

# THE LIBRARY PAGE

*Demmer Memorial Library, Three Lakes, Wisconsin 54562*



Connecting people to the TRANSFORMATIVE power of knowledge by providing opportunities to explore, learn, create, and share.



We here at the Demmer wish you an amazing holiday season filled with family, shared experiences and joy.

From your friendly neighborhood librarians:  
April, Candice, Carolyn, Erica and Kira

## HOURS

MON/WED 9AM-7 PM

TUES/THURS/FRI 9AM-5PM

## CONTACT

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# Three Lakes Genealogical Society

The next meeting is on **Monday, January 24, 2022.**



If you are looking into DNA testing for genealogical reasons: The DNA testing companies including Ancestry.com, 23andme.com, Familytreedna.com, and myheritage.com will be having holiday sales this month, so take advantage of the great prices. All these companies offer autosomal testing; autosomal tests for parents and grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles, etc.

Familytreedna.com also offers Y-DNA tests (paternal line) and mtDNA tests (maternal line). For more information, email the Three Lakes Genealogical Society at [familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org) or call Nancy at 715-479-8971



At 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2022, TLGS will have its first meeting of the **TLGS Book Club**. The book to be discussed is ***Hiding the Past*** by **Nathan Dylan Goodwin**. It is a fictional account of how a forensic genealogist solves a crime. Forensic genealogy, which combines traditional genealogy research with genetic genealogy research to solve difficult genealogical problems, is becoming a tool in law enforcement and other hard-to-solve genealogical questions. The book is available at Demmer Memorial Library, the Crandon Public Library, and on Amazon.com. Everyone is welcome to attend this great way to brighten our winter day.

## Genealogy Tip

Many Midwestern states took state censuses, the majority of them for years ending in 5. The Iowa state census gives a county for those born in Iowa, and the maiden name of the enumerated person's mother. Michigan's 1894 state census tells how many children each woman had and how many were living. It also tells how many years a person resided in Michigan and in the United States.



For more information about TLGS or to ask for help with your genealogy, please email [familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org) or call Nancy at 715-479-8971. You also can look at our website at [3lgl.org](http://3lgl.org); be advised the site currently is being updated.



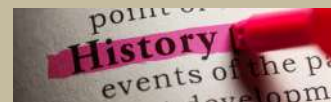
## Ask Your TLGS

### Genealogist

The Three Lakes Genealogical Society (TLGS) will be offering a service called "Ask Your TLGS Genealogist." Volunteers will be in the Local History Room of the library on December from 2pm until 4pm.

Those wishing for assistance on other days can email [familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org)

## Oral History Project



The Three Lakes Genealogical Society and the Three Lakes Historical Society want to preserve oral or written histories of boys and girls who attended Three Lakes Schools during the '40s, '50s, '60s and early '70s. Your story will become part of the history collection and will be kept at the Three Lakes Historical Museum. Interested? Leave a message at 715-546-2295 or email [familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org)

## Books the Other Channel Book Club

**Tuesday, December 21--6:30 PM**  
**in person or via BlueJeans**



Books the Other Channel book discussion group will discuss *When We Believed in Mermaids* by Barbara O'Neal on December 21 at 6:30 PM.

Meet in person at the library or join online via BlueJeans. Email [demmer@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:demmer@demmerlibrary.org) to receive sign-in information if you don't receive it directly from the organizer.

Each book for the group may be checked out at the Demmer. Everyone Welcome!

To register call 715-546-3391 or email [librarian@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@demmerlibrary.org)

# Coffee and Kids

December 7th

10:00 am - 10:45 am

Demmer Tamarack Room

During Story Hour

In person or virtual w/BlueJeans



## 'Tis the Season

'Tis the season for children to start making their lists of what they want for Christmas. I don't know about you, but many parents find it difficult to buy toys and books that their child will love. We all have purchased gifts that we thought were great, and they weren't.

Most child development experts agree that "open-ended" toys tend to have the best developmental value for kids. Open-ended simply means that the child has to use their imagination or skill to work with the toy. These types of toys can be used in multiple ways and there are usually no "rules" for how to use them. It's not a simple "push the button, it makes a sound" kind of toy. Open-ended toys include things like blocks, building toys, pretend play items, Montessori-inspired toys, fabrics, and of course, cardboard boxes, loose parts and spoons, cups, and bowls.



Here are a few things to keep in mind when choosing the best age appropriate toys:



### Birth to age 1

- Limit electronic toys - Electronic toys tend to be overstimulating for babies, and they don't have the brain development to understand all the beeping and flashing. Research has shown that traditional toys foster more interaction with caregivers and promote language development better than electronic toys. Open-ended toys for babies are best for brain development. Some examples would include: Shape sorters, a bead maze or board books

### Toddlers and preschoolers

- Foster pretend play - All that dress-up play, playing grocery store and school is wonderful for young kids' developing brains. Pretend play is one of the best ways to help kids develop social-emotional skills since they have to stay "in character" and model the emotions of another person.
- Kids at this age love to copy the actions of adults in their lives. This is wonderful for skill-building and social-emotional skills as well. Foster this type of play by choosing kid-size versions of adult tools — toy vacuum, mops, rakes, cleaning tools, play kitchens and even kid-size tools are all great for this type of play.
- Focus on basic skills - Toddlers are still learning some basic eye-hand coordination skills like pouring, filling and stacking. Help this aspect of development by choosing toys that encourage these skills. Open-ended toys for toddlers like blocks, pitchers, and sand-water tables are all great examples of toys that foster basic skills.

### School age



- As children start school and progress through elementary grades, their toy interests change. They have mastered many of the basic skills of stacking, pouring, and pretend play may be waning. Kids of this age are ready for more challenge and creativity in their toys. Now that they are well-versed in playing cooperatively (or perhaps competitively too) with friends, games and sports also become more interesting.



# EVENTS



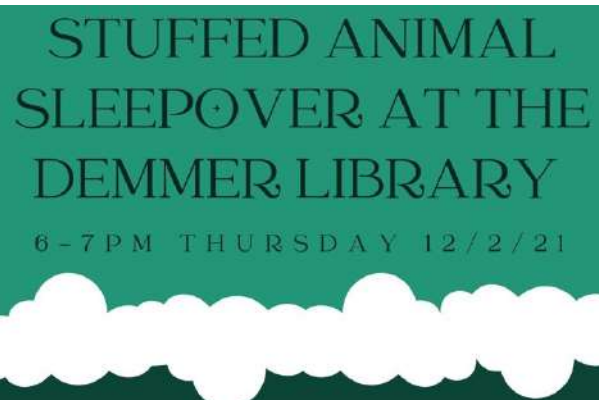
## Story Hour Three Lakes

Tuesdays @ 9:45 am  
Demmer Maple Room

## Story Hour Sugar Camp

Tuesdays @ 2:30 pm  
Sugar Camp School (Check in at office)

Story Hour is 30 to 45 minutes of reading books, playing games, songs, and interactive fun. Social time/play time starts at 9:45 with Story Hour starting promptly at 10 am. No Story Hour the week of Dec. 20th or 27th.



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Come to the library in your pajamas to listen to a few bedtime stories with your stuffed animal on Thursday, December 2 from 6-7pm. You will be able to decorate a nametag for your furry friend before stories begin. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required.



## DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS CLUB

Saturdays @ 10:00am

in person at the Demmer Maple Room or virtual  
Fight Dragons, Goblins, and more! Join us as we use Roll20 to virtually play D&D. Email [librarian@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@demmerlibrary.org) to get your invitation to our game.



## Lego Club

Monday, December 13th @ 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

@Demmer Maple Room. Lego Club is for children of all ages. Come and free build with your friends or play Lego Creationary.

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Women in STEM will continue it's series in January.







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# YOUTH PAINT POUR CLASS

Youth are invited to come make their own painting with Tom Barnett from Tom's Drawing Board in Rhinelander.

**Tuesday, December 14**  
**4:00pm**  
**Demmer Library**

**THIS CLASS IS FREE.**  
**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**  
**SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Questions? Contact the library @ 715-546-3391 or [librarian@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@demmerlibrary.org)



# OIL PAINTING CLASS

**DECEMBER 14 | 12:30 PM**  
**DEMMEER LIBRARY**

*Let Tom Barnett from Tom's Drawing Board in Rhinelander teach you how to paint! All materials will be provided and you can take home your art.*

This class is free.  
Registration is required  
Space is limited.

To register please call 715-546-3391 or email [librarian@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@demmerlibrary.org)

# Booking Ahead

High interest titles added to the catalog and released in December/January

Give us a call to put your name on the list - (715) 546-3391



*Violeta* by Isabel Allende

*Sea Hawk* by Ted Bell

*One Step Too Far* by Lisa Gardner

*Wolf Hollow* by Victoria Houston

*The Ballerinas* by Rachel Kapelke-dale

*Quicksilver* by Dean Kootz

*Lightning in a Mirror* by Jayne Ann Krentz

*Easter Bonnet Murder* by Leslie Meier

*A Thousand Steps* by Jefferson Parker

*The Paris Detective* by James Patterson

*Ever Constant* by Tracie Peterson

*Criminal Mischief* by Stuart Woods



Mitten Tree available at the Demmer Library



From now until spring the Reiter Center and the Demmer Library are collecting mittens and hats. Items will be available in the vestibule during open hours of the library and are free for the taking.





# Historical Clippings

Three Lakes Museum

December 2021

## *Were Winters Really Colder and the Snow Deeper ?*

Violet Neu, the youngest of the six children of William and Sarah Neu, was born in 1905 and lived her whole life in Three Lakes. Her father William was born in the Madison area in 1867 and in 1888, at the age of 20, was sent by his employer to start a newspaper in Crandon to be known as the *Forest Leaves*. In 1890 he returned to Madison to be married and brought Sarah Clement from Sauk City back with him to the North Woods. She described her new life as living in "wild country". In 1892 William and Sarah established a grocery store on Main Street (now Superior Street) in Three Lakes which they operated until William's death in 1940.

Of his career in journalism Neu said, "The hopeful and persevering journalist has more than once tried his luck in Three Lakes. My newspaper was very successful financially, as all of the county work went to the county newspaper. However the mechanical part gave me a great deal of grief at times, especially during the hard winter months, when the ink and the rolls would freeze and I was kept guessing whether I would be able to get the papers out on time."

By 1904, after moving in and out of the newspaper business, he founded the *Forest Advance* which was his own Three Lakes newspaper that he published for many years.



William Neu Sr., far right, gathers with his friends and customers in front of his store and newspaper office. The year was 1907. To the left are the children of the village, among them, second from left in the front row, is Violet Olkowsky, his youngest daughter.



Neu's store, 1925, included an ice cream parlor and advertising for their Dreamland Resort on the north shore of Maple Lake

In May of 1923, Violet Neu married Frank Olkowski. Frank was the Standard Oil Company agent who retired in 1960 after 39 years with the company. Starting in 1923 Violet was the Three Lakes News correspondent for the Rhinelander News newspaper. She retired in 1963. She was also the secretary for the Information Bureau starting in 1942 and retired there after 25 years. She also volunteered for the thrift shop and was a member of The Three Lakes Women's Club. Sometime during her years as the newspaper correspondent she wrote the following article.

### *When the Winters Were Colder*

*by Vi Olkowski*

*My father first came to Three Lakes from Madison, Wisconsin in 1888. The railroad surveyors had passed through the area about 10 years earlier. My father related that he found six white families settled in the area among about 300 Chippewa Indians. His first winter is often referred to as the winter of the deep snow as the average depth of snow on the level measured 7 ft and drifts were often 13 ft High. The stage man who contracted to carry the mail tri-weekly was unable to deliver the mail due to the deep snow, so an Indian was hired to bring the mail on snowshoes. Horses were unable to travel anywhere until about May 19th and most winter people were just isolated until the spring thaw came.*

*Folks were hardy people in those years and during the cold winters the problem was to heat buildings. It was a common occurrence for men to wake up in the morning to find their beards frozen to the pillow.*

*There is little doubt that our winters are getting milder and less snow falls as memories going back to childhood will recall the many winters with snow banks as high as telephone wires in the community. Years back a trip to Rhinelander would mean traveling through tunnels of snow higher than the car. Especially on the portion of the road between Sugar Camp and Rhinelander known as Brown's Farm.*

