

Director's Corner

Happy New Year VPL Patrons!

Each January presents us with a fresh start and opportunities to reflect upon our current situation and future goals. We symbolically close the chapter of the prior year and get the chance to do it all over again.

I encourage you to consider this time as a time of new beginnings and as an opportunity to perform your own wellness check-up/assessment, rather than imposing resolutions. We can look at ourselves with kind eyes and ask how am I working to be my best self in the following areas:

- **Mentally** - What is something new that I would like to learn this year?
- **Emotionally** - How can I manage my stress and focus more on self love and self care?
- **Financially** - What can I do differently to make better financial decisions this year?
- **Physically** - How can I appreciate my body in a mindful and healthy way?
- **Nutritionally** - How can I be more mindful of how I fuel my body and mind?

One thing my family is doing to be more mindful of our screen time is establishing "Wireless Wednesdays" and "Family Fun Fridays". As a family, we agreed on Wednesdays to do something analog (either alone or as a group) such as: read a book, do a craft, play a game, or work on a puzzle. On Fridays the intent is to do an activity together that is hopefully not spent in front of the TV or on our electronic devices, however family movie night is still a fun idea.

The Vestal Public Library offers a variety of resources that you can borrow to help you address any of these topics. We would love to hear what you are doing to make healthier and more wellness focused choices. Happy New Year from the Vestal Public Library, we wish you a year full of wellness!

- Paul K. Chapman - VPL Director

Last Month at VPL

EVERY CAT'S DREAM

VPL's partnership with Every Cat's Dream began in the summer of 2022 with Kitten Yoga. We wanted to work with a local shelter, and ECD was a puuurfect match!



ECD had just lost their home at Petco and moved to a smaller space at Dickin Memorial Animal Hospital in Endicott. The shelter is a 100% volunteer operation that supports a Trap, Neuter, and Release method of care. Since Kitten Yoga, VPL partnered with Every Cat's Dream for *Fall in Love with Felines Storytime*, *Cats & Cookies*, and a *Holiday Cat-tacular Shop*. The community showed their incredible support with donations and adoptions at the events. Even though adoptions do not happen at the events, those interested may start the process by filling out an application when they meet the kitties. At least 15 cats have been adopted directly through our partnership! Community support is integral to the foundation of Every Cat's Dream. You can contribute by donating food and litter from the ECD wish list, submitting monetary donations, or dropping off cans and bottles at the Dickin Memorial can and bottle drive on 2001 East Main St. Endicott. Find more events on Every Cat's Dream Facebook page and check the VPL monthly calendars for future team-ups.

- Becky P. - Collections and Programming

LEGO CLUB

Kids ages 7 -12 can join us on the first Tuesday of each month for LEGO Club from 4:00 - 6:00 PM! Each month we will build new LEGO creations. Creations are put on display on the library's website!



Meet the Staff - Linda

For this month's staff highlight, we are introducing **Linda Greene**. This month marks Linda's 20th anniversary working at the Vestal Public Library in the Youth Services department. During her spare time, Linda enjoys thrifting and participating in the choir at the Most Holy Rosary Church. In her youth, she enjoyed spending in nature— hiking and camping. When she is reading, she is usually found enjoying a historical fiction novel, memoir, or biography. When asked about her favorite part of working at VPL, she said that she enjoyed “helping kids and parents,” which is why she has remained in Youth Services, despite being offered a position at the front desk.



Displays

We have several new displays for January! Our main display features books by debut authors. Debut authors offer fresh voices and new perspectives in the landscape of publishing. In another display, we've highlighted a selection of self-improvement books for the new year. This selection includes topics such as physical and mental wellness, learning new skills in language or DIY crafting, and other related topics. Additionally, we have a display that highlights gothic fiction, and the masters of the genre. Gothic literature combines different dark elements giving an air of mystery and horror.

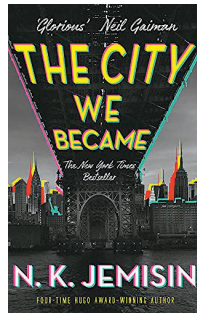
- Emily W. - Adult & Teen Librarian

Book Review

The City We Became - N.K. Jemisin

The City We Became is a refreshing contemporary fantasy set in the City That Never Sleeps™. New York City is not just a concrete jungle but a living organism. Six chosen people embody what it means to be New York City and seek to defend it from the otherworldly Woman in White. While the book is a bit lengthy, Jemisin's writing style flows well and makes the pages fly by. Readers and New Yorkers can unite over Jemisin's diverse cast of characters and accurate depiction of the variety of New York City.

- Kelly C. - Marketing and Outreach



Club Highlight

Game Night - Third Thursdays at 6PM

Game Nights @ VPL began in the summer of 2022. After many requests for a game night, we launched a monthly community board game night with game recommendations from an expert board gaming family. The library provides a variety of games, and participants can bring their favorite games to share. We have a steady monthly turnout with several families as well as lots of individuals who are new to the area. If you are looking for an easy, fun, free way to engage with your community, join us on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM September through June.



Upcoming Events

- JAN 23** **Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs**
6 PM - In Library
- JAN 24** **Java Joe Jammers - Live Music**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 25** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
10:30 AM - Virtual
- JAN 26** **Tiny Tot Playtime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- Pins & Needles**
6 PM - In Library
- Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- Dungeon Master Class FULL**
6 PM - Conference Room
- JAN 30 - FEB 4** **Book Sale**
Starts 1PM on Monday 1/30
- JAN 30** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM - Meeting Room
- JAN 31** **Shelf Love: Teen Book Club**
10:30 AM - Meeting Room
- FEB 2** **Dungeon Master Class FULL**
6 PM - Conference Room
- FEB 6** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM - Meeting Room
- Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs**
6 PM - In Library
- FEB 7** **Lego Club (ages 7-12)**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- FEB 8** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- Elementary STEAM**
4:30 PM - Meeting Room
- FEB 9** **Tiny Tot Playtime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- Pins & Needles**
6 PM - In Library
- Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- Dungeon Master Class FULL**
6 PM - Conference Room
- FEB 13** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM - Meeting Room
- Top Shelf: Cookbook Club**
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- FEB 14** **Mad for Art**
6 PM - All Virtual
- FEB 15** **Shelf Indulgence: Book Club**
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- FEB 16** **Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- Dungeon Master Class FULL**
6 PM - Conference Room
- Game Night**
6 PM - In Library
- FEB 22** **Spark Joy - Instructional Event**
7 PM - In-Person or Virtual

For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Program Highlights

A Big Thank You From Tiny Tots!

Thank you to the VPL Friends of the Library, library patrons, and the Vestal community for donating to the Tiny Tot Storytime & Playtime toy collection. We offer Tiny Tot programs to our youngest patrons, ages 0-3. Tiny Tot programs promote and assist the development of social, emotional, and physical skills. Just in January, Tiny Tot programs averaged 23 participants. The contribution of new and gently used toys guarantees enough for everyone and provides a variety of stimulation. Thank you for helping our littlest library patrons! Tiny Tot programs are on Thursdays at 10 AM. The next session begins March 16!

-Molly Creveling, Youth Services Librarian

Displays

Fall in love on a blind date this February! Browse the selection of wrapped books on the main display table and pick a genre or clue that tugs at your heartstrings. Not a reader? We have romantic comedy DVDs on display too!

Additionally, VPL is celebrating Black History Month with multiple displays that highlight Black Authors and History. Visit the new fiction, new non-fiction, youth services, and YA display tables to read and learn more about Black Experience and perspective.

- Kelly C. - Marketing & Outreach



Last Month at VPL

Top Shelf: Cookbook Club

In January, we hosted the first meeting of Top Shelf, a new cookbook club. Participants are encouraged to find a recipe that meets the chosen theme, prepare it, and bring it to the club meeting for others to try. Top Shelf is an opportunity to sample new food, swap recipes, and talk about cooking and food. In January, the theme centered around comfort food. One participant, Ramona Lena, brought in a family favorite that is a staple in her home called Sicilian Potatoes and Ditalini.



The theme for February's meeting is Sweet Confections, and March is You Say Potato. Limited space is available. Those interested in participating can sign up online.

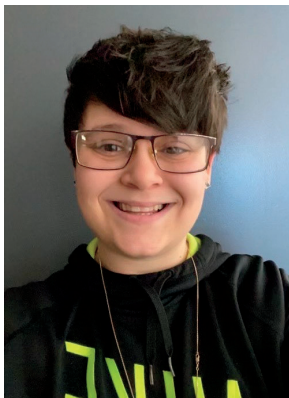
Sicilian Potatoes + Ditalini Recipe

- 1 red onion chopped
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 1/4 lb. yellow potato, peeled & cut 1/4" cubes
- Cayenne pepper
- Coarse salt
- 3 cups chicken stock, divided
- 1 cup ditalini
- 2 tbsp parsley
- 1/4 cup fresh cheese

Cook onion in oil for 10 minutes on medium heat. Add potatoes, cayenne, and salt. Cook for 1 minute. Add 2 cups of chicken stock and bring to a boil. Simmer until tender. Add ditalini + 1 cup of chicken stock. Bring to a boil, cover, and turn off heat. Let sit for 15 minutes. Stir in parsley and cheese. Drizzle with olive oil.

Meet the Staff - Ashley

When you walk into the Vestal Public Library, one of the first faces you'll see is Ashley DeFlippo, Circulation Manager. Ashley has been a faithful part of the Vestal Public Library for eleven years. When she's not at the library helping patrons, she's usually spending time with her grandfather, family, or walking her dog Louie. She also occasionally enjoys playing video games, or reading books by her favorite author, Angie Thomas. Her favorite shows to stream right now are Big Sky and 9-1-1 Lonestar. Her love for Vestal is no secret— she explains, "My grandmother was the Circulation Manager before me, so I am proud that she passed down the keys to me. I love the community, and I love the patrons. You get to see families and children grow up— it's amazing. I am also proud to be a Golden Bear more than anything."



Directors Corner

LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY FEBRUARY 28, 2023

♥ Love is in the air, and VPL encourages you to participate in Library Advocacy Day on February 28, 2023, to show your love for our local public libraries. More details: nyla.org/nyla-advocacy-day-2023/

Here are a few more ways to be a Library Advocate all year long:

- Contact your local representative and urge them to support library funding
- Join the Friends of VPL Group - vestalpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-library
- Volunteer at VPL - vestalpubliclibrary.org/volunteer-vpl
- Provide constructive feedback to help VPL serve our community better - VPL Community Survey -
- Attend Board Meetings or become a VPL Board of Trustees Member - vestalpubliclibrary.org/board-of-trustees
- Visit VPL as much as possible to use our materials, programs, and services

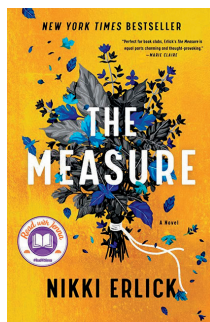
- Paul K. Chapman - VPL Director

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Book Review

The Measure by Nikki Erlick is a thought provoking novel that makes the reader question how they would spend the remainder of their lives, if they were to know precisely when it would end. In this debut novel, everyone in the world wakes up one day to find a box on their doorstep containing a length of string which correlates to the amount of time they have left on earth. For those choosing to open the box, learning whether they are a "short-stringer" or "long-stringer" impacts their life and relationships in varied and unforeseen ways. The availability of this knowledge also raises questions regarding an individual's right to privacy, the right of the government to compel key employees to disclose their life expectancy, and whether political candidates should be required to divulge this information to voters. I enjoyed following the lives of the characters throughout this book as they navigated their new realities, and pondering what I would do if I were in their shoes.

- Melanie Niermeyer
Office Manager



Upcoming Events

- FEB 20** **Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs**
6 PM - In Library
- Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- FEB 21** **Bookaneers (ages 7 - 9)**
4:30 PM - Meeting Room
- Read It & Eat (ages 10 - 13)**
4:30 PM - Conference Room
- FEB 22** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Conference Room
- I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
10:30 AM - Virtual
- Spark Joy - Instructional Event**
7 PM - In-Person
- FEB 23** **Pins & Needles**
6 PM - In Library
- Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- FEB 24** **The Cazenovia Convention (BHM)**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- FEB 28** **Shelf Love: Teen Book Club**
4 PM - Meeting Room
- Java Joe Jammers**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 1** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 2** **Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 3** **Teen Night - Movie**
3 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 6** **Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs**
6 PM - In Library
- MAR 7** **Lego Club (ages 7-12)**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 8** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Conference Room
- MAR 9** **Pins & Needles**
6 PM - In Library
- Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 10** **Harry Potter Trivia**
5:30 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 13** **Top Shelf: Cookbook Club**
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- MAR 14** **Mad for Art**
6 PM - In-person or Virtual
- MAR 15** **Shelf Indulgence: Book Club**
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Conference Room
- MAR 16** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- Game Night**
6 PM - In Library
- MAR 18** **Gardening Club - Seed Starting**
11 AM - Meeting Room

Program Highlights

Preschool Storytime is Back in April!

Spring has sprung, and Preschool Storytime (kids ages 4 - 6) starts on Monday, April 10. We have had such an amazing response to our past storytimes that we are now scheduling two sessions (@ 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM) to make room for everyone! Stop by the Youth Services Desk before storytime to pick up your required storytime & craft ticket (kids ages 4 - 6). Storytime & Craft Tickets are required and will be available half an hour before each Storytime Session. Doors open ten minutes before each Storytime Session. Tickets ensure everyone gets a seat on the carpet and that we have enough activity supplies! Storytime & Craft tickets are for kids ages 4 - 6 only. Kids outside the 4 - 6 age range are welcome to listen to the story but will not receive a craft. (See a VPL staff member for an alternative activity).

-Molly Creveling, Youth Services Librarian



Last Month at VPL

We're all mad here... Mad for Art! VPL's Mad for Art classes are held on the second Tuesday at 6 PM. Each class features step-by-step instructions for a chosen art or crafting project for Adults and Teens.

Recent projects include; watercolor jellyfish (Jul), felt petal sunflower (Sep), book folded witch (Oct), macrame leaf tapestry (Nov), embroidery bookmark (Jan), birch tree collage (Feb), and paint pour triptych (Mar). You can sign up online two weeks before the class and attend in person at the library or virtually. Virtual attendees receive basic supplies for the project. All classes are free, but donations are always accepted. Be on the lookout for a take-and-make project in April and new projects in May, June, and July!

-Kelly Cargill, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator



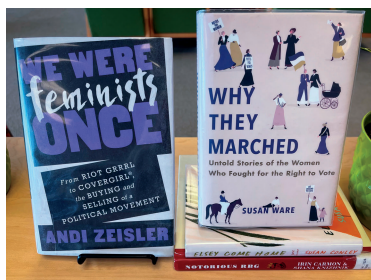
Meet the Staff - Melanie



Melanie Niermeyer has been the Vestal Public Library's office manager for four years. She is the go-to woman for chocolates and expert spreadsheet help. Her favorite part of working at the library is the people, the books, and how "every day is different." When she isn't crunching numbers, she can be found enjoying walks outside or relaxing at Cayuga Lake with a good book. When asked what she's currently watching, she mentioned she's "very excited for *Ted Lasso* Season 3, which comes out this month!"

Displays

We are highlighting *Women's History Month* in March! Our main display table features fiction and nonfiction titles from women throughout history and literature. You will find similar books in the YA section (*Girl Power*) and the Youth Services department (*HERstory & Girls Power*). The main display in Youth Services is *Loads of Luck*. Make your own luck and find all the hedgehogs in Youth Services to win a treat! Additional displays are on the New Fiction and New Nonfiction shelves. New Fiction features *Stories from the Green Isle: Celebrating National Irish-American Heritage Month*. New Nonfiction hosts our *Notable History: National Parks* and the protection of Yellowstone National Park which began on March 1, 1872.

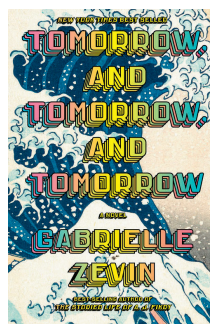


Book Review

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow, simply put, is about two friends making a video game together. On a grand scale, this book encapsulates the complexity and nuances of the human experience. It isn't just about two friends making a video game, but about love and friendship— and everything that exists within it and outside of it. While this book felt incredibly heavy, there was pleasure and enjoyment in the most mundane moments, much like life itself.

- Emily Wilson

Adult & Teen Collections &
Programming Librarian



For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Upcoming Events

- MAR 20** **Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs**
6 PM - In Library
- Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 21** **Bookaneers (ages 7 - 9)**
4:30 PM - Meeting Room
- Read It & Eat (ages 10 - 13)**
4:30 PM - Conference Room
- MAR 22** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 23** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- Pins & Needles**
6 PM - In Library
- Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 24** **Harry Potter Trivia**
5:30 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 27** **Partner Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 28** **Shelf Love: Teen Book Club**
4 PM - Meeting Room
- Java Joe Jammers**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAR 29** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
6 PM - Virtual
- MAR 30** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- APR 1** **Spring Artisan Market & Photos**
11AM - 3PM - Meeting Room
- APR 3 - APR 8** **Book Sale**
Starts 1PM on Monday 1/30
- APR 10** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
- Top Shelf: Cookbook Club**
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- APR 11** **Lego Club**
4 - 6 PM - Meeting Room
- APR 12** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
- FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Conference Room
- APR 13** **Tiny Tots Playtime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- Pins & Needles**
6 PM - In Library
- Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- APR 17** **Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- APR 19** **Save, Spend, Share with Visions**
4:30 PM - (Ages 6-12) Meeting Room
- APR 20** **Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- Game Night**
6 PM - In Library
- APR 22** **Seedy Saturday - Earth Day**
11 AM - VPL Reading Garden

Program Highlights

Seedy Saturday - Earth Day Celebration
VPL is celebrating Earth Day 2023 with our annual Seedy Saturday. For the third year in a row, we are offering a seed, seedling and perennial swap where people can bring their plants and leftover seeds to share. We are also partnering with Neighborhood Forest for the 2nd year in a row! Neighborhood Forest offers free trees to families and children who pre-registered online in March. Families can pick up their trees at Seedy Saturday, and we look forward to collaborating with Neighborhood Forests in the future. The Vestal High School's Interact Club will join us as we ready the gardens for the summer. Volunteer opportunities in the gardens begin on Seedy Saturday, but we are grateful for help through the spring and summer!

-Becky P. -

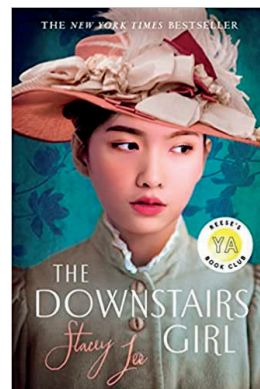


Book Review

The Downstairs Girl - Stacey Lee

The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee is a young adult historical fiction novel. This story highlights issues such as having no voice and the challenges of racial and gender issues. Seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan is a Chinese American living in Atlanta, Georgia, in the 1890s'. Let go from her job at a milliner's shop because she was a "saucebox," Jo is now forced back into taking a maid job for a spoiled rich teen. Jo and Old Gin, who she affectionately thought of as "grandfather," have always lived secretly in the basement below a newspaperman's family and their business. Jo discovers that the family above them might lose their home and business, as the newspaper is not doing well, and they may have to close. Jo is inspired to write a column for the newspaper to help them build their readership. Her column, "Dear Miss Sweetie," becomes the talk of the town for its modern and controversial opinions. Meanwhile, in her daily life, Jo struggles to survive. Don't be deterred from this heartfelt and compelling story because it is a YA novel.

- Molly C. - Youth Services Librarian



Last Month at VPL

Thank you, SUNY Broome Students of MUS 113 and SUNY Broome Chamber Singers, for *The Cazenovia Convention*! VPL is grateful to have hosted your educational musical presentation on Friday, March 17. Despite needing to postpone, the performers did not skip a beat! If you missed the presentation at VPL, you can catch it for a Juneteenth celebration on June 16 at the Phelps Mansion Museum and June 17 at the National Abolition Hall of Fame in Peterboro, NY. These students did a fantastic job; 10/10 recommend!

-Kelly C. - Marketing and Outreach Coordinator



Meet the Staff - Marilyn



Marilyn Young has been a library clerk at VPL for 15 years, working at both the Adult and Youth circulation desks. Her favorite part about working at VPL is the people. "I love the people on both sides of the counter, both my coworkers and the patrons. Book people are just good people." From a young age, Marilyn took inspiration from books, specifically Beverly Gray Girl Reporter! Before entering the library world, Marilyn worked as the first female investigative reporter in Broome County at the Press & Sun Bulletin. "You have to have an inquiring mind!" she says. Marilyn's favorite movie is *Gone with the*

Wind, and her favorite book is *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. *Boys in the Boat* is about a rowing team in the 1936 Olympics and is "a phenomenal true story that is beautifully written and packed full of information about overcoming adversity." When you see Marilyn at the desk, ask what she is reading now or "what's the scoop?" and she will be happy to tell you!

Displays

This month we are featuring Love Your Library at our main display table! This display features books about books, libraries, and anything literary in-between. Over on New Nonfiction, we have Financial Literacy, which has books on managing and improving personal finances. On the New Fiction display, we're celebrating National Poetry Month with a diverse selection of poetry from a variety of authors. A National Poetry display is also featured in the Youth Department. Additionally, the Youth Department is celebrating the warmer weather with books about Spring! Over in the YA section, we have Book Tok recommendations – which feature trending books on TikTok. - *Emily W.*
- Adult & Teen Librarian

Thank you Paul!

It is with a heavy heart that we announce Paul Chapman's departure from Vestal Public Library. During his three years as VPL's Library Director, Paul orchestrated many positive changes to our library, both seen and unseen. While we are sad to see him leave, we are grateful for his vision, hard work, and support for the Vestal community. Best wishes and positive vibes in the next stage of your journey, Paul.



Thank you for everything!

For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Keeping Up with the Librarians

Not only is it important to weed your gardens, but it is also important for librarians to weed their collections! To maintain the health of a library collection, librarians will routinely pull and discard materials based on the publication date, condition of the item, and its overall popularity and community interest. The weeding process also helps remove old/outdated information and frees up shelf space for newer books. However, this doesn't mean that we are throwing away classics! This also gives librarians a chance to see if well-loved copies need a replacement or quick repair. For more information, please visit the American Library Association's website on Collection Maintenance and Weeding: ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/weeding

Upcoming Events

- APR 24** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
Movie Monday
3 PM - Meeting Room
- APR 25** **Java Joe Jammers - Live Music**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- APR 26** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Conference Room
I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club
6 PM - Virtual
- APR 27** **Tiny Tot Playtime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- APR 29** **Every Cat's Dream**
11 AM - 3PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 1** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs
6 PM - In Library
- MAY 2** **Lego Club (ages 7-12)**
4 - 6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 3** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 4** **Yin Yoga**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 8** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
Top Shelf: Cookbook Club
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- MAY 9** **Mad for Art**
6 PM - Hybrid
- MAY 10** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 11** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 13** **BookFest @ Discovery Center**
11 AM - 12:30 PM
- MAY 15** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs
6 PM - In Library
VPL Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 17** **Game Night**
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Shelf Indulgence: Book Club
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- MAY 18** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
Vestal School District Art Show
5 PM - 7:30 PM

Program Highlights

Summer Reading Program

It's almost summertime, and the annual Summer Reading Challenge is just around the corner! The Summer Reading Challenge encourages reading for all ages and provides community engagement through events and programs. **Forge New Paths** by trying the many activities offered through VPL, such as guided hikes, geocaching, family camp-in, storytimes, and many other offerings this summer! Summer Reading Challenge for all ages runs June 26 - August 11. The last day to submit reading logs and punch cards is August 21.

- Molly C. - Youth Services Librarian



Last Month at VPL

Thank you to all of our friends who came out for Seedy Saturday! We gave away 25 trees from Neighborhood Forest, many



plants, seedlings, and seeds. The Vestal High Schools Interact Club and library patrons came to volunteer to weed and mulch in our Story Garden. Moving into the summer, we would like to invite volunteers to "Adopt a Section" of the garden to care for. We will have group gardening days and have people work on their adopted section in their free time. We could not do what we do without our volunteers. Thank You so much!

-Becky P. - Volunteer Coordinator



Book Review

Fifty Haiku - Kent Harris

After reading this book, I wrote the below Haiku.

*A story of life
Time seems to pass so quickly
I've had a good life*

What is Haiku? It is a form of poetry which describes a moment in time – it can be elusive if you don't record it quickly as it is simply what is happening in this place at this moment and usually in nature, but not always. The Haiku format is simple – there are no more than 17 syllables within three lines. Typically the first line of Haiku has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables and the third has 5 syllables.

This book is 15 years in the making. The author had written these individual Haiku over the years, keeping them "stuffed in a journal not knowing what to do with them." Then one day he decided to randomly put them in what he considered an interesting order to create his book, not realizing what its ultimate purpose would be, other than a collection of Haiku. The title tells you how many Haiku are in the book – 50 – each one is numbered. The book was published in Japan and as you read this work notice the special paper fold along with its unusual binding. However, it wasn't until I spoke with the author regarding his work stating "This is your life, thank you for sharing it with me". His thoughtful response, "I never realized it before your comment—it is my life and I've had a good life!"

I challenge you to read this quick and powerful book—and then write your own Haiku, your own story!

- Jeannette G.
- Interim Director



Meet the Staff - Jeannette

Jeannette Greene is the Vestal Public Library's Interim Director. She has worked at VPL as a part-time reference librarian for ten years and has an expansive background in Educational Administration. When she isn't at the library helping patrons, she enjoys decorating, landscaping, crafting, and reading. Jeannette is currently reading *In Order to Live* by Park Yeonmi. She said, "Since I've been in Education for 38 years, I've read a lot of professional journals. So now I like to read a lot of fiction and biographies." When asked what her favorite part of working at VPL was, she said, "My favorite part is working with people— both staff and patrons. Everybody comes in here with different questions, concerns... My whole life, I've worked with students, staff, and community members. Talking with and helping people has been my whole life."



Displays

May is Asian American & Pacific Islander month - we are celebrating with our main displays in the Youth department and Circulation display table! It is also Jewish American Heritage Month, so check out a selection of Jewish authors on the New Fiction display. Books for Mental Health Awareness Month are featured on our New Nonfiction display. Finally, the Youth Department would like to say, "May the 4th be with you," with a display featuring books about space and, of course, the beloved series Star Wars!

- Emily W. - Adult & Teen Librarian

VPL Patron Love

Vestal is a diverse community and libraries are for everyone. We are always excited to meet new people from new places at the library. This past month we got to talk with residents who originate from Nepal. Pictured below, Kasumi, Nandimaya, and Deurupa Dhakal with Linda Greene.



For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Keeping Up with the Librarians

As of May 1, 2023, the OverDrive app was discontinued. Users are encouraged to continue using their library's digital content through Libby. The developers who created OverDrive have taken the best parts of OverDrive to create a new and improved user experience with Libby. Libby is available on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. If you need assistance connecting your library card account to the new Libby app, get in touch with one of the librarians— we would be more than happy to help!

- Emily W. - Adult & Teen Librarian

Upcoming Events

- MAY 22** **Movie Monday - Auntie Mame**
3 PM - Meeting Room
Sound Bath
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 23** **Java Joe Jammers - Live Music**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 24** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
- MAY 25** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- MAY 26** **American Red Cross Blood Drive**
11 AM - 4PM - Meeting Room
- MAY 27** **Artisan Market**
9AM - 2PM - Outside
- MAY 29** **VPL CLOSED**
Memorial Day
- MAY 31** **I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
6 PM - Virtual
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 1** **Tiny Tot Playtime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- JUN 3** **Every Cat's Dream**
10 AM - 1PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 5** **Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs**
6 PM - In Library
- JUN 6** **Lego Club (ages 7-12)**
4 - 6 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 7** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 8** **Tiny Tot Playtime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- JUN 10** **Local Author Con/Meet & Greet**
12 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 12** **Top Shelf: Cookbook Club**
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- JUN 13** **Mad for Art**
6 PM - Hybrid
- JUN 14** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 15** **Tiny Tot Playtime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- JUN 19** **Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs**
6 PM - In Library
VPL Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 20** **Sound Bath**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 21** **Game Night**
6 PM - In Library
Shelf Indulgence: Book Club
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- JUN 21 - JUN 24** **Book Sale**
Starts 11AM on Wed. 6/21

Program Highlights

Summer Reading Program

Summer is practically here, and that means the Summer Reading Program is about to begin! This year's program theme, "Forging New Paths,"



focuses on nature and outdoor activities. Our summer events are not just for kids and families but adults too! Check out the Artisan Market, Book Club, Mad 4 Art, or any events listed as 'All Ages.' Some topics you can find for All Ages programs include: learning about honey & bees, geocaching, plant identification and foraging, backyard birding (including a guided bird watch hike at Waterman's Center), Kopernick's portable planetarium will cover navigating by stars, a talk and demonstration about pond ecology and clean water with Cornell Cooperative Extension, and more! Make sure to grab a summer calendar with the scheduled events, and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details about our upcoming summer programs!

- Molly C. - Youth Services Librarian

Last Month at VPL

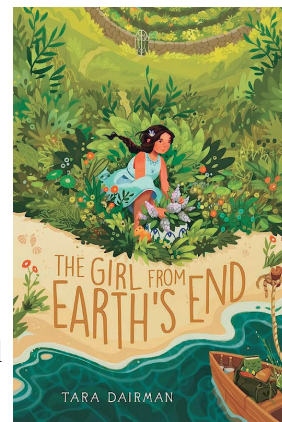
The first VPL Artisan Market of the summer was on Saturday, May 27, from 9 AM - 2 PM. We had 15 vendors sell their creations. You can shop at future Artisan Markets on Saturday, July 1, and August 19. There are plenty of interesting items available like lawn ornaments, jewelry, pet beds, photography, candles, birdhouses, woodworking, and more. VPL artisan markets happen in tandem with the Vestal Farmers Market, so be sure to check out what fresh produce, baked goods, preserves, meats, and dairy are available from our local farmers.

-Kelly C. - Marketing & Outreach Coordinator

Book Review

The Girl from Earth's End - Tara Dairman

Imagine an island called Earth's End—a remote island where the only contact with the outside is a monthly visit from an orange mail boat—formerly a transport for the renowned oranges once grown on the island before the blight that wiped out all but one tree. As an infant, Henna arrived as an unexpected package to the only inhabitants of the island.



Her two papas have very different personalities. Niall is an artist and homemaker and Joachim, a fisherman and an organizer keeping them to a daily schedule. Henna becomes a plant expert experimenting with different locations, soils, compost and nutrients that would help the plants thrive.

Finding that her dear Papa Niall is very ill and believing that there is a unique plant (the Nightwalker) that would cure him, she embarks upon a quest to recover it. She learns of a seed repository at St. Basil's, a botanical school for girls, applies and is accepted. There she rooms with P (or Pierre or Pierrette) who is resourceful and often sneaky, and Lora, a wheelchair-ridden (though wishing to be more independent) daughter of a wealthy opportunist. Though having different motives, the trio teams up to find the elusive Nightwalker seeds.

Though a book for 8-12 year olds, it includes a roster of complex characters (and their motives are not as clear-cut as they seem) as well as themes of botany, art, mystery and humor.

- Marcia C.

- Youth Services Clerk

Meet the Staff - Morgan

Morgan Baran has worked at VPL for nine years as a page, clerk, and now as VPL's Acquisitions and Processing Specialist! When you see new materials, know that Morgan has played an integral part by ordering and processing those items. When asked what she loves about VPL, she said, "The books are my favorite aspect of working here, especially since I get to see all the new materials." She also loves interacting with patrons on the rare occasion she is at a desk. When she's not at the library, Morgan enjoys walking and likes to read when she has free time. "I'm currently rereading the YA series *Caraval* by Stephanie Garber and watching *Naruto: Shippuden* with my husband."



Displays

June is here— which means it's Pride Month! You can check out a variety of LGBTQ+ authors on the main display table. Following the theme of inclusivity, the main display in the Youth Department is "Libraries are for Everyone." Since it is National Outdoor Month, the other Youth display features books about outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, and other related activities. We have a selection of historical nonfiction titles pertaining to the British monarchy to commemorate the coronation of King Charles over on the New Nonfiction. To complement the nonfiction display, we have royal historical fiction on the New Nonfiction shelf!

- Emily W.

- Adult & Teen Librarian



For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Keeping Up with the Librarians

One of the ongoing projects at the Vestal Public Library is stickering! We are labeling books with genre stickers to make it easier for patrons to browse books of a specific genre. This can include mystery, romance, suspense, horror, fantasy, etc. While we make progress daily, there are many books in the collection that have yet to be stickered – so if you're struggling to find something to read, please ask one of the librarians or staff for a recommendation!

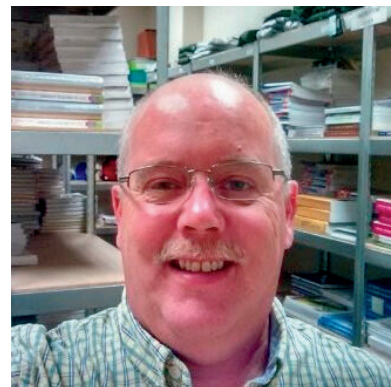
- Emily W. - Adult & Teen Librarian

Upcoming Events

- JUN 19** **VPL Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 20** **Sound Bath**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 21** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Board Game Night
6 PM - In Library
- JUN 26** **Movie Monday - Mrs. Doubtfire**
3 PM - Meeting Room
- JUN 28** **I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
6 PM - Virtual
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 1** **Artisan Market**
9AM - 2PM - Outside
- JUL 4** **VPL CLOSED**
Independence Day
- JUL 5** **Reader's Theater**
1:30 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 6** **Park Storytime @ Arnold Park**
10:30 AM - Off Site
Geocaching Demo & How To
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 7** **In Library Storytime**
10:30 AM - Youth Service Dept.
Stuffed Animal Sleepover
9 AM - 4 PM - Stuffy Drop Off
- JUL 8** **Kopernik Portable Planetarium**
12 PM - Meeting Room
Stuffed Animal Sleepover
10 AM - 3 PM - Stuffy Pick Up
- JUL 10** **Sensory Time: Fishing**
10-11:30 AM & 4 - 5:30 PM
- JUL 11** **Elementary STEAM**
2 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
Mad for Art
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 12** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
Reader's Theater
1:30 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
Elementary STEAM
6 - 7 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 13** **Park Storytime @ Arnold Park**
10:30 AM - Off Site
Reverse Tie-Dye
5 - 7 PM - Outside
- JUL 14** **In Library Storytime**
10:30 AM - Youth Service Dept.
Reverse Tie-Dye
3 - 5 PM - Outside
Flora Plantium
6 - 7:30 PM - Outside
- JUL 17** **Sensory Take & Make**
Pick Up at Youth Services 1 PM
VPL Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 18** **Elementary STEAM**
2 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
Sound Bath
6:30 PM - Meeting Room

Meet the Staff - VPL Director Michael Herman

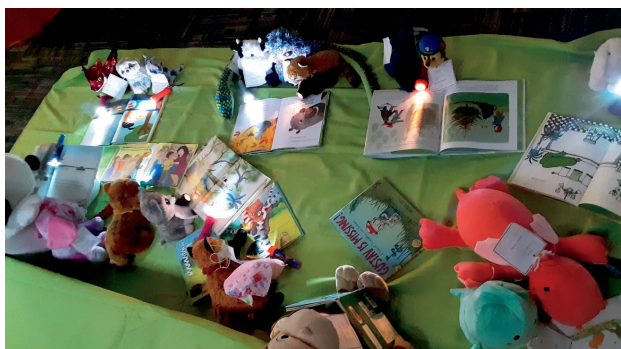
The Vestal Public Library Board of Trustees and staff welcomes Michael Herman as our new Library Director. Michael brings many years of library experience in various capacities to this position. Michael started at VPL less than one month ago, on Monday, June 26. He is relocating to the Southern Tier area with his wife, Nora, and their dog after living in South Carolina. They are excited to be back near their extended family in Corning and Lake George, NY. "I play golf, read, and follow the NY Mets, Buffalo Bills, and F1 racing. I also like working on projects around our house." We asked Michael what he is currently reading, "I'm reading The Kydd Series by Julian Stockwell and lots of information on operations at the Library." He also likes Suits on Netflix, old movies on TCM, and watching Jeopardy with his wife. So far, Michael's favorite part of working at VPL is getting to know the staff and exploring the capabilities and potential of the Library. Welcome to VPL Michael! We look forward to this new chapter as we strengthen our commitment to serving our community.



Program Highlight

We just had our second Stuffed Animal Sleepover here at the library! We had 20 stuffed animal friends spend the night at the library. Stuffed animals enjoyed playing, reading, and to keep with the Forging New Paths summer reading theme, we had a campfire. Miss Molly held a fireside storytime and read "Stuffie Sleepover at the Library," written by local author Lenora Riegel. Stuffie friends also enjoyed s'mores for a snack and slept in a tent! Check out the photos from our Stuffed Animal Sleepover on our Facebook page. Stay tuned for our next sleepover coming up in the fall!

- Molly C. - Youth Librarian



Book Review

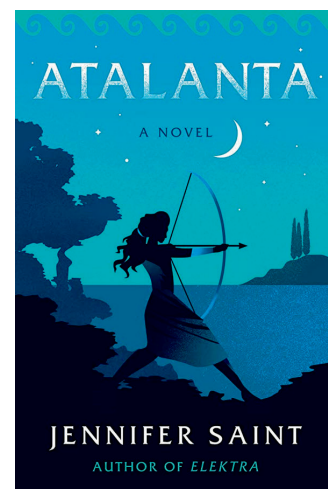
Atalanta by Jennifer Saint

Atalanta is a retelling of the Greek heroine, Atalanta.

While many have heard of Greek heroes such as Odysseus and Achilles, Saint focuses on the overlooked and unsung women of Greek myths and legends. Atalanta is no exception – she was raised

to be a protege of the goddess Artemis, and sent on a mission to retrieve the Golden Fleece. Atalanta's strength and athleticism rivals even the mighty Herakles, and she reminds readers that nobody can define who you are or what you can and cannot achieve.

- Emily W. - Adult & Teen Librarian



Displays

Summer has officially started at VPL. This year, our theme is Forging New Paths. The main displays in both the main library and the Youth Department have books on a variety of topics, such as field guides for plants and wildlife, sustainability, ecology, off-grid living, camping, etc. Over on the New Nonfiction display, we have Masters of the Grill, which features cookbooks all about grilling – the unofficial cooking pastime of the summer season. Over on the New Fiction display, we have Animal Companions, with stories about people and their furry friends. In the YA section, we are highlighting Summer Reads – perfect for your summer TBR list.

- Emily W. - Adult & Teen Librarian

For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Book Review

Thank you, Charlie and Tammy Burger for showing us the ins and outs of Geocaching! Geocaching is a scavenger hunt-style game using a GPS receiver. GEO: Geography for coordinate locations. CACHE: Items stored in a hidden place. When you put the two words together, geocaching is the idea of finding hidden items at specific locations. Anyone can start geocaching at any time! Just download the Geocaching app to your smartphone, create a free account, and start searching you local area. There is even one hidden at VPL! Happy exploring!



Keeping Up with the Librarians

Summer reading challenges are one of the many things people remember fondly about visiting the Library. Have you ever thought about the benefits of doing a summer reading challenge?

Benefits of Summer Reading Challenge:

- Encouragement of reading as a lifelong habit
- Activities can draw in reluctant readers.
- Reading over the summer helps children keep their skills up
- Summer reading programs can generate interest in the

Library and books

Many libraries, including VPL, have reading challenges for adults too! Audiobooks and E-Books count for the reading challenge, so perhaps try an audiobook while you commute or when traveling to your vacation destination! The summer reading challenge can be an opportunity to unplug from technology or just be good fun and provide an opportunity for family time too. Pick up a reading challenge packet for kids at the Youth Desk or a reading challenge punch card for adults at any library desk.

Happy Reading!

Upcoming Events

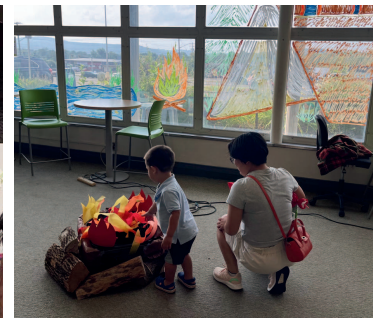
- JUL 24** **Sensory Time: Bird Feeder**
10-11:30 AM & 4 - 5:30 PM
- JUL 25** **Elementary STEAM**
2 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 26** **Reader's Theater**
1:30 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
Elementary STEAM
6 - 7 PM - Meeting Room
I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club
6 PM - Virtual
- JUL 27** **Park Storytime @ Arnold Park**
10:30 AM - Off Site
Backyard Birding @ the Library
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 28** **In Library Storytime**
10:30 AM - Youth Service Dept.
Paint a Wood Slice - Ages 12 -18
3 - 4:30 PM - Meeting Room
- JUL 29** **Guided Birding Hike**
8 AM - Offsite @ Waterman Center
- JUL 31** **Sensory Time: Sensory Tables**
10-11:30 AM & 4 - 5:30 PM
- AUG 1** **Elementary STEAM**
2 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 2** **Reader's Theater**
1:30 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
Elementary STEAM
6 - 7 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 3** **Park Storytime @ Arnold Park**
10:30 AM - Off Site
- AUG 4** **In Library Storytime**
10:30 AM - Youth Service Dept.
Camp Crafts - Ages 12 -18
5 - 6:30 PM - Meeting Room
Library Camp-In - All Ages
5 - 7:30 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 5** **Pond Life Talk & Demo**
1:30 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 7** **Sensory Take & Make**
Pick Up at Youth Services 1 PM
- AUG 8** **Elementary STEAM**
2 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
Mad for Art: Ink Dip Demo
6 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 9** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
Reader's Theater
1:30 - 3 PM - Meeting Room
Elementary STEAM
6 - 7 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 10** **Park Storytime @ Arnold Park**
10:30 AM - Off Site
- AUG 11** **Open Game Day**
11 - 3:30 PM - Meeting Room
SUMMER BLOCK PARTY!
5 - 8 PM - Outside
- AUG 15** **Sound Bath**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 16** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 19** **Artisan Market**
9AM - 2PM - Outside
- AUG 21** **VPL Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room

Thank you for Forging New Paths with Us!

Summer Reading Program 2023 is in the books! Thank you all for participating with us at several events and by doing the Summer Reading Challenge. We are grateful that so many wonderful people were able to Forge New Paths with us this summer!

Thank you to our local sponsors and collaborators at Arnold Park, Berkshire Hills Bee Farm, Binghamton Black Bears, Binghamton Rumble Ponies, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Defy Vestal, Four County Library System Bookmobile, Girl Scouts of the Southern Tier, Inc., Java Joe Jammers, Kopernik Observatory, Lickety Split, The Maine Scoop, Russell Farms, Skin Sparkles Glitter Tattoos, The Moss House, Vestal Police Department, Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad, Vestal Wine and Liquor, Watermans Conservation Education Center. We appreciate you!

Join us next time for VPL: Spooky Szn coming this Fall!



Displays

Summer has officially started at VPL. This year, our theme is Forging New Paths. The main displays in both the main library and the Youth Department have books on a variety of topics, such as field guides for plants and wildlife, sustainability, ecology, off-grid living, camping, etc. Over on the New Nonfiction display, we have Masters of the Grill, which features cookbooks all about grilling – the unofficial cooking pastime of the summer season. Over on the New Fiction display, we have Animal Companions, with stories about people and their furry friends. In the YA section, we are highlighting Summer Reads – perfect for your summer TBR list.

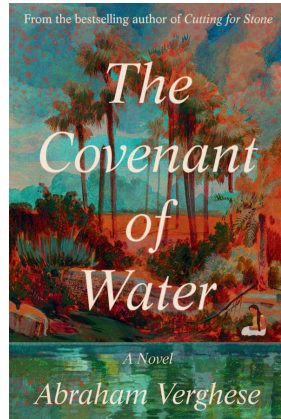
- Emily W. - Adult & Teen Librarian



For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Book Review

A Covenant of Water
by Abraham Verghese



A Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese is the second book I have read by the author, and it did not disappoint. The imagery and characters are well-developed without being over-wordy. The story spans three decades and follows a family with a unique relationship to water. They live in Kerala, India's Malabar Coast, where water is everywhere. Verghese has a way of blending knowledge of medicine and human understanding to add delightful depth to his story. The story connects you to characters like Big Ammachi (Big Mother) as she lives through the changing times and experiences great love as well as suffering. The conclusion is satisfying and real. Masterfully written and highly recommended.

- Becky P.

Upcoming Programs: Book Clubs

In September, we are restarting our Elementary Book Clubs - Bookaneers! For ages 7 - 9 and Read It & Eat for ages 10 - 13. Last year, Bookaneers! read *Catwings*, *A Boy Called Bat*, and *Read It and Eat* read books like *A Long Walk to Water*, *Fuzzy Mud*, and *El Deafo*. Whether reading a new genre or experiencing a new perspective, book clubs offer the opportunity for kids to share their thoughts and widen their horizons in the safe environment of the library. Book Clubs meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 4 PM and last about one hour (snacks provided). Participants will pick up their books, vote on what to read next, and do an activity at the shortened icebreaker session on Tuesday, September 19, at 4 PM. Stop by or call (607)-754-4243 to sign up.

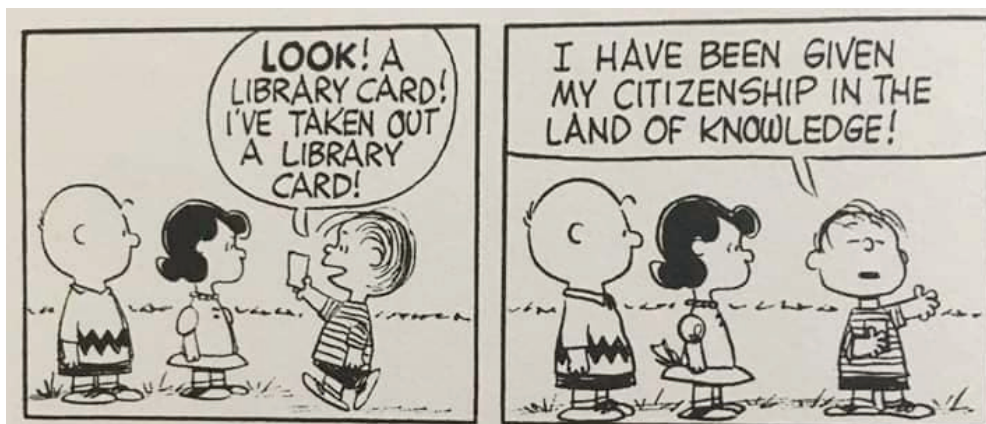
Upcoming Events

- AUG 21** **VPL Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 22 - AUG 26** **Book Sale**
Starts 11AM on Tues. 8/22
- AUG 23** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Conference Room
- AUG 28** **Movie Monday: Death on the Nile**
3 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 29** **Java Joe Jammers**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- AUG 30** **I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
6 PM - Virtual
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 4** **Labor Day**
VPL CLOSED
- SEP 5** **Lego Club (ages 7 - 12)**
4 - 6 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 6** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 7** **Fall into Autumn: Take & Make**
Pick up @ 10 AM for ages 0 - 4
- SEP 8** **Open Game Day (all ages)**
11 AM - 3:30 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 12** **Smell Ya Later Summer: T & M**
Pick up @ 5PM for ages 6 - 12
Mad for Art: Bookish Sun Catcher
6 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 13** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 18** **VPL Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 19** **Bookaneers! (ages 7 - 9)**
4 PM - Meeting Room
Read It & Eat (ages 10 - 13)
4 PM - Conference Room
Sound Bath
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 20** **Board Game Night (all ages)**
6PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Shelf Indulgence
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- SEP 21** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 26** **Java Joe Jammers**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 27** **I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
6 PM - Virtual
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library

Keeping Up with the Librarians

Library Card Sign-Up Month

If you're reading the VPL Vignette Newsletter, it's likely that you already have a library card. But September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month! Maybe it's time to get the little ones in your life their very own card or encourage your neighbor to sign up. A library card is a free passport to knowledge and information through books, movies & TV, magazines & newspapers, ebooks & audiobooks through Libby, free events and programs, digital resources through the 4CLS Research Center, park & museum passes, wifi internet access & public computers, used book sales, and more! Just stop by your local library to sign up for a card. We can't wait to see you!



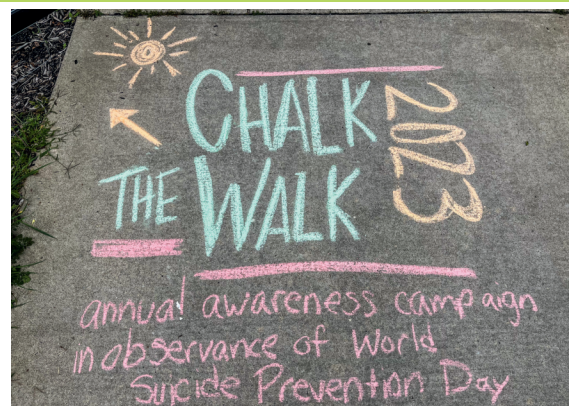
Peanuts characters created by Charles Shultz

Displays

A Murder, a Mystery, a UFO, oh my! There are brand new displays up this month at VPL. In honor of Agatha Christie's birthday on September 15, we have mysteries (murderous and cozy) on the main display table. The new nonfiction display hosts books about NASA, UFOs, and science fiction, and new fiction celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 - October 15. You will find Back to School books in Youth Services and Young Adult in addition to Love Your Library books in honor of Library Card Signup Month.

Chalk the Walk

VPL participated in BC SAFE's Chalk the Walk, the annual awareness campaign in observance of World Suicide Prevention Day. From September 10 - 16, you beautified the VPL Walkway with messages of hope and resilience using chalk. The positive messages and drawings made people's day, promoted suicide prevention and mental wellness, and helped to reduce stigma regarding mental health and suicide. Thank you, Broome County Mental Health Department, for providing us with chalk, yard signs, and an adorable stuffed animal and book!



Meet the Staff - Molly



Molly is our Youth Services Librarian! She worked as a clerk at the youth desk in 2018, interned with us while completing her master's degree, and started as the Youth librarian in February 2022. What's her favorite part of working at VPL? "I really love seeing and getting to know all the families and kids that come to the library." She also likes brainstorming

events and program ideas that bring education and fun to our library patrons. When Miss Molly isn't at the library, she might be traveling and hiking, reading, watching Asian dramas (particularly Korean and Chinese), or listening to K-Pop (an interest started in high school back in 2009)! "I'm currently re-watching one of my favorite K-Dramas, *"Healer."* Molly always stocks her staff picks shelf with YA reads. She just finished *The River Has Teeth* by Erica Waters and is starting *Truly Devious* by Maureen Johnson for the *I'd Rather Read YA* virtual book club.

For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243



Upcoming Program: A4

Beginning in October, VPL will offer a new club for our differently abled patrons. Thanks to a grant from The Community Foundation, A4, activities for all ages, all abilities, provides something for everyone with rotating activities on the first and third Thursday's from 12 - 2PM starting October 5. Activities include arts & crafts, legos & duplos, board games & indoor lawn games, sensory friendly movie days, music & movement, storytimes with craft, & more! All activities can be modified to fit everyone's abilities. A4 is a walk in event that does not require registration; some activities will be available while supplies last. We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Events

- SEP 26** **Java Joe Jammers**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- SEP 27** **I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
6 PM - Virtual
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
- SEP 28** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 3** **Lego Club (ages 7 - 12)**
4 - 6 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 4** **Bullet Journaling for Teens**
3:30 PM - YA Section
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 5** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
A4 - All Ages, All Abilities
12 - 2 PM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 6** **WSKG Cyberchase (ages 4 -6)**
10 AM - Meeting Room
- OCT 9** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs
6 PM - In Library
- OCT 10** **Mad for Art: Ghostie Portraits**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 11** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
Elementary STEAM
4:45 PM - Meeting Room
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 12** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 13** **Open Game Day (all ages)**
11 AM - 3:30 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 16** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
VPL Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 17** **Bookaneers! (ages 7 - 9)**
4 PM - Meeting Room
Read It & Eat (ages 10 - 13)
4 PM - Conference Room
Sound Bath
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- OCT 18** **Break-In Bag (ages 12 -18)**
3 PM - In Library
Board Game Night (all ages)
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Shelf Indulgence
6:30 PM - Conference Room

Director's Corner

Seasons Greetings from VPL!

As we close in on the end of 2023 and the winter season begins, I want to remind our patrons how special this time of year can be. We all tend to think about slippery roads, ice scrapers, and large heating bills when cold weather sets in.

There is another perspective that I hope you will consider. I just moved back to New York after nine years in South Carolina. I won't lie by saying warmer weather isn't nice, but the winter months never felt quite right either. The four seasons remind us of the cycle of life and how we can savor each of them as they arrive.

One of the things I enjoy most about winter is having a good book in a warm house with a hot beverage while watching the snow come down outside. Our library can be a part of that by providing good reading material to-go or a warm place to read and sip a warm drink.

Another of my favorites is taking a walk during (or after) a snowstorm. The snow cover makes the outdoors uniquely serene and clean. With that in mind, this is one of my favorite poems, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

- Michael Herman - VPL Director

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening BY ROBERT FROST

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Displays

Wintery Mix

Pop over to the library and check out our current displays– the forecast for this month includes Wintery Mix, a curation of books and movies perfect for this chilly, festive season. In the Youth Department are more displays featuring books about snowy themes. Over in the New Books section are displays celebrating the 2024 Goodreads Choice Award nominees and the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Lastly, in the Young Adult section, we are highlighting the Chilly Forecast with suspenseful books of mystery and intrigue.

Therapy Dogs

Read with a Therapy Dog has been (and continues to be) a popular program here at VPL for many years, with only a short pause during the pandemic. Volunteers from Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs come every other Monday from September to May to encourage literacy and zen for patrons of all ages. Thank you for your faithful attendance and for letting us read to your furry friends.



Meet the Staff - Kayla

Kayla Bates has worked at VPL for six years. She started as a page shelving books in the youth services department. Through hard work and consistency, Kayla has worked her way up to clerk at our main circulation desk. "I just love the welcoming atmosphere of the library!" Kayla says. Kayla contributes to that welcoming energy daily by helping both patrons and staff. Outside of work, Kayla likes crocheting or watching cartoons. "Currently, I'm watching Adventure Time and reading Sundial by Catriona Ward."

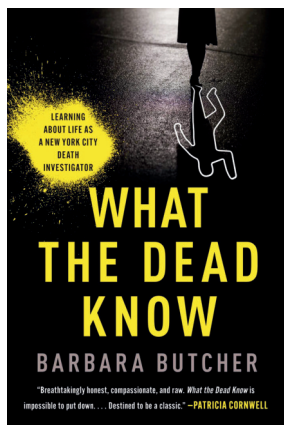


For more information about events check VPL Program Calendars, visit vestalpubliclibrary.org, or call (607)-754-4243

Book Review

What the Dead Know: Learning About Life as a New York City Death Investigator

is the memoir of Barbara Butcher, who worked more than twenty years for the New York City Medical Examiner's Office. It was interesting to learn about what a Death Investigator does and how the job affected the author and her life. A Death Investigator is called to all kinds of dead bodies - murders, suicides, and natural deaths. It was fascinating to learn how they examine the bodies and the clues they look for to understand a person's final moments. Barbara tells about a time when she was almost killed, another case where she was sure a man had been murdered and knew who did it but was unable to prove it, and what happens when a body falls from a great height. She also details what it was like to be in New York City on September 11, 2001, when the Twin Towers fell, and how hard they worked to identify the body parts that were collected in order to give the victim's families some closure. As a recovering alcoholic and one of only a few women in her office, Barbara discusses how her job impacted her personal life in both good and bad ways. She had a very supportive boss who was a mentor and friend, and despite challenging work conditions, earned the respect of her peers and police officers whom she worked alongside. However, the stress of the job and long hours took a toll on her relationships and mental health. Although the book was a bit gruesome and difficult to read in parts, I enjoyed learning how deaths are investigated, and how that job impacts you as a person. - Laura F. - Youth Services Clerk



Preschool Storytime

We had a great Fall Preschool Storytime session! Some special activities included a visit from a momma and baby goat and thanks to Erin Rudolph for bringing goats to the library. Friends enjoyed a sensory pool filled with dried yellow corn at our Yellow theme. Upcoming winter themes will include penguins, pizza, and sleep. Please note that there are coming changes to Preschool Storytime to be on the lookout for in 2024. Preschool Storytimes are moving to Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 11:30 am. We still ask that 4-6-year-olds get a craft ticket from the Youth Desk.



Upcoming Events

- DEC 18** **Elementary Take & Make**
Pick up at 4 PM - YS Desk
Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs
6 PM - In Library
VPL Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30 PM - Meeting Room
- DEC 19** **Bookaneers! (ages 7 - 9)**
4 PM - Meeting Room
Read It & Eat (ages 10 - 13)
4 PM - Conference Room
Break-In Bag (ages 12 - 18)
3 PM - In Library
- DEC 20** **Board Game Night (all ages)**
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Shelf Indulgence
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- DEC 21** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
A4 - All Ages, All Abilities
12 - 2 PM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- DEC 22 - DEC 30** **Book Sale**
Starts 11AM on Friday 12/22
- DEC 26** **Java Joe Jammers**
6 PM - Meeting Room
- DEC 27** **I'd Rather Read YA - Book Club**
6 PM - Virtual
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
- JAN 2** **Lego Club (ages 7 - 12)**
4 - 6 PM - Meeting Room
Shelf Discovery - Book Club
6:30 PM - Conference Room
- JAN 3** **FUNshop (ages 16+)**
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 4** **A4 - All Ages, All Abilities**
12 - 2 PM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 5** **Winter Fort Night (All Ages)**
5 - 7 PM - In Library
- JAN 9** **Preschool Storytime**
10:30 AM - Meeting Room
Mad for Art: Book Lover Canvas
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 10** **Tech Assistance**
10 AM - Vestal Senior Center
Learn to Knit (Ages 12 - 18)
3:30 PM - In Library
Pins & Needles
6 PM - In Library
FUNshop (ages 16+)
6:15 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 11** **Tiny Tots Storytime**
10 AM - Meeting Room
Yin Yoga
6 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 12** **Open Game Day (all ages)**
11 AM - 3:30 PM - Meeting Room
- JAN 15** **VPL Board of Trustees Meeting**
6:30 PM - Meeting Room