**THE READING ROOM AT GILMAN LIBRARY**

**ALTON## RAFFLES, PUZZLES, AND FREEBIES –** Stop in at the Gilman Library at 100 Main Street, and take a chance on our featured raffle fund-raisers, the current guessing games, or the joke of the week. You might win a prize! Pick up your free copy of BookPage and take out a jigsaw puzzle, paperback, or magazine from our free swaps, no library card needed. Of course, you will want to use your card for the newest additions to our books, audios, circulating magazines, and videos. Our lending periods are three weeks for books and audios, and one week for DVDs and magazines. You get one automatic renewal per item, providing it is not on reserve.

**FREE JANUARY CRAFT KITS** - Don’t forget to ask for your free January Craft Kit at the Circulation desk. “Bears, Bookmarks, and Colorful Unicorns” are your choices. You may choose to create a snowy white foam and tissue polar bear wall hanging, decorate a unicorn, or an assortment of other eye-catching bookmarks. As always, these are free craft activities.

**NEW BOOKS -** Check out our new collection of REALLY BIG paperback picture books. Ten oversized paperback editions (15” x 19 1/4") of beloved Children’s picture books were purchased at the end of 2021. After each title is featured in our Wednesday Storytime, it will be added to the circulation. There are three so far, that are ready to check out, “Po­lar bear, po­lar bear, what ­do y­ou ­hear?” by Bill Martin, “The nap­ping ­house” by Audrey Wood, and just this week, “It looked ­like spilt milk: by Charles G, Shaw. This latest title, a classic originally published in 1947, was one of the first books to introduce nonrepresentational art to children. This was the same publication year as “Goodnight Moon,” by Margaret Wise Brown. In fact, Shaw was discovered and nurtured by the renowned children’s author, who was his first editor.

Come in and see these colorful REALLY BIG paperback picture books for yourself and check one out. If you are in a hurry, you can reserve it online through our website at gilmanlibrary.org, and pick it up at the Circulation desk. **-** See you soon at the library!  **#362**