

# 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.



## Mon Dec 23 - Fri Dec 31

## Demmer Libratory

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### HOURS

MON/WED 9AM-7PM

TUES/THURS/FRI 9AM-5PM

SAT 9AM-2PM

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# Three Lakes Genealogical Society



Holiday greetings from the Three Lakes Genealogical Society! We hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season. It is an excellent time to share your family traditions, histories and stories. Our society will not have a meeting this month. We will be sharing our family stories at our annual Holiday Party. It is a lot of fun.

However, plan to join us at our January 27th meeting. The program will be the interesting video "Do you have an Artificial Brick Wall?"

## Book Club – At Home Reading

December is the month to choose your favorite holiday books to read with your family or by yourself. What are your favorite holiday books?

Make plans to participate in Three Lakes Genealogical Society in 2025. We meet at 1-3 pm on the 4th Monday of the month in the Maple Room of Demmer Library in Three Lakes. Our society welcomes genealogist of all levels – very beginners to experienced - and offer help to those genealogical researchers still looking for that special link or maybe just for how to begin the fascinating world of genealogy.

Three Lakes 3 (composed of representation from TLGS, Demmer Library and the Three Lakes Historical Society) recently asked for input about the Local History Room at the library. The project right now is to make it more user-friendly, and it has been rearranged. Visit the room and let us know what you think! When you're there, explore the room to see what's there that peaks your interest.

For more information about Three Lakes Genealogical Society, contact TLGS co-president Mary Lynn at 715-891-1146 or co-president Beth at 715-477-1617, or email [familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org).

## Genealogy Tip:

Do you need help getting your genealogy information organized? This is the site for you! Google "Library of Congress Personal Digital Archiving"

## Books the Other Channel Book Club

Tuesday, December 17th--6:30 PM

in person or via Zoom



Books the Other Channel book discussion group will discuss Hope: A Memoir of Survival in Cleveland by Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus on December 17th at 6:30 PM..

Meet in person at the library or join online via Zoom. 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 is welcome!

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



As the holiday season approaches and we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for each of you who have made our library more than just a building—you've made it a vibrant community hub of learning, discovery, and connection.

## ## A Year of Remarkable Growth

2024 has been truly transformative for our library. We've witnessed unprecedented engagement across our programs and services compared to previous years. This growth is a testament to our community's hunger for knowledge, creativity, and shared experiences.

### ### Program Highlights

Some of our most exciting programs this year include:

- **Summer Reading Program**: Our summer reading initiative saw extraordinary growth and participation. Patrons of all ages chose to engage with the library's reading challenges and programs throughout the summer months.
- **Eclipse Programs**: Our special programming around the solar eclipse captivated community members of all ages with an educational viewing party!

## ## New Programs Expanding Our Horizons

We're excited to introduce several new programs that respond directly to our community's needs:

- Veterans Service Office Hours**: Monthly dedicated sessions providing resources, support, and personalized assistance for our veterans, connecting them with essential community services.
- Expanded Story Hours**: New additional story time sessions out in the community to accommodate more families.

## ## A Season of Giving

This holiday season, we invite you to consider giving back to the library and our Library Foundation. Your support directly funds programs, purchases new materials, and helps us continue serving our community. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference in preserving and expanding our community's access to knowledge and resources.

Donations can be made through our website, by mail, or in person at the library. Our Library Foundation ensures that these contributions directly support our community programs, technology resources, and educational initiatives.

As we enter the holiday season, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and most importantly, our patrons. Your support, engagement, and passion make our library a beacon of hope, learning, and community.

Our doors are always open, not just as a place to borrow books, but as a space where everyone belongs, learns, and grows together.

Warmest holiday wishes,

Jill Roth  
Library Director





# Story Hour Demmer Library Tuesdays@ 10 am

Story Hour is 30 to 45 minutes of stories, games, songs, and interactive fun.

(Arrival/social time begins at 9:45am)



Monday, December 2  
3:30pm  
Tamarack Room



Crafts, games, trivia and more!

## Lego Club

Monday, December 9th 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.



## DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS CLUB

First and Third Sundays @ 6:00pm

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.



## TEEN HOSTED BOOK CLUB IS TAKING A MONTH OFF!

See you in January!!!







# Monthly Writing Group

Thursday, December 19th @ 1:00pm  
Demmer Maple Room

Beginning writers as well as established authors are encouraged to attend, share writing projects, successes and help each other.



PROVIDING SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR OUR VETERANS.

## Veterans Services Office Hours

Demmer Library  
Every 3rd Wednesday  
12-4 PM



## Drop In Play

2nd & 4th  
Thursdays  
1 pm-3 pm  
Demmer Fireplace  
Area

How many of us miss playing a good game of Scrabble? Stop by the Demmer on the dates and times listed as we bring Scrabble players together.



# Demmer Crafternoon

The 2nd Tuesday of each month  
2:30pm  
Demmer Libratory

Registration is required.



# Free Gift Wrap Station

**STARTING NOVEMBER 25 &  
RUNNING UNTIL CHRISTMAS**

Sneak away to the library's Tamarack Room and use the free wrapping supplies this holiday season. Available during open hours.



Hard to wrap presents around the kids? Let us help!



# Booking Ahead

High interest titles added to the catalog and released in December.

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



*The Maui Effect* by Sara Ackerman

*To Die for* by David Baldacci

*We Three Queens* by Rhys Bowen

*Apartment Women* by Gu Byeong-mo & Chi Young Kim

*The French Winemaker's Daughter* by Loretta Ellsworth

*Not in My Book* by Katie Holt

*A Five-Letter Word for Love* by Amy James

*Tooth and Claw* by Craig Johnson

*Blood Bounty of the Mountain Man* by William W.

Johnstone & J.A. Johnstone

*What the Wife Knew* by Darby Kane

*A Christmas Duet* by Debbie Macomber

*The Duchess Takes It All* by Michelle Mclean

*The House of Cross* by James Patterson

*A Worthington Wedding* by Ella Quinn

*The Mirror* by Nora Roberts

*Trial by Fire* by Danielle Steel

*Amber Alert* by Kiki Swinson

*The December Market* by RaeAnne Thayne

*Mechanize My Hands to War* by Erin K. Wagner

*The Good Bride* by Jen Marie Wiggins

*Stuart Woods' Golden Hour* by Brett Battles & Stuart

Woods





# Historical Clippings

Three Lakes Museum

December 2024

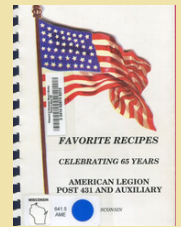
Someone once said something like ...

## *Eating is a Necessity. Food is Our Common Ground*

... and Some Other Things You Can Learn From a Cookbook Besides Cooking

A lot of the past can be discovered in the cookbooks that a community writes, preserving the recipes, values, and food traditions of a specific time and place. These shared recipes, gathered from local meals that connected people together with food, fun and conversation and created a sense of belonging, reflect the character of the area.

In 2008, American Legion Post 431 and Auxiliary of Three Lakes published a cookbook celebrating 65 years. It's a big one - 440 pages of "some new, not all original, and some family keepsakes" but "all from the kitchens of dedicated cooks, reflecting the love of good food." As great as this collection is, what's more amazing is it includes the story of George Kveck (1923-2019) and *Post 431 Dinners by George*, bringing the community together with food once a month for 26 years. For Three Lakes, this was common ground.



This book can be found in the Local History Room of the Demmer Library

The following excerpts are taken directly from the introductory pages of the cookbook -

*The charter for The Three Lakes American Legion Post 431 was issued in January 1945.*

*... Throughout its sixty-five years (to 2008), the Post has been active in local and national civic and Legion affairs. Post 431's much-in-demand Firing Squad and Color guard appear regularly in parades, at funerals, and at patriotic ceremonies throughout the region. The Post's belief in our young people is evident, as demonstrated by the educational scholarships it bestows on Three Lakes High School students each spring.*

*April 23, 1945 was a red-letter day for The American Legion Post 431 in Three Lakes, for it was that day the Post's Auxiliary was formed.*

*Service to veterans is at the core of their efforts ... which also includes working with the Post to conduct a twice-annual blood drive in town, supporting the Youth and Children program both with dollars, and Spinosa Bears, sending "We Care" packages to our local servicemen stationed in the world's "hot spots", and contributing money to the needs of Veteran Groups' homes and hospitals and, for twenty-six years, the Auxiliary prepared and served the desserts at each monthly Post 431 dinner.*



## POST 431 DINNERS BY GEORGE

Ask him why he volunteers so much, and he'll likely reply, "Maybe I just can't say no." Meet the man who's become a fixture in Three Lakes: George Kveck.

George was born in Berwyn, IL, and arrived in Three Lakes in 1978. His wife of 65 years, Vi, followed him in 1979, and the two of them have been integral to happenings in this little town since then. His service to the American Legion predates his coming to northern Wisconsin, for he's been active in the Legion for forty years, serving in various capacities. He has been the manager for Post 431 for more than 26 years, and was Commander of the post for several years, as well as holding other officer positions.

As an active member of the Three Lakes Lions Club since 1978, he was recently honored by that group for having served as their treasurer for twenty-five years.

For the last fifteen years George has coordinated with the Post 431 Auxiliary to effect a twice-yearly blood drive, a community based activity.

He was an active supporter of the American Legion Post 431's annual formal Harvest Balls, which netted a total of \$40,000.00 for the post's scholarship fund for graduating seniors of Three Lakes High School.

For 26 years George was the chief chef and driving force behind the monthly Post 431 dinners, which often served upwards of 200 people in a couple of hours.

In 2007 he announced he was retiring from chefing. (The dinners continued through 2008, but were catered.) During those 26 years and yet today, his food is acclaimed: we offer this section of our Celebration Cookbook with his recipes, never before shared with anyone. Vi, too, has contributed her best recipes to this celebration cookbook.

Every month George would rotate through his main dish recipes and sides, and the Auxiliary would compliment the meal with plates of desserts.

### GEORGE'S SWISS STEAK WITH TOMATO SAUCE

65 pounds beef arm steak, cut 1 ½ inches thick  
Flour  
Cooking oil  
3 pounds onions, thinly sliced  
3 (#10 size) cans tomato sauce

Garlic cloves, minced  
Salt  
Pepper  
Bay leaves (discard before serving)  
4 green peppers, diced

Cut bone and excess fat from arm steak. On a cutting board, coat meat on one side with flour. With a meat mallet or edge of a plate, pound meat well. Turn meat and repeat on the other side.

In a 12 inch skillet over medium heat, in hot oil, cook meat until well browned on both sides. Remove meat from skillet. Set aside.

To the meat drippings in the skillet, add onions and cook, stirring frequently, until onions are lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Add tomato sauce, garlic, salt, pepper, bay leaves and meat; heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer about 3 ½ hours or until meat is fork tender, turning meat once. During the last 45 minutes of cooking time, add the green pepper. Recipe fills three Nescos and feeds 125 people.

### HARVEST BALLS' SWEETS TABLES

From the onset of the annual formal Harvest Ball, the Sweets Tables were a sought-after hit. Every year a few died-in-the-wool chocoholics asked ahead of time what chocolates were going to be served on the Sweets Tables that year. So, while a variety of sweet finger-choices were presented, it was certain that every Harvest Ball ensured there were plenty of chocolate dishes, along with a varied selection of non-chocolate treats, for those devotees.

As a fundraiser for the Post's scholarship fund, the Harvest Ball recipe collection found in the last section of the cookbook covers a wonderful variety of baked goods and candies. It is worth searching out a copy of the book to put a sweet from the past on your holiday table for family, friends and neighbors, to try and find that common ground.



We can be proud of these three American Legion members and military veterans. Matt Graczyk, 98, served in England, North Africa, and Italy from 1942-1945. He was an x-ray technician assigned to the 26th General Hospital. George Kveck, 94, served in Saipan from 1942-1944, where he worked on gun turrets and loading bombs to B29 aircraft. Gene Step, 98, signed up to serve in 1942 after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He served in several different locations, playing saxophone and clarinet in several military bands.