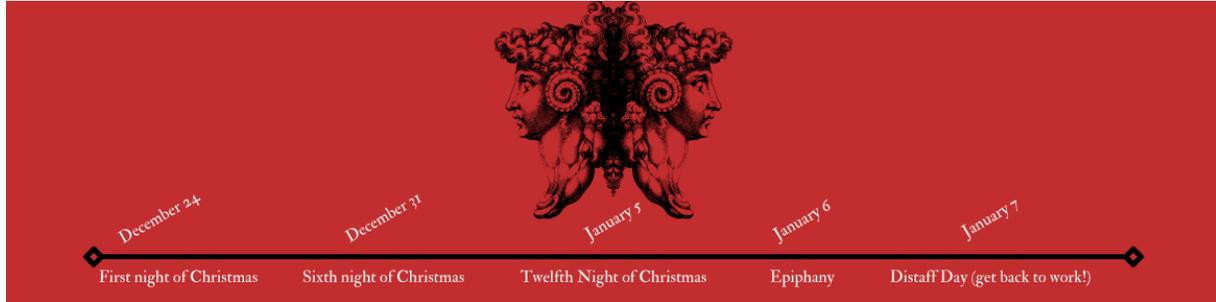




BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter



January in History

By Baillie Pretzer, Children's Coordinator

Historically and symbolically, winter is the time for reflecting on what has come to pass and looking ahead with new hopes. It was a time of peace, when wars were halted and communities came together to celebrate the winter solstice over feasts from their harvests. But from where do we get the name 'January'? It doesn't mean the number one as November and December refer to the numbers eleven and twelve nor does it derive from any Roman emperor as the seventh month, July, is named for Julius Caesar.

Rather, we get the name 'January' from the Roman god Janus - the god of doorways and archways fittingly associated with beginnings and endings. Known for his two faces, Janus represented the transitional state or the middle ground - a sort of physical representation of what 'one foot in, one foot out' might look like.

A pause, an interlude, a recess.

Before the first two months of the year were assigned the names *January* and *February*, people marked the time by celebrating a certain passage of days. Hence where the *Twelve Days of Christmas* comes from and why Shakespeare's play entitled *Twelfth Night* centers around pure, riotous mischief and devilish deceit. Much like we do now for New Year's Eve, people took the chance to celebrate and end the year with a bang! In times past, the conclusion of *Epiphany*, which always falls on January 6, would see what was referred to as *Distaff Day* (January 7) and *Plough Monday*, the first Monday to follow *Epiphany*. As we do now with the multitude of so-called "National Holidays" (National Hotdog Day, anyone?) these days merely demarcated the final end of festivities and the resumption to normal life which for agricultural societies was quite

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1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-5472

Monday-Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.



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imperative. Still, to this day the majority of society adjusts their days and months according to the needs of agricultural communities, but that's another discussion for another time. It's merely fascinating to consider all the history that can be bound up into one word such as *January* - a Roman god, war and peace, celebrations and new beginnings. It's a small comfort to know that we go through many of the same motions as those before us did.

Curious for more? Check out these items in our collection:

1. *William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night* by Bruce Coville, picture book
2. *Shakespeare In a Divided America: What His Plays Tell Us About Our Past and Future*, by James Shapiro, Adult Nonfiction
3. *Julius Caesar* by Michael Grant, Adult Biography
4. *Feast of Sorrow: A Novel of Ancient Rome* by Crystal King, Adult Fiction
5. *Gladiator: Fight for Freedom* by Simon Scarrow, Young Adult Fiction
6. *100 Things You Should Know About Ancient Rome* by Fiona MacDonald, Juvenile Nonfiction
7. *The Roman Empire*, Juvenile DVD
8. *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, Young Adult Nonfiction
9. *Warriors in Winter* by Mary Pope Osborne, Juvenile Fiction
10. *Heroes of History: A Brief History of Civilization* by Will Durant, Adult Book CD



More for You in 2022

By Linda Huff, Resource Coordinator

Now is the time to make the changes you promised you would make in 2021. You know you want to turn off that television. You know you want to move more. You know you have some great ideas that, with a little discipline, could turn into a great novel with the potential to reshape our nation.

It just so happens, ALL of your New Year's resolutions can be accomplished at your friendly Huntsville Public Library. FOR FREE!

You can cancel your cable subscription and start spending more time reading. Come check out our shelves of new books, refreshed monthly. Learn a new hobby with one of our DIY selections. Join the Piney Woods Page Turners Book Club and get in on some great new literature and some lively discussions. The book club meets at the library, and virtually via Zoom, on the second Thursday of each month.

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2022, Continued From Page 2

There is a saying I have heard, "Read 100 books...Write one." The Piney Woods Writers Group can help you find your motivation and inspiration. These writers have some great writing skills and you'll have a captive audience with which to share your work. They meet the second Saturday of each month at Huntsville Public Library.

If you need some encouragement to increase your level of exercise, the Library can even assist with that! Now you can work out three days a week at our Sittercise classes. Spend an hour with some fun-loving people and get fit at the same time. We have three weekly sessions here at your library. The class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The Library is here to support you, and we would love to see more of you in 2022!



LearningExpress Library

By Mary Kokot, Adult Services Coordinator

EBSCO LearningExpress®



When I first explored LearningExpress Library, a free database that the Huntsville Public Library offers to its patrons, I was amazed at the comprehensive collection of practice tests, exercises, and skill-building courses as well as the variety of academic and career-related topics. Library patrons can use LearningExpress Library to practice for the SAT, ACT, GRA, CLEP, U.S. Citizenship test and the GED. The GED practices are offered in both English and Spanish. Occupational practice tests range from Air Traffic Controllers, to EMS, Plumbing, and Nursing just to name a few. Workplace Skills Improvement Exercises are also available for adults.

LearningExpress Library can be accessed through the library's website, www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com. Scroll down to the bottom of the screen and select "TexShare Databases"; click on "Resources A-Z" and select "L." LearningExpress Library will be at the top of the list. Stop by the library or call the library directly to receive the log-in information for the TexShare and LearningExpress Library databases.

Patrons can create their personal account and add anything available on LearningExpress Library to "My Center." "My Center" keeps the tests and exercises added by the patron, and can be revisited to read, work on the practice exams, get examination scores, and more. The patron can stop a test when they run out of time and return to finish and have it graded later.

LearningExpress Library is not just for adults; exercises to build skills are available for children in elementary school through high school with the usual explanations or analyses of the patron's scores. Recently, a patron who needed an ASVAB book was excited to discover she could download the entire 400-page book at no cost. Our customer was delighted! LearningExpress Library is only one of the library's many databases. Have fun and learn a lot by exploring some or all of them. For more information, contact the Huntsville Public Library at 936-291-5472.



Libby 101

By Josh Sabo, IT Services Coordinator



Libby.

E-books and e-readers have become very popular as they offer a certain degree of convenience that their print counterparts lack, namely portability and accessibility. Those with e-reader devices can carry an entire bookshelf in the palm of their hand. According to statista.com, in 2020 Americans purchased an estimated 191 million e-books and sales increased by 22% from the previous year. Additionally, many readers find e-books to be more accessible because one can change numerous settings to the books, such as changing the font size. E-readers offer two types of electronic materials, namely e-books (reading text on a screen) and e-audiobooks (listening to the story narrated by a reader).

The Huntsville Public Library offers a free app, called Libby, which allows patrons to check out e-books for free. Users can check out up to 10 titles at a time for a two week period . They can also reserve titles if the item they want is currently checked out. The app will return items automatically at the due date, so there's no risk of accruing fines or lost item fees! Patrons can choose from over 24,376 e-books and e-audiobooks, and can even request specific titles as well. The e-books can be read or listened to on any mobile device, including your e-reader! Libby is a great resource that is available to all current library cardholders. If Libby does not list the title you wish to borrow, you can request the library purchase it. While not every title is available for the library to acquire digitally, we routinely purchase new e-books and e-audiobooks.

Huntsville Public Library is also offering classes during the month of January for anyone 18 and over interested in learning how to sign up and navigate the Libby app. The classes will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11 and from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 13. To attend, participants must register online or call the IT Services Desk and have a library card and PIN number. For more information, please contact the IT Services Desk at 936-291-5485.

Learn to use




A class to teach you how to check out library books on your smart device!

11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 11
&
5 p.m. Thursday, January 13

Huntsville Public library

For more information, please contact the IT Services Desk at (936)291-5485



Free Medicare Education Class

Do you know the A, B, C & Ds of Medicare?

Huntsville Public Library is hosting a seminar to help you learn how Medicare works.

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Huntsville Public Library