December 2017

Happy Holidays!

Season's Greetings!

From all of us at the Clinton–Essex–Franklin Library, happy holidays and have a fantastic new year!

CEFLS headquarters will be closed for the holidays on Friday, December 22 and Monday December 25. We will also be closed on Monday, January 1.
Get into the spirit with these titles:

The Usual Santas

Peter Lovesey
I Will

Lisa Kleypas
The Covenant Kitchen

Jeff and Jodie Morgan
Hanukkah Lights

Lee Bennett Hopkins
Cookie Advent Cookbook

Barbara Grunes
Homemade Holiday

Sophie Pester

Give the Gift of Reading
This holiday season, you can make a difference by giving friends, family, and neighbors the gift of reading.

The 30 public library members of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (CEFLS) are proud to offer best-selling and classic eBooks and digital audiobooks available 24/7 from our shared access portal cefls.overdrive.com. We are seeking help to purchase seasonal titles for all ages to enjoy and read or listen to together during the holiday season. Your gifts help us increase our offerings to the public.

Amazon Smile

Still doing some holiday shopping? Or just doing some extra shopping for yourself? Amazon Smile is a service that provides money to your favorite nonprofit organization while you shop without ever costing you a dime. Go to smile.amazon.com and search for your recipient of choice (you can find us if you search for Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library
System). Afterwards, Amazon will automatically contribute a percentage of your eligible purchase cost to that nonprofit organization.

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**New Year, New Opportunities**

Our Book Club in a Bag kits will get local readers off to a great start with their resolutions to read more! Each kit comes with 12 copies of "discussable" books along with sets of starter questions all packaged tidily in a canvas bag. Titles include:

- **Beauty Queens** by Libba Bray
- **Bettyville** by George Hodgman
- **Bone Gap** by Laura Ruby
- **The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics** by Daniel James Brown
- **Cinnamon and Gunpowder** by Eli Brown
- **Eleanor & Park** by Rainbow Rowell
- **Etta and Otto and Russell and James** by Emma Hooper
- **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City** by Matthew Desmond
- **Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury
- **The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II** by Denise Kiernan
- **I’ll Meet You There** by Heather Demetrios
- **Kitchens of the Great Midwest** by J. Ryan Stradal
- **The Japanese Lover** by Isabel Allende
- **Lab Girl** by Hope Jahren
- **Lost Lake** by Sarah Addison Allen
- **The Martian** by Andy Weir
• **1984** by George Orwell
• **Noggin** by John Corey Whaley
• **The Rent Collector** by Camron Wright
• **The Sympathizer** by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Contact [David](mailto:David) to check for the availability of a particular kit if you want to plan ahead for a book club event at your library.

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**Support Patron Learning At All Ages**

Resolve to expand your offerings in 2018! Check out these great [free](https://webjunction.org) webinars on WebJunction to get connected to low-cost, low-fuss ideas for early learners through those “55 and better” in your community!

- **Accompanying the Young Reader: Helping to Choose Appropriate Books**
- **How Do I Apply to College: Helping Patrons Meet Their Higher Education Goals**
- **Golden Age of Gaming: Board Games for Grown-ups**

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**Cyber Security: Avoid Holiday Scams**
From John Borst, Cyber Security Outreach Coordinator at the NYS Office of Information Technology Services, Information Security Office, and Thomas F. Duffy, MS-ISAC Chair:

The holiday season is a great time to make charitable gifts to support the causes you care about, and charities often run end-of-year fundraising campaigns. However, criminals take advantage of this fact and run scams and frauds of their own to fool consumers into giving them money instead. Below are some common scams and frauds used by cybercriminals and some tips on how to avoid them. If you can spot these seasonal tricks, you are more likely to ensure your donation goes where you intend it to go.

Fake Charity Websites

One of the most convincing ways for cybercriminals to exploit charitable giving is by creating convincing charity websites. These websites are in fact fraudulent and may copy an existing charity’s site or use the charity’s name and branding. While few techniques are foolproof for detecting fake or malicious websites, try to follow these recommendations:

- Whenever possible, browse directly to the charity by entering the charity’s URL directly into your browser’s address bar.
- If you are not sure of the charity’s URL, an Internet search can help, but instead of automatically clicking on the first link, look at the top few links. If the top link is what you want, great, but if you see several very similar links this could indicate one of them is a potentially fraudulent website.
- Carefully study the website’s URL for typos, such as two “v” characters in place of a “w” or an “i” instead of an “l.” If you’re not sure about a potential typo, try changing to all capitals or a different font.
- Fraudulent charity websites frequently use domain names and email addresses that sound legitimate. You can do a little research into what the correct domain name and email
address should be by looking into the organization using resources recommended by the Federal Trade Commission in their charity guide, or through resources like GuideStar, Charity Navigator, and Charity Watch.

Social Media Donation Pleas

Scammers commonly impersonate staff from major charities via social media channels, as this makes it easier for them to impersonate someone else. Avoid making donations through social media and never send your personal or payment information in a social media message. Instead, consider heading directly to a charity’s established website.

In addition to traditional charity scams at this time of year, social media is also susceptible to the spread of a variety of pyramid schemes and other charity scams. Pyramid schemes involve the simple but unsustainable premise of receiving more than you give. One of the most common schemes on social media right now involves 7 bottles of wine. You receive the message indicating that to participate you should send one bottle of wine to the person who tagged you and post the message, tagging 6 other people who will each send you a bottle. Another scheme purports to be from a sick child who wants something – holiday cards for example and asks you to send a card and share the post with all your friends so that they will send a card, too. If you come across one of these viral posts, let it stop with you! Don’t share it, repost it, or send anything along, and do take a moment to educate your friends!

Remember

When donating to a charity, make sure that the charity is a registered charity under U.S. or international tax law. U.S. 501 charities have to make certain information public and you can look the charity and its information up under any of the several charity tracking websites.
“For me, a holiday is about taking a book and going to a mountain and reading.”

- Sonam Kapoor

**Share Something**

Don't be shy! The Pathfinder is meant to share useful information across member libraries in a timely and condensed manner, but doesn't replace the Trailblazer, which is meant to share stories from around the System. Do you have something to contribute to the Pathfinder? Contact David Fuller and it could be in our next issue.