

CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY — FALL 2023



Summer Reading Kickoff 2023 was a success! Library patrons of all ages enjoyed free ice cream, a local author showcase, face painting, and a circus performance!

A letter from Library Trustee Chair Deb Lebeaux:

As trustees, we aim to provide a welcoming environment to all of our patrons through the support of the staff at the library. We are thrilled that our library is valued and used by so many in our community.

We recognize that kids need a place to socialize; however, the large number of middle school students who visit the library on Fridays and on early release days has become unmanageable.

We've had many discussions with our library staff and community partners to try to create a safe environment for middle school aged kids. We restricted the students to the young adult and Community Commons sections of the library, offered age appropriate activities, and volunteered to help monitor and supervise the students during the time they were in the library. These efforts did help somewhat; but put simply, we cannot safely supervise and manage the number of students at the library.

Behavioral issues also continue to impact overall safety and disturb other patrons' use of the library. There is also concern for students' safety while walking to the library and through the center of town and in the parking lot, as many children have been observed to disregard traffic.

At a properly posted public meeting, the Board of Library Trustees voted unanimously on June 20th, 2023 to change the Child Safety Policy regarding when children can use the library building without adult supervision in response to the above.

The updated policy, effective July 1st, 2023 reads:

Children through grade six must be continually attended and supervised by a parent or parent's representative while in the library. Children in grades seven and eight may be left unattended for a maximum of two hours.

Continued on next page...

Definitions:

Supervised means accompanied by a parent or a parent's representative who is ensuring:

- that the child's behavior does not present a safety hazard to himself/herself/themselves or other users, or library property.
- that the child acts in accordance with Library Rules
- that the child's behavior does not interfere with the use of the library by others

Parent's representative is another adult or teenager (15 years or older) who has been designated by a parent to ensure that their child is safe and acting in accordance with library rules.

Looking forward, this means that students at Oak Middle School may visit the library without adult supervision for up to two hours. Sherwood Middle School students will no longer be able to visit without supervision. We hope that you understand the reason for the change and also hope this change may provide additional impetus for a town-wide discussion about how to provide recreational and social resources for this age group.

Deb Lebeaux, Trustee Chair

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE BOOKS!

Outreach Librarian Deb Mayo has retired after 35 years of service to the library and Shrewsbury community! We wish her all the best in retirement and will miss her presence.

Please welcome the library's **new Outreach and Marketing Librarian, Diana Karas!** Diana and Deb have been working hard these last few weeks to ensure a smooth transition.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SPONSORS

The library would like to thank the businesses and individuals who have contributed to the Sunday season from October 2022 to May 2023. For more information about the library's Sunday sponsorship program for the 2023–2024 season, please contact the Library Director, Priya Rathnam, at 508-841-8537 or send an email to PRathnam@shrewsburyma.gov.

Providing eight Sundays:

- Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

Providing four Sundays:

- Dr. B. Dale and Mrs. Melanie Magee

Providing two Sundays:

- Dr. Anne Larkin and Mr. Peter Larkin

Providing one Sunday:

- In memory of James A. Heedles
- Bette and Rick Kirby
- David and Kathleen Rocheleau
- The Bachini Family, in honor of Ruth Seward
- Jack and Nancy Collins, in remembrance of Dr. John P. Collins

- Don, Olivia, and Peg Harbert
- The Del Dotto grandchildren: Drea, Dylan, and Devin
- Maureen Fujimori, in honor of Eileen Mooney Evans
- Shrewsbury Garden Club
- Dean Park Grill & Pizza
- Central One Federal Credit Union
- Tara Kumaraswami, in memory of Nancy Kumaraswami
- Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti, Jr., Donor-advised fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- Dora M. Capite-Tkal, in remembrance of Oleh Tkal
- An anonymous donor
- The Friends of the Library, in honor of Claire Nagle
- The SPL Foundation, in honor of Chris Mehne

TECHNOLOGY CLASSES

Join a class to learn new skills and gain confidence with technology.

These programs are for learners ages 13+.

Tech Tuesday: Digital Privacy and Security

Tuesday, September 5th
6:00–7:30 p.m.

Attendees will learn how to assess potential risks in their digital privacy, some specific tools and strategies they can implement as part of a security plan, and how to take action when their data has been breached. This program is intended for proficient computer users and those familiar with navigating the internet.

Tech Tuesday: 3-D Printing Basics

Tuesday, October 3rd
6:00–7:30 p.m.

Attendees will gain an understanding of how 3-D printing works, its capabilities, and its limitations. Use TinkerCAD, a free 3-D modeling software, to find, design, and alter 3-D models. Then, learn how to bring them to life with the library's 3-D printing team!

Please create a TinkerCAD account prior to class. Basic computer skills recommended. iPads with TinkerCAD will be provided for in-class use.

Read, Listen, and Watch with hoopla

Tuesday, October 24th
6:00–7:00 p.m.

What's all the hoopla about hoopla?! Looking for an alternative to Libby? A library card lets patrons download and stream with hoopla from the comfort of their own home. Participants should bring their devices (smartphone, tablet, laptop) to learn how to borrow digital books, audio, movies, and television series using hoopla.

Get Started with Libby

Monday, November 13th
3:00–4:00 p.m.

Want to have access to the library's digital books, audiobooks, magazines, and more, anytime and anywhere? Libby can help! Participants should bring their devices (smartphone, tablet, laptop) to get familiar with the Libby app.

Tech Tuesday: Power Up Your Presentation

Tuesday, November 14th
6:00–7:30 p.m.

Attendees will learn how to improve their presentations using Powerpoint; explore best practices for designing and delivering presentations; learn about other presentation softwares like Google Slides, Keynote, and Prezi; and understand presentation hardware accessories available, like clickers and cables.

Basic computer skills are required and basic word processing skills are recommended for this class. Laptops will be provided.

Registration is required for these programs. Sign up at our events calendar:

<https://tinyurl.com/5652hz37>

ADULT SERVICES

Ongoing Programs

Book Clubs

Shrewsbury Readers

In Person

This group is about good books and good discussion and meets on the **first Thursday of the month from 6:30–7:30 p.m.** New members welcome; to register, please email PRathnam@shrewsburyma.gov or call 508-841-8537.

Reading Glasses

Virtual via Google Meet

This book group for adults in their 20s and 30s meets monthly. New members welcome; to register, please email SPLReference@cwmar.org.

English Conversation Circle

Four weekly sessions are offered: **On Zoom on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m., in person at the library on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30–11:30 a.m., and in person at St. Anne's Church on Fridays from 10:00–11:00 a.m.** These sessions are for adults who wish to practice their English conversational skills. The facilitators make the sessions engaging, interactive, and fun. To register, send an email to SPLReference@cwmar.org.

Spanish Culture Club

The Spanish Culture Club exists to provide a fun, casual environment to celebrate the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries around the world. This club is not only about learning Spanish, but learning about Spanish culture! Our Spanish Cultural Club meets on the **first and third Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.** at the library.

Spanish Conversation Club

Are you looking for a casual space in which you can practice your Spanish? Join our Spanish Conversation Club **on most Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.** at the library.

Memory Café

The library's Good Day Memory Café meets on the **first and third Fridays of the month from 2:00–3:30 p.m.** A memory café is a welcoming place for people living with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia and their care partners. Facilitators and volunteers enliven the meetings with conversation, music, or other activities to entertain guests.

Virtual 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group

Those who are unemployed and looking, underemployed, seeking a new career, re-entering the job market, or are recently retired and looking for their "encore career," should consider joining this group. One session meets on the **first and third Wednesdays of the month from 9:30–11:30 a.m. on Zoom.** The other session meets on the **second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 6:00–8:00 p.m. on Zoom.**

Wood Burning Workshop

**Tuesdays, September 12th, October 3rd, and November 7th
12:00–2:00 p.m.**

In this workshop, local woodworker Frank St. Pierre will teach participants how to transfer designs to small plywood stock using carbon paper and a wood burning tool. Each participant will be required to sign a liability waiver before beginning.

The Sacco and Vanzetti Case: An Enduring Lesson

**Wednesday, September 13th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

This dynamic lecture, presented by former Massachusetts prosecutor and Boston College Law School professor Thomas J. Carey, Jr., will examine in detail the infamous Sacco and Vanzetti trial and how its repercussions are still felt in the legal arena today.

Guide to Downsizing - Presented by RightSized Living

**Thursday, September 14th
3:30–4:30 p.m.**

What is downsizing? Come hear from the expert to learn all aspects of downsizing. Learn techniques on how to make it easier to move or simply just minimize what is in your home.

Learn a Simple Technique to Find Peace in a Chaotic World

**Thursday, September 14th
7:00–8:00 p.m., Virtual**

Come to this engaging workshop hosted by Dave Buck to learn a simple yet profound meditation technique which is the key to inner peace and tranquility. There will be a short guided meditation sitting.

Ukraine War and Vladimir Putin: Consequences Expected and Unintended

**Tuesday, September 19th
7:00–8:30 p.m.**

This presentation, hosted by expert Henry Quilan, will discuss the causes of the war and examine the consequences, both intended and unintended, on Ukraine, Russia, and the rest of the world.

Sourdough Starter Workshops with Sourdough Brandon

**Saturday, September 23rd
2:00–3:00 p.m.**

Learn how to make, maintain, and store a sourdough starter from an expert sourdough baker and food blogger. Attendees will leave with many tips and tricks on how to keep their sourdough starter active, what to make with a starter, and even leave with some free sourdough starter!

Cricut Workshop

**Wednesday, September 27th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

In this welcoming beginner class, experienced instructor Bindiya Jain will guide attendees through the basics of using a Cricut machine, from setting it up, to navigating Design Space software, to cutting designs with precision.

Zumba Class

**Wednesdays, October 11th & 25th,
November 1st & 29th
6:00–7:00 p.m.**

Zumba is an interval-style dance fitness party that combines low-intensity and high-intensity moves to boost cardiovascular health, tone muscles, and improve balance. Join Zumba instructor Johanny Pineyro for these fun, exciting classes!

The Salem Witchcraft Trials: What Really Happened?

**Thursday, October 12th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

This exciting lecture, delivered by Justice Dennis J. Curran, will explore five myths behind the outbreak of allegations of witchcraft in colonial America and attempt to determine the reasons behind the raging mass hysteria.

Many programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For details, check out the program descriptions on the event calendar.

Registration is required for most programs.
Sign up and check out other events on our calendar:
<https://tinyurl.com/5652hz37>

Halloween Hauntings

Saturday, October 14th
2:00–3:00 p.m.

In this unique one-woman show, professional actress Michèle LaRue portrays eight characters over the course of two spin-chilling tales, "The Shadows on the Wall" by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and "The House That Was Not" by Elia Wilkinson Peattie.

Ghosts and Legends with Jeff Belanger

Monday, October 16th
7:00–8:00 p.m.

Host of the PBS and Amazon Prime series New England Legends and writer for Ghost Adventures, Jeff Belanger, will take attendees on a journey through the haunts in New England backyards and around the world. Join one of the nation's premiere storytellers for a trip through the unusual and the unexplained.

Paranormal 101

Wednesday October 18th
7:00–8:00 p.m.

Join Paranormal New England for a Paranormal 101 presentation where attendees will learn about techniques, equipment, and terminology used for investigating the paranormal. Those present may even get to see and listen to some of the evidence they've collected over the years!

Tarot Workshop

Thursday, October 19th
6:00–7:30 p.m.

Come learn all about tarot with Sharon and Srilata. The presenters will give an overview of the tarot deck including Major and Minor Arcanas followed by free readings for interested attendees.

New England UFOs with Travel Channel's Ronny LeBlanc

Monday, October 23rd
7:00–8:00 p.m.

Join Travel Channel's Ronny LeBlanc, host of Monsterland: Encounters with UFOs and Paranormal Caught on Camera, as he highlights some historic and recent UFO sightings across New England.

7 Scientific Reasons to Meditate - NOW

Thursday, October 26th
7:00–8:00 p.m., Virtual

During this illuminating talk, Dr. Manish Sagar, Assistant Professor in Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, will provide data from recent neuroscientific studies on how regular meditation practices improve our physical, mental, and emotional health. He will also discuss how, by focusing one's attention during meditation, we can gain happiness and harmony.

Gladius Concert

Saturday, November 4th
12:00–1:00 p.m.

Come experience award winning virtuoso Flamenco guitar performer, Gladius, during this electrifying concert!

Winter Sowing with Milk Jugs

Tuesday, November 7th
7:00–8:00 p.m.

Learn how to plant seeds during the winter using milk jugs as mini-greenhouses. During this workshop, attendees will get hands-on experience getting plants to flourish indoors without using indoor lighting.

Let's Get Growing with Plant Guy Eric

Wednesday, November 8th
6:30–8:30 p.m.

From choosing seeds, to daily care, right through the process of harvesting and curing, Plant Guy Eric will teach attendees all they need to know to begin their journey into the wonderful world of cannabis.

The Power of Meditation and Gratitude

Tuesday, November 14th
7:00–8:00 p.m., Virtual

In this workshop, hosted by long-time meditator Ajili Hodari, attendees will learn a simple yet profound technique that will demonstrate how meditation can enhance one's life with a sense of wellbeing and a deep feeling of inner peace.

The True Story Behind the Lincoln Assassination: The Nest That Hatched Evil

Wednesday, November 15th
7:00–8:00 p.m.

Join Justice Dennis J. Curran for this compelling, detailed presentation that explores the Lincoln assassination, parsing fact from myth.

Madan Sara Film Screening

Thursday, November 16th
7:00–8:30 p.m.

The *Madan Sara* documentary tells the stories of the indefatigable Madan Sara women who work tirelessly to buy, distribute, and sell food and other essentials in markets throughout Haiti. This film amplifies the calls of the Madan Sara as they speak directly to society to share their dreams for a more just Haiti. Join Etant Dupain, journalist and filmmaker, for a screening of this timely film followed by a Q&A.

July's lobby display highlighted Shrewsbury's historic First Congregational Church as they celebrated their 300th anniversary. Interested in displaying something at the library? Email display coordinator Shi Wen Chen at SChen@cwmar.org for details.



Children's Room

Ongoing Programs

Infant Explorers

1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

A program for the library's littlest patrons to explore the world around them! This sensory program will have children 0–2.9 years old explore through touch, sight, and sound. This program is intended for caregivers to engage 1-to-1 with their child. Registration required.

Book Beats

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

A lively early-literacy music and movement program for ages 2–4 years with a caregiver. Siblings welcome. Admittance tokens required.

Babies, Books, and Bubbles

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy songs, fingerplays, and books with the littlest listeners. Babies from birth to age 2 are welcome along with their caregivers. Admittance tokens required.

Wiggle Words

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Come to the library for singing, dancing, and stories. For walkers up to 3 years with a caregiver. Siblings welcome. Admittance tokens are not required.

Tinker Time

Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Tinker Time is a fun, hands-on learning program for older toddlers and preschoolers. Together caregivers and children can explore a variety of age-appropriate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and early-literacy stations. No registration is required, but please note that space is limited.

StoryWalk®

Visit the StoryWalk® at Lake Street Park (430 Lake Street in Shrewsbury) and stroll through a new picture book every month. Don't forget to look for additional special activities while there!

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

The library is taking part in this exciting national literacy program for kids ages 0+ and their families. Participants read to their child, log reading activity, and win free books and a t-shirt upon completion! For more information and to register, visit the library's website at <https://tinyurl.com/bdz34jpe>.

Grandparent's Day Crafternoon

**Saturday, September 9th
2:00–4:00 p.m.**

Celebrate grandparents with this drop-in crafternoon. Geared toward children ages 3+. Crafting available while supplies last.

Courtyard Storytime

**Monday, September 11th
10:00 a.m.**

Join Miss Sonja for singing, dancing, and stories in the fresh air. Geared toward kids age 1+. In the case of inclement weather, the program will be canceled. No registration or tokens needed.

High Holiday Storytime

**Tuesday, September 12th
4:30 p.m.**

Join the library for a High Holiday themed storytime including songs, stories, and a craft. This program is geared for kids ages 2–8.

Admission tokens will be handed out beginning at 4:00 p.m. and will be available until they run out.

Banned Books Month

September 1st through 30th

September is Banned Books Month and the Children's Room is celebrating by hosting a reading challenge on Beanstack!

Read a banned book, log and review the book, and you will be entered into a prize drawing. Check out our website for more information.

International Day of Sign

Thursday, September 21st

On this day the Children's Room will have activities promoting and teaching American Sign Language. Check out our online calendar for details.

Spirit of Shrewsbury

Saturday, September 23rd

Stop by the library's booth at the Spirit of Shrewsbury. There will be a take-home craft, prize wheel, and several raffles!

Pajama Storytime

**Thursday, October 5th
6:30 p.m.**

Join the Children's Room for a fun evening of bedtime stories, songs, and a simple craft. Wear your jammies and bring a favorite sleepytime pal or blanket! For preschoolers and their families. Registration required.

Little Kid Creative Drama with Little Spark Theater

**Saturdays, October 14th and November 18th
10:00 a.m.**

Little Kid Creative Drama is a high-energy, imaginative, zany, silly, super fun theater experience! In this class, kids will focus on senses, feelings, and movement through fun, energetic, and imaginative play. This is social/emotional learning at its best! Children build confidence, social awareness, empathy, and problem-solving skills. Each class has an early literacy component and is aligned with state standards for Theater Education.

This class is for ages 2–5 and a caregiver. Registration is required.

Solar Eclipse

**Saturday, October 14th
12:00–2:00 p.m.**

Try on some solar glasses to catch a glimpse of the partial eclipse at the library! There will also be a live stream of the full eclipse in the Meeting Room while doing fun activities.

Fire Safety Week

October 8th through 14th

The Library will be celebrating Fire Safety Week the week of October 8th. Check out our online calendar for activities and special events in the community.

Hallow-Read Boooktacular Reading Challenge

October 1st through 31st

Throughout the month of October kids are encouraged to track their reading on Beanstack. Participants are rewarded with prizes and maybe even some candy! Check out the library website in October for more information.

STEM Week

October 15th through 21st

The Children's Room is participating in Massachusetts STEM Week by offering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs for kids of all ages! Check out the online calendar for more information.

Wake Up With Wimpy

**Tuesday, October 24th
6:00–7:30 a.m.**

It's time to Wake Up with Wimpy! Celebrate the release of the latest Diary of a Wimpy Kid book, *No Brainer*, with fun and games at the library. Each attendee will receive a copy of *No Brainer* to take home.

This event is open to kids in grades 3-7 and consists of a series of identical 15-minute sessions from 6:00-7:30 a.m.

This is a very popular program, so this year the registration will be done through a lottery system. Starting at 9:00 am on October 11th, sign up using our online calendar to enter your family into the raffle. Winners will be notified of their time slot on Wednesday, October 18th.

This program has been graciously sponsored by the Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union.

Trick-Or-Treat with the Library!

**Saturday, October 28th
10:30 a.m.**

Check out our online calendar for spooky details! All ages will be welcome.

Family Literacy Month

November 1st through 30th

November is Family Literacy month and the Children's Room is celebrating with special all-ages programming including a reading challenge on Beanstack. Check the library website for more information.

Geography Bee

**Tuesday, November 14th
6:00 p.m.**

The library's Geography Bee is for kids in grades 3 & 4. Participants will be picked through a lottery system. If interested, please send the child's and parent's name, phone number, child's grade, and email address to SPLKids@cwmmars.org starting October 31st. If a child gets is selected, parents will be contacted by November 7th.

Garden Club Thanksgiving Greens

**Monday, November 20th
5:00 p.m.**

Join the Shrewsbury Garden Club and make Thanksgiving table centerpieces.

Registration required.

Comedy and Magic Show with Violet the Clown Show

**Friday, November 24th
2:30 p.m.**

Violet the Clown is coming to the library the day after Thanksgiving. All ages are welcome.

Admission tokens will be handed out beginning at 2:00 p.m. and will be available until they run out.

**Registration is required
for most programs.**

**Sign up on our
events calendar:**

<https://tinyurl.com/5652hz37>

TEEN PROGRAMS

It's a bummer that summer is over... but the library will see you soon for the start of the school year!

Check out the library's event calendar to see what teen programs are in the works for the fall.

Sign up for the Teen Services e-newsletter at
<https://tinyurl.com/yckxtxkj>

See the Teen calendar for more details and registration at
<https://tinyurl.com/5n8wn65m>

For information about these programs and more:

- Sign up for the Children's Services e-newsletter for exclusive content
<https://bit.ly/3gQ5edS>
- Check out the Children's events calendar
<https://tinyurl.com/2f3r4tnr>
- Follow the library on Facebook
<https://bit.ly/2PLwfU7>
- Follow the Children's Room on Instagram
@SPLChildrensRoom



Shrewsbury Public Library
609 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY — FALL 2023

ECRWSS
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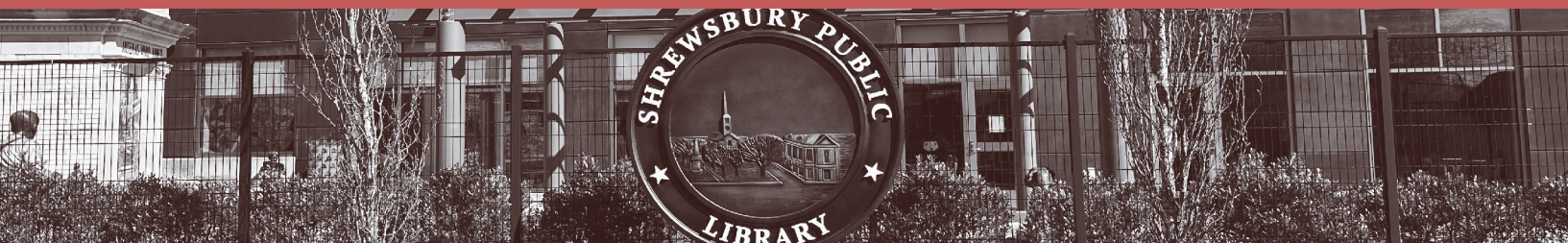


Library Hours

Mon.–Thurs. 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Fri. 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Sun. 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
(October–May)

Contact Information

Phone: 508-841-8609
www.ShrewsburyPublicLibrary.org



A BIG SYSTEM UPDATE!

Beginning **September 1st**, the Shrewsbury library will be using a new system for the Event Calendar and Museum Pass Reservations.

These will look different, but will hopefully provide a better experience for both staff and patrons.

We thank you for your patience as everyone adjusts to the new software. If you registered for a September event in our old system, your registration has been transferred over.

Check out the new event calendar and upcoming programs by scanning the QR code to the right or visiting the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/5652hz37>



Events Calendar

Reserve passes to your favorite museums across New England by scanning the QR code to the right or visiting the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/5xn77nmX>



Museum Passes