

Holiday Piano Duet Concert



On a snowy Friday night in December, Zach Ott and Gretchen Roltgen treated an appreciative crowd to their delightful piano stylings. Their concert featured holiday favorites such as Christmas Time is Here, a jazzy Jingle Bells arrangement, and Sleigh Ride, which incorporated jingle bells, “whip cracks,” and a horse whinny. Thank you to the Baraboo First Congregational United Church of Christ for hosting this concert!

Readers Anonymous Book Club

This December, the Readers Anonymous Book Club, which is for readers in their 20s and 30s, met at the Van Orden Mansion to discuss *The Mistletoe Murder* by P.D. James. After discussing the book, the group received a tour of the mansion by Historical Society Director Paul Wolter. Readers Anonymous meets the third Thursday of every month, often at downtown Baraboo businesses. Thanks to Paul and the Sauk County Historical Society for the great experience!



Group photo at the mansion

Immune Boosting Herbs

Jane Hawley Stevens of Four Elements Organic Herbals gave a talk on a Thursday night in December right before a snow storm. She told attendees about boosting the immune system, both through herbs and holistic methods like stress reduction and exercise. She also talked about her farm, certified organic since 1990, and some historical details about herbs and herbalism. Attendees were treated to a warm cup of herbal tea from Four Elements!



Jane explaining the use of a tincture

Baraboo Buds Craft Night

The Baraboo Buds Garden Club is open to anyone who likes gardening in the Baraboo area. In December, the club met to do a craft project with terra cotta pots, decorating them with mod podge and holiday napkins. Participants took home a little houseplant to transplant into their new pot, too. January’s meeting will be a discussion about garden planning. Baraboo Buds meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in Room 12/14 of the Baraboo Civic Center.



Selecting supplies for crafting

Library Construction Update

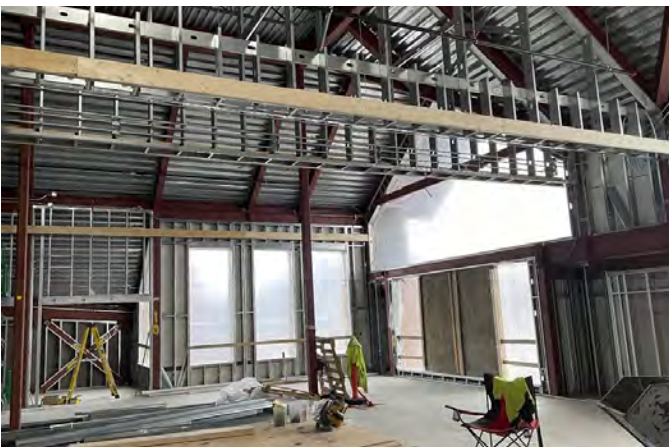
The library addition continues to proceed on schedule. At this point in the construction, the exterior of the building is staying generally the same, and the bulk of the work is being done in the interior of the addition, including installing insulation, dry wall, plumbing, and HVAC. These photos of the interior were graciously provided by Tim Stieve.



View of the future site of the Circulation Desk (ground floor) and Program Room (directly above the Circulation Desk on the second level).



View from the second level overlooking the lobby.



The future children's area on the second level.

Teen Update

Every Tuesday at 4 PM, the library hosts Teen Tuesday, for teens in grades 6-12. In December, the teens had the opportunity to play a family friendly game of JackBox, they made paper snowflakes and snow globes, and they got cozy with coloring and hot chocolate. Teen Tuesdays will continue every Tuesday in January from 4-5 PM.



Making festive winter snow globes

Literary First Lines Contest Winners

During the Month of November, the library held a "Literary First Lines" Contest, in which participants imagined what the first line of the novel they might write would be. We received many creative, engaging entries, and it was difficult to choose the winners. After much deliberation, three were chosen to win Chamber Bucks, a gift certificate to over 160 Baraboo businesses:

Lauri, with the first line: "It's the same dream over and over again, I wake up in the deepest darkest black of the ocean with eyes staring right back at me."

Gene, with the first line: "The sky was as blue as the sea was as green as the grass."

And Criton, with the first line: "Dear Mom, I love you."

The first line of your book:

It's the same dream over & over again, I wake up in the deepest darkest black of the ocean with eyes staring right back at me.

The first line of your book:

The sky was as blue as the sea was as green as the grass.

The first line of your book:

Dear Mom, I love you.