

LIBRARY MATTERS

HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER 2023-2024

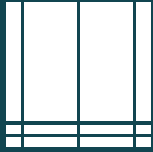


FREE TO READ

Celebrating access to banned books.

A VISION FOR 2024

Prioritizing community needs.



HEDBERG
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Building Community

HedbergPublicLibrary.org

MAIN STREET HOURS

316 South Main Street
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

HPL EXPRESS HOURS

Uptown Janesville • 2500 Milton Avenue
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545

Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Sunday, December 23
Monday, December 25
Monday, January 1
Monday, February 19; open at 12 p.m.

CONTACT US

Information Desk 608-758-6600
Children's Desk 608-758-6585
Questions@HedbergPublicLibrary.org

PROGRAM REMINDERS

Never miss out on a program when you subscribe to receive weekly calendar reminders. Visit our website for details.

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 or notification in the newspaper, regional broadcasts, publications, productions, on the Web, or in other printed or electronic materials related to the role and function of Hedberg Public Library. Individuals who do not wish to be photographed or recorded at a library program should contact library staff. Please note that no names will be used without expressed permission.

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

ON THE COVER

Library lovers kicked up their heels in the stacks at the 14th annual Friends of HPL fundraiser, *A Night at the Library*. Learn more on last page.

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR



“The public library is where place and possibility meet.”
- Stuart Dybek

I like this quote because the library *is* possibilities. We encourage the aspiring writers who devour our current novels and attend writing classes and programs and the young entrepreneurs seeking information from databases and classes on how to launch their business. We assist the recently unemployed individual using our computers to fill out job applications, and welcome new parents learning how to build early literacy skills for their children through picture books and tips at our storytimes.

We provide a space, a collection, programs, and services open to anyone and everyone.

We know things are tough right now for many. Rising costs, housing challenges, financial instability, and general uncertainty in the world are common stressors. We took some extra time this year to review community assessments and other resources to better understand the needs of our residents and determine where library efforts can make the most impact. For 2024, we identified two audiences and areas of focus: people experiencing financial hardship and folks building life skills.

HPL is already making a concerted effort to promote our services for those needing life skills or trying to address money challenges. We partner with agencies such as ADRC, Second Harvest, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, Project 16:49, and others which have periodic office hours in our study rooms. We offer MyChart training, social media misinformation and safety programs, and computer and job-hunting programs at GIFTS Men's Shelter. We partner with Faith Literacy and YWCA on citizenship and English Language Learning materials and classes, work with P4J and HeadStart on early literacy efforts, and provide inspirational memoirs and self-help books. The Library coordinates clothing exchange events, collaborates with ECHO and individual donors to provide essential hygiene, food, and clothing items for those in need, and serves as a safe-place warming and cooling center.

We will continue to explore ways to serve these audiences using library resources. Whether it's our bookmobile, programs like our Hedberg Hangout, or a new and exciting initiative called Healthy at Hedberg, our vision for the upcoming year is focused on meeting essential community needs.

The library will still have storytimes at our main location and the Express Branch and host booktalks, still provide programs of interest, and purchase titles ranging from bestsellers to the esoteric. We will still be here to answer informational questions and help you find that right book to read or listen to. The Hedberg Public Library is here to help you discover and grow. The possibilities are endless.

Charles B. Teval
Interim Library Director



DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATES

At its September 2023 meeting, the HPL Executive Board reviewed proposals from several recruitment companies and voted to hire **Bradbury Miller Associates** to conduct the search for a new library director. The company has extensive experience recruiting for Directors and upper management positions in libraries, having completed over 300 searches for public and other types of libraries in the last ten years. A hiring committee has been formed that includes three library board members and City of Janesville HR Director Tara Semenchuk.

In November, Bradbury Miller Associates spent time gathering feedback from staff, patrons, and community leaders before posting the position at the end of the month. The application deadline is January 14, 2024, and finalists are expected to be announced in early March. Watch our website for updates.

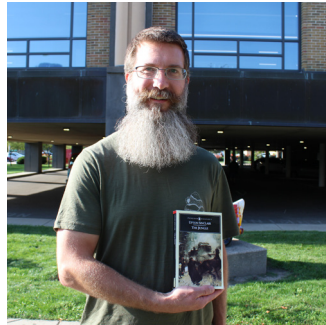
BROWSE OUR NEW WEBSITE

HPL has a new and improved digital space! Watch for our updated website to launch in the first few weeks of December - then take a minute to click around. We hope you'll find it to be intuitive, responsive, and full of useful information.

Need help navigating? Call us at 608-758-6600. You might be able to find just about everything you need online, but our staff are always available for one-on-one assistance.



WE READ BANNED BOOKS!



On Tuesday, October 3, more than 240 book lovers gathered in Library Park for our first ever **Banned Books Giveaway** to celebrate their freedom to read. The free books (more than 130!) were gone in less than an hour and the library collected over 40 postcards to send to local legislators.

Three HPL librarians planned the event, recognizing that libraries across the country are struggling with book bans and protests.

“We had a wonderful time chatting with patrons of all ages,” said Claire Kinder, Innovation Librarian at HPL. “And we also got to witness fantastic conversations about the different ways banning books harms people and their right to read.”

The team, which also includes Young Adult Librarian Gabi Draxler and Public Services Librarian Kasey Weiland, is looking forward to making the event bigger and better in 2024.

Q&A WITH OUR NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD



HPL has welcomed a new Lead Librarian as the head of the Public Services Librarian team.

Laura Gest brings with her 14 years of library experience in both small and medium sized libraries, including some time as a library director. She lives nearby on a small hobby farm with her husband and two daughters, ages 10 and 12.

Q: What is your favorite library service?

A: LIBBY! I listen to audio books all the time and have already read or listened to 69 books this year.

Q: What is the strangest thing you’ve found in a returned library book?

A: A homemade tortilla.

Q: What is the biggest highlight of your career so far?

A: Being asked to be an earlier reader for Amy E. Reichert’s book *Once upon a December*.

“I am excited to learn more about a large library and to work in such a beautifully remodeled building.” - **Laura Gest, Lead Librarian**

HPL express

your uptown library

HPL Express @ Uptown Janesville
2500 Milton Avenue • Janesville, WI

MONDAY meet-up

STORIES & MORE @ HPL EXPRESS



MONDAYS @ 11 A.M.

DECEMBER 4 - FEBRUARY 26*

Start your week off right with fun at the library!

Each meet-up will feature a different story or playtime activity for kids and their caregivers.

No registration necessary.

**No program December 25, January 1, and February 19.*



HPL EXPRESS WALKING CLUB

January 8-March 25

Stop in to HPL Express each Monday for a new Walking Club Newsletter with tips to make the most of your mall-walking experience. Get weekly audiobook recommendations, healthy recipes, and more.

Log your weekly walking hours and enter our monthly prize drawing!

Janesville's Jolly Jingle



HPL once again offered **Stories with Santa & Mrs. Claus** during downtown's Janesville Jolly Jingle, held the first weekend in December.

Computer Systems Manager, Emrick Gunderson and JATV's Tina Breeze-Wahlers reprised their roles as the famous North Pole couple.



Visit our **StoryWalk** at the Robert O. Cook Memorial Arboretum, offered in partnership with the City of Janesville's Parks and Recreation Division and the School District of Janesville.



WINTER TITLE:
Ten Ways to Hear Snow
by Cathy Camper

Installed around the winter equinox.

A snowy day, a trip to Grandma's, time spent cooking with one another, and space to pause and discover the world around you come together in this perfect book for reading and sharing on a cozy winter day.

Love has no language,
but you should.



Transparent Language®

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Saturdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

January 13 & March 2

PROGRAM ROOM

Drop in to explore play stations and activities that help kids express emotions, build relationships, and master difficult situations. Discover how you can duplicate the stations at home! An adult caregiver must accompany children. Families welcome. *No registration necessary.*



STORYTIMES BEGIN JANUARY 3

Music and Movement
Mondays at 6 p.m.

Babies in the Library
Wednesdays at 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Wiggle and Rhyme
Thursdays at 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.

An ASL interpreter will be available at both storytimes.

Fridays with Friends
Fridays at 10 a.m.

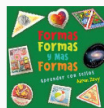


DYK? You have access to an entire library of animated books and games for children with your library card. **Tumblebooks** is a great computer program you can access from home 24/7 or within the library. The website has a wide variety of picture books, as well as easy reader and chapter books that your child can listen to and follow along with. Visit hedbergpubliclibrary.org to get started today!

New Books!



New Spanish Story Books



Kanopy Kids is a collection of movies and shows for kids available in public libraries only!

HPL offers unlimited plays in Kanopy Kids, so your kids are free to explore enriching, educational and entertaining films and TV series.

Visit Kanopy.com to start watching!



Jamila & Spotty are back! After months of construction, The Children's Room is fully open, the giraffes have returned, and we're excited to unveil some **new features** and **fun additions** over the next few months. Watch for details on our website and social media!

CELEBRATING 24 YEARS IN FIRST GRADE CLASSROOMS

YOU SAID IT!



I love this library. I belong to all three book clubs and like the variety of each one. The three ladies leading them are exceptional. I like to buy sweets in the store. I especially like reading my favorite authors without having to buy the books, as I'm trying to downsize. ”

- Dawn K.

In November, HPL Children's Room staff began their 24th year of visiting first grade classrooms of public and private schools. This early literacy initiative started in 2000 as a way to reach out to community elementary school students and their families, explains Julie Westby, HPL Youth Services Librarian.

"We thought first grade was a great grade level for the visits since these kids are just starting to read on their own," she says. "Our hope for these visits is that kids and their families will learn about the library and come and visit us."

Library staff begins each visit by sharing a story called *If You Take a Mouse to the Library*. The story, based on *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, by Laura Joffe Numeroff, was created by HPL Youth Services staff members and follows Mouse as he enters the library, signs up for a library card, and enjoys a variety of fun activities in the HPL Children's Room, like meeting Jamila and Spotty, the HPL resident giraffes, finding a new book, and spending some time on the KidSpace computers, Julie explains.

Staff then shares basic library information, such as details about the three locations and types of materials available for checkout, as well as reads another book or two with the children. "We try to use newer books published in the past year," Julie notes. "Over the years, teachers have commented how much they appreciate seeing books that they many not have yet seen."



TEEN D&D WELCOMES NEW & SEASONED PLAYERS

Dungeons & Dragons is a fantasy tabletop role-playing game that has been around for decades. A Dungeon Master acts as the game's referee and storyteller, while players are turned into adventurers who explore a multitude of worlds, embark on epic quests, and add their own bits and pieces to the story being told.

But how do you learn to actually play it? Visit the library, of course!

Whether it's your first quest or the next of many, teens are invited to flex their creative muscles playing this collaborative game.

Check out the library's website for the most up-to-date D&D days and times, including some possible pop-up sessions.

TEEN DUNGEONS & DRAGON
Tuesdays from 4:30-7:30 p.m.
January 16 & 30 and February 13 & 27

WOODRUFF ROOM

Registration is required. Register online, at the library, or call 608-758-6600.



Each first grader is left with a take-home bag (this year's features literary characters Elephant and Piggie) that includes a letter to caregivers about HPL, a library card application, and a flyer explaining the organization of our Easy Reader collection. The goody bag also includes a sticker, bookmark, and a pencil. All printed material is presented in Spanish as well.

Julie says this program typically gets Children's Room staff in front of 600-700 students each year. "We usually get quite a few families coming in after the visits," she notes. "All the staff members tell the kids to say 'hi' when they come in to visit, and it's

always fun to be on the desk when a kiddo from the school you visited comes in!"

"These visits allow us the opportunity to get out into the schools to introduce young people to the world of possibilities inside the library," says Charles Teval, Interim Library Director.

In addition to this annual program, visits and presentations by library staff and/or the HPL Bookmobile as well as tours of HPL are available by request.

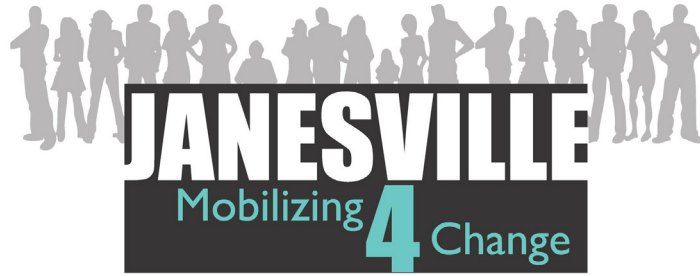
Want the library to visit your school or organization?

Visit our website to fill out our online request form or call 608-758-6600 to find out how request a visit to or from your library!



“ We are so lucky to have such a great library. As one of my pastor friends said as he moved to Minnesota... the Janesville library is its best kept secret! People need to know! I agree agree agree. ” - Judi H.

COLLABORATING TO INCREASE IMPACT



JM4C is a state-certified prevention agency with a focus on reducing substance use and promoting mental wellness. Earlier this year, Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change (JM4C) announced it had received an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant from the Rock County Board of Supervisors. This grant allowed Director Xandi Finn to implement Project H.O.P.E. (Homeless Outreach Prevention Efforts), which hosts monthly training sessions at Hedberg Public Library for those experiencing homelessness.



“The goal with the ARPA program is to build skills and knowledge within the unhoused community to help them find and maintain housing,” explains Xandi. “Being unhoused is a pretty massive risk factor for substance abuse. Reducing the number of unhoused individuals will reduce the rate of drug and alcohol addiction.”

As a division of the City of Janesville, JM4C operates under the oversight of the director of HPL. This partnership has strengthened the outreach and impact of the nonprofit, which is housed at the library. “Being here has been beneficial to the library patrons and JM4C,” Xandi says.

“It’s a great partnership that we’re learning to lean into more- to not just be supportive of each other but collaborate on things.”

- Xandi Finn, JM4C Director, on working with HPL

The number of unhoused individuals in the city has grown over the last two years as the availability of affordable housing has decreased. Notably, is an increase in the number of dual income families experiencing housing insecurity. Xandi shares that she was surprised to learn many participants she’s encountered through Project H.O.P.E. are in fact employed. “We try not to have those judgments, but that came up for me,” she relates. “That made it very real—you just don’t become unhoused by just not having a job. Jobs aren’t enough to maintain a home.”

Additionally, there are more than 500 unhoused children in Janesville—ranging from those that may be couch surfing or in temporary living arrangements to those sleeping in vehicles.

Each month, Xandi works with attendees to “look at what is holding them back from being able to access housing, trying to figure out the roadblocks and what we can do to connect them with the services they need.” Monthly workshops focus on different pillars of wellbeing, including mental health, budgeting, job skills, nutrition and healthy cooking through a collaboration with UW Extension, and physical education—including where one can work out for free. “For so many reasons that’s a good thing,” Xandi points out.

The work of the program also includes acting as a liaison and encouraging connections with community organizations that could provide support to those experiencing homelessness. “We’ve partnered with community organizations and are trying to bridge that gap,” Xandi explains. “Once you’ve been hurt by the system, you don’t have that trust.”

Since Xandi began the workshops at HPL, the number of those attending has increased, up to 20 participants each month, she says. “There was some hesitation and discomfort when it first started. I had to go out [to the lot the City of Janesville has designated for overnight parking] and invite them in and let them know we want them to come hang out with us.”

LEND A HELPING HAND

As cooler weather sets in, JM4C is collecting donations to support those who attend Project H.O.P.E. workshops at HPL. Items specifically requested include:

GALLONS OF WATER • BABY WIPES • SMALL PROPANE TANKS • SOCKS
SWEATSHIRTS (SIZES M-4XL) • REGULAR AND SUPER TAMPONS • FANNY PACKS

Find a full wish list and learn how you can support the mission of JM4C at www.jm4c.org.

FEBRUARY IS LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH



LITERACY
Early literacy, digital resources, test prep, coding programs, and life-long learning opportunities.



SOCIAL HUB
Health and financial assistance information, social services access, and nonprofit resources.



LEARNING SPACES
Study and collaborative spaces, homework help, and creative labs.



DIGITAL ACCESS
Broadband and Wi-Fi, public computing, free online databases, and a new website!



WORKFORCE & BUSINESS
Skills development, career planning, job search help, and small business support.



THE ARTS
Exhibits by local artists, traveling displays, and creative programs.

FALL IN LOVE WITH A GOOD BOOK

Photo-op alert! Stop in, snap a pic, post it, and tag us. #librarylover #hedbergpubliclibrary

HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

We appreciate the generosity of the individuals who gave to the HPL Foundation during July - September.
Interested in supporting your library? Visit our website to learn all the ways you can give to HPL.

Joann Anderson
Beloit Memorial Hospital
Dr. S.W. Chang
Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin
G.R. Cope
Gregg and Helen Dickinson
Delores Dilley
Friends of Hedberg Public Library
Nancy Hough
Janesville Noon Lions

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Joann G. Rivas Revocable Trust
Katchen Ringelstetter
Rock County 4H Fair

In Memory of:
Kay Harrison
Joan Malin
Teresa Terrill
Arlene Ferguson
John Ringelstetter



MAKE A DONATION

The HPL Foundation helps to support library programs, services, and facility needs.

Interested in making a donation to the library's Foundation?
Visit HedbergPublicLibrary.org, scan the QR code, or call 608-758-6600.



SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON YOUTH SERVICES

The HPL Foundation and the Friends of HPL have generously supported the renovation of the Youth Services department that included a new ceiling and lighting fixtures.

Gifted the library \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively, the two nonprofit organizations helped make the necessary improvements possible, creating a bright and updated space for young minds to explore.

FRIENDS OF HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF HPL?

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!

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY? BECOME A FRIEND!



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to learn more about the Friends of HPL!



GIVE TO OUR GIVING TREE



Stop in to the library or HPL Express through the month of December to grab an ornament off the Friends of HPL Giving Tree and donate an item of need to support a variety of library programs and services in 2024.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

NOTICE: NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE MAILED

Library Matters, HPL's quarterly newsletter, will **no longer be mailed** to Friends members as part of their membership.

GET AN EMAILED COPY

All library cardholders with an email on file will receive an emailed copy of the newsletter.

Not a cardholder?

Get a library card today or visit our website to subscribe to library news.

THE ART OF FUNDRAISING

The Friends of HPL's 14th annual fall fundraiser, A Night at the Library, was held on Saturday, October 21 and welcomed about 75 people as they glammed up for our "Art Gala."

Visit the library's Facebook page for fun photos.



The Ground Floor
shop | eat | drink | read
at Hedberg Public Library

Happiness is a cup of coffee & a good book.

Lucky for you, we have both!



Friends of HPL get 20% off their purchase.



HEDBERG
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Building Community

A Service of the City of Janesville

316 SOUTH MAIN STREET
JANESVILLE, WI 53545

This mailing is sponsored by the

FRIENDS OF
HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Scan the QR code with
your phone's camera to
learn more about the
Friends of HPL!



Connect with HPL Online



NONPROFIT DISPLAYS

Need a space to promote your
community organization?

Check out the library's display areas!

Contact Jodi at 608-758-6593 or
jrichards@hedbergpubliclibrary.org.



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Explore this trusted, objective stock, ETF, fund ratings,
analysis and portfolio tool.

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- Build and analyze an investment portfolio
- Learn about stocks, mutual funds, and portfolios

HedbergPublicLibrary.org

LIBRARY ART, EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

DECEMBER

Watercolors by Woody Olsen

JANUARY

Acrylics by Rachel Klimczyk

Acrylics & Watercolors by Sukey Ryan

*Model Trains by WIS-ILL HO Modular
RR Group*

FEBRUARY

Student Art by School District of Janesville

INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING YOUR ART?

Call 608-758-5803 to learn how.



Free self-paced, on-demand training | Duration: 1 hour

Introduction to Finding Grants

Inform and focus grant seeking efforts using this
comprehensive directory of grantmakers,
grant recipients, grants, and 990s across the globe.

Get started at HedbergPublicLibrary.org.
FREE with your library card!

Candid.

Non-Profit Organization

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Janesville, WI 53545