

ADULT EVENTS

Groton Reads Kick Off Event: Graphic Novels 101 with Robin Brenner. Sun. Feb. 28, 2-3 pm

Join local graphic novel enthusiast (and librarian) Robin Brenner for a look into the medium of comics and sequential art. Learn about the history of the art form, the elements that make it unique, where to find what to read based on your tastes, and why the format is an engaging and vital one for all readers. *March* is just one outstanding example of the possibilities of the format, and you'll leave with read-alike recommendations and more titles and creators to explore.

Dr. Dan Breen Presents A History of the Civil Rights Movement. Mon. March 1 & 8, 7-8:30 pm.

Part 1, March 1: 1960's Sit-Ins Movement

Part 2, March 8: 1960's Freedom Riders

Popular Brandeis University Professor Daniel Breen will give a 2-part overview of the 1960's Civil Rights Movement as covered in John Lewis' *March* memoir, focusing on the Sit-Ins and Freedom Riders movements. As Breen notes, 'In Book One of *March*, John Lewis describes the events that led him, at grave personal risk, to oppose the murderous cruelty of southern segregation in the 1950s. This lecture will offer a glimpse into the immensity of the obstacles Lewis and others would face as they took that system on, not only by describing the system of Jim Crow into which Lewis was born, but also by tracing some of the earlier efforts by African-Americans to challenge it.'

CNN's *John Lewis: Good Trouble* Film Discussion in Partnership with the Groton Interfaith Council. Sun. March 7. 2-3:30 pm

Members of Groton Interfaith Council with the Groton Public Library welcome the local community in first viewing and then discussing the documentary, *John Lewis: Good Trouble*, produced by CNN Films. Using interviews and rare archival footage, the film chronicles the late Congressman's 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health-care reform, and immigration. Director Dawn Porter explores Lewis' childhood experiences, his inspiring family, and his fateful meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1957.

Step 1: Watch the movie IN ADVANCE of the discussion. It's accessible to any resident* with a library card via the online Hoopla database (search for John Lewis). DVD copies of the film will also be available by request at the library. *Non-Groton residents can access Hoopla through Boston Public Library.

Step 2: On Sunday, March 7, at 2 pm, join our live Zoom event – register at gpl.org

Area Faith Leaders will share thoughts on the history of Social Activism and Spiritual Perspective in their faith tradition. The Groton Interfaith Council is committed to annual programming in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. This year we honor the late Congressman John C. Lewis who passed in the summer of 2020.

Groton Reads 2021: EVENTS Celebrating *March: A Graphic Novel Trilogy* by John Lewis

Spice Club Pick Up – A Sampling of Black Culinary History, starting Tue. March 9, 10 am-4:30 pm via curbside pick-up

March features two spices that relate to our Groton Reads selection, *March*! This graphic novel features southern Black culture, which is often associated with Soul Food. Each month will feature a different spice or spice mix from around the world. The spice kit will include a small amount of the spice, some recipes, and a bit of history or context around the spice's use around the world. There will also be additional resources from our collection listed for further information.

Finding your Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People, Tue. March 9, 7-8 pm.

Groton Police Sergeant Rachael Bielecki presented this workshop to all town employees last summer; she made it so interesting and engaging that we asked her to do it for Groton Reads!

Race 360 with Meghan Smith, Wed. March 10, 17, & 24, 7-8 pm

Lawrence Academy Teacher Meghan Smith presents a series on Race. This three part series is comprised of sixty-minute sessions where participants will examine the difference between institutional racism and individual bias, locate themselves on the spectrum of racial identity, and practice the skills of listening and intervention in the face of microaggressions. This workshop is appropriate for people who want to understand the effects of racism, examine their own development, and discuss action steps in a safe space.

Session 1: What is racism?

Session 2: Racial Identity Development and Working on Ourselves

Session 3: Listening Actively and Speaking Thoughtfully: What Do I Do If.....?

Each session includes looking at a brief reading for orientation and then implementing protocols for discussion to ensure that everyone's voice is heard.

GPL Take and Make for Adults – Gee's Bend Quilt Collage, starting Fri. March 12, 10 am

Explore the fascinating quilts created by the Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend, Alabama. Participants will create their own mini-quilt using provided materials in combination with any scrap/collage papers they choose to add. All materials are included except for basic household goods. Complete instructions also included. Please note these kits are intended for adults only. One kit per person, please.

When Melodies Persist: Exploring Protest Music, Sat. March 13, 2-3:30 pm

Jazz pianist and lecturer Kevin Harris will lead a musical exploration of American and international Protest Music. Co-sponsored with Indian Hill Music.

Made possible by a grant from the Town of Groton's Trust Funds' Lecture Fund.

1960's Civil Rights in Groton-Groton History Center in Conversation with Louise Gaskins and Marion Stoddart, Sun. March 14, 2:00-3:30 pm

Groton History Center's President Richard Chilcoat will lead a conversation with Louise Gaskins and Marion Stoddart. Join two amazing and award-winning local women as they recount Groton's own role in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's and talk about their lifetime experiences as civil rights and social justice advocates.

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Worth a Thousand Words: The Imagery of *March*, Tue. March 16, 7-8 pm

"The firsthand narrative of March is emotional for sure, but Powell's illustrations add depth to those emotions. His ability to evoke such emotions through two-dimensional, black-and-white images is a talent obviously well-honed." Westley Ashley

Join Lisa Baylis, GPL Head of Circulation, for a presentation and discussion of the visual artistry of *March*. The group will explore such topics as: Why images remain vividly in our minds longer than written descriptions? How do the images in *March* enrich this storytelling experience? What emotions is the illustrator trying to convey in several key scenes and how was that accomplished? What images were created for foreshadowing or invoking a reader's response?

Making Graphic Art with Scott Smith, Sat. March 20 & 27, 11 am-12 pm

Lawrence Academy Teacher Scott Smith will introduce comics and graphic storytelling from an artist's perspective. This two-part series will examine work from a variety of comic artists, explore the process of making graphic stories, and invite participants to begin to play with making simple comics themselves (no previous art experience required!). The workshop will invite attendees to consider what makes storytelling in the comic format unique and is recommended for anyone curious about the thinking that goes into combining text and imagery to create art. Session 1: What are comics? An introduction to graphic storytelling. Session 2: Why comics? What's unique about this artform and how does the comic format effect a story?

The Quilters of Gee's Bend: Discuss and Be Inspired, Sat. March 20, 2-3:30 pm

Join GPL Head of Circulation, Lisa Baylis, and Adult Program Coordinator, Beth Dalal, for an afternoon celebrating the Quilters of Gee's Bend, Alabama. These quilters defied poverty, discrimination, and more to create stunning and functional works of fiber art. This event will involve a lively discussion of the film, *Quiltmaker's of Gee's Bend*. Participants should view the film prior to the event. It can be viewed at <https://www.pbs.org/video/alabama-public-television-documentaries-quiltmakers-of-gees-bend/>.

The event will also feature a small quilting project. Participants will make quilted postcards inspired by the designs of Gee's Bend quilters with scrap fabric. No sewing experience necessary, but the project will be entertaining for those of all skill levels. All materials will be provided and can be picked up from the library.

Groton Neighbors: Sharing Our Stories Sun. March 21, 2-3:30 pm

In response to reading *March*, members of Groton Neighbors and young adults from Groton will share their stories from the Civil Rights era of the 1960's compared to present day, respectively. Participants will tell their personal account of what life was (is) like, their understanding of race in America and their encounters or actions related to the events of the times.

Coffee, Donuts, & Discussion with Police Chief Mike Luth, Tue. March 23, 1-2 pm

What did Groton's Police Chief Mike Luth think about *March* by John Lewis? Join us to find out! Enjoy donuts and discussion with Chief Luth and both former and current Groton Library Directors! As a special treat, Groton's Council on Aging will deliver donuts and coffee to your home** the morning of the event! *Sign up limited to 15. **Groton Residents Only.

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GPL Cookbook Club Discusses Marcus Samuelsson's *The Rise*, Thu. March 25, 7-8:30 pm

Join in a discussion of the cookbook *The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food* by Marcus Samuelsson. Email circulation@gpl.org to get a copy of the book. This will be a very relaxing and enjoyable way to connect over food. While cannot physically share our meals, but we can virtually share with each other what we think about the cookbook, and if you're inspired you can prepare a recipe and tell us all about it!

***Selma* Film Discussion with Mary Jennings, Sat. March 27, 2-4 pm**

Selma (2015) tells the true story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historical struggle to secure voting rights for all people. A dangerous and terrifying campaign that culminated with an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1964 – making it the perfect film adaptation to pair with *March* by John Lewis. Discuss and contrast the different visual mediums and point of views covering the same event with expert facilitator Mary Jennings.

Mary Jennings has studied and taught Film Criticism in her career as an educator. Mary served as Groton-Dunstable Superintendent of Schools from 1994 to 2006 and is one of the founders of Friends of Prescott, Inc.

Groton Reads Grand Finale Event: *March* Co-Author ANDREW AYDIN Sun. March 28, 2-3 pm

We are honored to host Author ANDREW AYDIN, co-author of *March* with John Lewis, for our premier Groton Reads Grand Finale event! Andrew joins us LIVE via Zoom from Washington, D.C.! *MARCH* is the first comics work to ever win the National Book Award. But something else makes “March” special and it was outside the pages: the friendship between Lewis and Aydin. Aydin worked for Congressman Lewis for a decade, but their co-author relationship began in 2008 when Lewis stepped to Aydin’s defense after he took some ribbing from coworkers when they learned he planned to spend his vacation at a comics convention. Five years later, they had published the first volume of “March,” and today, after three books and long traveling tours, the unlikely pair behave more like family than congressman and aide. As Lewis said many times, “we're like brothers ... and we have fun.”

Made possible by a grant from the Town of Groton's Trust Funds' Lecture Fund.

Soul Food Demonstration with Cheryl Briggs of Chara's Kitchen, Tue. March 30, 7-8:30 pm

Try not to salivate too much as you watch Cheryl create a spread of traditional Soul Food similar to that which John Lewis experienced in his journey through the South in *March*. Cheryl will feature buttermilk fried chicken, baked cheesy mac, smothered cabbage, and classic cornbread. YUM!

Continue on for Kids, Family, Tween, and Teen Events!

All of Groton Reads generously supported by the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust.
gplendowment.org

YOUNG ADULT (YA) / TEEN & TWEEN EVENTS

Social Justice Books & Conversation Discusses *March: Book 1* for Gr. 6-12. Wed. Mar 3, 4 pm
Members read and talk about issues around the theme of social justice. This month we will be discussing Book 1 of *March* (first in the trilogy of our 2021 Groton READS selection).

Book Worm Masters (Grade 6) Discusses “March: Book 1.” Tue. March 9, 4–5 pm
For those readers who loved Book Worms and are now in 6th grade (newcomers, too!), join a fun, relaxed virtual book group with Miss Carrie. We meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month via ZOOM to discuss the latest book. Books will be available at Children's Window and/or GPL to Go. Sign up and receive the ZOOM invitation for all the meetings through June.

YA Art Workshop, March 18, 4–5 pm

A fun, accessible virtual workshop to create art based on John Lewis' graphic novels, *March*. We'll learn to use a simple printmaking technique called trace monotype and reference photos to create scenes and figures inspired by the books. No drawing skill needed! Supply kits will be provided to participants.

YA Take & Create Collage Inspired by Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend. Grades 6-12. Thu. March 11, 4–5 pm

We will make a collage inspired by the Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend. The kit will include papers and a glue stick. Please plan to add to this any papers that are special to you, to make it truly your own. You will also need scissors for this project. Supplies will be available to pick up at the library (curbside or children's room window for one week prior to the event) and the Zoom login in will be sent on the day of the event.

emPOWER ME! Social Justice and Leadership Program for Grades 6-8. 2 Sessions: Wed. March 17 & 31, 4-5 pm

In this 2 session series (2nd session is Wed. March 31, 4-5 pm.), young people in grades 6-8 will learn the importance of listening, questioning, learning and acting on things that they are passionate about and learn how they, much like Congressman John Lewis, can make a difference in their communities. Through team building games, media (including video, music, and PPT), activities, takeaways, and resources for them to access after the sessions are complete, young people will ideally feel more confident in understanding what social justice is and how to be leaders in their own right.

Zinetastic Zoom: Zines for a Better World. Grades 6-12. Tue. March 30, 4-5 pm

Zinetastic Zoom: Zines for a Better World, is a middle to high school age zoom workshop for creative youth to explore Zine-making as a fun form of self-expression. No drawing or writing skills required, and materials will be provided. The workshop will start by exploring the intriguing history of Zines and will show a variety of examples for both educational and inspirational purposes. Before you know it, you'll be drawing, folding, and gluing in your own zine! Co-taught by Jai Santoro, GDRHS Art Club President, and Deborah Santoro, Visual Artist.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY EVENTS

Book Worms for Grades 4-5, Tue. March 2, 4–4:30 pm

Readers in grades 4 & 5: join a fun, relaxed virtual book group with Miss Carrie. We meet once a month on ZOOM to discuss the book. In March, we will be reading the Newbery Award winning graphic novel *New Kid* by Jerry Craft. Sign up and receive the ZOOM invitation for all the meetings through June.

Mirrors & Windows Storytime & Craft with ABC Families. Fri. March 5 & 12, 1-2 pm AND Fri. March 19 & 26, 10–11 am

Families with children ages 0-10 are welcome to join us for a weekly Mirrors & Windows storytime and craft inspired by John Lewis's book *March*. Children will learn about a variety of ways people throughout history and today have strived to support freedom for all. We will also discuss ways children can participate in making the world a better place.

Book Bears for Grades 2-3. Thu. March 11, 4–4:30 pm

Join in on a virtual book discussion with Miss Jennie from the Groton Community School! Every month, we read a new book geared toward grades 2 & 3 readers. Then, we talk and share what we think of the book. Pick up and check out the next book at the Children's Room Window. We will be reading *Violet Mackerel's Pocket Protest* by Anna Branford. In this sixth story of the Violet Mackerel series, Violet and Rose start a very small protest to make a very big impact.

emPOWER ME! With Charisse Beaufort. Grades 4 & 5. Tue. March 16 & 30, 4–5 pm

In this 2 session virtual series, young people in grades 4 & 5 will learn the importance of listening, questioning, learning, and acting on things that they are passionate about and learn how they, much like Congressman John Lewis, can make a difference in their communities. Through team building games, activities, media, and takeaways, young people will ideally feel more confident in understanding what social justice is and how to be leaders in their own right.

Caregiver/Child Art Event, Thur. March 25, 4–5 pm

A fun, accessible virtual workshop to create art based on John Lewis' graphic novels, *March*. We'll learn to use a simple printmaking technique called trace monotype and reference photos to create scenes and figures inspired by the books. No drawing skill needed! Supply kits will be provided to participants.

Groton READS Scout Fun Patch Program

Read and discuss a book from our selection list, then complete a fun graphic to hang in the window at the library! To participate, complete the form at gpl.org. Email lsanchez@gpl.org for more information.