

Haston Highlights Halloween Happenings!

Kids' Halloween Party

Get ready for a spooky good time! The Children's Library will be hosting a Halloween party for kids on Saturday October 30 from 10-12. Pumpkins, witches, and ghosts galore! Kids will have the opportunity to make some frighteningly fun crafts, dress up in their costumes, do the Monster Mash, and even get a little treat (no tricks here!)

Help decorate Miss Bri's Halloween tree and say hello to her magical toad friend. See if you can find the witch's brew ingredients stashed in the bookshelves.

Get your picture taken with some silly props. Nothing too scary, just lots of fun for the little ones!



Halloween Teen Trivia Night

Think you know Halloween? Are you a trivia master? Test your knowledge and maybe even learn something new at Halloween Teen Trivia Night on Thursday October 28 from 5-6 pm! Descend the stairs to the library meeting room and be transported to a land where Halloween rules (well, for the night anyway). See if you can answer questions about Halloween's history, monsters, scary stories, pop culture, and more! The winners will be crowned pumpkin royalty. Jack Skellington would be proud. All participants will receive a prize at the end. Have a costume or cosplay you really want to show off? Feel free to wear it! We would love to see your hard work.

For both events, contact the library at 508-867-0208 with questions or to reserve a spot.



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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday:	1 PM—7 PM
Tuesday:	10 AM—5 PM
Wednesday:	9 AM—7 PM
Thursday:	1 PM—6 PM
Saturday:	9 AM—12 PM

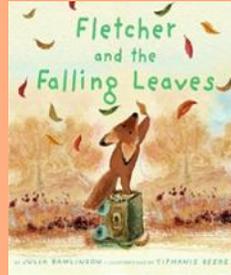
Haston Highlights

Dawn Thistle, Editor

Haston Library Children's Room
October Storytimes
Tuesdays at 10:30 am with Miss Bri
October 5

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves

by Julia Rawlinson

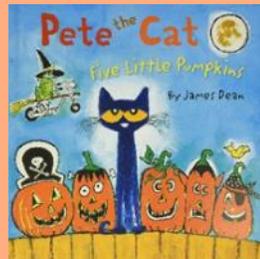


Leaf Silhouette
Craft

October 12

Pete the Cat: Five Little Pumpkins

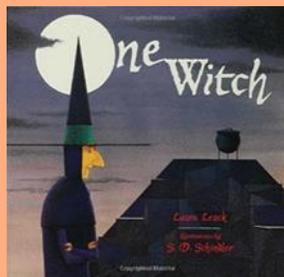
by James Dean



Mini Pumpkin
Painting

October 19

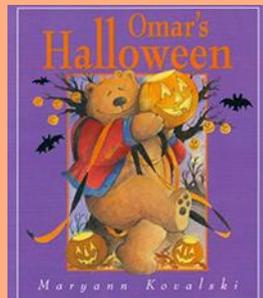
One Witch
by Laura Leuck



Witch's Brew
Craft

October 26

Omar's Halloween
by Maryann Kovalski



Spooky Ghost
Craft

Haston Library Book Group— Twenty Years On

by Darrell Hyder

Twenty years ago, before 9/11, a bunch of us showed up for a book reading series called “The Ends of Civilization,” five books about the end of nature, science, history and more. Then librarian Ann Kidd got a grant from the Mass. Foundation for the Humanities to have scholars (from WPI) lead us in the discussion. A year later we asked ourselves “Why not continue?” We did, and are still at it with a number of the original group, and with others, from 8 or 10 to as many as 17 per meeting, women and men, youngish up to inveterate reader Clarence Burley, age 94, who was around when most of our books were written. We even have members from as far away as Cape Cod, who ZOOM in each month. As member Mark Waydaka asks, “Why would someone remain a member of this group for so long if it weren't a bunch of very special people?”

Our diligent librarians fetch for us from interlibrary loan the titles we choose, as motley as we are. If it weren't fun as well as interesting, our group might have flagged. But our longtime leader Bob LaFlamme keeps us in order, thanks to his experience herding Boy Scouts, and has for many years hosted us with a picnic at his home for our summer discussions. He's also well attuned to our subjects. For Bill Bryson's *Into the Woods* he brought in a fully loaded backpack to show, and for the *Lobster Chronicles* book plopped a real lobster trap on the library floor. As a printer I made a fake Scotch whiskey label to paste on a soda bottle for the discussion of Shackleton's famous ship that had cases of it to thaw out his men in Antarctica. We like the occasional surprise.

Sometimes there are snacks that seem appropriate, but we do not copy one group we heard of that only meets because of the wine served. After an hour and a half of discussion we rate the books by number, the highest is a

5. Many books rate 4 or more; once a book scored zero, which shows that we can have strong opinions. One memorable review was for Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley* (which most of us liked) – “Too much dog.”

We read about a book a month, totaling 8 to 10 a year, alternating fiction and nonfiction, so have compiled a long list, nearing 200, some classics going back a few decades (Victor Hugo, our oldest author), but mostly fairly recent. Group members each suggest a few titles for the year, and the books that get the most votes are the ones we read. It's been a good run, and often introduced us to subjects, authors, and styles we'd have never picked without the group's encouragement.

“It's impressive that such a large and diverse group has been meeting for so long. I'm always challenged by the books and the insightful comments of the members.” observed Library Director Dawn Thistle, a “new” member of the group.

If you'd like to join us, we meet on the LAST Tuesday of each month.

OCTOBER BOOK GROUP SELECTION

The October selection for the Haston Library Book Group is James Joyce's *Dubliners*. “This work of art reflects life in Ireland at the turn of the last century, and by rejecting euphemism, reveals to the Irish their unromantic realities. Each of the 15 stories offers glimpses into the lives of ordinary Dubliners, and collectively they paint a portrait of a nation.”—*GoodReads*

We'll be discussing the book on October 26 at 7:00 in the library and via ZOOM. Copies are available in the library. Call (508-867-0208) for more information and/or the ZOOM link.

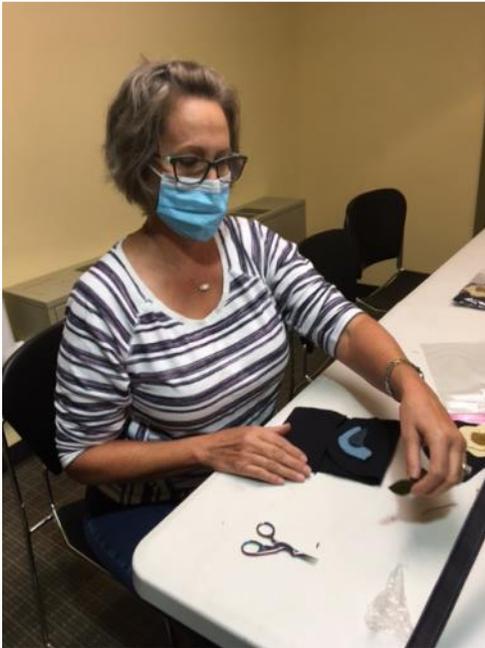


Haston Art Club



SEWING KITS

The Haston Art Club met on September 13 with crafter Louise Meierdierks to make wool sewing kits. Seven sewers learned how to assemble the kits and how to make several stitches. Lou had pre-cut the wool and brought large amounts of embroidery floss for us to use, along with a variety of buttons, threads, safety pins, needles, and even scissors to include in our finished sewing kits. Although no one completed the whole sewing kit during the workshop, most participants were well on their way!



Left: Carol Reichardt gets set to position a leaf on her kit.



Right: Ellen Carpenter and Laura Maguire stitch on their blue birds.

Below: Jean Contino, Victoria Haynes and Carol Nealer enjoy sewing together.



PUMPKIN STILL-LIFE

The Haston Art Club's next meeting will be on October 18 at 5:30 pm. Laura Dusty returns to help us create Pumpkin Still-Lives using a variety of media. All ages are welcome! Please call the library at 508-867-0208 to register.



ARTOBER FOR KIDS and YOUNG ADULTS!

Do you love to draw or make art? Send a picture of your artwork, with your name, to blamb@cwmares.org and we will feature it on our social media pages and in the Children's library for "Artober"! Crayons, markers, collage, paint - use whatever method you like best. Get creative and unleash your inner artist!

Haston Hotspots are Here!

This summer, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) received funds through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which enabled them to distribute over 3000 hotspots to approximately 220 Massachusetts public libraries for loan to library users. The hotspot lending program focuses on IMLS' primary goal for these funds: digital inclusion for families and individuals with no other internet access.

Haston Library has received 5 hotspots. MBLC will cover the cost of the internet service / data plan through the end of September 2022. After that date, we will evaluate the program to determine whether or not the Haston Library can pick up the internet service / data plan costs.

Here are our hotspot policies:

1. North Brookfield library cardholders ages 17+, in good standing may check out a hotspot for 14 days, with one renewal
2. One hotspot per household per loan period. Up to 10 devices can be connected to a hotspot at one time
3. The hotspot MUST be returned to the North Brookfield Haston Library. Please do not return to the bookdrop.
4. Overdue or damaged hotspots will be deactivated and full replacement cost will be charged to the cardholder's account.
5. The hotspot cannot be "claimed returned."

Full *Hotspot Lending Policy* can be found on the Haston Library's website.

In order to promote and facilitate access of this service to all North Brookfield library patrons, users must wait 24 hours before borrowing an additional hotspot.

Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act grant, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

COLLABORATION WITH NATURE

The Haston Children's Library will begin a collaboration with the East Quabbin Land Trust, starting with a Fall Book Talk on October 18th at 2:30 pm. TerraCorps Youth Education Coordinator, Louisa Rossel, will read a story to the children, followed by a hands-on nature themed activity. Contact the library at 508-867-0208 with any questions and to sign up.

Keep an eye out for more EQLT programming in spring and summer, involving Wendemuth Meadow Preserve and our own seed library!

Do you love to draw or
make art?

Send a picture of your
work to

blamb@cwmar.org
and we will feature it
on social media and in
the Children's library
for "Artober"!

UKULELES GALORE

On September 21, Julie Stepanek returned to the Haston Library with ukuleles galore. As she has done in the past, Julie gave nine budding ukulele players a fun-filled lesson in ukulele technique and music theory. We learned how to tune our ukuleles, about the parts of the instrument, the names of the strings (Good Cats Eat Anchovies!), how to strum, how to play a couple of chords and how to play a song on individual strings. We learned to play “Frère Jacques” and “Happy Birthday to You.” Julie encouraged us all to “just play,” even if it’s just



Julie checks Zachary Ingram’s G-chord fingering.

for a little bit, and she suggested keeping our ukuleles out where we can see them (on the kitchen table!), to motivate ourselves to play.

Several of the participants brought their own ukuleles while others used some of the ukuleles owned by the library. Everyone learned something and had a great time—now we need to form a ukulele band!

Did you know that the library owns 5 ukuleles that are available for loan? Come in and borrow one!

This program was supported in part by a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



MOUSE ORCHESTRA

And, as long as we’re talking about music, did you notice our September Classical Music Month display at the library entrance? Once again, library volunteer Deb Hill has amazed us with her artistic talent! To accompany the books and CDs related to classical music, she fashioned a highly-detailed violin containing a tiny chamber ensemble of mice. Playing Mozart, perhaps? Thanks, Deb, for your beautiful display!

BOOK SALE UPDATE

Since the start of our book sale on August 28, the Friends of the Haston Free Public Library have collected well over \$1,000 from generous book buyers! Thank you all! And thank you, too, to all the folks who donated books for the sale. It was a great selection of fiction and non-fiction, as well as some A/V items.

The boxes of books will remain on the library’s lower level for another couple of weeks, but will soon disappear. If you haven’t had a chance to look at them and make your selections, stop by soon!

THANK YOU!