

# ProgramGuide

December

A guide to December programs at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library

DECEMBER  
2023



View Event  
Calendar



# A Month of Exciting Activities!

Gloria Coles Flint Public Library  
1026 E. Kearsley Street, Flint MI 48503

fpl.info · askus@fpl.info  
810.232.7111

Hours: Tue-Thu, 11 AM-8 PM  
Fri-Sat, 9 AM-6 PM · Closed Sun-Mon

Dear Patrons,

As new Executive Director of the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to support the Board of Trustees and serve our community. This role is an incredible opportunity that speaks to my passions, skillset, and guiding principle; that all people should have equitable access to resources and an opportunity to thrive. During my time at Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, some highlights include:

- Extending beyond library walls and hosting lunch, storytime, yoga, and the Blues concert on the Library lawn.
- Welcoming school communities into the Library to encourage a joy of reading and digital learning with our youngest patrons.
- Partnering with local creatives, cultural organizations, and groups to host a Walk with Amal event.
- Hosting a discussion and art walk that highlighted the St. John Street Neighborhood.
- Visits from national authors Gary Schmidt, Christopher Paul Curtis, and Johnathan Rand and lunchtime book discussion with local authors.
- Addition of Melissa N. Brown, a lifelong resident of the city of Flint, to the Library Board of Trustees. We welcome her and look forward to the insight and direction she can bring.

Knowing that the Library is beloved treasure, we look forward to community small group conversations. These talks will help guide us in successfully meeting the needs of Library patrons and the larger Flint community. We anticipate engaging in new community partnerships while remaining attentive to providing innovative programming for all ages.

My door is open to you and I am confident with you by our side we will continue to thrive and fulfill our mission. You can reach me by email ([tabdullah@fpl.info](mailto:tabdullah@fpl.info)) and by phone (810.249.2038). If you enjoy the outdoors, I invite you to join me for a walking conversation.

I look forward to working with our dedicated Board of Trustees, talented staff, and supportive community stakeholders to offer excellent customer service, and meaningful programs and resources to all. For this holiday season and beyond, I encourage you to be kind to yourself and with one another, and to be the light where you can. I wish you a supported and cheerful holiday season. See you in 2024!

Best regards,



**Taliah Abdullah**  
*Executive Director*



## Kwanzaa: A Cultural Celebration

Wednesday, December 20 · 5:30 PM

Come take part in a festive experience highlighting the principles of Kwanzaa and stories with Elliot McCants. For all ages.

## Kwanzaa Storytime

Saturday, December 23 · 1 PM

Join beloved Flint storyteller Miss Brenda for wonderful Kwanzaa stories and crafts.



**ALL AGES!**

## Gift Wrapping Party

Thursday, December 7 · 6 PM

Bring your gifts. We will supply the paper, tape, ribbons and snacks. Play "Name That Holiday Tune" while you wrap. Volunteers will be available for those who need wrapping assistance.



## Polar Express Storytime

Saturday, December 9 · 1 PM

Join Train Conductor Handsome Harry for a Polar Express story with a craft to follow. All ages welcome!

## LEGO® Club

Wednesdays · 4:30 PM  
December 6, 13, 20

Create building projects with LEGO® bricks. The building blocks were provided by a generous donation from *The Friends of the Flint Public Library*. Ideal for ages 5-8 with an adult and youth ages 9-14.



## Backyard Friends Storytime

Friday, December 22 · 11 AM

Enjoy stories about animals in winter. Make an edible gift for backyard critters. Ideal for ages 5-8 with adult, and youth ages 9-15.



## CPR Training

Friday, December 8 • 2 PM

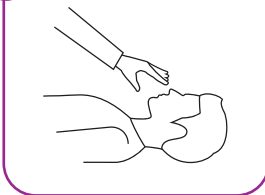
Become CPR certified with trainer Jim Cooper. Registration is required due to limited spaces available.

**Learn the Steps!**

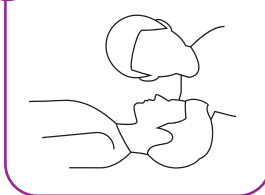
**1** Call Emergency Number



**2** Check Vital Signs



**3** Check Breathing



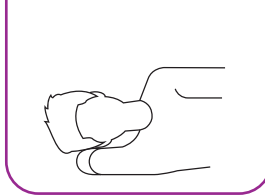
**4** Give Rescue Breaths



**5** Perform CPR



**6** Turn On Side



## Holiday Mixology

Wednesday, December 13  
6 PM

Join Lindsay Merbaum, the high priestess of home mixology, for an interactive demonstration to create a mocktail based on Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. Ideal for teens and adults. Registration is required due to limited spaces available. *An ASL interpreter will be available at this program.*

## Ebenezer Scrooge

### Ingredients

- ❑ ½ cup unsweetened 100% Cranberry Juice
- ❑ ½ cup unsweetened 100% Pomegranate Juice
- ❑ 1 cup Sugar
- ❑ 1 oz Simple Syrup
- ❑ 3 to 4 oz Seltzer
- ❑ Squeeze of Fresh Lime Juice
- ❑ Whole Cranberries and Slices of Lime for Garnish

### Directions

In a small pot, stir together fruit juices and sugar and set to medium-high heat, bringing to a boil. Turn to low and simmer for 5 minutes, stirring until sugar completely dissolves. Pour syrup in a jar and cool completely. Once cool, pour 1 oz of mixture to glass, top with seltzer, and garnish. Enjoy!



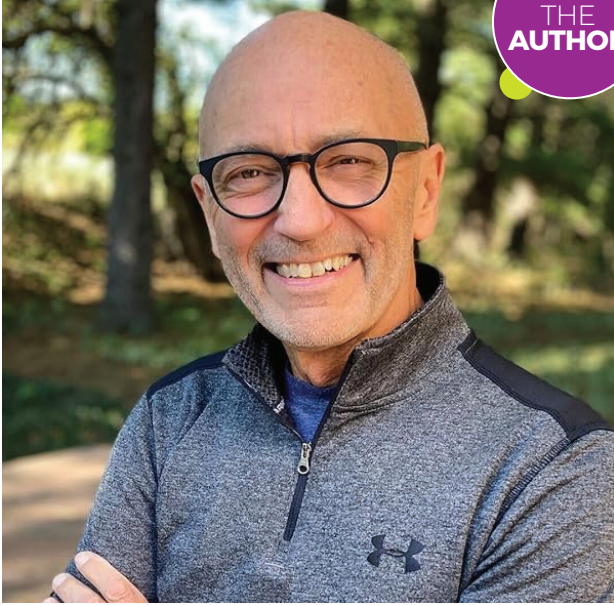
## Grief & the Holidays Support Group

Saturday, December 2 • 11 AM  
Saturday, December 2, 9, 16 • 3 PM

Holidays can be a difficult time of year. Join local therapists for supportive conversations. Registration is required due to limited space.

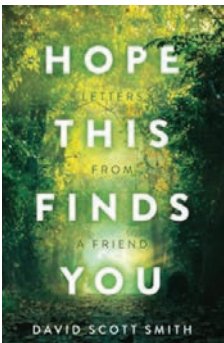
**NEW!**

MEET  
THE  
AUTHOR



## Booked for Lunch

Thursday, December 7 • 12 PM



Join David Scott Smith, local author and a former *Flint Journal* humor columnist for discussion of his book of personal essays that invite us to the live fully in the present moment, find humor in surprising places, and never underestimate the day.

## Adult Reading Challenge

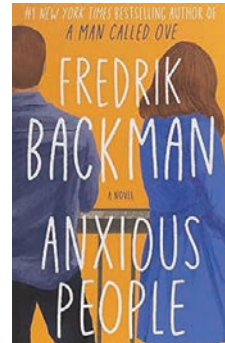
Tuesday, December 19  
to Monday, March 16

It's a great time to cozy up with a good book and join the Adult Reading Challenge! Read or participate in challenges to expand your horizons. The more you read, the greater chances to win monthly prizes! Sign up at [flintpl.readsquared.com](http://flintpl.readsquared.com).



## Fiction Only Book Club

Wednesday, December 20 • 12 PM



Join us for our monthly book club. This month we will be reading *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.



## Silent Book Club

Friday, December 15 • 10 AM

Need time for uninterrupted reading? Bring a book and enjoy one hour of silent reading. Ideal for teens and adults.





Scan to RSVP

# 2nd Annual FLINT TO HBCU FORUM

Thursday, December 21 • 5 PM

Discuss the rich history of HBCUs, the process of getting into college, and navigating once you arrive! Multiple HBCU students and alumni panelists will share their experiences in the breakout sessions! We will also emphasize the importance of community involvement and after-school programs with different organizations and vendors discussing opportunities offered for students in the Flint and Genesee County area.



- Teen Summit Style Discussion
- Breakout Rooms
- Financial Aid Advisor
- Vendors & Giveaways



## Teen Movie Event

Thursday,  
December 14  
6 PM

*Wakanda Forever*, popcorn, pizza! There will also be a service project of assembling teen care bags for those who are interested in participating.

**TEENS ONLY!**  
13-19 yrs



## Make Your Day Sweet!

Celebrate National Pastry Day on December 9th. Visit a local bakery or give the recipe down below a try. Either way, treat yourself with a delicious pastry!

# Christmas Pudding Cookies

By: Janet T. O'Keefe

Inspired by traditional English Christmas puddings, these cookies combine a variety of fruits with warming spices and just a touch of brandy in a soft, chewy cookie that will have you reaching for more.

**Prep time** 1.2-2 Hours

**Cook time** 8-12 Minutes

**Makes** About 56 cookies



### Tips

- If you can't find dark brown sugar, double the molasses to compensate.
- Traditional fruit is raisins, currants, and golden raisins, but use what you like.
- You can replace the brandy with more juice or coffee syrup flavors.
- Batter can be chilled before scooping, if so, use the longer cooking time.

### Ingredients

- ⅓ cup each 3 Dried Fruit of your choice (Janet used cherries, cranberries and diced peaches)
- ½ cup chopped Candied Peel (Janet used lemon and orange)
- Zest and juice of ½ Orange
- Zest and juice of ½ Lemon
- 1 tbsp Brandy (optional)
- 1 cup (2 sticks) Unsalted Butter
- 1 cup packed Dark Brown Sugar
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- ½ tsp Fiore di Sicilia\* or Orange/Lemon extract
- 1 tbsp Molasses
- 2 Eggs
- 2-¼ cup Flour
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- ½ tsp Ginger
- ½ tsp Cloves
- ½ tsp Nutmeg
- ¼ tsp Black Pepper

Scan to find  
\*Fiore di Sicilia



### Directions

Preheat oven to 375°. Combine fruits and zest in a small bowl. Heat juice and brandy and pour over fruits. Allow to soak at least ½ hour up to overnight. Line two cookie sheets with parchment or silicone mats. Combine flour, baking soda, and all spices in a small bowl. Cream butter and sugar in a large bowl or stand mixer. Add liquid flavorings and molasses and mix well. Add flour mixture and mix until fully combined. Mix in fruit – the liquid should be absorbed so no need to drain. Use a 1-½ tbsp scoop to scoop dough onto cookie sheets, about 12 to a sheet. Bake 8-12 minutes. Rest cookies on sheets for 2-5 minutes, then remove cookies to racks to cool completely.



**Winter Wonders.**



**Holiday Traditions.**



## December

### DECEMBER 1, FRIDAY

- Every Child Ready to Read Storytime, 10 AM

### DECEMBER 2, SATURDAY

- Friends Book Drop Off, 10 AM – 12 PM
- Little Explorers, 10:30 AM
- Grief & the Holidays Support Group, 11 AM & 3 PM

### DECEMBER 5, TUESDAY

- Cozy Corner Lounge, 3:30 PM
- Teen Writers Workshop, 4:30 PM
- 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Walk, 5 PM

### DECEMBER 6, WEDNESDAY

- LEGO® Club, 4:30 PM

### DECEMBER 7, THURSDAY

- Booked for Lunch, 12 PM
- Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
- Gift Wrapping Party, 6 PM

### DECEMBER 8, FRIDAY

- Every Child Ready to Read Storytime, 10 AM
- CPR Training, 2 PM

### DECEMBER 9, SATURDAY

- Polar Express Storytime, 1 PM
- Grief & the Holidays Support Group, 3 PM

### DECEMBER 12, TUESDAY

- Cozy Corner Lounge, 3:30 PM

### DECEMBER 13, WEDNESDAY

- LEGO® Club, 4:30 PM
- Holiday Mixology, 6 PM
- Podcasting @ the Library, 6 PM

### DECEMBER 14, THURSDAY

- Teen Movie Event, 6 PM

### DECEMBER 15, FRIDAY

- Every Child Ready to Read Storytime, 10 AM
- Silent Book Club, 10 AM

### DECEMBER 16, SATURDAY

- Podcasting @ the Library, 11 AM
- Chess Club, 3 PM
- Grief & the Holidays Support Group, 3 PM
- VR for Teens, 3 PM

### DECEMBER 19, TUESDAY

- Cozy Corner Lounge, 3:30 PM

### DECEMBER 20, WEDNESDAY

- Fiction Only Book Club, 12 PM
- LEGO® Club, 4:30 PM
- Kwanzaa: A Cultural Celebration, 5:30 PM

### DECEMBER 21, THURSDAY

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flint to HBCU Forum, 5 PM

### DECEMBER 22, FRIDAY

- Backyard Friends Storytime, 11 AM

### DECEMBER 23, SATURDAY

- Kwanzaa Storytime, 1 PM

### LIBRARY CLOSED

- December 25 – 28 Christmas Holiday
- December 29 – January 1 New Year's Holiday