

NEWS and NOTES from the HASTON LIBRARY

JANUARY 2024

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**



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DECEMBER PROGRAMS & EVENTS



- In a collaboration with the St. Albans Free Library, Director Worman invited the historian and author Mercedes de Guardiola to give a talk about her recent book Vermont for the Vermonters: The History of Eugenics in the Green Mountain State at the library in St. Albans on Saturday, December 2nd. Luckily, she assented, and she even traveled all the way from New York City to do the talk, arriving ahead of schedule! It's not the cheeriest of subjects (especially during the holidays), but it certainly is one that has been overlooked until recently. Ms. de Guardiola gave an in-depth overview of how the pseudoscience of eugenics became integrated into the policy and laws of the state of Vermont over many decades, and also how the state (and the rest of the country) has never really come to terms with the damaging effects of those policies. We had a good turnout, and Mercedes fielded many questions from the members of the audience, who were very sensitive to the topic and engaged in the subject matter. Ms. de Guardiola seemed extremely grateful to have been invited to northern Vermont to give a talk on her book, and Director Becky Manahan of the SAFL and Director Worman were delighted to host her!



- For the holidays, the library took part once again in the annual Tree Lighting and Polar Express. We provided candy canes (and some carols!) for the tree lighting ceremony and books for the kids who boarded the Polar Express (over 80 altogether!). Thanks once again to Franklin Rec, and to all the people who helped to make these wonderful events happen!
- Thanks also to the kind-hearted citizens who bought gifts to fill the Operation Happiness stockings. Your generosity is much appreciated, and you helped to make a Merry Christmas for many kids!

WORKING GROUP ON THE STATUS OF LIBRARIES IN VERMONT



In May of 2021, the Vermont State Legislature passed an act that made various changes to the education laws of the state, and it was signed by the Governor on June 7, 2021. This act created the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont, and it charged that body with the creation of an in-depth study of the statewide status of libraries. The Working Group submitted its report to the House and Senate Committees on Education on

November 1st, 2023. Many meetings were held to gauge the state of libraries in Vermont, with library employees submitting their testimony in writing and sometimes in person as well. Subjects such as staffing, salaries, safety, social services, and technology (among others) were explored in detail. The result is a 229-page report (with a 710-page appendix!) that gives the citizens of the state a pretty clear picture of where Vermont libraries find themselves in the early to mid-2020s. Admittedly, your director has not read the whole report, but he has read the Executive Summary and the Recommendations to the Legislature, which total a much more manageable eight pages. And he also attended a webinar on December 22nd, which was led by State Librarian Cathy Delneo, who gave her own summary of the report and fielded questions from the attendees. Anyone who is interested in reading the report (or at least the Executive Summary) may proceed to the following page on the Vermont Department of Libraries website:

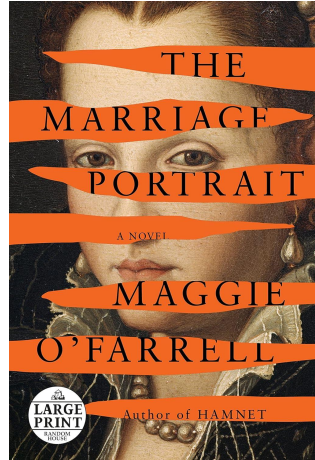
[Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont](#)

FREE BOOK CART @ FCS!



Through the efforts of trustees Allison Franklin, Jen Raynak, and Brenna Sturtevant, the library is now sponsoring a Free Book Cart at Franklin Central School! Local artist and friend of the library Mandi Gates used her talents to make the cart beautiful. Students are encouraged to take a book home to keep, and anyone who would like to contribute books to the cart is encouraged to do so. Thanks goes out to Rob Franklin and Katie Nolen for their contributions as well, and to Joyce Hakey and Nancy Wilson of FCS for their willingness to work with us on this project! Contact the library for more information about how to donate books for the cart.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



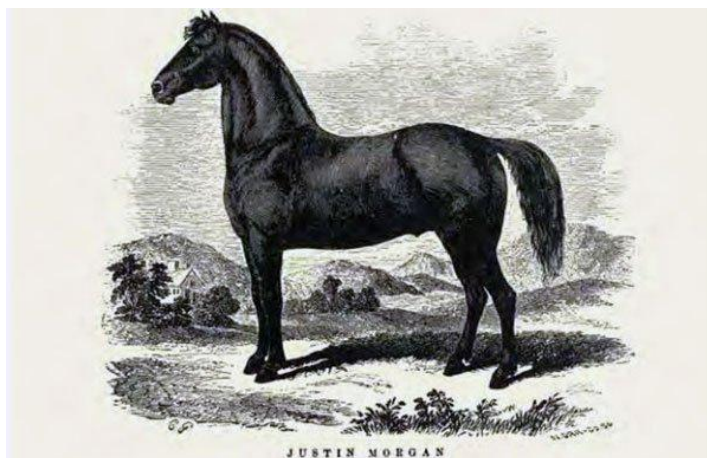
This month, the Haston Library's book group will be meeting at the library on Thursday, January 18th at 2:30 PM to discuss The Marriage Portrait, by Maggie O'Farrell. Contact the library to reserve a copy of the book if you'd like to participate!

MORE FELTING FUN!!



Once again, the Haston is inviting local crafter Carolyn Kittell to the library to lead a felting workshop, which will focus on using the needle felting process to “paint” with wool. It will be held on Saturday, January 20th, starting at 9:00 AM, and all materials will be supplied free of charge. Call or email the library to sign up--space is limited!

JUSTIN MORGAN'S HORSE: MAKING AN AMERICAN MYTH



All of the Morgan horses that exist today trace their lineage back to a single horse: a mysterious stallion named Figure, which was owned by singing teacher Justin Morgan in the late 18th century. The real story of the first Morgan horse is complicated and fascinating, and it's tied up with the idea of Vermont identity, the relationship between humans and animals, the creation of American myth, and much more. The Haston is pleased to be hosting historian Amanda Gustin to give a Vermont Humanities talk on the Morgan horse on Saturday, January 27th at 3:00 PM at the Franklin Town Hall. Amanda has been the Public Programs Coordinator at the Vermont Historical Society since 2012. Prior to that, she was a researcher at the Mary Baker Eddy Library in Boston. She has studied military, religious, and women's history in the medieval period and nineteenth-century America. Join us on the 27th to explore one more intriguing facet of the Green Mountain State's history!

RETURN OF THE POOL PASS!



Thanks to the Franklin Select Board and ARPA funding, the library again has a pass to the Hard'Ack Pool! The pass can be checked out for two days, and it allows one family to use the pool and its facilities for free. The pool is located at 179 Congress Street in St. Albans. The pass can be reserved by calling or emailing the library.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

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