



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

NEW SOFTWARE APOLLO:

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, INTERIM LIBRARIAN

The Huntsville Public Library uses an ILS (integrated library system), which is a software we use for cataloging, circulating, and inventorying items.

The ILS stores patron records as well as the bibliographic records for each item the library owns in its collection. In November, the library changed its ILS to a new software called Apollo.

New Features from Apollo:

- **Gabbie--your own virtual, personal librarian.** Patrons can text Gabbie (936-274-7204) for help managing their library account. Text Gabbie "Renew All," and she will respond with the new due date for your items. Text Gabbie "Summary," and she will tell you what is due. You can even text Gabbie questions about the library, and a staff member will respond with the answer.
- **Children's Catalog--Apollo has created a child-friendly catalog.** All you have to do is click on the icon of the subject you want books about (dinosaurs or space, princes, and more!), and Apollo will show you what we have on that subject.
- **Text or Email Notifications--Patrons can set up their account preferences to receive notifications of when items are overdue or when requested items are available.**
- **Amount Saved--Apollo automatically prints on each receipt the amount a patron saves by using the library to check out items instead of purchasing the items.**

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 myhuntsvillelibrary.com

 @huntsvillelib

 HuntsvillePublicLibrary

 Huntsville_Public_Library

Monday-Friday
10am-7pm

Saturday
12pm-4pm

CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS: LIBRARIES COME TO THE RESCUE

BY RICHARD LANE, REFERENCE COORDINATOR



For many of us the holidays ahead have deeply held and special meanings. We look forward to festive meals and family gatherings. We gather to share family stories and anecdotes. We gather as cooks prepare family recipes passed down from one generation to the next. We surround ourselves with images, heirlooms and decorations reflecting our family traditions. Traditional and contemporary music lift our spirits even as the days grow short and winter clouds darken. Customs and traditions rekindle memories and promise that the winter solstice will be followed by brighter days ahead.

The terms custom and tradition are often used interchangeably. While custom and tradition are almost synonymous, there is a fine distinction between the meanings of the words. Webster and other dictionaries define custom and tradition in similar fashion. A custom is a commonly accepted manner of behaving or doing something in a particular society, place or time. A tradition is the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation.

Historians and social scientists employ methodologies to define and distinguish customs and traditions. They identify patterns within cultures and trace their origins across lands and time. Art historians, as one example, display works from around the world as they explain in detail the evolutions of human artistic expression. Musicologist record and transcribe musical scores reflecting on the intricacies of the “beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion” conveyed through sound.

Books, journal articles and web entries related to customs and traditions have been published in great number. The elements of cultural geography and allied social sciences are vast and ever-growing and can be overwhelming to those searching to understand their family identity. Fortunately, libraries offer family historians and others the tools to explore the topic. Libraries have developed schemes to organized information in ways that can be systematically retrieved. Searching catalogs and databases using titles, authors, keywords and subjects is tried and true. There are also some very helpful online tutorials for those needing to hone their research skills. Librarians are a helpful bunch and take pride in helping their patrons. When stumped, see a librarian.

Previously published in Between the Pages December 2018

CHILDREN'S *Programming*

Math Homework Help

Wednesday, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

For elementary & junior high students

Mother Goose Lapsit

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Ages 2 & under

Story Time

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m.

Ages 5 and under.

PJ Storytime

Tuesday, 4 p.m. on, December 31

For All Ages

Music Where You Find It

4:30 p.m. on Thursday December 12

For Elementary & Junior High Students

Twas The Night Before Christmas

3 p.m. on Monday, December 23

For All Ages

TUTORING AT THE HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BY MARY KOKOT, ADULT SERVICES

Are you interested in going after a better job but held back because you lack a high school diploma? No time for structured GED classes? Don't despair...free walk-in tutoring sessions are available at the Huntsville Public Library for adults (18+ years old). This tutoring program helps with English reading, writing, and speaking skills and preparation for the GED® (high school equivalency test).

Do you want to learn to speak English or perhaps improve your fluency? Walk-in tutoring sessions are on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointment required for sessions Monday through Friday. Saturday by appointment only. Please call Mary Kokot, Adult Services Coordinator, at (936)291-5471 for more information.

ADULT *Programming*

Sittercise

10 a.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays

Happy Health Support Group

12:00 p.m. Monday, December 16

Registration required

Family Search

11 a.m. Thursdays, Registration required

Free Adult Literacy Tutoring

Monday through Friday,

Saturday by appointment only

Book Club

10:30 a.m. Thursday, 2nd Thursday of each month

Exploring Ancestry.com

11:30 a.m. First Friday of each month

Registration required

REMINDER!

HPL will close at 5 pm on Monday, December 23.

The library will be closed on December 24 & 25. We will reopen on Thursday, December 26.

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

The day after Thanksgiving, or sometimes even Halloween, your nearest department store will turn into a sea of green and red, full of Santa hats, snowflakes and inflatable reindeer, intended to deck the halls, or sit on your deck. While a big number of people in the United States do celebrate Christmas, other religious holidays are pushed to the side and ignored. Do you know what holidays you're referring to when you wish your loved ones a 'Happy Holidays'? Grab a cup of cocoa, cozy up with some blankets and learn about the holidays in December other than Christmas.

- **Kwanzaa**-In the United States, roughly five million people celebrate Kwanzaa each year! Kwanzaa is a seven day holiday that celebrates African culture. It begins on December 26th and ends on January 1st. On the sixth day of Kwanzaa, there's a Kwanzaa Karamu, which is a big feast. Gifts of Kuumba (creativity) are given to loved ones. Kwanzaa's also celebrated through lighting the Kinara, performing and listening to traditional music and discussing African principles and history.

- **Chinese New Year**-The Chinese New Year is celebrated for 15 days, beginning on the first day of the lunar new year. The 15th day of the new year is the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with a parade. The Chinese New Year marks the end of winter and the beginning of Spring and is a time to be spent with family and loved ones, eating and enjoying time together. So this holiday season, think outside of the Christmas box and appreciate all of the great holidays celebrated during the most wonderful time of the year! Happy Holidays, collegiettes!

- **Winter Solstice**-For Pagans, December means the holiday of Yule is coming! It falls on December 21st, which marks the winter solstice; which is the shortest day and longest night of the year. The winter solstice celebrates the rebirth of the sun, because days get longer from then on out.

- **Hanukkah** is a Jewish holiday that's celebrated for eight days and nights, beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. The Jewish calendar is based on the lunar cycle, so Hanukkah can fall anywhere from November 28th to December 26th. "This holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E." People celebrate Hanukkah by lighting their menorahs, spinning dreidels and eating delicious foods!

- **Las Posadas**-From December 16th through December 24th, Las Posadas is celebrated by some Hispanic families in the United States. It's a nine-day celebration before Christmas, beginning with a procession with candles, songs and sometimes even people playing the parts of Mary and Joseph who lead the parade. Every night of Las Posadas is celebrated with gifts, piñatas, song, parties, tamales and prayer.

- **Diwali**-While this holiday falls a little bit before the rest, Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, is a five-day long Hindu holiday celebrating life and the victory of good over evil. Taking place in October or November, each day of Diwali has a different legend it celebrates, but the holiday is filled with fireworks, feasts and family. The date of Diwali is determined based on the Hindu lunisolar calendar.

Reference: Doe, J., & Doe, J. (n.d.). *6 Holidays This Holiday Season Besides Christmas*. Retrieved December 11, 2019, from <https://www.hercampus.com/school/minnesota/6-holidays-holiday-season-besides-christmas>.