) supports your academic enrichment and home-schooling. Our team of experienced educators and homeschoolers will answer questions and connect you with the right materials. Visit the GFL website for meeting schedules and a set of community-based, collaborative resources.

Outside, Online, and At Home New Twists on Library Programming

Take it outside, take it online, or take it home—that's library programming in pandemic times. GFL hosted art, music, and theater in our backyard; took our book discussions, author talks, poetry readings, and storytime online; and offered take-home activity kits for families who suddenly found themselves homebound. Our staff packed bags of books for curbside pick-up and deliveries to the Greensboro Nursing Home and Four Seasons of Early Learning. Many patrons received a delicious piece of cheese with their books, thanks to the generosity of Jasper Hill Farm.

In collaboration with the Greensboro Historical Society, we



Josh Gould and Justin Lander bring music to GFL's backyard.



Modern Times Theater at GFL in July.

Photo by Vanessa Fournier.

offered a history walk with over 20 signs posted around the villages of Greensboro and Greensboro Bend, highlighting local lore and architecture. In addition, our story walks gave our youngest patrons a chance to walk and read treasured picture books. To round it all out, a teen volunteer created an art walk with prints of classic American paintings, which were displayed outside at GFL and explained in a take-home guide.

We look forward to a return to more in-house programming. In the meantime, we are pleased to offer outdoor, online, and at-home options.

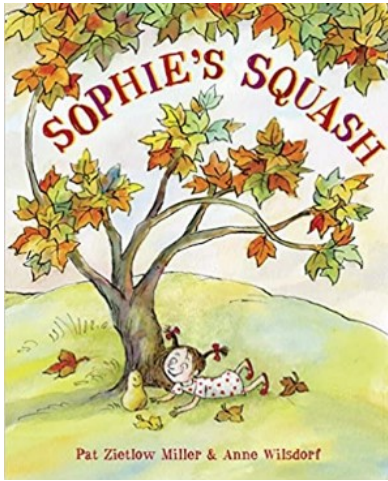
Interlibrary Loans: A World of Books

Interlibrary loans are now more convenient with new direct delivery. Each week, a courier arrives at GFL with books from around Vermont and beyond. From our website, you can search for books in our state network and submit an easy online form to request your titles.

Not sure what you want? Our librarians will help you find just the right resource from any library in the country. This service is free to our patrons and is funded in part by a grant from the Vermont Department of Libraries and the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

A Squash Named Emily?

GFL's REACH into Lakeview Elementary School



"These moments represent everything that's great about being a teacher and a librarian!" —Emily Purdy

Each week, GFL Youth Services Librarian Emily Purdy packs up books and activities, and occasionally even some vegetables, to engage with local students at the REACH After School Program at Lakeview Elementary School. Recently, the book *Sophie's Squash* by Pat Zietlow Miller was a runaway hit, inspiring both laughs and more serious conversations.

In this charming book, Sophie and her family pick up a squash at the farmers' market. Sophie's mom wants to make supper, but Sophie wants to make friends. Soon Sophie and her squash, Bernice, are inseparable, enjoying library storytime, tea parties, and sleepovers together.

In connection with the book, Emily brought each student a squash donated by Salvation Farms. The kids found the idea of a squash friend quite amusing, and the concept was a springboard for

exploring themes of friendship, growing up, and life's transitions. "Their insights and comments continue to amaze me. I am grateful to share in their world for a little bit each week," said Emily. "I was so touched when two kids named their squashes Emily! We all felt so connected by the end of the afternoon."

The REACH program, directed by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, serves five area schools. We are thankful that GFL is welcomed to serve the community in this way.

Coming Up

For up-to-date event information, check out our Facebook page and website calendar, sign up for email updates, and watch for postings on Front Porch Forum and around town.



Festival of Light

Enjoy the light and warmth of the holiday season with outdoor displays and celebrations in Greensboro village. The festivities will be brought to you in collaboration with WonderArts and other local organizations.



Project Postcard

Join fellow armchair travelers for our winter writing project. Participants will receive a batch of postcards from around the world to research, write, and send. Dream of far-off places, make new friends, and brighten someone's day. Made possible in part by a grant from the Greensboro Association.

Hafta-Have-a-Halloween Festival



Halloween celebration.

Photo by Vanessa Fournier.

GFL joined with local organizations including Modern Times Theater, Greensboro United Church of Christ, Spark, and the Highland Center for the Arts, with support from the Greensboro Association, to bring the Hafta-Have-a-Halloween Festival to Greensboro. Over 130 children and their families gathered to enjoy warm food, sweet treats, and entertainment.

Looking Good!



We've used the relative quiet of pandemic times to tend to housekeeping. On your next visit, check out some of our latest projects to make your library shine:

- new exterior paint
- new, partially enclosed entrance ramp
- new exterior signage
- hot water tap in the restroom

Coming soon...

- convenient new drop box for returns
- expanded book sale
- improved displays

Flexibility. Creativity. Collaboration.

A Note from GFL's Director Paula Davidson

Knock, knock. Who's there? GFL, that's who! Thanks to the consistent support from our donors, volunteers, and library community we have proudly continued serving our patrons throughout the pandemic. With extra safety precautions in place, our doors have been open during our regular hours since July. A steady stream of grateful patrons checked out books, enjoyed outdoor programs, retreated to a quiet space for a job interview, taught and attended online classes, and even recorded a violin recital and a puppet show.

Flexibility, creativity, and collaboration have been the keys to success during this time of both challenge and opportunity.

Like most organizations, our year did not go according to plan. In many important ways, it has been even better. Anticipating patrons' needs while responding to evolving health and safety guidelines required us to focus on what is most important: connecting with the community. Our library is an essential part of the community web that stretches to support people in new ways, catches hold of new ideas, and connects people even when they cannot gather together. Thank you for being a part of our web!



Our librarians: Mackenna Lapierre, Emily Purdy, and Paula Davidson



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Read a book. Watch a movie. Ask a question. Learn a skill. Meet a friend.