Native American Heritage Month, p. 6

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
Bauder Book Talk with Nic Stone
Art Jamz with Jasmine Pigott
Author events
American Education Week
Letter from the President and CEO

As the year comes to a close, we have a full line-up of opportunities that celebrate and uplift our community.

We honor Native American Heritage Month in November (p. 6), starting with a festival on November 4 featuring a spectacular lineup of dancers and musicians. Author Steven Paul Judd joins the event to talk about his series, The Rez Detectives. The rest of the month contains a wide range of classes and lectures, as well as several book discussion groups discussing titles by Native authors, including the One Maryland One Book title, There There by Tommy Orange.

On November 9, our inaugural Bauder Book Talks event (p. 3) features Nic Stone, author of the bestselling book Dear Martin. Everyone is welcome to this event, which specifically recruits under-served middle and high school students to attend and hear directly from an author. Endowed by Dr. Lillian Bauder, a community leader and Columbia resident in honor of her late husband Don, Bauder Book Talks is an annual series that champions his causes of civil rights and social justice. Following Stone’s talk, all teens are invited to read and discuss her books and similar titles.

An eclectic schedule rounds out the year. An activist for increasing the diversity in the field of classical music, award-winning professional musician Jasmine Pigott combines her tuba with the spoken word to profound effect on November 12. On December 4, Chiraa D’Amore from Freetown Farm and Gary Pilarchik of the The Rusted Garden discuss their new book full of gardening wisdom. And on December 2, Wendy Ecket talks about the new, holiday-themed installment in her Rosalie Hart cozy mystery series.

Finally, make sure you save the date, February 24, for A Flower-full Evening in the Stacks! Tickets go on sale in January for this annual fundraiser to benefit learning resources, as well as upcoming classes on photography.

As you start to plan your vacations and travel for 2024, we can help (p. 12)! Not only is the library bursting with travel guides, you also can apply for a passport only is the library bursting with travel guides, you also can apply for a passport at our East Columbia and Glenwood Branches. Check out our language learning resources, as well as upcoming classes on photography.

MEET famed young adult author Nic Stone as she shares the inspiration behind her critically-acclaimed novel Dear Martin and other featured works.

When we hear someone tell their story, we connect to them in a deep and more meaningful way. Stone says that stories link us together; when we listen to the lives and experiences of people who are different from us, we discover our common ground.

She says that sharing our stories is vital to doing the essential, necessary work of racial and social justice.

Books available for purchase and signing.

Bauder Book Talks made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Lillian Bauder, a community leader and Columbia resident. Howard County Library System presents this annual endowed author event, for under-served students in grades 6-8 attending public schools in Columbia with high percentages of African American and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students. Authors and titles selected are high-interest and high-quality on topics of social issues, equity, and related matters. Student participants have the opportunity to hear from and engage the author and receive a copy of the author’s book. The event honors the memory of Don Bauder, late husband of Dr. Lillian Bauder and a champion of civil rights and social justice causes.
Visions: Tuba with Spoken Word

For adults. Register at bit.ly/TubaJasmine

The arts are, at their core, about telling stories. Jasmine Pigott, tuba player, is exploring multiple art forms in her program “Visions,” which combines spoken word with composition for solo tuba.

Each piece tells a story, with themes of overcoming adversity, fighting inner-demons in mental health battles, and navigating this world as a Black woman in America.

Jasmine “Jazzie” Pigott is a tuba player, composer, podcaster, and writer based in Baltimore. Believing in the power of representation, she is on a mission to empower the next generation of musicians of color.

Jasmine is a co-founder and member of the Chromatic Brass Collective. She holds degrees from Ithaca College and Michigan State University and is working on her DMA in tuba performance at the Peabody Conservatory.

Sun Nov 12 2 – 3 pm  Miller

Author Works

Wendy Eckel’s Killer in a Winter Wonderland

For adults. Register at bit.ly/AuthorEckel.

In Killer in a Winter Wonderland, the much-anticipated holiday-themed fourth book in the Rosalie Hart cozy mystery series, Wendy Sand Eckel once again brings the fictional town of Cardigan, Maryland to life. With delectable menus, the holiday season can provide, high stakes sleuthing, and the rich atmospheric scenes only the holiday season can provide, Killer in a Winter Wonderland is a cornucopia of delicious fare, compelling new and returning characters, and a fast-paced tale that keeps one riveted to the last page.

Eckel studied criminology and earned a Masters in Social Work. Before becoming a writer she worked as a psychotherapist, helping families and adolescents. Her mystery series has been awarded “Best Cozy” by Suspense magazine, and Mystery at Windswept Farm, the third book in the series, made the humorous novel bestseller list on Amazon. A trained life coach, Wendy writes the advice column for the Maryland Writers’ Association newsletter and enjoys mentoring aspiring authors.

Sun Dec 4 2 – 3 pm  Elkridge

Author Works

Growing an Edible Landscape: How to Transform Your Outdoor Space into a Food Garden

For adults. Register at bit.ly/edible_landscape_hcls.

Authors Gary Pilarchik of @therustedgarden and Dr. Chiara D’Amore discuss their new collaborative book, Growing an Edible Landscape: How to Transform Your Outdoor Space into a Food Garden. Plan for the spring ahead and learn how you can convert your lawn and landscape areas into fruitful edible gardens with this practical guide overflowing with ideas, plans, designs, and know-how.

Gary Pilarchik has been gardening for most of his life. His grandfather taught him about vegetable gardening in first grade, and it ignited a passion that has been with him ever since. Gary started his YouTube channel, The Rusted Garden, in 2011 as a way to enjoy himself and teach others about gardening. He has since grown his following of dedicated subscribers, and started a second channel, My First Vegetable Garden, a few years later to cater to first-time vegetable growers. His belief is that a garden wants to give, vegetables want to grow, and everyone can have a successful garden.

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Chiara D’Amore is the Executive Director of the Community Ecology Institute, a non-profit organization working to cultivate communities in which people and nature thrive together. She holds a Ph.D. in Sustainability Education and teaches courses related to climate change, civic ecology, experiential education, and research design.

Mon Dec 4 7 - 8:15 pm  Elkridge

Seed Share

A seed exchange is a great opportunity to acquire new varieties, save money, and reduce seed waste, while learning and sharing with fellow gardeners. Free demonstrations and information also available.

If you would like to share seeds, drop them at one of three locations, from January 1 - 18:

• HCLS Miller Branch
  9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City

• HCLS Elkridge Branch
  6540 Washington Blvd, Elkridge

• Community Ecology Institute
  8000 Harriet Tubman Ln, Columbia

Scan QR code for more information:
in partnership with

2nd annual Seed Share

Yards Alive
Meet Steven Paul Judd, author of *The Rez Detectives*

by Brooke McCauley, Administrative Branch

Steven Paul Judd was a student who loved movies when he decided to apply for a fellowship with ABC Disney. His submission, a speculative script for the television show *My Name is Earl*, secured him the fellowship and the opportunity to fly to Los Angeles to write. This launched his career, which now includes not only screen writing, but also fashion, books, painting, and whatever artistic medium inspires him in the moment. His substantive works often include satire with pop culture themes that lift Native American culture.

Judd, who is of Kiowa and Choctaw heritage, talks about his work at the fifth annual Native American Heritage Month Celebration on Saturday, November 4. Judd says these types of events are important, “because when people think about Native Americans and Native American heritage, they obviously think of the past, but we are also doing things today,” said Judd. “Like, I’m a writer. It’s a perfect opportunity to broaden people’s awareness about Native Americans in the arts.”

When asked about the inspiration for his bestselling Rez Detectives series, Judd says he did it for his childhood self, who saw little representation of Native culture in books. “I would have loved to have something like this when I was a kid! I loved comic books,” he said. The book was co-authored with his friend Ti’li Jacob.

Things have changed considerably since 2011 when he first hit the Hollywood scene, Judd says. “There wasn’t a lot of indigenous representation in the (television) industry. Now you see a lot more,” said Judd. “There’s Reservation Dogs, Rutherford Falls, and of course, Dark Wind, which I write on.”

When he’s not creating, Judd pursues his passion of securing Indigenous treaty rights in his spare time. “It’s a pet project,” he said. “No one is going to right the wrongs of the past for moral reasons...you have to prove things legally.”

“Dig it if you can,” a catch phrase used by Judd, is the title of an award-winning documentary on his life created by filmmaker Kyle Bell. Catch it on Vimeo.

**Wonder Why Wednesday?**

Ages 8-12. Ticketed. Free tickets available at desk 15 minutes before class.

Join us for hands-on learning experience creating Native American quill art.

Wed Nov 1  7 – 7:45 pm  East Columbia

**Talking in Code: Native American Code Talkers in WWI & WWII**


Learn about the history of Native American Code Talkers from both World Wars from Jennifer Wilcox, director of education for the National Cryptologic Museum.

Sat  Nov 4  2 – 3 pm  Savage

**Native Expulsion & Manifest Destiny**


Explore westward expansion and its impact upon Native communities. Even though the phrase ‘manifest destiny’ was not used in print until 1845, the spirit of American expansionism that it referred to was apparent long before the 1840s. Americans had been talking about pushing westward as if it was their manifest destiny ever since folks in Jamestown in the 1600s had started eyeing the land that Natives were settled on.

University of Maryland historian Richard Bell begins by tracking the story of Native expulsion and westward expansion from the Revolution era up through the 1850s, paying particular attention in the second half to the ways in which the West and Westward Expansion came to be romanticized in the American imagination.

Mon    Nov 13  7 – 8 pm  online

More opportunities to celebrate NAHM on page 8.
One Maryland One Book Discussion:
There There by Tommy Orange
For adults. Register at bit.ly/therethereCEN
Discuss There There by Tommy Orange, a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize.
Wed  Nov 1  7 - 8 pm  Central

Book Discussion: Braiding Sweetgrass
For adults and teens.
Discuss Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer and learn more about how we can give thanks to the earth by protecting it for future generations. Readers of Braiding Sweetgrass or Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults are welcome.
Mon  Nov 20  7 - 8 pm  Elkridge

FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Nonfiction
We Refuse to Forget: A True Story of Black Creeks, American Identity, and Power by Caleb Gayle
Wed  Nov 15  7 - 8:30 pm  Savage

Nonfiction
Heart Berries by Terese Marie Mailhot
Fri  Nov 17  5 - 6 pm  East Columbia
Meets at Brewing Good Coffee Company in Savage Mill

Nonfiction
The Summer of Bitter and Sweet by Jen Ferguson
Thu  Nov 30  7 - 8 pm  online

Other HCLS Book Discussion Groups with NAHM selections:

Walking with East Columbia Branch and 50+ Center
For adults. Learn more and register at bit.ly/walk_eco
Walking is a great way to get some activity into your routine. Let’s get up and walk together. Come and walk around the library. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle. During inclement weather, we walk inside.
Mondays  9:30 - 10:30 am  East Columbia

Stress-Free STEAM for Adults: Pressed Leaf Bookmark
For adults. Register at bit.ly/stress_free_steam
As the leaves fall around us, we investigate their structure and function in our ecosystem before creating a pressed leaf bookmark. All craft abilities welcome. Materials provided.
Thu  Nov 2  7 - 8 pm  Miller

Knitting Workshop with Sam Barsky
For adults. Register at bit.ly/barskyCEN
Following a brief overview of his knitting career and experiences as a designer and world traveler, Sam Barsky introduces participants to a variety of knitting techniques he uses to create his charming sweater designs. Experienced knitters receive instructional handouts and gain hands-on experience with advanced knitting and design techniques. Register to receive a supplies list before the workshop.
Mon  Nov 13  2 - 4 pm  Central

Craft Works: Gratitude Journal
For adults. Register for your preferred session at bit.ly/hclscraftworks
Learn about different art media and explore new techniques. In November: Create a gratitude journal.
Thu  Nov 16  2 - 3:30 pm  Central
Tue  Nov 21  7 - 8:30 pm  Central

Resume Workshop
For adults. Register at bit.ly/res_workshop_sav
Do you need a new (or first!) resume? This workshop offers hands on assistance in locating resume templates, filling out your resume, and even having your resume edited through HCLS resources.
Sat  Nov 18  2 - 3 pm  Savage

Films for Humans
For adults. Learn more and register at bit.ly/filmsforhumans
Watch films about humans, since all great stories involve great characters, then we’ll discuss them with our fellow humans. November’s film is La Bamba.
Thu  Nov 30  6 - 8:30 pm  Elkridge

Dia de las Velitas / Little Candles Day
Ages 5-10 with adult. 45 minutes. Ticket required.
Make paper lanterns to celebrate “Little Candles Day,” a Colombian holiday that takes place annually on December 7. The tradition consists of lighting candles and lanterns.
Thu  Dec 7  5 - 5:45 pm  Elkridge

Make & Trade Eras Tour-Inspired Friendship Bracelets
For ages 10+ and adults. Drop In.
Were you permanently waitlisted for Taylor Swift Eras Tour tickets? Don’t worry, you can make and trade Swift-inspired friendship bracelets at our drop-in workshop! Children ages 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
Tue  Dec 12  6 - 8 pm  Elkridge

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:
Visit hclibrary.org > classes & events, then use the filters to narrow your search.

FOLLOW US:

HCLS Book Discussion Groups with NAHM selections:

Nonfiction
We Refuse to Forget: A True Story of Black Creeks, American Identity, and Power by Caleb Gayle
Wed  Nov 15  7 - 8:30 pm  Savage

Between the Lines
Living Nations, Living Words by Joy Harjo
Fri  Nov 17  5 - 6 pm  East Columbia
Meets at Brewing Good Coffee Company in Savage Mill

Nonfiction
Heart Berries by Terese Marie Mailhot
Fri  Nov 17  5 - 6 pm  East Columbia
Meets at Brewing Good Coffee Company in Savage Mill

Nonfiction
The Summer of Bitter and Sweet by Jen Ferguson
Thu  Nov 30  7 - 8 pm  online

History Relived: 105th Anniversary of Armistice Day
For adults. Drop in.
In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, all hostilities were to end according to the new armistice signed earlier that morning. The following year the Treaty of Versailles was signed, officially ending World War I. Armistice Day is known as Remembrance Day in France and Veterans Day in the United States. Discuss how this day was first celebrated and how it has evolved.
Tue  Nov 7  11 am - 12 pm  Glenwood

Resume Workshop
For adults. Register at bit.ly/res_workshop_sav
Do you need a new (or first!) resume? This workshop offers hands on assistance in locating resume templates, filling out your resume, and even having your resume edited through HCLS resources.
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FOLLOW US:
Staff Spotlight: Geneka "Coach" Young

Title and branch:
East Columbia, Teen Instructor & Research Specialist

How long have you been with HCLS?
5 years

What excites you the most about your work and/or HCLS as a whole?
The opportunity to connect, enrich, and hopefully leave an impact on the next generation

Are you involved in the community?
Yes, I'm a part of a collective called the HASS Crew. We produce social events and enrichment programs for underprivileged communities. We also help small businesses create brand experiences.

What's an unusual fact about you?
I enjoy being behind the scenes. I prefer to just curate and let the results speak for itself. I'm shocked that I'm even doing this right now because I hate attention. But I'm proud of the work Carmen Jessop and I are doing here and appreciate the opportunity to spotlight it.

Favorite movie or show?
It's a tie between The Last Dragon and The Warriors.

Do you have pets? What kind?
Yes, I have a pitbull mastiff named Apollo but he also occasionally answers to, "Nooo, Apollo." He's a heart stealer.

Favorite type of music?
Currently Afrobeat. It doesn't matter if it's a happy or sad song. It's something about the beat that's like a shot of dopamine for the soul.

Favorite time of year?
The fall because I love layering clothes.

What inspires/motivates you?
My grandmother and mom. They both were community leaders and worked with youth. They are the main reason why I do what I do now.

If you could be a superhero, who would you be?
Batman. I know he isn't technically a superhero. But I think that's what makes him the best and most relatable. He's flawed and underestimates but the smartest and most prepared for battle at the table.

American Education Week: Celebrate Our Schools

by Jean Boone, Central Branch

A thousand hours. That's roughly how much time children spend in school each year. But how many people, from the bus drivers, to the teachers and staff, to the cafeteria workers, and the crossing guards, touch their lives and make education possible throughout those 1,000+ hours?

American Education Week, November 13-17, celebrates our nation’s commitment to free, public education for every child and recognizes the myriad individuals who bring that commitment to life with their skill, dedication, and kindness.

It takes a unified effort involving educators, students, families, and communities to deliver on the promise of high quality education. Join in!

American Education Week often includes opportunities to visit your students’ classrooms, one step in becoming engaged. Check with your neighborhood schools to find out what they have planned in 2023.

The library offers another pathway of connection to public education. We're a link in the education community, connecting students, parents, and teachers with resources they need to succeed, especially through the A+ Partnership.

Did you know that teachers can receive special borrowing privileges with an Educator card? And that every HCPSS student has a virtual HCLS account to access our books, databases, online research tools, and resources from home, 24/7?

Did you know that in the hours your child's teacher is not available for help, you can access Brainfuse live online tutors through the HCLS website for support in math, English, science, writing, and more?

Even if you don’t go through the door of a school this year during American Education Week, you can always open a window into that world with a book from the library. Inspiring stories of great learning abound: check out the picture book A Letter to My Teacher by Deborah Hopkinson; middle grade novel Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea; or adult fiction A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines, or find many other options by scanning the QR codes below.

COMING SOON: TeenLive!

Events and activities for middle and high school students happen at different library branches. Bring your energy and enthusiasm to a space designed by and for you to have fun with friends and dream big!

save the dates:
Fri Jan 17 1 - 4 pm Elkridge
Sat Jan 27 3 - 5 pm Central

Homework getting ever more difficult?
Online tutoring available with Brainfuse!

FOLLOW US:  

MORE FOR EDUCATION WEEK

fiction
nonfiction
children &
teen

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Ready to See the World
by Sahana Callahan, Savage Branch
The library's always been the home of adventure, with new unknowns to explore with every turn of a page. You know that visiting the library can leave you with a wealth of knowledge about a new place in every book you carry. But sometimes, reading about another far-off place or watching a movie set in a distant land isn't enough. Sometimes, you're looking for a more immersive experience, and your imagination just isn't cutting it – it's time for the real deal. Planning trips can be exhausting, though, and your imagination just isn't cutting it – it's time for the
other side of the world, or just the other side of the country. Once you've discovered your destination, and you've decided it's time to go, our East Columbia and Glenwood branches will accept your passport application and help you through the whole process. You can even brush the dust off of your current passport and obtain forms to renew at the library. (We recommend that you drop it in the mail to save money).
In the meantime, as your passport is processed, use our language resources, Mango and Rosetta Stone Online for the adults in the family, as well as Little Pim and Muzzy Online for your younger friends! And, you can practice your newfound language skills in the community at East Columbia and Miller Branches at our monthly World Language Cafes (see next page), working with native language speakers and other language learners.
To avoid missing us while you're gone, make sure to pick up a Flat Booker from your closest branch too, and take pictures to show us once you return, so we can share in the adventure too.
Wander down the travel aisle at any of our six branches, and starting with the 914s, you'll find inspiration for all sorts of far-off places to begin your journey, whether that be on the

Passport Services at the Library

EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH
Monday - Thursday
10 am - 7 pm
Saturday
10 am - 4 pm
GLENWOOD BRANCH
Monday - Thursday
1 pm - 7 pm
Saturday
10 am - 3 pm
hclibrary.org/how-do-i/passport-center

WHO MAY APPLY?
Any U.S. citizen, including children and infants.

CAN I GET A PHOTO AT THE LIBRARY?
Yes, for a $15 fee. Payable by cash, check, or Visa/Mastercard.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
See hclibrary.org under “How do I?” for fee and payment information. Or, scan the QR Code.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit www.travel.state.gov.

Intro to Smartphone Photography
For adults. Register at bit.ly/smart_photo_sav
Looking forward to visiting friends and family this holiday season? Learn about smartphone photography so you can capture those memories and save them far later! We’ll go over the basic functions of smartphone cameras, including taking selfies, pictures, and videos, as well as some tips and tricks for editing your images and sharing and storing them once they’re made. Bring your smartphone with you if you would like to be able to practice during class.
Tue Nov 14 2 - 3 pm Savage

World Languages Café
For adults.
Meet to practice a world language with fellow community members, facilitated by a native or fluent speaker of that language.
At East Columbia: register at bit.ly/wlc_ecco
Tue Nov 28 7 - 8:45 pm
At Miller: register at bit.ly/wlc_mil
Second Thursdays 7 - 8:45 pm

Photography
For adults and teens ages 14+. Register at bit.ly/photo72
Learn how the digital single lens reflex camera is engineered to utilize part of the electromagnetic spectrum we call visible light. Obtain hands-on experience using a DSLR camera and learn numerous picture-taking techniques. Taught by a HiTech instructor. Registration is not required, and walk-ins are welcome.
Sat Dec 2 11 am - 12:30 pm Glenwood

HiLights
Would you like to receive the latest HCLS news including upcoming classes and events as well as new resources? Subscribe to HiLights and get them in your inbox every Tuesday. Visit: hclibrary.org/about-us/news/enewsletter/

A year of reading continues!
Continue to challenge your reading selections this year. Track in your booklet or at hclibrary.org/readedsquared.

You can travel the world from the comfort of home through the wonders of reading.
Follow our blog at chapterchats.org for reviews and library news, like this one from the summer for Sorry, Bro by Taleen Voskuni:
I always find it fun to read books set in familiar places. It’s delightful to recognize street names and to have memories evoked by local scents and flavors. The cover of Sorry, Bro seemingly promised me these with its Golden Gate Bridge set against a golden sunset (be still, my born-and-raised Californian heart!), a frame of pomegranate-laden vines, and a description hinting at the revelations uncovered by its Armenian protagonist, Nareh. My family lived overseas in the Caucasus region for several years, and its mention tripped a longing for the culture and people we fell in love with there. I was sold. (by Lenae, Aug 25)
Romare Bearden: ARTIST, ACTIVIST, VETERAN

A closer look at the prolific artist whose influence extends beyond the art world.

Artist Romare Bearden was born in North Carolina in 1911 and moved to Harlem a few years later as part of the Great Migration, which saw approximately 6 million African Americans leave the southern United States for industrialized areas with less hostility and prejudice. Bearden’s mother Bessye was a prominent civic activist, and their Harlem home hosted notable cultural figures like Duke Ellington and Langston Hughes. This intersection of activism and artistry would prove influential to Bearden and his life’s work, but not before a quick detour into America’s favorite pastime.

While attending college in Boston, Bearden became a baseball star. He pitched for his school’s team and the Boston Tigers, part of the all-black Negro Baseball League. He was offered a spot on Philadelphia Athletics, a Major League team, on the condition that he passed for white. Bearden rejected the offer and returned to New York, uncomfortable with hiding his identity.

After graduating college, Bearden became a case worker for the New York Department of Social Services. He would continue in this line of work on and off to support his artistic passions, which he pursued most nights and weekends. He also spent a few years as a political cartoonist for the Baltimore Afro-American, a weekly newspaper (available at hclibrary.org > research).

During this time he joined the Harlem Artists Guild, a collective of Black artists that aimed to encourage young artists and foster an appreciation for art, while creating awareness of the issues faced by the community. Most of Bearden’s art during this period consisted of abstract paintings.

Between 1942 and 1945 Bearden was in Europe, serving in the all-Black 372nd Infantry Regiment of the US Army. Bearden returned to Europe in 1950, utilizing the GI Bill to study literature and philosophy and tour museums.

After returning from his studies Europe, painting felt stale to Bearden. He found inspiration in the Civil Rights Movement and mass media. He began creating collages, utilizing magazine clippings to create socially-conscious works of art. This artistic shift was well received, with his collages becoming his most iconic works.

Prior to his death in 1988, Bearden created approximately 2,000 works of art across many mediums. While he is most remembered for his collages, his impact extends far beyond the art world. Framed reproductions of his works “Carolina Blues” and “Jamming at the Savoy” are available to borrow from the Central Branch’s Art Education Collection.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES: Visit hclibrary.org/classes & events, then use the filters to narrow your search.
No matter what holiday you are celebrating with your religion, culture, or nationality, spending time with family is one of the most precious commodities to cherish. If you are looking to complete your Christmas shopping and want to find the best available products, your library card gives you full access to the Consumer Reports online database at hclibrary.org > research.

Maybe you are preparing to make new year’s resolutions for health, wealth, or a better self? Start with our health collection on exercise, nutrition, and modern medicine. If you want to improve your finances for the new year, we have great books on personal finances, business ownership, and you can explore our small business and investment databases online.

Enjoy the holiday season and the New Year with HCLS.

Holiday To-Do List
#1: LAUGH

by Cherise Tasker, Central Branch

Goals for the holidays must include laughing out loud. Serious humor bursts the stress bubble, making shopping go quicker, cooking smoother, and socializing more relaxed. Also, it never hurts to take some solid jabs at consumerism.

First stop, Jean Shepherd’s classic, *A Christmas Story*. This gem can be found as a book, audiobook, movie, and musical soundtrack at HCLS. Shepard gained fame as a radio announcer who included comedy stories in his show. A *Christmas Story* is his autobiographical tale of nine-year-old Ralphie who wishes for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. He is stymied by the adults in his life who respond, “You’ll shoot your eye out.” Along the way, Ralphie’s dad wins an unusual prize in a puzzle contest, a provocative lamp shaped like a leg in a fishnet stocking. There’s an unforgettable scene where Ralphie’s friend, Flick, takes on the dare of shooting his eye out. Spoiler alert: it does.

Need a good laugh and can’t spare much time to read? Go for just one short story, “Christmas Means Giving” by David Sedaris. In fact, if there’s no time to read it, or even if there is, listen to Sedaris’s charming presentation of this tale of woeful holiday excess. Sedaris reimagines loving thy neighbor and the joy of giving. Who can resist a Christmas card that includes a friend’s stock portfolio? To keep the merriment going, listen to “Santaland Diaries” as well, picturing the man behind the voice as an elf at Macy’s, assisting in the mayhem that is getting photos taken with Santa in midtown Manhattan.

Both essays can be found in *Holidays on Ice*, available as hard copy, e-book, e-audiobook, digital audio, and CD. “Christmas Means Giving” is also in Sedaris’s *The Best of Me* collection that includes many of the writer’s best works and is available as hard copy, e-book, e-audiobook, and CD.

“My personal Festivus would include both latkes and Christmas cookies,” affirms Hannah Hart in *My Drunk Kitchen Holidays!: How to Savor and Celebrate the Year*. The intoxicated and intoxicating chef wants to be sure everyone can make a “decent” latke with her “Love the Way You Latke” recipe that includes the important step of removing all extra moisture from the potatoes and onions before cooking. Hart is okay with skipping the holidays but doesn’t want anyone missing out on unique, delicious food and drink. Because Hart wants readers to take care of themselves, the cookbook even has a face mask recipe. For more year-round joy, explore her “MyHarto” YouTube channel. Remember, everything’s more festive served in a wine glass, especially mashed potatoes. Cheers!
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