



# Haston Highlights

*Monthly Newsletter of the Haston Free Public Library*



## Library News

- The library will be closed on December 25th in observance of Christmas and January 1st in observance of New year's Day.
- Tax forms have been ordered from the IRS but we have not received a notice of when they will be shipped to us.
- We have added some new magazine titles to our periodical collection. We now offer *Car and Driver*, *Food Network Magazine*, *Golf Digest*, *HGTV Magazine*, *Psychology Today*, *Reader's Digest-Large Print Edition*, and *Southern Living*.

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## *Library Hours*

Monday: 1 PM–7 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM–5 PM

Wednesday: 9 AM–5 PM

Thursday: 1 PM–7 PM

Saturday: 9 AM–12 PM

## *Contact Us:*

508-867-0208

[hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com)

## Staff Picks

### Amy

Book: *Scandinavian Gatherings: From Afternoon Fika to Christmas Eve Supper: 70 Simple Recipes for Year-Round Hygge*  
By Melissa Bahen

Movie: *It Happened on 5th Avenue*  
(1947) Not Rated

### Brianna

Book: *Once Upon A Tome*  
By Oliver Darkshire

Music: *Santa Must be Polish*  
By Bobby Vinton

### Gabrielle

Book: *One Day In December*  
By Josie Silver

Music: *Mind Over Matter*  
By Young the Giant

### Lisa

Book: *The Christmas Train*  
By David Baldacci

Movie: *The Muppet Christmas Carol*  
(1992) Rated G



## Book Review

By Kirkus Reviews. Issue: December 15, 2023

### Infectious Generosity

By Chris Anderson

An inspiring, timely book about ways to bring out the best in people rather than focusing on the worst.

We are living in an age of monetized anger, writes Anderson, who's helped launch more than 100 magazines. If we don't change course soon, the disease will be terminal. Thankfully, the author offers a remarkably straightforward remedy: Think less about commerce and more about simple, grassroots generosity.

As the head of the TED organization, Anderson has lived the idea, bringing interesting and useful ideas to millions of people for free. In this uplifting book, the author examines how social media has become a maze of algorithms designed to glue people to screens in a fog of simmering resentment, unwilling to even talk to strangers, let alone help them. Yet signs of change do exist, and Anderson recounts stories of people acting generously—the hairdresser who started to give free cuts to homeless people or the anonymous donors who distributed substantial grants to help good causes. Video records of these incidents and many similar ones were circulated online; in numerous cases, people who watched them were inspired to become generous themselves, volunteering at or making a donation to a worthy organization.

Anderson sees this pattern as proof that social media can be a positive force—and that many people want to be generous. He cites research showing that those who perform real-world generous acts are happier than self-centered people who live online. “Whether our collective future is a good one or not depends largely on whether the majority of people give more to the world than they take from it,” he writes, continuing, “Generosity is a key ingredient for a contented life.”

A joyful road map away from a polarized, selfish society to the hopeful, humane place where we should be

# Adult Programs

Please register for programs by calling the library at 508-867-0208 or by emailing [hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com)

**Monday, December 11th**  
**6:30 PM**

**Jeff Belanger presents**  
**“The Fright Before Christmas”**

Remember the famous Christmas song which goes, “There’ll be scary ghost stories and tales of the glories of Christmases long, long ago...”? So what happened to the scary stories? Jeff Belanger brings the spooky back to the yuletide time of year with Creepy Christmas. From the origins of the holiday to the monsters and ghosts that lurk in its shadows, Jeff will take you on a multi-media journey of this haunting holiday! Based on his “Creepy Christmas” PBS special and his latest book The Fright Before Christmas, this night may just save Christmas!

\*NOTE: This program is NOT for young children. It IS for anyone on the Naughty List.

**Thursday, December 14th**  
**6:00 PM**

**Craft Night for Adults**  
**Book Page Ornaments**

Join us for this fun up-cycled craft!  
We will be using scraps of discarded books to make a fun and festive ornament.

## *Discussion Groups*

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### Book Group

The Book Group will not be meeting this month.



### Movie Discussion Group

The Movie Discussion Group will not be meeting this month.

Haston Library Children's Room

# December Storytimes

Tuesdays 10:30 am

December 5



**The Gingerbread Baby**  
by Jan Brett

**Gingerbread Man Craft**

December 12



**Little Tractor and the Christmas Tree**  
by Natalie Quintart

**Christmas Tree Craft**

December 19



**Pete the Cat Saves Christmas**  
by James Dean

**Christmas Present Craft**

December 26



**The Snowman Waltz**  
by Karen Konnerth

**Paper Snowman Craft**

161 North Main St, North Brookfield MA  
508-867-0208  
blamb@cwmar.org

# Children's Department

## Art Club

Every 1st and  
3rd Monday

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM



## Relax and Read Tween Storytime

Every Wednesday  
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

HASTON LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM PRESENTS:

# FELIZ NAVIDUCKIE! Soap Making Workshop

WITH GARINÉ ARAKELIAN OF KULINA FOLK ARTS



**HASTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**SAT. DECEMBER 16  
10:00 AM**

LIMITED SPACE. PLEASE CALL THE LIBRARY AT  
508-867-0208 OR EMAIL  
BLAMB@CWMARS.ORG TO REGISTER

PLEASE NOTE: CHILDREN MUST BE 9 OR OLDER AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO LIVE EXPOSURE INVOLVED, MATERIALS ARE HOT. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WORKSHOP, AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SAFETY CONCERNS MUST BE SIGNED. NO ADMISSION IS ALLOWED AFTER INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN.

Haston Free Public Library  
161 North Main Street, North Brookfield 01535