It’s Holiday Time!

Whatever religion you practice (or don’t), faith you believe in (or don’t), secular practice you have (or don’t); please have an absolutely wonderful holiday season. There’s a lot of information out there about political correctness, what to say or not say and what to do or not do.

While we all may celebrate this or that differently, we are far more alike than we are different. It’s important to have respect for others. “The Golden Rule” is a commonality among most belief systems.

During this season, may we love and respect others and have gratitude for our similarities and differences which make us who we are. This sentiment is just as important for children and teens, if not more so. Enjoy this season — and all of next year — with peace, love, and joy in your hearts.
01 **Gather Supplies**
- Paper lunch bags
- Large glue sticks
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- String

02 **Get Crafty**
Count out 12 bags. Add glue to the flat face of the first bag and place a second bag on top facing the same direction and press to ensure they adhere. Repeat this step with the remainder of the bags. Adults only, cut the bags diagonally and add any center cuts as desired. Test to make sure bags can still open. Then, add glue to the top bag and open the stack attaching the top face to the bottom back. Hold until glue dries, and then decorate, punch hole in the top, and hang with yarn or string.

03 **Helpful Tips**
- Use jumbo glue sticks! You’ll use a lot of glue.
- You must cut some diagonals on the ends to have the star open completely.
- If your star does not make a complete circle, add more bags as necessary. Glue and cut along the patterns you already created.
- Don’t add too many bags! If you have a lot of bags, your star may get heavy and sag.
- Make sure the center is glued tightly. The biggest issue with these opening properly is that the center of the star is not glued securely. If necessary, add more glue to the center connections.

01 **Gather Supplies**
- Post-it notes
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

02 **Fold, Cut and Glue**
Fold sticky note diagonally, and fold diagonally again. Turn note to the side with the folded edge facing down, and cut two slits in the note aligned with the long edge. Stop cutting approximately 1/4 inch from the edge. Unfold the note, and gently curl the inside edges together and glue. It’s helpful to use a crayon to help shape the curl of the sticky note. Next, glue the outermost edges together, turn it over and glue the innermost edges together in the opposite direction. Repeat the process until you have six separate sections. Glue the six sections together at the star’s center point to complete the project.

03 **Helpful Tips**
- Have a pen and marker handy to help you shape and glue the larger section edges together to make the star.
- Save yourself some time by cutting your sticky notes two at a time.
- Be sure to press the edges together considerably for the glue to adhere.

Visit [https://youtu.be/khqtC7F4sps](https://youtu.be/khqtC7F4sps) for a helpful video demonstration!
Psychadelic Snowflakes

The cutting portion of this project is appropriate for kids 10 and up and grown-ups. The wet snowflakes are easily cut with sharp scissors, but dull scissors will not work. Please be sure to only attempt this project with older kids who can safely use sharp scissors.

**Gather Supplies**
- Liquid watercolors
- Large white coffee filters
- Sharp scissors
- Shallow plastic cups

**Fold, Color, and Cut**
Start by folding the coffee filter in half. Next, fold one side of the filter at a 60 degree angle from the center point of the circle. Repeat the 60 degree angle fold with the other side of the filter. Fold in half for a six-sided snowflake, and you can fold again for a 12-sided flake. After folding the snowflake, squeeze a generous amount of liquid watercolor in each plastic cup. **Do not dilute watercolors.** Dip the folded coffee filter briefly into the colors of your choice until it begins to absorb. Try to use a maximum of three or four colors. You can fold the filter in half gently to dip the center section. After coloring, it’s time to cut your pattern. Cut these while wet. Gently unfold and lay flat to dry. Dry time is approximately 30 minutes.

**Helpful Tips**
When cutting snowflakes, either free form cut, or use a snowflake template for ideas. To help flatten these out, have an adult dry iron (no water or steam) on a medium setting. Don’t worry about your hands stained from the dye. A few good hand washings will remove the watercolor.

The “A” in STEAM is important and should not be neglected! Every engineer who comes up with a new innovation uses design-thinking, creativity, communication, and artistic skills to bring innovations to fruition.

It is a misnomer to thinking of software engineers and coders as people who sit in dark rooms lit only by computer monitors. These people are design-thinkers who spend upwards of 20 percent of their time developing and designing passion projects (The20TimeProject).

Training in art education builds essential interpretive skills. When STEM is combined with the arts through mutually reinforced objectives, a student’s learning in both areas deepens considerably. Studying the arts has contributed to development in critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, social and cross cultural skills, and flexibility and adaptability.
Ogre Enchanted
written by Gail Carson Levine
Release date: Oct. 16, 2018

Evie is a healer. More than a job, it is her passion. Helping people, saving them, it was what she was born to do. Marrying someone? That … she is less sure about. She has seen too many people who’ve rushed into a relationship, only to regret it later. Which makes it incredibly awkward when her best friend in the world proposes. To make it even worse, the fairy Lucinda appears. A self-proclaimed romantic, she wants to see a successful proposal. Whether the people in question are mutually interested in something doesn’t matter, just that the courage of the one who proposes is rewarded.

But Evie just can’t bring herself to say yes. And Lucinda, well…she takes that very badly. Evie is transformed into the most despised race of beings in the world — an ogre. Ogres are evil creatures that live off meat and actually prefer the meat of most thinking creatures to any beast of the field. She not only looks like an ogre, but also has their instincts and food preferences. And if she doesn’t accept a proposal within the time Lucinda decrees, Evie will be stuck as an ogre for life.

Evie leaves behind everything—friends, family, and a job that gave her life meaning—to try to learn how to survive as an ogre and find someone who’s willing to look past her appearance to love her and someone she can love in return. But with time growing short and threats increasing the longer she stays an ogre, the real challenge might just be staying alive.

I love Gail Carson Levine, which in this case might have been a handicap. I spent at least three quarters of the book trying to figure out how this one connected to Ella Enchanted and how things might end up, which took me out of actually just enjoying the story. I also had a hard time with the main character. I liked her not being interested in romance, refusing to get engaged to her best friend, and just because of that she got turned into an ogre. That just didn’t stay the case. She wasn’t going around hoping every guy would propose, but she got increasingly desperate the longer things went. In Ella Enchanted, the heroine saved herself through strength of will. In Ogre Enchanted, the heroine did exactly what was required of her by the fairy to break the curse under conditions that forced the issue even farther. It felt disappointing to me overall to see the heroine lose her convictions and determination. Under the circumstances, it’s understandable, but it’s disappointing nevertheless.

It’s a good book, but perhaps would be enjoyed more by people who have read some of Levine’s earlier works. Which, to be fair, most kids in the recommended age demographic probably fall under.

Recommended for: Fans of fantasy and fairy tales.

Things to watch out for: Ogres are pretty monstrous, and while it isn’t talked about graphically, ogres eating humans and other races is a fact in this story. At one point the ogres are eating a giant while she is still alive. Evie does manage to rescue the giant at least. There is also fighting and an illness that sweeps through a city which leaves dead and dying bodies behind. Again, not described graphically, but there. Main character also considers the possibility of using love potions and other forms of coercion to get a proposal as she gets more desperate.
Be on the lookout

We are planning the first four of our training dates for the YALSA Train the Trainer Pilot Program. Libraries in the counties surrounding the training locations will receive invitations to register for these trainings. The trainings will cover Connected Learning and Computational Thinking concepts for Teen/Young Adult programming. These are specifically for library staff that work with this age group. Currently, the locations scheduled are APLS in Montgomery, Baldwin County, Etowah County, and Limestone County. If you don’t receive an invitation this time around, don’t worry. We will be setting up trainings later this year that will be accessible to areas around the state. So be on the lookout for an email from Lance Simpson or Gail Sheldon related to this training. We are VERY excited about this and hope you are, too!

December is:
- Universal Human Rights Month
- Read a New Book Month
- National Stress-Free Family Holidays Month

January is:
- National Thank You Month
- National Hobby Month
- National Skating Month
- National Soup Month
- National Mentoring Month

*We’re getting ahead of the game to help you plan better. From now on, our calendar will show you dates one month ahead. Look for February dates in January’s issue.

Cool Dates to Remember

December & January

December is:
- World AIDS Day
- Hanukkah Begins
- National Roof Over Your Head Day
- National Dice Day
- International Volunteer Day
- National Cotton Candy Day / National Letter Writing Day
- National Brownie Day
- National Gingerbread House Day
- Violin Day
- National Brownie Day
- National Gingerbread House Day
- Las Posadas Begins / National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- Wright Brothers Day
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- Winter Solstice / National Flashlight Day
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- National Roots Day
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- National Eggnog Day
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- Christmas Day
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- Kwanza Begins
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- 200th Day / Make Cut-Out Snowflakes Day
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- National Card Playing Day
- National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- Let’s Make a Deal Day / National Bicarbonate of Soda Day
- New Year’s Eve

January is:
- New Year’s Day
- National Science Fiction Day
- Perihelion Day / National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
- National Bird Day
- National Bean Day
- National Apricot Day
- National Houseplant Appreciation Day
- National Milk Day
- Work Harder Day
- National Rubber Ducky Day
- National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- National Nothing Day
- Kid Inventors Day
- National Popcorn Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / National Hugging Day
- National Peanut Butter Day / National Compliment Day
- Opposite Day
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- National Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day
- National Puzzle Day
- Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

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December 3

**Summer Program Ideas – Featuring the theme of space**

With “Space” as the 2019 Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) theme, we’ll discuss ideas for space-themed programs and collections, CSLP resources, and more for all ages, with examples and time for open discussion and crowdsourcing. Bring your ideas and questions, and come prepared to participate! (Colorado State Library) [https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/2018-12/](https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/2018-12/)

**Using Smartphones, Watches, and Wearables to Support Executive Function for All**

This workshop will explore ways that smart phones, smart watches, and other wearable can support executive function skills for people of all ages. Participants will learn ways to increase time awareness and focus, how to use reminders, explore tools to organize and prioritize, and discuss task initiation and completion. The tools and strategies demonstrated will benefit people with disabilities such as ADHD, executive function disorder, autism spectrum disorder, and blind or low vision. (Pacer Center) [https://www.pacercenter.org/workshops/](https://www.pacercenter.org/workshops/)

**Your Complete Guide to the Hour of Code**

In this edWebinar, we will review some of the current obstacles and opportunities for introducing the value of a computer science education for all. The Hour of Code is the perfect excuse to bring coding into your K-12 classroom as computer science principles are foundational in preparing kids for tomorrow’s workforce. (edWeb) [https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2018-12/](https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2018-12/)

December 4

**Thinking Sideways: Computational Thinking and Early Literacy**

This webinar will explore components of computational thinking, what it looks like in early childhood, and how library staff use developmentally appropriate activities to support whole-child development. Young children can become successful problem-solvers, creative thinkers, and lifelong learners at the library. (Public Library Association) [https://www.alas.org/education/onlinelearning/webinars](https://www.alas.org/education/onlinelearning/webinars)

December 5

**Community Conversations Across Neighborhoods: Dialogue-Driven Programming**

Libraries have the potential to inspire local dialogue on timely issues across communities, positioning library staff as trusted facilitators. Join us for this free one-hour webinar to hear how New York Public Library created a conversation series on important issues in the diverse communities they serve. (Programming Librarian) [http://programming librarian.org/learn](http://programming librarian.org/learn)

**NCopps live: Best New Teen Books of 2018: Popular Teen Novels - New Books They Need to Read**

Learn about qualities of books that teens are reading, and the titles Nebraska teens are seeking at their libraries. The presenters will discuss new books that are popular with teens in their communities and describe the qualities these titles possess that make them good choices for many libraries. (Nebraska Library Commission) [http://www.nl.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL](http://www.nl.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL)

**School Readiness Webinar Series, Part 1: Growth Mindset**

Research shows that beliefs about intelligence and ability impact one’s performance and response to failure. Join us for this 90 minute webinar to learn more about what research says, how to examine and change your own mindset, and what you can do to help support children’s growth mindset and persistence through challenge. (Infopeople) [https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar](https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar)

**Celebrate the Best Books of 2018!**

Follett’s very own librarians share their ALA predictions, trending topics and not-to-miss lists as well as sneak peeks on books they’re excited about for 2019 and more. (Follett) [https://www.follettcommunity.com/s](https://www.follettcommunity.com/s)

December 6

**Virtual Field Trips in Wyoming**

Join Nathan Doerr from the Wyoming State Museum and Gretchen Heinrich and Megan Smith from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West for an exploration of their virtual field trips that can be scheduled for your classes! December 6, 2018 at 10:00 am. This webinar will be recorded. (Wyoming State Library) [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/11064205093391105](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/11064205093391105)

**Learning To Share Your Sandbox: Developing Effective Partnership Agreements**

This webinar will focus on fundamental concepts of understanding, developing, and maintaining strategic partnerships that will ensure long-term organizational success. (Bloomenang) [https://bloomenang.com/resources/webinars/](https://bloomenang.com/resources/webinars/)

**Putting the Booklist Starred-Review Issue to Work for Your Library**

The Dec. 15 issue of Booklist will be our second annual Starred Reviews issue. How can you make the best use of this remarkable resource in your library or school besides filling in collection gaps? Join Erin Downey Howerton, Children’s Manager at the Wichita Public Library, for a star-spangled list of ways the Booklist Starred Reviews can help with fundraising, displays, programming, book groups, community engagement, and more. (Booklist) [https://www.booklistonline.com/GeneralInfo.aspx?id=60](https://www.booklistonline.com/GeneralInfo.aspx?id=60)

**Digital Equity: You Can Help Level the Playing Field in Schools and Libraries**

Among the most critical issues in education, digital equity has direct implications for your kids and your community. In this important hour, we’ll dive into the issues and learn strategies for enhancing access for all students and families. (School Library Journal) [https://www.slj.com/?subpage=Events](https://www.slj.com/?subpage=Events)

**Early Childhood Expertise Beyond Libraryland: Spaces & Behavior Management**

Hear from an expert on sensory experiences, behavior management and programming environment set up about ways to improve your room setups to create a more welcoming, engaging, and inclusive environment, and how to relate to either one overly excited or upset child or a room full of them — without completely interrupting your regularly scheduled programming. (Association for Library Services to Children) [http://www.ala.org/alsc/learning/live-webinar](http://www.ala.org/alsc/learning/live-webinar)

**Fact vs. Fiction: Teaching Critical Thinking**

In this session, Jennifer LaGarde and Darren Hudgins will explore the fake news phenomenon, discuss its impact on our students, teachers and society, put our own source evaluation skills to the test and discover ways that all educators can lead the charge as defenders of facts in a post truth world. (edWeb) [https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2018-12/](https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2018-12/)

December 7

**De-crapify Your Workflow!: Learn the Critical Keys**

In this fast-paced and informative session you will learn: To discern what costs your company is paying for buswork; How buswork can sabotage even the best training program; What are the Thieves of Productivity and how to conquer them; how to expand your span of control on simplification. (Training Magazine Network) [https://www.trainingsmagnetwork.com/calendar](https://www.trainingsmagnetwork.com/calendar)

December 8

**STEAM Activities For Your Classroom**

More STEAM activities and tools for your classroom or school library, including coding. (Simple K12) (Simple K12) [https://www.simplek12.com/tier/free-event/](https://www.simplek12.com/tier/free-event/)

December 11

**Let’s Explore CultureGrams!**

Learn about countries around the world—the people, their lifestyle and customs, even recipes! CultureGrams includes lesson plans and a blog with additional ideas for classroom and library use. (Wyoming State Library) [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8058577301317491203](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8058577301317491203)

**From the Mountains to the Sea: Rural Health Issues and Resources**

This session will describe hallmark of rural America, identify other access challenges of living in rural communities, and equip participants with tools to service the health information needs of those living in rural communities. (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) [https://nnlm.gov/training](https://nnlm.gov/training)

**Leadership in Youth Services, Part 2: Leadership in Action**

This webinar will provide real life examples of what leadership actually looks like in the everyday life of working in children’s librarianship. Leadership can take many different forms including taking a risk
on a program to fulfill a need in the community, embracing big picture thinking that can be broken down into manageable parts, or knowing how to work together as a team to achieve goals. (Association for Library Services to Children) [http://www.ala.org/alsc/learning/live-webinars]

Take Summer Reading to the Streets: Partnering to Reach Children with Barriers to Library Access

Too often the best library programs never reach the kids most in need. We may be from Iowa, but we know that “if you build it, they will come” isn’t always true. So we found a way to go to them. Discover how the Cedar Rapids (IA) Public Library moved beyond its walls to reach children with barriers to traditional library access through strategic partnerships and volunteer support. Adapt this award-winning program to fit your community. (Texas State Library and Archives Commission) [https://www.tsl.texas.gov/lfd/workshops/webinars/index.html]

Using USCIS Resources to Support Immigrants and Refugees in the Library

Is your library looking for ways to support immigrants and refugees in your community? Would you like to help people learn about United States citizenship? Are you interested in free, high-quality, and easy-to-use educational resources? The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services’ (USCIS) Office of Citizenship has developed a wealth of products and resources your library can use to help people gain information on how to become a U.S. citizen, prepare for the U.S. naturalization test and interview, as well as navigate life in the United States. (Infopeople) [https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar]

To Fine or Not to Fine

A current trend among libraries is to move away from charging overdue fines and other fees to library users. We’re offering the opportunity to learn more about the pros and cons of going fine free and ask questions of and share concerns with your colleagues on this important issue. (Montana State Library) [https://attendee.zototraining.com/i/15090646038854728450]

December 12

NCompass Live: Summer Reading Program

2019: A Universe of Stories!

Next summer will bring plenty of opportunities to talk about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) ideas, especially with science and outer space as the new topic for the Summer Reading Program. Learn about quality books to consider for your library’s collection and start planning for “A Universe of Stories,” in celebration of the historic 1969 landing on the moon. (Nebraska Library Commission) [http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL]

Students Leverage Technology Tools and Makerspaces to Personalize Instruction

Come and learn how SETDA’s 2018 Student Voices Award Winner; St. Albans City School in Vermont, embraces technology tools to personalize instruction. Fourth to sixth grade students will discuss their STEAM classes and their use of the makerspace to explore their personal passions and artistic abilities. In addition, students will share how the school’s collaborative stewardship projects support the community. (edWeb) [https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2018-12]

Creating Data-Driven Professional Development Pathways for Public Library Staff

The 2018 class of ALA Emerging Leaders was charged with identifying data competency training resources for the Public Library Association. It has become increasingly important for library professionals to be able to gather, analyze and communicate data in order to navigate a data-rich world and make data-driven decisions related to funding, policies and other resources needed to support the communities they serve. Learn how the website created by the Emerging Leaders serves as a professional development guide that can help move library staff toward becoming more data competent. (Public Library Association) [https://www.ala.org/pala/education/onlinelearning/webinars]

How to Bring Extensions to Your Library:

Highlighting Programs from Penn State Extension

Extension offices are trusted partners for libraries of all kinds! They are strong community resources, and in addition to providing practical, trusted information to communities, can offer incredible educational opportunities for libraries. Join MAR to hear how Penn State Extension partners with libraries in Pennsylvania by offering programs like Dining with Diabetes, and Penn State Nutrition Links. Learn about these programs, and how programs like these could benefit your patrons. (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) [https://nnlm.gov/training]

How to Handle Angry Customers

By the end of the webinar, you’ll have some practical tools and a solid understanding of some better ways to handle angry customer situations. Andrew will also be providing attendees with a link to a free tutorial he’s created that will make it easy to share this information with colleagues and friends. If you’re not able to attend the live webinar, go ahead and register and we’ll send you a link to the recording after the fact. (Niche Academy) [https://bit.ly/2DMSAIL]

December 13

Continuous Learning

YALSA monthly competency webinar, facilitated by knowledgeable youth development experts and library staff and focus on a different competency in YALSA’s brand new Teen Services Competencies for Library Staff. Webinar recordings are available for those who can’t participate in the live session. (YALSA) [http://www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar/free-competencies-webinars]

We Know Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are Important… Now What?

It seems like everyone is talking about equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), but what does it really mean to put these values into practice at your library? In this webinar, the presenters will provide a “starter kit” for EDI training in libraries. They will cover topics such as staff and management buy-in, low-cost training, and how to meaningfully engage staff in an effort to create a workplace culture that is affirming, representative, and inclusive. (Infopeople) [https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar]

December 14

The Hidden Biases of Good People

Most of us believe that we are ethical and unbiased but research has confirmed that, in reality, most of us fall short in the way we perceive ourselves. During the session, an overview of unconscious bias and examples of its impact are provided. You will be encouraged to examine your own biases and assumptions so that you can make more informed decisions. (Colorado State Library) [https://calinessession.cvisites.org/]

December 17

YA Reads for the New Year

What’s coming down the pipe for your young adult readers in 2019? Learn what titles are on their way and what titles remain in top reading lists. Learn from our presenter and be prepared to share your own ideas! (Idaho Commission for Libraries) [https://libraries.idaho.gov/library-development/info2go]

December 19

30 Ways to Make Your Small Library Extraordinary

We don’t have large budgets. We don’t have large staffs. We might have to spend parts of our day shoveling the sidewalks or cleaning up a mess in the restroom. In spite of this, small and rural libraries have the power to be great. We can do simple, practical things that can instantly make a difference. From internal customer service tips to tech tools you can’t live without, linking these 30 things will help make your small library extraordinary. (Indiana State Library) [https://continuinged.id.in.gov/find-training/online-training-series/]

December 21

Events in a Digital Age: How to Maximize Offline Events in an Online World

Want your next one to be a hit? Give it digital legs. With the vast number of online tools available, you can streamline everything from event registration to email marketing to social media, ensuring your capture your audience right where they are: online. Join us to learn how to plan your next event with digital in mind from day one. (Firespring) [https://www.firespring.com/resources/webinars/]

December 2018