LIBRARY CLOSES DUE TO NYS PAUSE

On Friday, March 20, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced his “New York State on Pause” Executive Order that closed non-essential business to help stop the spread of COVID-19. So, with no warning and little preparation, the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library, along with other facilities in the Village, were closed.

However, although the physical library building was closed, this did not mean that library services had stopped. The staff and I got busy to plan and to offer virtual programs by the end of March. Our online services were available, and even expanded with cooperation and assistance from the Nassau Library System.

Although there is no timeframe set for when the library will be able to reopen to the public, the library staff and I are committed to continue to provide services to the public in a virtual environment.

Mamie Eng
Library Director

Another service that the library was able to activate was the extension of library cards that were due to expire beginning on March 20, 2020 to expire at the end of 2020, with the technical assistance of the Nassau Library System. Since it is not possible to visit the library to physically renew your library card and to borrow physical items, this automatic extension will allow patrons to borrow virtual materials and to use online resources for the remainder of the year.

If someone never had a library card or if their card expired prior to March 2020, the library can issue a digital library card to you to borrow virtual materials and to use online resources while the library is on NYS Pause. The application for the digital library card is available through the Nassau Library System at: https://www.nassaulibrary.org/coronavirus-information/digital-card-application/.

BOOK RETURNS & LIBRARY CARDS

With the NYS Pause, library books could no longer be returned to the library until further notice. Since staff would not be able to empty the book depository, the library had to close the book drop (as much as possible) so it would not be overfilled with books.

The Nassau Library System reset all material due dates to April 1st, then May 1st, and finally to September 1st, as the NYS Pause was extended. Therefore, any materials that were due after March 20, 2020, are now due on September 1, 2020. Fines for this time period will be waived!

If the library reopens prior to September 1st, there will be no need to rush to return the books and other materials immediately.
LIBRARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Although the physical library is not open for programs and other events, the library staff continues to offer a variety of virtual events each week.

The library is using Zoom to hold events, and after someone registers for a program, you receive a confirmation with the Zoom link and password.

Check out the library’s Calendar of Events at http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/W/WALDINGER/eventkeeper.cfm?curOrg=WALDINGER, or by clicking on the links on the library’s home page at http://www.valleystreamlibrary.org. When you click on the calendar, you will see what programs are being offered by the library. These events are usually in RED.

On special days such as Easter Day, Ramadan, and Mother’s Day, the library has included links to stories, songs, and crafts to help our patrons celebrate the holidays. Look for postings on other holidays and special days!

For over 20 years, the library has held its Annual Children’s Sidewalk Show in the spring. Children’s Librarian Ms. Kunz was determined to continue the tradition, so the library held this as a virtual event during the week of April 27th. Children were asked to draw pictures on the sidewalks and to send their pictures for a Virtual Sidewalk Chalk Show on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram on May 2nd.

The Calendar of Events also includes many other virtual events for your consideration. Since everyone is basically staying at home anyway, this is a good time for you to take advantage of concerts, plays, story hours, book chats, and special events that are available to you virtually. These events are usually indicated in BLACK.

For example, “Harry Potter at Home” posts new Wizarding Wednesdays activities each week for Harry Potter fans to enjoy.

The PBS channel WNET offers free access, through May 27, 2020, to five Great Performances versions of major theatrical productions, including “Much Ado about Nothing,” “Red,” and “The Sound of Music.”

Or, did you miss the fantastic videos that some of the Valley Stream schools posted on YouTube or Facebook when Valley Stream went on NYS Pause? If so, scroll back to the April and May 2020 Calendars, look for the links from South High School, Clear Stream Avenue School, etc., and click on the links to replay the videos.

New virtual events are added to the calendar daily, so check out the calendar to see what the library is offering and what other virtual opportunities are available to you.

NOTE: Many virtual events are recorded, so try clicking on the links for earlier events to see if a video is still available for viewing.

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CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS GO VIRTUAL

Children’s Librarian Jaclyn Kunz has been offering several virtual children’s program since the library closed for NYS Pause. One of the most popular programs is “Toddlers, Tots & Tykes Storytime” which is usually held on Friday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

Using Zoom, children can see Ms. K read stories in their homes and chat with her and respond to the stories. It is not the same as being at a story time at the library, but the children are able to see Ms. K and their story time friends each week.

Every other week, Ms. K holds a “Craft Along” program for children, combining a story or two with a simple craft that the children can do at home with a little help from a parent or caregiver. The challenge is that Ms. K can only use craft supplies that the children may have at home already!

On April 14, 2020, children joined Ms. K for a story about snakes and then they made paper snakes.

Every Thursday night at 7:00 pm since NYS Pause began, families are joining Ms. K for Family Game Night Kahoot Trivia on Zoom. Using a second device, they compete with other children and families on Kahoot to answer 20-30 trivia questions. Competition is sometimes fierce, even among family members! The top spot has changed hands several times, but Team D’Arco has won twice! But new teams will be challenging them for the top spot this week.

To join these programs and any other children’s programs, contact Ms. K by sending her an e-mail to kidsroomvs@nassaulibrary.org or leaving a message on the library’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/henrywaldingermemoriallibrary/. She will send you the Zoom link and password to join the program.

Let her know that you want to join the Children’s Room e-mail group, and you will receive a weekly update about programs scheduled for the coming week.

New programs are offered every week!
STEM PROGRAMS OFFERED BY ASHA & HANNAH

During the past few weekends, two Valley Stream Girl Scouts Asha and Hannah have been running STEM programs for younger children in grades K-2 and for older children in grades 3-6. These programs were offered by the girls to earn their Silver Award.

Programs included coding A.I. (artificial intelligence) with code.org, Minecraft and block coding, making a marble run, LEGO building, and 3D printing design with Tinkercad. The final program in this series of programs was a Paper Airplane Derby.

The two Girl Scouts planned all the programs and ran the Zoom sessions each week. It was a great learning experience for them and lots of fun for the children who attended the programs. The library congratulates them for a job well done!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Since the library is closed to the public, it has been difficult for the library to keep in touch with patrons and the community. And it is difficult for people to contact the library since there is no one to answer the telephones.

However, there are still ways to contact the library:

1) E-mail the library at hwmlcontact@hotmail.com for general questions, requests for further information about online services, etc. Someone will try to respond to you within 24 hours.

2) E-mail the children’s and teen librarians to register for programs or for additional information at kidsroomvs@nassaulibrary.org.


4) Follow us on Twitter and leave us a tweet: https://twitter.com/ValleystreamLib.

5) Check us out on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/valleystreamlibrary/

6) Send us a letter via USPS. Unfortunately, this is the slowest method because the mail is only picked up at the Valley Stream Post Office once a week, but we do get the mail!

The Staff of the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library and the Library Board of Trustees join me in hoping that our library patrons and the entire Valley Stream community remain safe and well. We are looking forward to the day that the library will re-open and resume normal operations.

Mamie Eng
Library Director
DOWNLOADABLE E-BOOKS & E-AUDIOBOOKS

With your Valley Stream library card, you have access to thousands of e-books and e-audiobooks at no additional cost to you. Go to the Nassau Digital Doorway (Overdrive) link at https://nassau.overdrive.com/ on the library's webpage and set up your account by using your library barcode.

If you prefer, you can download the Libby app on your Smartphone to access the Nassau Digital Doorway. Developed by Overdrive, Libby is a free app designed for a more user-friendly experience to make finding and borrowing e-books and e-audiobooks easier than ever!

Additional e-audio-books are available to Valley Stream library cardholders from RBDigital. Again, these are free using your library card.

Free mobile apps are available from the App Store or Google Play and Amazon Kindle Fire for RBDigital.

If you do not have a Valley Stream library card or your card is expired, apply for a digital library card through the Nassau Library System at: https://www.nassaulibrary.org/coronavirus-information/digital-card-application/ to borrow e-books and e-audiobooks while the library is closed.

If you need help with the Nassau Digital Doorway, Libby, or RBDigital, there are guides available on the library homepage. However, if you need additional assistance, send an e-mail, with your telephone contact information, to hwmlcontact@hotmail.com and someone from the staff will try to call you and try to answer your questions.

REMINDER FROM THE VILLAGE OF VALLEY STREAM

As per New York State law, and in accordance with Governor Cuomo, County Executive Curran, etc., the Village of Valley Stream has had to adjust and adapt its services to the residents of Valley Stream.

All essential Village services, such as Code Enforcement, Department of Public Works, Department of Sanitation, Public Safety, and the Valley Stream Fire Department, will operate normally.

All non-essential Village offices and facilities, including Village Hall, are closed to the public until further notice. For urgent Village matters, please call Mayor Fare's Helpline at 855-996-2967 or the 24-hour Code Enforcement Hotline at 516-369-3872.

Check the Village of Valley Stream website at https://www.vsvny.org/ for additional information.