

**Did You Know?** In 1919, the Hartford Club hosted a benefit show by students from the Oxford School. The show included a “Dance of the Flowers” and among the dancers was a 12-year-old tomboy from Asylum Hill named Katharine Hepburn, dressed as a Forget-Me-Not. Hepburn would go on to win the Academy Award for best actress four times.

### Important Notice: Holiday Closings

All Hartford Public Libraries will be closed on Monday, December 24, for Christmas Eve and Tuesday, December 25, for Christmas Day. In addition, all branches will close at 5 pm on New Year's Eve (Monday, December 31) and will be closed on New Year's Day (Tuesday, January 1). Happy Holidays from all of us at HPL!



## Upcoming

### Book Chat: Michelle Obama's *Becoming* Saturday, December 29, 1:00 – 3:30 pm: Albany Library

Hartford L.I.T. (Literary Integrated Trailblazers) will hold a special Book Chat to discuss Michelle Obama's widely praised and hugely successful memoir, *Becoming*. The group will be discussing the book, the woman behind it and how we are “becoming” in our own lives. Hartford L.I.T. is a diverse group of local authors, entrepreneurs and artists. Find out more [HERE](#).



### Book Launch: *Looking In* – 40 years of student-generated theater Thursday, December 27, 5:30-7:30pm Hartford History Center, Downtown Library

HPL will host a book launch for Jonathan Gillman's account of Looking In Theatre's four decades of producing impactful, student-generated theater. Books will be available for purchase. Light refreshments will be served. (Snow date: Saturday, December 29, 2-4 pm). Find out more [here](#).



### HPL Kwanzaa Festival 2018 Saturday, December 29, 12 - 5 pm Downtown Library Atrium

Join us for a special Kwanzaa celebration featuring an introduction to the festival by Leslie Manselle, traditional African drumming and dancing by Sankofa Cultural Arts & Sistah Nandi, stilt-walking demonstration by Mellissa Craig, story-telling with Andre Keitt, jewelry and henna workshop with Jackie Bright, drumming with Inara Ramin & Piragramac Cultural Arts, a soul food dinner and more. Free and open to the public.



## Baby Grand Jazz 2019

Ray Gonzalez will kick off the 16th season of HPL's highly popular Baby Grand Jazz Series with a special Three Kings Day performance on Sunday, January 6. Baby Grand Jazz Concerts will be held every Sunday afternoon from 3 - 4 pm through April 28 (with the exception of Easter Sunday, April 21). The opening and closing shows will be held in the Downtown Library Atrium, the rest will be held in the Center for Contemporary Culture. Baby Grand Jazz is sponsored by The Kaman Corporation. For more information, see the [Baby Grand Jazz](#).



Donate Now!

## News

### Mayor Thanks Albany Library Teens

On Friday, December 14, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin came to the Albany Library to thank the teens there who had advocated for a law raising the legal age for buying tobacco products in Hartford from 18 to 21. Bronin held a ceremonial signing of the law with the teens, although it was actually passed by City Council back in October. The teens were assisted in their effort by the Advocacy to Legacy group. See more on the [HPL Facebook page](#)



### Children's Holiday Concert

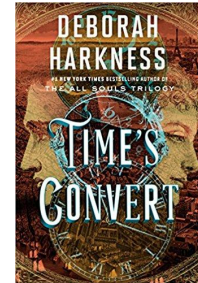
BIG THANKS to the Sam Pasco Quartet who played two Holiday

Concerts on Wednesday, December 19, for youngsters at the library. The group includes Rich Theriault (sax, clarinet, flute, vocals), Joe Giangrosso (piano), Donn Doucette (bass) and Buzz Garrett (drums). The group put on a really great interactive show for the kids.



## Staff Book Reviews!

Looking for something to read on a cold winter night? Check out three intriguing books - an intricate mystery, a disturbing view of the future and a historical novel - each reviewed by an HPL staff member. Read their views on the [Staff Book Review Blog](#).



## Activities

### Peppermint Tower Challenge

**Saturday, December 22, 3-4 pm: Downtown Library**

**Thursday, December 27, 4-5 pm: Park Library**

**Thursday, December 27, 2-3 pm: Camp Field Library**

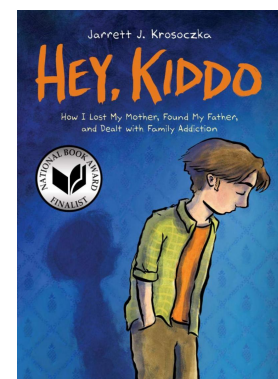


Ready for some math excitement? Work with a partner this holiday season to build the tallest tower using only peppermint candies.

### Learning Circle: Addiction

**Wednesday, December 26, 2-3 pm  
Ropkins Library**

There's a lot of information out there about addiction. There's even a new book *Hey, Kiddo* all about the author's experience with addiction in his family. Join our first learning circle to figure out what is good information and help create a resource to benefit teens or families impacted by addiction.



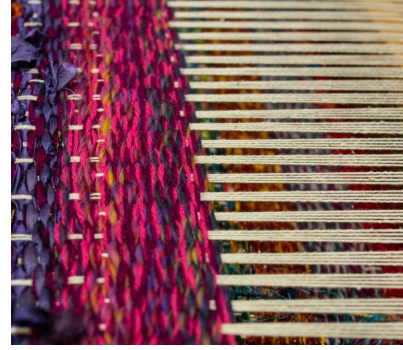
### Just Weave It!

**Wednesday, December 26, 2-4 pm:  
Downtown Library**

**Thursday, December 27, 3-5 pm: Barbour Library**

Learn about the ancient art of weaving and create a simple weaving loom from ordinary drinking straws.

Then make a colorful woven friendship bracelet or a bookmark to take home.



## Scratch Coding

Thursday, December 26, 4-6 pm: Park Library

Learn about computer programming in a simple block-based program. Make your own e-cards, animations, and more or remix someone else's project from the online community.



## 3-D Snowflakes

Thursday, December 27, 4-6 pm: Park Library

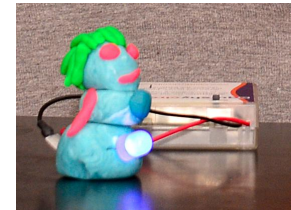
3D printing sounds so complicated but it's really not! Join us to learn the basics about 3D printing and then create your own 3D printed snowflake!



## Circuit Clay

Friday, December 28, 3:30 - 5 pm: Camp Field Library

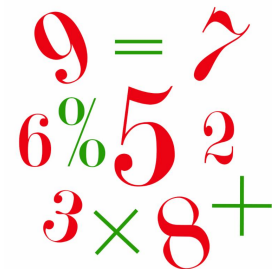
Come play and learn about electricity with our special circuit clay. Create a creature that lights up with LEDs!



## Math Station Mania

Friday, December 28, 4-5 pm: Park Library

Have fun with math by throwing and adding numbers to see who the winner is .



[View all youth programs](#)

[View programs & exhibits](#)

[View classes & trainings](#)

Hartford Public Library | 860.695.6300 | [hplct.org](http://hplct.org)

STAY CONNECTED

