



**Two Towns – One Book
Celebrating our Thirteenth
Community Read
2025 Community Activities**



***West with Giraffes*
by Lynda Rutledge**

“Few true friends have I known and two were giraffes...”

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave. It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. **Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.** Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late"-- Publisher.

**Sunday, January 19, 2-3:30 pm
“Weather” or Not You’ve Read the Book
Library Program Rooms A & B**

Reid Kisselback, WNYT-Channel 13 meteorologist, joins us to speak about weather and hurricanes. If you've already read **West with Giraffes**, you'll know that the story begins with two giraffes who survived the Great Hurricane of 1938 while crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

**Saturday February 8, 2-3:30 pm
Souper-Saturday – Soup making with Chef Abby Shea - A Cooking Demonstration
Library Program Rooms A & B**

Abby Shea, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, returns to perform a cooking demonstration. She will show the audience how to create a vegetarian stock and then make soup with the stock. We'll end the session with a time for questions and an opportunity to enjoy the trio of soups prepared.

**Sunday, March 23, 2-3:30 pm
Let’s Look at Wildlife
Library Program Rooms A & B**

George Steele, naturalist and outdoor educator, will give us a glimpse of local wildlife in their environment captured on trail cameras.

**Sunday, April 27, 2-3:30 pm
What’s Wild in My Backyard – Panel Discussion
Library Program Rooms A & B**

What do you do and what do you not do when wild animals appear on your property? Clifton Park’s Animal Control Officer, Teri Cook, will be joined by North Country Wild Care’s Trish Marki, and their veterinarian, to speak on wild animal rescue and recovery.

Keep up to date with TTOB events on our website.
www.twotownsonebook.org

May 1-13

Shenendehowa High School Photography Exhibit

Library 2nd Floor Mezzanine

Sepia-tone photography, a popular practice during the Depression, often symbolizes a connection to the past and a sense of history. Hand-colored sepia tone photography created by Shenendehowa High School students will be on display, connecting us to the young female photographer who traveled west with the giraffes.

Sunday June 1, 2-3:30 pm

Storyteller Kate Dudding and Guests

Library Program Rooms A & B

Local storyteller Kate Dudding will bring to life photographer Margaret Bourke-White, and share a new story about the civil rights activities of Eleanor Roosevelt. Nancy Marie Payne will share a story about Amelia Earhart. And, let's view a video provided by Kate's storytelling friend Michael D. McCarty about his encounter with Willie the giraffe!

Saturday, June 14, all-day

The Wild Animal Park Field Trip

Chittenango, NY

We have chartered a bus to visit The Wild Animal Park in Chittenango, NY, about a two-hour trip from Clifton Park. We will have an opportunity to view giraffes and other animals. Full details are forthcoming in the spring. In the interim check it out here: <https://www.thewildpark.com/>

Kids Read, Too!

This year's Two Towns – One Book title follows the experiences and moral choices that the main character, Woodrow, must make as he journeys across the USA to help wild giraffes get to their new zoo home. Each year our **Kids Read, Too!** Committee identifies related texts and activities to get our youngest community members involved and engaged. These texts relate to some of the themes in **West with Giraffes**. There will be an expanded list of tie-ins at all events. Happy Reading!

Older Readers – ***The Elephant in the Room*** by Heidi Goldberg Sloan

Younger Readers – ***The Great Giraffe Rescue: Saving Nubian Giraffes*** by Sandra Markle

Take and Make Kits (while supplies last)

Stained Glass Butterfly Art Kit – Available during February break

Black construction paper, colored tissue paper, and information on butterfly conservation.

Nature Observations – Available during April break

The [Curious Jane](#) kit will include colored pencils, magnifying glasses, observation booklets.

Friday, April 18, 2-2:45 pm

Habitat Hunters

Children's Library

Presented by the Children's Museum of Saratoga – "*In the woods and fields and right outside our homes there are furry animals that are our neighbors. Children discover the unique traits of some of our mammal neighbors and how they coexist in their habitats*". Recommended Grades 2-5 with a parent. Registration is required.

Saturday, June 21, all-day

World Giraffe Day

Library Lobby

How do you measure up against the library's giraffe?! *Come find out!*

Saturday, June 21

Bird Song Walk, 2-3 PM

Library Trail

Join naturalist and outdoor educator George Steele for a nature walk and test your listening skills as he shares how he identifies local birds through their song. Recommended Grades 3-5 with a parent. Registration is not required.

Thank You TTOB Community Partners:

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, Town of Clifton Park, Town of Halfmoon, Shenendehowa Central Schools, Halfmoon Senior Center, Clifton Park Senior Center, CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services, Southern Saratoga YMCA.

Thank You!

**Town of Clifton Park, Town of Halfmoon and
Stewart's Holiday Match Program for Your Generous Contributions!**