



MPL NEWS

January 2022

Library CLOSED Saturday, January 1st
in observance of New Year's Day
&
CLOSED Sunday, January 16th and
Monday, January 17th in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Events and Happenings at Middletown Public Library

From the Director's Laptop

Here's a trivia question for the New Year – What's the meaning or sentiment behind the Scottish ballad, "Auld Lang Syne", and why do we sing it every New Year's Eve?

I formerly thought it meant letting go of past grievances, specifically not carrying emotional baggage into the New Year – but – I did a little research and discovered it's about remembering old friends and days gone by. The reason "Auld Lang Syne" is played at the stroke of midnight on 12/31 can be credited to the late/great Canadian bandleader, Guy Lombardo, who made it a New Year's tradition on the radio, in American movies and on television. It was beamed into living rooms globally and from there became a worldwide institution.

By the way, if you haven't already, I strongly recommend you watch the PBS special, [*In Performance at the White House: Spirit of the Season*](#). It is sensational as well as culturally educational. It's also about remembering and so much more. You can catch it on television or stream it online ([pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org)).

Next, I want to recommend that you think about using your public library more in 2022, be it an in-person visit, a website visit, or a digital download. If you haven't visited much since Covid-19 started, and you happen to have overdue library material, don't fret – just come in, bring a canned good or some other non-perishable food item, and we'll waive the overdue fines. You'll be doing a good deed because we donate all the food collected to the MLK Food Bank where it goes to those who need it most. Plus you can clear your conscience and your library card by returning material that other people are probably waiting to borrow. That would be a great New Year's resolution that benefits everyone – you most of all. I can honestly tell you that you can use your library card to find just about anything.

And don't forget to sign up for the January Reading Challenge. We have great prizes, including three grand prizes - \$50 gift cards. Reading with a cup of hot chocolate or herbal tea is a relaxing, cozy way to spend a wintry night.

Last but not least, stop by on February 2nd at 6pm to hear Fred Zilian, Ph.D. speak on [**Slavery in Colonial Rhode Island**](#) in our Gillian and Norman Hall Community Room. The program is an hour long, including time for questions and answers.

In closing, be sure to check out our library website, middletownpubliclibraryri.org to learn about new services, new titles and everything else you can find at the MPL; with that -- I want to take this opportunity to wish you good health, peace and happiness in 2022.

Happy New Year!
Theresa

Theresa Coish is the Director of Middletown Public Library
She is currently reading, *Mayflower: a story of courage, community, and war*, by Nathaniel Philbrick.

Read for a Better World

Winter 2022



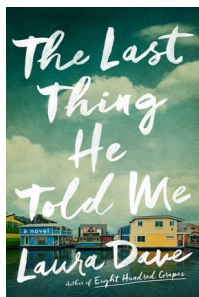
Winter Reading Challenge

Open to All Ages!

Click [HERE](#) to Register

From January 1st – January 31st, read and log in Beanstack any 5 books to earn book prizes and an entry into our grand prize drawings for a \$50 gift card to Barnes and Noble. Each age group of children, teens, and adults will have their own grand prize drawing. A paper log is also available at the library.

What's New at the Library



New Adult Books



New Children's Books



New Teen Books

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

JANUARY 17, 2022

Honoring and Remembering the civil rights leader's life and legacy:

Take a Virtual Tour of the National Civil Rights Museum

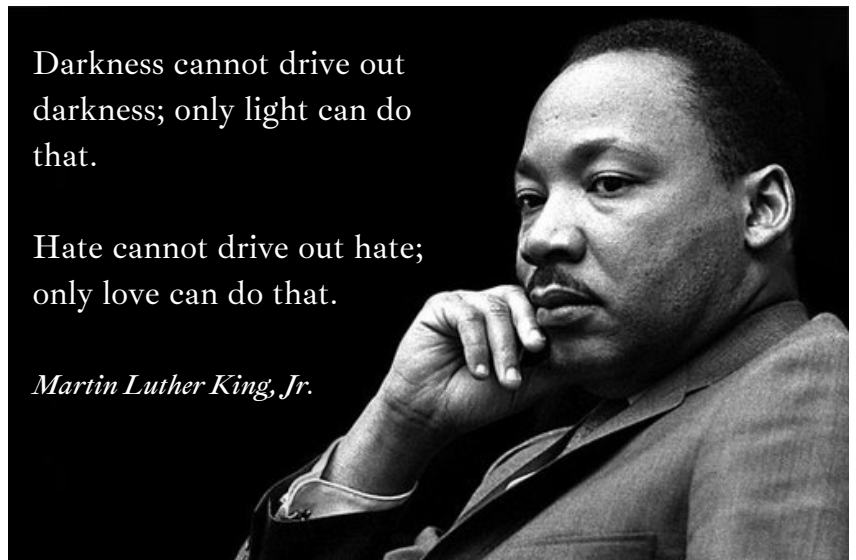
Listen to and read his "I Have a Dream" speech

Browse the Martin Luther King, Jr. collection at MPL

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Martin Luther King, Jr.





Want to know the BookPage editors most highly recommended books of 2021?



The EPA's 2022 Fuel Economy guide available [HERE](https://www.fueleconomy.gov)



January is



Here are some of the different sources of free braille and audio books available:

[The Rhode Island Talking Books Library program](#)

With funding from the Library of Congress, [National Library Service](#), digital audiobooks, braille books and other reading materials and equipment are provided free to Rhode Island residents who are visually impaired, blind or physically handicapped and unable to read standard print materials. RI Veterans receive priority for services and resources provided through the TBL program; [Services for Veterans](#).

[American Action Fund Braille Books Program](#)

Free braille book every month from a popular children's reading series

[National Braille Press: ReadBooks! Program](#)

Free bags of beginning braille materials to families with blind and visually impaired children, ages birth to seven

[Braille Institute: The Braille Special Collection](#)

Receive up to 12 free children's books per year

Save the Date!

"Slavery in Colonial Rhode Island"

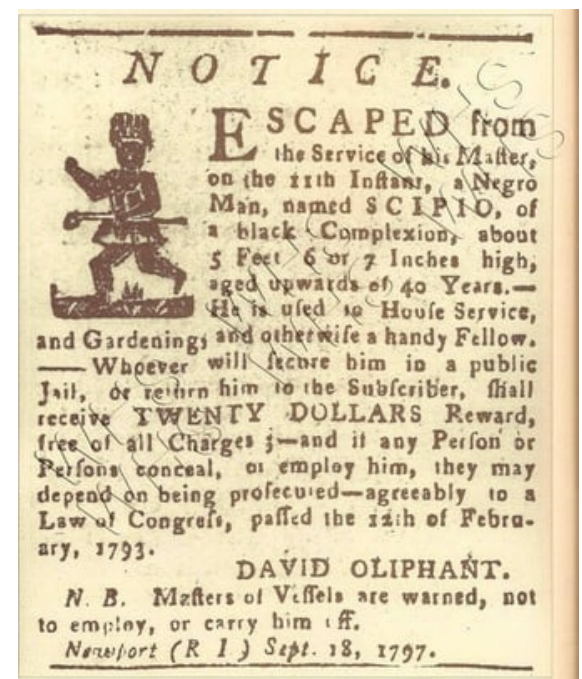
A Talk Given by Fred Zilian, Ph.D.

6:00 pm, Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022

in MPL's Meeting Room

The beginnings of slavery in the colony of Rhode Island, its growth in the colony in the 18th century, and Rhode Island's key role in the Atlantic trading system.

Learn More About It!



Tech Talk



... and Universal Class has the perfect online class to get you started!

CLUTTER CONTROL 101

Learn at your own pace, and for FREE with your MPL library card!



Interested in learning how to do Book Art like our staff?

Click [HERE](#) to make a hedgehog like this cute one made by Julie



Curbside pickup is available for you!

To arrange your pickup:
email us at mid.circulation@gmail.com
or call us at 846-1573 xt.1



If picking up holds that have already been placed and are ready for you, please provide your name, library barcode number, and phone number so that we can check out your materials. If you would like for us to pull materials from the library that are available, please also provide the author, title, and call number.

The Friends Corner

Happy New Year 2022

The start of the New Year has two special days for book and puzzle lovers. January 2nd is National Science Fiction Day and January 29th is National Puzzle Day. As the winter sets in, readers may want to dip in to some out of this world literature, while those seeking a challenge may want to try their hand at a puzzle. Our bookstore has some challenging puzzles for sale.

Make a New Year's resolution to join the Friends of the Middletown Public Library. You may pick up an application at the [Friends Bookstore](#), at the Library or by emailing FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com.

Connect with us!



Middletown Public Library
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Middletown, RI 02842
401-846-1573

middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com
middletownpubliclibraryri.org

Library Hours:
Monday – Thursday 10 am – 7 pm
Friday – 10 am – 5 pm
Saturday – 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday* – 10 am – 5 pm

*Sunday hours begin on the Sunday following Labor Day and end on the Sunday before Memorial Day
Library closed on Sundays preceding Monday Holidays