Face masks are required at the library regardless of vaccination status.
Please be sure your mask covers both your nose and mouth.

For the latest information regarding the City of Janesville’s response to COVID-19, visit ci.janesville.wi.us.
A REWARDING START TO 2022
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In December 2021, just before the holidays began, I was honored to receive a visit from Forward Janesville Ambassadors announcing that Forward Janesville, Inc. (FJI) had selected the library as their 2021 Educator of the Year. FJI presents the award annually to an individual or group who has actively encouraged partnerships between the business and educational communities. The distinction recognizes a nominee’s use of community business resources and adapts their learning curriculum to fit industry standards. The HPL’s efforts towards training, collaboration, and advocacy for education are roles acknowledged in this award, with the nominating contributor saying: "In sum, the Hedberg Public Library is really an educational life companion for Janesville’s citizens, and is a true community treasure."

-- Nominating Contributor

In January, our Programming and Outreach Coordinator, René Bue, was named the 2022 recipient of the YWCA Racial Justice Award. The Racial Justice Award recognizes an individual that actively strives to eliminate racism and promotes racial equality. Individuals nominated demonstrate leadership and service to others, which René has spent many years doing for Janesville and Rock County. Recipients are nominated by members of the community.

"The hours of commitment to organize and plan events, as well as serving on local committees such as the Janesville Police Department Latino Liaison Advisory Committee and the African American Liaison Advisory Committee, exhibit René’s significant involvement in the struggle for peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people."

-- Vicki Brown, Diversity Action Team of Rock County

MEDIA RELEASE

All persons visiting Hedberg Public Library may be photographed or recorded by library staff, local media or others. These images may appear without compensation in any publication in the newspaper, regional broadcast, publications, production, on the Web or on other print or electronic materials related to the role and function of Hedberg Public Library. Individuals who do not wish to be photographed or recorded at library program should contact library staff. Please note that no names will be used without express permission.

Please note: Programs may be filmed by JATV public access.

ON THE COVER

Young Adult Librarian Gabrielle Draisler and Innovation Librarian Clara Kender chat about services for teens & adults in LAB 316.

FRIENDS OF HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of HPL is a nonprofit volunteer group that supports the library in many ways. The Friends operate The Ground Floor in the lower lobby, selling used books, gifts, snacks, and beverages. Membership dues and proceeds from the shop and other fundraisers enhance the library and its services.

Memberships start at just $20. Use our safe and secure PayPal link online. OR fill out our membership form to become A Friend of HPL! Already a friend? Renew today!

THE GIVING TREE

The Friends of HPL would like to thank the patrons for their amazing generosity this past holiday season. Hedberg Public Library received more than 250 items for The Giving Tree, and the HPL Express Branch at Uptown Janesville received 75 items for their Giving Tree.

The donations are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use by library staff in the coming year!

LOVE THE LIBRARY? BECOME A FRIEND!

BECOME A FRIEND!

To round out the first few months of the year, we were visited by a representative from the office of Governor Evers presenting the library with Governor Commendations; one for library services and another for the HPL Bookmobile. Assistant Director Charles Teval and Programming and Outreach Coordinator René Bue were on-hand to receive these surprise recognitions.

I’m proud to say that Hedberg Public Library has always put the community first with our programs and services, and we are extremely appreciative of local and state organizations who take the time to recognize the work we have been doing to improve our local community, from an educational, business, and cultural perspective. I am humbled to accept these award on behalf of our incredible staff who continue to be on the front lines, during difficult circumstances, making a difference in the community every day.

The Friends of HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

2021 Annual Campaign Fund

The Hedberg Public Library Foundation conducted an end-of-year fundraising campaign and raised more than $15,000 to support library programs, services, and building projects. We would like to take the thank the following donors for their generosity and support:

Anonymous
Alice Babler
Alta D. Reilly
Amanda Roman
Anne Thomas
Anthony and Kay Briski
Arvon Bussan
Arovinth Rajaraman
Arra Lasse
Barb Callahan
Belle, Flynnn and Davisson Gagnor
Beth Talton
Carl and Barbara Weber
Cheri, Rob and Emerson Hefty
Dan and Lee Ann Woodman
David and Christine Martelle
David and Mary Nelsensten
In Memory of Carolyn Mowbray
In Memory of Don Hedberg
In Memory of Joan Seibert
In Memory of Keith Stubbendick
In Memory of Sherry Thurner
Jack Malin
Jackie Wood
Jane A. Maldonis
Jean and Dave Schollmeier
Jim and Karel Crisp
Jim and Terry Arneson
John and Sallye Ramsey
Julie Blackman
Karen Grimsrud
Karin and Larry Nitz
Katherine Fafalios
Katherine Meadows
Kathy Goldman
Kathy Grogan
Kay and Michael Sauerzopf
Kevin Chambers
Laurie March
Lucinda Vaughn
Lynn Gustafson
Marianne Wezck
Marlene Bryant
Ms. Barbara J. Tapovatz
Ms. Dolores Dilley
Ms. Kathleen Thostenson
Ms. Louise Dean
Ms. Margaret E. Bromley
Ms. Roberta R. Kerr
Ms. Dolores Dilley
Ms. Margaret E. Bromley
Ms. Mary-line Leme
Ms. Patricia M. Krell
Ms. Patricia M. Krell
Ms. Rota de Perren
Nancy Luttrell
Neal Fletcher
Niles Olson
Patricia Debroux
Paul and Cathy Haen
Peter and Peggy Jacobs
Regina Anderson
Santo and Jeanne Carfora
Steven and Susan Maciolek
Syneva Tracy
The McCormick Family
Thomas and Linda Stetura
Tim and Bonnie Heindel
Tina Breeze Wahlers
Victor Coro
Wendy and Steve Weiss
William and Carolyn Hinzew
Alvin and Minnie Knedel
William and Marla Fredleisten

TONY'S FAVORITE BOOKS

Hello Readers,

I am excited to share that I have been named the 2021 Statewide Reading Ambassador and have been invited to share my love of books with young readers. As a child, I remember the joy of reading and the excitement of discovering a new world through the pages of a book. I hope to inspire a love of reading in others and pass on the joy that I have experienced.

Tony

The Ground Floor

shop | eat | drink | read

at Hedberg Public Library

Become a friend of HPL and
you get 20% off your purchase.
GD: It's no surprise that the library has more than a few avid readers on staff - and they love sharing their favorites with patrons! Get staff reading recommendations online, at the library, or sent straight to your inbox.

CK: Look for slides like the ones above on the digital signs at the library or on our social media sites. New books are posted every few weeks. If you're at the library, check out the Staff Picks shelves. They're packed with hand-picked favorites every day. While you're there, browse our timely book displays to find titles you may not have otherwise considered.

Want more personalized suggestions? Submit a BOOKED! request on our website and staff will email you a list of books they think you'll love based on your interests.

If you're still looking for more after all that - don't forget about Novelist - a free online resource available to library cardholders.

GD: New to the library is Gale Business Insights: Essentials. Business database that combines authoritative information and statistical data with analytical tools to explore real world applications.

NEW DATABASES

Food America

Explore the countries of the world through their cuisine, history, language, travel information, facts, and statistics.

AtoZ Food America

The world’s largest database of American food, culture, and recipes. With thousands of recipes, hundreds of fascinating culture and ingredient articles, and essential culinary resources, Food America brings United States cuisines to you!

Have database, will travel.

Global Road Warrior

Explore the countries of the world through their culture, history, language, travel information, facts, and statistics.

Gale Business Insights: Essentials

Business database that combines authoritative information and statistical data with analytical tools to explore real world applications.

Explore, Discover, Share

Newspaper Archive: Wisconsin

Find births, deaths, news, and more! Includes thousands of pages from the Janesville Gazette.

Visit HedbergPublicLibrary.org to explore all of our online resources.

#DiscoverShareCreateConnect

Q&A WITH GABI & CLAIRE

LAB 316 is made possible in part by a generous donation from Grainger Foundation, Inc.

Find out what’s new in LAB 316 with Young Adult Librarian, Gabrielle Draxler, and Innovation Librarian, Claire Kinder!

Q: As we adjust to pandemic life, what programs are available at HPL for adults and how can patrons still connect with librarians?

CK: We have some really awesome ways we are meeting patrons virtually. This includes Facebook Live programs where they can tune in and chat with us during programs like our Craft & Chat. We have similar programs where patrons can come to HPL and pick up a kit with all the supplies needed to complete a project at home. On our Twitch channel, patrons can chat with me and take during Pages and PositiviTea, where we discuss books and the world around us. We also introduced gaming to our channel, and patrons can watch as I attempt to play some of the latest video games. Find our channel at twitch.tv/pages_and_positivi_tea or the HPL Facebook page to join in!

GD: We are doing our best to meet everyone where they are, whether that means comfort level of being out and about, or accessibility to the days and times of our programs, or even having the energy to come and visit us or hang out with us on our live platforms. We have recordings of many of our programs available on the HPL YouTube channel and archived Facebook videos so that patrons can experience a program on their schedule. We have beginner friendly Yoga programs for those trying to incorporate movement. Or they can watch Claire and I tackle new things like crafts, experiments, and DIY projects in our Try-Brarians series. There are frequent spills, and laughs in that one, and only sometimes smoke. The nice part about the YouTube channel is that patrons can revisit a program as often as they need to, such as the Adulting 101 or Mindful Moments episodes from last year, there are still some handy skills and tools in those videos that are always good to revisit. And who knows, maybe we’ll have to bring those back and feature new skills and mindfulness tips to help us continue adapting to these times. We are always looking for feedback on what our patrons want to see, learn, and do. So tell us!

Q: What other virtual resources are available for patrons?

CK: HPL offers a ton of innovative resources, and one of my favorites is Creativebug, which provides access to a variety of crafting and hobby tutorials, all free with an HPL card. There's also GALE Courses, with free classes for tons of things from business to arts.

GD: Creativebug is a mutual favorite since Claire and I both like to try new things and we have lots of hobbies, so be sure to check that one out! I also enjoy our Mango language learning app that works on conversational skills in a lot of languages. Mango is my go-to library resource when I'm not actually at the library. I love being able to take an audiobook with me wherever I go, especially one that is FREE! And if a patron is ever in need of a good book recommendation, they can use our BOOKED! service which offers personalized recommendations from a librarian without actually having to come talk to one - although you can come talk to us, too, because we are pretty cool.

Q: What equipment is available and how can patrons access it?

CK: In LAB 316 we have a ton of fun things for patrons to use. At the moment, we don't have access to items but you can look forward to being able to use them in future programs. We have a sewing machine, polymer clay oven (great for shrinkydinks, too), a Circuit Maker (a computer driven cutting machine that can cut anything from paper to fabric to vinyl), 3D printer, and all the craft supplies you can think of!

GD: A lot of the cool equipment that the library has is difficult to use during the pandemic. However, we are making supplies and skills available through activities like our Take & Make kits for teens and adults. While it would be much more fun to gather together to learn a sewing project with fellow crafters, we are still providing the materials and instructions for patrons to learn and practice safely on their own. The Take & Makes are a great example of us bringing the library to our patrons. While we can’t wait to build a giant LEGO Titanic model, or play with Star Wars Droids, or make waffles together, we promise that all of those fun things will be ready and waiting for them when the opportunity returns.

Q: What can we look forward to this spring and summer?

CK: Our Seed Library is coming back! Patrons will be able pick up seeds from HPL for free. We are planning programs designed to teach patrons how to garden, whether they live in a one-bedroom apartment or a house with an available yard. Also, be sure to keep an eye out for more information on our Community Garden.

GD: Claire already planted the seed about our Community Garden and we are both so excited for that. Our goal is to provide free resources and skills for growing your own food. We have a lot of big plans for that and we can’t wait for them to grow! (Yes, food puns are my favorite.) We’ll also have another iteration of the Summer Library Challenge which is for all ages from birth through... as old as you are. There are fun challenges that are customizable to the kind of interests you have and the chance to win prizes all summer long. Claire and I also always look forward to QuestCon because we are proud geeks. And while it had some struggles the last few years with various obstacles, we have our fingers crossed that this year will be successful and super geeky! As always, we love to do what our patrons are interested in so if you have things you’d like to see happen this year, now’s the time to tell us.

Stop in to visit LAB 316 and visit our website calendar for up-to-date programs and activity information!

#DiscoverShareCreateConnect

WHAT TO READ NEXT

Looking for your next favorite read?

Let HPL staff point you in the right direction!

It’s no surprise that the library has more than a few avid readers on staff - and they love sharing their favorites with patrons! Get staff reading recommendations online, at the library, or sent straight to your inbox.

Find births, deaths, news, and more! Includes thousands of pages from the Janesville Gazette.

Visit HedbergPublicLibrary.org to explore all of our online resources.

#DiscoverShareCreateConnect
Throughout the semester, the family continued to attend scheduled storytimes, and came to the library other times to play in the Children's Room. “Our relationship has grown and Gabby has brought other family and friends to the library,” says Swenson. 

In early December, Gabby and Giselle were playing in the Children’s Room and when Swenson greeted them, Giselle sang Wheels on the Bus with her and her mom. “Giselle was excited to help me put up a lighted tree and we had a very nice visit,” recalls Swenson. Later, Gabby sent an email expressing her gratitude:

“Thank you again for your time with Miss Giselle today. She had so much fun! It’s the little things that you do that make our experience at the Hedberg library amazing! You rock!”

“...that there is a place in the library where everyone understands her language,” says Swenson. “I am thankful to have made this family’s acquaintance and to be able to support them in our library community by providing an ASL interpreter for storytimes so that they can have the same meaningful experience as every other family.”

Young Giselle is excited to try ‘everything’ that the HPL has to offer, her mom notes. Additionally, this experience inspired Swenson to continue her own education in ASL with a course through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

“Thanks to a generous gift from Dollar General, HPL will provide an ASL interpreter at upcoming storytimes, which are noted on our calendar. “This is amazing,” said Gabby of the donation. “Having you all go the extra mile for the deaf community means so much to us.”

Library Director Bryan McCormick announced the $10,000 donation to the library from the family, who contacted him to continue her own education in ASL with a course through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

“...Gabby and her husband Thaddeus, who is also deaf, brought Giselle to HPL’s Wiggle & Rhyme, a weekly early literacy storytime with books, puppets, songs, and movement activities. Even though an interpreter was not available that first week, the family was able to enjoy the interactive storytime thanks to assistance from Swenson and other Youth Services staff members Julie and Mary.

The following week, Leah from Purple Communications, which provides onsite ASL interpreting services, attended the storytimes and ‘we all saw Giselle blossom in her willingness to interact and communicate both with ASL and verbally,’ Swenson relates.

Weekly storytimes in the HPL’s Children’s Room not only provide the library’s youngest patrons with an opportunity to listen, learn, and explore, but also create special connections between staff and the families. “That friendship and trust often spills out into the rest of our interactions,” explains HPL Youth Services Associate Jamie Swenson. “We love this part of our job. Especially when we see the difference storytime has made in a family’s life.”

In September 2021, Gabby, a patron Swenson recognized from weekly storytimes, approached the Children’s Desk. “I had seen her signing with her daughter, so I knew to remove my mask so she could lip read,” Swenson explains. Through lip reading and the exchange of notes on paper, Swenson learned that Gabby was deaf and her two-year-old daughter Giselle was hearing. Gabby inquired which storytime would be right for her young daughter, and if it would be possible for the library to provide an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter during those programs. “I answered with an enthusiastic ‘yes!’ and her face lit up,” says Swenson.

Gabby and her husband Thaddeus, who is also deaf, brought Giselle to HPL’s Wiggle & Rhyme, a weekly early literacy storytime with books, puppets, songs, and movement activities. Even though an interpreter was not available that first week, the family was able to enjoy the interactive storytime thanks to assistance from Swenson and other Youth Services staff members Julie and Mary.

The following week, Leah from Purple Communications, which provides onsite ASL interpreting services, attended the storytimes and ‘we all saw Giselle blossom in her willingness to interact and communicate both with ASL and verbally,’ Swenson relates.