

CHAPTERS

The Newsletter of the Shrewsbury Public Library – Winter '25 - '26

Our World Language Collection is growing!

We have fiction and nonfiction books for adults in Spanish, Portuguese, Gujarati, and Chinese. You can find them on the main floor near the audio book collection. We also have Spanish and Portuguese language books in our teen collection.



Exciting **NEW EVENTS** this season!

FRIENDS' HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sat. December 6, 10 am - 1 pm

Main Floor and Children's Room

The Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library invite you to our annual Holiday Open House! Enjoy making multi-generational crafts in the meeting rooms, playing games, and a special storytime with Santa at noon.



10 STEPS TO RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE IN SHREWSBURY

Mon. January 26, 7:00 pm

Learn how to uncover the past of any home with house historian Marian Pierre-Louis.

COZY WINTER READING CHALLENGE

December 1 - March 20

'Tis the season to be reading! We challenge you to enjoy this winter with a good book, a comfy reading nook, and a mug of something warm and delicious. All ages! Kids & Adults track on Beanstack; Teens grab a BINGO card in the Teen Room.

LIBRARY SPEAKERS CONSORTIUM

JOIN US FOR AUTHOR TALKS!—Virtual

Dec 2 2 pm: Sue Hincenbergs

Jan 13 2 pm: David Brooks

Jan 28 7 pm: Liz Moore

Feb 5 7 pm: Vanessa Riley

Feb 12 2 pm: Lindsey Stewart

Feb 24 2 pm: Tom Crouch:
Smithson's Gamble



TO REGISTER

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT:

libraryc.org/shrewsburypubliclibrary/upcoming

ADULT PROGRAMS



BOOK CLUBS

SHREWSBURY READERS —In Person

1st Thurs. monthly, 6:30-8 pm

Join us for good books and good discussions!

Questions? Contact Priya:

prathnam@shrewsburyma.gov

SPANISH BOOK CLUB —In Person

1st Sat. monthly, 11 am-12:30 pm

The Spanish Book Club [el Club del Libro en Español] meets to discuss the literary work of influential Hispanic writers from different genres and times. The discussion is in Spanish! All are welcome. ¡Nos vemos allí!

CHAPTERS IN COMMON —In Person

1st Sat. monthly, 1-2 pm

Exploring themes of equity and inclusion through popular fiction and nonfiction books. Fun snacks related to our books will be provided! Books discussed over 2 months.

DISCOVERIES NON-FICTION

BOOK CLUB —In Person

3rd Thurs. monthly, 11 am-12 pm

Questions? Contact Melissa Wentworth:

mwentworth@cwmmars.org

READING GLASSES (ADULTS 20-30)

—Hybrid: In Person & Google Meet

3rd Thurs. monthly, 7-8:30 pm

Register via email to:

SPLReference@cwmmars.org

SPL COOKBOOK CLUB —In Person

4th Thurs. monthly, 6:30-7:30 pm

Cookbooks will be available at the Circulation desk during the first week of the month. Questions? Email:

prathnam@shrewsburyma.gov



Makerspace classes require basic computer skills.

Unless specified otherwise, registrations for Makerspace classes open two weeks before the class and are for ages 13+. Questions? Email splmaking@cwmmars.org

SPL Learning Lab Makerspace

LASER CUT A HOT BEVERAGE STENCIL

Tues. December 16, 6-7:30 pm

Learn how to design a hot beverage stencil in Inkscape that will be cut using the library's Laser Cutter.

SEW AN AROMATHERAPY NECK PILLOW

Mon. January 12, 6:30-8 pm

Learn to sew a simple neck pillow filled with lavender

SINGLES APPRECIATION CARDS

Wed. February 4, 6:30-8 pm

Use the Silhouette Cutter in the SPL Makerspace to make a card for the single people in your lives! They want to feel appreciated too!

USE THE MAKERSPACE!!

THE SPL LEARNING LAB MAKERSPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO USE!



Check out the website at: shrewsburypubliclibrary.org/makerspace or use the QR code for information on drop-in Makerspace time, machine appointments, and Makerspace policies.



GAMING



NEW GAMES PLUS

3rd Sat. monthly, 12-3 pm

Try a different role playing game every month!

-Monster of the Week - Holiday Haunt

-Midwinter DREAD

-Girl By Moonlight - inspired by K-Pop Demon Hunters



DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

3rd Thurs. monthly, starting in January
6:30-8:30 pm

TRIVIA EVENTS

All ages are welcome! Food and Prizes!

Percy Jackson Trivia

Mon. December 8, 6 pm-7:30 pm

Original book series, the movies, as well as the first season of the show!

Super Bowl Trivia

Wed. January 28, 6 pm-7:30 pm

Test your knowledge on football history!

LIVE MUSIC

MOCKTAILS AND MUSIC WITH ANDREW ARMSTRONG

Wed. December 17, 7-8:30 pm

Enjoy some of Andrew's favorite piano music, as well as stories. Come for the Mocktails, stay for Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue!

FAMILY CONCERT WITH ANDREW ARMSTRONG

Sat. December 20, 2-3:30 pm

Families are invited to author stories to music played by Andy Armstrong using their imaginations and sharing answers.



MUSIC INCLUDES CONCERT

Sun. January 25, 2-2:45 pm

This inclusive and welcoming group of music-makers celebrates differences and all abilities. All ages welcome.



REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR MOST PROGRAMS

Sign up and see more on our calendar!

tinyurl.com/5652hz37



ADULT PROGRAMS

MEDITATION AND FORGIVENESS: HEALING THE HEART —*Virtual*

Thurs. December 4, 7-8 pm

Forgiveness means freeing yourself of the past. Meditation deepens your understanding of yourself and others, awakens your consciousness, and connects you to your personal inner peace. It opens the door to being able to forgive, both yourself and others.

THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Tues. December 9, 7-8 pm

Join paranormal investigator, Dustin Pari as he explores ghosts of Christmas past! In this frightful, festive, and fun presentation Dustin takes the cobwebs off of a classic tradition, the Victorian Christmas Ghost Story.

GARY PHILLIPS: WINTER SOW WORKSHOP

Sat. December 13, 2:30-4 pm

Join local gardener Gary Phillips to learn about the winter sow process, get native plant seeds, and at the end participants will go outside to distribute soil.

SOUND BATH WITH ECHO SOLSTICE

Sun. December 21, 3-3:30 pm

Celebrate the energy of the winter solstice with a restorative sound bath using crystal singing bowls, tuning forks, and gentle guided meditation. Release the heaviness of the past year and set intentions for the season ahead.

TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

Sat. January 10, 10-11:30 am

Build your own miniature terrarium! We'll be using live plants and natural materials, and some pieces of flair! All supplies are provided—just bring your creativity and love for greenery!

TAG JOB SEEKERS WORKSHOP

Sat. January 17, 9:30-11:30 am

Join Together Achieve Greatness for a job seekers workshop and strengthen your job seeking capabilities. All are welcome.

COOKING WITH CHEF PAULA

Tues. January 20, 7-8:30 pm

Join Chef Paula for another cooking lesson! This session is: It's About to Snow - 3 Easy Soups from Pantry, Freezer and Vegetable Bin

SIMPLE STEPS TO GET ORGANIZED

Wed. January 21, 6:30-7:30 pm

Join Jenna Elliott for this fun and interactive workshop that will get you focused on your organizing goals.



Take-home crafts: High School & up.
All other craft activities: 18+

PAPER HOLIDAY HOUSE TAKE AND MAKE

Mon. December 1, 9am - while supplies last

Kits include everything you need to make a paper gingerbread house and are available at the Reference Desk on the second floor.

WINTER CUPCAKE DECORATING

Thurs. December 11, 6:30-7:30 pm

Learn how to decorate cupcakes with Let's Cake Decorate. Each participant will make two delicious and adorable winter cupcakes.

PAPERCRAFT NIGHT

2nd Thurs. monthly, 6-7 pm

We'll have scrapbooking materials, magazines for collaging, full use of our library's Silhouette machine, cutting mats, stickers, and more! All you need to bring is yourself!

GENEALOGIST SPEAKER SERIES:

SEEMA JAYNE KENNEY

Thurs. January 22, 7-8:30 pm

Crossing Oceans, Building Lives: Immigration to North America, 1600-1945 — This overview explores how immigration procedures and records evolved from the 1600s through WWII—and how those changes affect your ability to find and interpret family immigration records today.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HOUSEPLANT?

Sat. January 24, 11 am-12 pm

Join Master Gardener Bonnie Power as she explains how to keep your houseplants happy!

WRITING DIALOGUE WORKSHOP WITH JASON RUBIN

Sat. January 24, 2-3 pm

In this workshop, author Jason M. Rubin will discuss how to develop literary conversations that are both revealing and believable.

LEARN WEST COAST SWING AND DANCE

Fri. January 30, 7-8:30 pm

Join Worcester Westies as they teach you the basics and get you dancing for the rest of the evening! A special "after hours" event!

BEYOND DEATH, MEDICAL FACTS, AND MEDITATION—*Virtual*

Thurs. February 12, 7-8 pm

Presented by Dr. Matthew Raider.

SPOON CARVING WITH OWL EYES WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

Mon. January 5, 6-8 pm

Using simple tools, you will be instructed on the techniques of selecting wood, safe carving techniques, and how to care for your new eating utensil. Leave with at least one wooden spoon and a new skillset!

VALENTINES DAY CARD MAKING & MOVIE NIGHT

MON. February 9, 6:00-8:30 PM

Make beautiful Valentine's Day cards for a loved one while watching the perfect Valentine's Day movie!

PAINT NIGHT WITH JULIE HARROLD

WED. February 11, 6:30-8 PM

Learn to paint with local artist Julie Harrold.

SILK SCARF DESIGN PROGRAM

WED. February 25, 6-8 PM

Each participant will tap into their own creative process with hands-on exercises. You will create a one-of-a kind masterpiece silk scarf design.

RECURRING PROGRAMS

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE

Weekly. Mon. & Wed., 10:30-11:30 am

—*In Person at the library*

Weekly. Fri., 10:30-11:30 am

—*In Person at St. Anne's Church*

For adults who wish to practice their English conversational skills in sessions that are engaging, interactive, and fun. Join for one or all three sessions.

MEMORY CAFÉ

1st & 3rd Fri. monthly, 1:30-3:30 pm

A drop-in event for people living with cognitive changes, their care partners, family, and friends. An enjoyable afternoon of music, socializing with others who understand, and to explore new things.

VIRTUAL 50+ JOB SEEKERS NETWORKING GROUP —*Virtual*

1st & 3rd Wed. monthly, 9:30-11:30 am

For the unemployed and looking, underemployed, seeking a new career, re-entering the job market, or recently retired and looking for their "encore career."

GENEALOGY NIGHT

3rd Thurs. monthly, 7-8:30 pm

For beginners and experienced researchers to connect, share tips, and uncover the stories in your family tree.

Children's Room



NOSTALGIA MOVIE NIGHT:

Watch a cinema classic from the 80s, 90s, or 2000s. Can you still quote all the lines? Snacks provided, please bring a blanket/cushion.

All ages with a grown up.

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL — G
Tues. December 2, 6:30-8:30 pm

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH — PG
Mon. January 5, 6:30-8:30 pm

SHREK — PG
Tues. February 3, 6:30-8:30 pm

ENGINEER A STORY - TWENTY-ONE ELEPHANTS AND STILL STANDING

Thurs. December 4, 6-7 pm

Author April Jones Prince will read her book *Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing*. After the reading she's going to help us try to build our own strong bridges! For children in grades K-4. (Parents are welcome to remain in the children's room during the program).
Registration required.

READING CHALLENGES

Register on Beanstack
shrewsburyma.beanstack.org

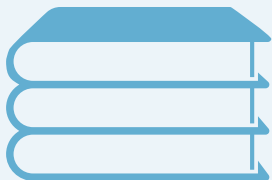
1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

The SPL is taking part in this exciting national literacy program. Read to your child, log reading activity, win free books and a t-shirt upon completion! Ages 0-6 and their families.

COZY UP AND READ

December 1-March 20

'Tis the season for coziness. Grab a blanket, your fluffy socks, and your favorite warm drink or snack! Hop into a reading nook and sink into a good book. Log your reading to earn badges all winter long. Reading will also earn you raffle tickets which you can enter to win prizes! Open to grades preK-6.



LITTLE KID CREATIVE DRAMA

Sat. December 6, January 3, & February 7
10:00-10:50 am

A high-energy, imaginative, zany, silly, super fun theater experience! We focus on senses, feelings, and movement through fun, energetic, and imaginative play. It's 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. Ages 2-5 with a caregiver. **Registration required.**

ORIGAMI FOR YOUNG CREATORS

Sat. December 6, January 3, & February 7
12-1 pm

Join us in unfolding the magical world of Origami, designed exclusively for young children in grades 2-3. The art of Origami is known to help children build motor skills, enhance spatial reasoning, understand symmetry and observe patterns as they transform ordinary paper into extraordinary creations. **Registration required.**

HANUKKAH STORYTIME

Wed. December 10, 4:30-5:30 pm

Join us at the library for a Hanukkah-themed story time including songs, stories, and a craft. This program is geared for kids ages 2-8. **Tokens available starting at 4:00 pm.**

RHYME TIME

Sat. December 13, 10-10:30 am

Start your Saturday with stories, songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and bubbles! This program is intended for children ages 0-2 years old, but everyone is welcome.

GINGERBREAD STEM CHALLENGE

Sat. December 13, 2-3:30 pm

Do you think your gingerbread house can weather a storm? Kids are invited to design, build, and test a gingerbread masterpiece during this STEM challenge. For kids in grades 1-5. **Registration required.**



NO BAKE GRINCH PIE

Tues. December 23, 6-7 pm

Kids in grades 2-5 are invited to the library to make a fun, Grinch-themed no-bake pie, perfect for sharing at the holiday table.

Registration required.

VACATION CRAFTERNOON

Fri. December 26, 2:30-4 pm

Drop in for a winter-themed crafting program at the library! Great for kids in grades K-4 with an adult.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Mon. December 29, 2-3 pm

Put on your chef hat, it's time to cook! Kids in grades 3-4 are invited to cook along with us as we prepare a roasted winter garden dish (vegetarian). This program contains many food items; please contact us if you have an allergy concern. **Registration required.**

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER DROPOFF

Fri. January 9, 10 am-4:30 pm

Would your stuffed animal love to spend the night at the library? Kids of all ages are welcome to drop off one beloved stuffed animal for a night of fun and mischief. Then the next morning stop by Pajama Storytime to pick up your stuffed animal, have a little snack, and watch a slideshow of all the fun.

PAJAMA STORYTIME + STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER PICKUP

Sat. January 10, 10-11:30 am

Join us for a fun morning of bedtime stories, songs, and a simple craft. Wear your jammies and bring a favorite sleepytime pal or blanket! After storytime we'll have light refreshments and see a slide show of last night's stuffie sleepover. Storytime geared to families of children in grades pre-K-2.

KIDS' CONCERT WITH THE BANANNIES

Mon. January 12, 10-10:45 am

Get ready for an unforgettable time of music, laughter, dancing, and downright silly fun! Kids are invited to sing, move, and groove along with The BaNannies in this special concert event designed for the whole family. Great for children ages 2+, all ages welcome.



WINTER OLYMPICS PARTY

Sat. February 7, 2:30-4 pm

The Olympic spirit is coming to Shrewsbury! Come celebrate all things Winter Olympics with crafts, games, and activities. Go for the gold! Best for ages 4-11.

POKÉMON CLUB

Tues. January 20, 6:30-7:30 pm

Calling all young Trainers! Join us at the library for a fun Pokémon-themed activity, a tasty snack, and time to hang out with fellow fans. After the program, kids are welcome to trade cards with each other if they choose, but please note that trading is not supervised by library staff. This club will meet every other month on the third Tuesday. This program is best for elementary-aged children.

Registration required.

DIGITAL DRAWING WITH SKETCHYGOICHIE

Mon. January 26, 6-7:30 pm

SketchyGOichie DRAW! is an innovative digital art program that provides kids with a fun and educational introduction to digital illustration on iPads. iPads are provided! SketchyGOichie's mission is to nurture creativity, encourage productive screen time, and allow students to explore digital arts. Ages 7-12.

Registration required.

HUGS AND KISSES STORYTIME

Sat. February 14, 10-10:30am

Bring your little Valentine to the library for stories, songs, and rhymes that celebrate love and friendship. Best for ages 2-5, but all are welcome.

BOBSLED STEM CHALLENGE

Sat. February 14, 2:30-3:45 pm

Think you can win gold in the Bobsled Olympics? Kids will work to design and build their own bobsleds, then race them down our test track to see who slides to victory. For kids in grades 1-5. **Registration required.**



GLOW PARTY!

Tues. February 17, 6-7 pm

Get your glow on! Come to our after-dark party when we light up the night with neon and glowsticks! Enjoy games and activities with a neon twist. Best for ages 4-11, all ages welcome.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE - PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE

Thurs. February 19, 9:30-11:30 am

We're making our own drive-in movie! We'll provide big boxes and art supplies for you to make your own "car," then we'll relax and enjoy snacks while we watch Paw Patrol: the Mighty Movie! Best for ages 3-7, all ages welcome. **Registration required.**

COCOA AND CANVAS

Fri. February 20, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Join us for a creative morning at the library! Children in grades 1-5 and a favorite grown-up will each create their own mini masterpiece while sipping on hot chocolate and enjoying light snacks.

Registration required.



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Mon. February 23, 6:30-7:30 pm

Put on your chef hat, it's time to cook! Kids in grades 3-4 are invited to cook along with us as we prepare mini shortcakes with smashed strawberries. This program contains many food items; please contact us if you have an allergy concern. **Registration required.**



ONGOING KIDS PROGRAMS

BOOK BEATS

Weekly. Mon. 10-10:30 am

A lively early-literacy music & movement program. Ages 2-4 with a caregiver. Siblings welcome. **No tokens or registration required.**

ON MY OWN STORYTIME

Weekly. Mon. 1-1:45 pm

Kids join the fun while grown-ups wait just outside. Through stories, songs, and simple activities, children build confidence, practice being apart from caregivers, and learn early classroom skills like listening and taking turns. Ages 3-5. **Please take a token to attend.**

BUILD IT! CLUB

Weekly. Mon. 6:30-8 pm

Build with different kinds of blocks, including KEVA planks, big foam blocks, and Duplo. All Ages. *Caregivers, please be aware that this program has no facilitator.*

TINKER TIME

Weekly. Tues. 10-11:30 am

A hands-on learning program for preschoolers. Together you and your child can explore a variety of age-appropriate STEAM and early-literacy stations. Ages 3-4. **No registration required.**

LEGO CLUB

Weekly. Tues. 4-5:30 pm

Follow our weekly prompt, or create whatever your heart desires. For kids of all ages who are comfortable using LEGOs. *Parents, please be aware that this program has no facilitator.*

BABIES, BOOKS & BUBBLES

Weekly. Wed. 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am

Enjoy songs, fingerplays, and books with the littlest listeners. Ages 0-2 with a caregiver. **No tokens or registration required.**

WIGGLE WORDS

Weekly. Thurs. 10-10:30 am

Singing, dancing, and stories. For walkers up to 3 years with a caregiver. Siblings welcome. **No tokens or registration required.**

FUN WITH COLORS!

Weekly. Thurs. 10:30-11:30 am

A colorful activity. Have fun, get creative, and practice school readiness skills! Ages 2-4 with adult supervision. **No registration required.**

STORYWALK®

Visit the StoryWalk® at Lake Street Park — 430 Lake Street in Shrewsbury — and stroll through a new picture book every month. Scan the QR code **at the park** for a chance to win the monthly book!

Teens Grades 5-12

MONTHLY SCAVENGER HUNTS

Every month, all month long!

Drop in to the Teen Room and try our monthly scavenger hunt! Finish the hunt and you'll be entered to win our monthly raffle prize.

HOMEWORK HELP

Weekly. Tues. school is in session Dec & Jan, 4:30-5:30 pm

Does your middle schooler need help with their homework? Drop by for Homework Help at the library on Tuesday afternoons!

FRIDAY FUN

Weekly. Fri. school days, 3:30-4:45 pm

Drop in each week for a different activity — some relaxing, some crafty, some ridiculous, some delicious.

GREAT FOR GIFTING SERIES

No registration, just drop in!

Mon. December 1, 6:00-7:30 pm

No-Sew T-Shirt Tote Bags

Sat. December 13, 10-11:30 am

Mason Jar Cookies

TEEN ADVISORY MEETINGS

Mon. December 15 & February 9, 8-8:45 pm

Connect with the library and make your voice heard! It's an easy way to earn volunteer credit by attending monthly meetings.

Registration required.

TEEN WRITING CLUB

Thurs. December 11, January 8, & February 12, 7-8:00pm

Over the course of the hour we'll write, play games, work with prompts, and enjoy snacks. Writers of all skill and experience levels welcome. **Registration required.**

LOVE FOR OUR ELDERS: CARD WRITING

Tues. December 16, 7-8:00 pm

Make decorative and encouraging cards for elderly people who could use some kind words. Earn a volunteer hour!

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT PAINTING

Wed. December 17, 4:30-5:45 pm

Paint a Christmas ornament to add to your tree! We'll have all the materials you need. Keep the ornament for yourself or gift it to someone special! **Registration required.**

TISSUE PAPER WREATHS

Tues. December 23, 6-7:30 pm

Make a beautiful winter wreath out of tissue paper! It's super simple and lots of fun! **Registration required.**

DIY SPA KIT

Fri. January 2, 2-3:30 pm

Start the new year off with prioritizing self-care! We'll be making DIY body scrub, lavender room spray, satin face masks, and more. For grades 3-8.

CREATE TOGETHER: LAZY LUNCHES

Mon. January 12, 6:30-8 pm

Create Together is a series of programs for teens and their favorite adults to make and do fun things! We'll make some easy prep-ahead meals that will become staples for sleeping in. **Registration required.**

TEEN YOGA AND MEDITATION

Tues. January 13, 7-8 pm

Feeling stressed now that vacation break is over? Join Jessica Miller for Hatha yoga and meditation. **Registration required.**

USED BOOK SWAP

Fri. January 16, 3-4:45 pm

Drop off your used (good condition) YA books to the Teen Room between Monday, January 12th and Thursday, January 15th. On Friday, we'll have a drop-in used book swap, where you can pick out used books to take home!

LETTERS OF LIGHT

Sat. January 17, 12-1:30 pm

Come together to design handmade cards and write thoughtful messages for residents at local senior centers. Open to all-ages.

CAKE ART

Tues. January 20, 4:30-6 pm

Explore painting on a cake instead of a canvas! We'll provide you with cake, frosting, and painting utensils, your creativity will do the rest! **Registration required.**

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Thurs. January 29, February 12, & March 12, 4:30-7 pm

Join a 3 part campaign for students in grades 5-8. You must join for all three sessions. Led by DM Jeff Wolfson.

WINTER OLYMPICS

Fri. February 6-22

Fill out a form in the Teen Room to guess how many medals the USA teams will win! The 3 closest guesses will win awesome prizes!

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

Sat. February 14, 2:30-4 pm

Go on a Blind Date with a Book! Choose a wrapped up book along with some other fun treats like tea and bookmarks!

ESCAPE ROOM: ICE FORTRESS

Tues. February 17th, 1:30-2:15 pm, 3-3:45 pm, & 4:30-5:15 pm & Wed. February 18th, 12-12:45pm, 1:30-2:15pm, & 3-3:45 pm

Escape from Doctor Coppernose's Ice Fortress! Do you have what it takes to find the clues, solve the puzzles, and escape before you're trapped in a villain's frozen lair forever???

TRIP TO WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

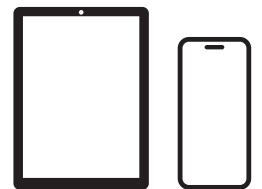
Thurs. February 19, 2-4:00 pm

Meet us at the Worcester Art Museum to explore American Art and Culture! After a docent-led tour of some exhibits, we'll also get a chance to experiment with printmaking in a studio workshop! For ages 12-18.

Registration required.



TECHNOLOGY CLASSES FOR ADULTS*



READ, LISTEN, & WATCH WITH HOOPLA

Tue. December 9, 3:30-4:30 pm

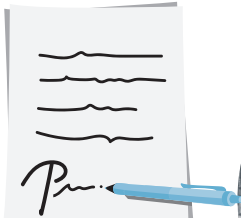
What's all the hoopla about hoopla?! Are you looking for an alternative to Libby? Did you know your library card lets you download and stream with hoopla from the comfort of your own home? Bring your device to this in-person class and learn how to borrow digital books, audio, movies, and television series using hoopla.

GET STARTED WITH LIBBY

Tue. January 13, 3:30-4:30 pm

Want access to e-books, audiobooks, magazines, and more, anytime and anywhere? You can with Libby! Bring your device, and join us for a class in the Learning Lab to get set up and familiar with the Libby app!

*Classes held in the Learning Lab, Ages 13+ **Registration is required and opens 2 weeks before class date.**



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



In an age dominated by screens – phones, tablets, and computers – how do we resist their siren call and cultivate focused reading time? When a group of book critics and authors were asked about their reading habits, they offered various tips that might help those of us aspiring to read more.

Many recommend always having a book at hand, allowing you to sneak in a few pages while waiting at the doctor's office or during your commute. Other strict habits of avid readers include devoting a half hour or more to reading before kids wake up or after they've gone to bed; maintaining a list of books to read in a month; tracking completed books on platforms like Goodreads; and strictly blocking out time for reading.

For some, joining a book club provides the necessary impetus to read and discuss a particular book, while others prefer the solitude of private reading. [Check out the various book

clubs at the library on Page 2 of this newsletter.] Prolific readers often juggle more than one book at a time—perhaps a print book, a Kindle e-book, and an audiobook. But does the location of reading truly matter? Some readers cherish favorite reading nooks at home, while others enjoy reading in a park, on a treadmill at the gym, or on vacation at the beach. And what about the physical book itself: is it important to preserve its pristine condition, or is annotating acceptable? Bestselling author Geraldine Brooks famously stated, "I would no sooner write in a book than deliberately gouge a scratch in an antique table or scribble on a painting."; Her husband, however, "read with pen in hand, scrawling his thoughts all over the place."

Beyond personal reading habits, reading aloud to young children is a powerful way to strengthen bonds between adults and kids, foster children's imaginations, and associate reading with pleasure and excitement. When families dedicate quiet reading time for everyone, it demonstrates to children that adults also read for enjoyment, laying the foundation for a lifetime of good reading habits.

We invite you to share your own reading habits with us—where and when you like to read, your preferred format, and of course, whether you prefer to borrow books from the library or buy them.

~Priya Rathnam
Library Director



Thank you to our Sunday Sponsors

THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS DONORS WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE NEXT SEASON OF SUNDAYS FROM OCTOBER 2025-MAY 2026.

BECOME A SPONSOR:

Thank you to the generous donors who have donated to the next season of Sundays from October 2025-May 2026. You too can be a part of the library's Sunday sponsorship program! The cost for sponsoring one Sunday is \$850.

Please contact the Library Director at (508) 841-8537 or email prathnam@shrewsburyma.gov if you wish to provide a sponsorship or need more information.



PROVIDING SIX SUNDAYS:

Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union
Dr. Dale Magee and Mrs. Melanie Magee

PROVIDING TWO SUNDAYS:

Webster Five Bank
Vanessa Parks and James Amorello
Shrewsbury Education Association

PROVIDING ONE SUNDAY:

In memory of James A. Heedles
The Bachini Family in memory of Ruth Seward
Board of Library Trustees in honor of former trustees,
Moe Boisvert & Jeff Billingham

John P. Collins and Nancy Hughes
in memory of Dr. John P. Collins

The Del Dotto grandchildren:
Drea, Dylan, and Devin

Olivia, Peg and Don Harbert
Kathleen and David Rocheleau

Katie and Todd Brill
Richard and Alison Ricker

Tara Kumarawami, in memory of
Nancy Kumaraswami
One anonymous donor

CHAPTERS

The Newsletter of the Shrewsbury Public Library – Winter '25 – '26

609 MAIN STREET ♦ SHREWSBURY, MA 01545

PHONE: 508-841-8609 ♦ SHREWSBURYPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

Mon.–Thurs. 9 am–9 pm

Fri. 10 am–5 pm

Sat. 9 am–5 pm

Sun. 1 pm–5 pm (October–May only)



SUPPORT THE FRIENDS!

The Friends of the Library is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting ongoing library events and programs. We need your support to continue funding the dynamic enrichment of the community! Learn more about the Friends here: shrewsburypubliclibrary.org/friends

Non-Profit Organization
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MAKE THE LIBRARY MORE COMFORTABLE!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Library space and furniture survey.

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Resident Customer
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FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FILM SCREENINGS EVERY SUNDAY STARTING AT 2PM POPCORN WILL BE PROVIDED

Feb 1 — “*Our Little Sister*” Japanese, Rated PG, 127 minutes. Japan Academy Prize for Picture of the year 2015.

Feb 8 — “*Tsotsi*” Zulu, Rated R for language and some strong violent content, 94 minutes. Academy Award Winner 2005 Best Foreign Language Film of the Year (South Africa).

Feb 15 — “*I’m Still Here*” Portuguese, Rated PG-13, 136 minutes. Winner of Academy Awards Best International Feature, 2025.

Feb 22 — “*Vitus*” German, Rated PG, 123 minutes. Switzerland’s 2006 Academy Award entry for Best Foreign Language Film.



MOVIES

THE GRINCH (2018)—Rated PG,
Tues. December 9, 1-2:45 pm
Cookies & Popcorn will be provided.
Meeting rooms A&B. 90 minutes.

JUST MERCY—Rated PG 13
Mon. February 23, 2-4:30 pm
Popcorn will be provided.
Meeting room A&B. 101 minutes

FILM DISCUSSION CLUB

1st Tue. each month, 7pm

Just like a book club, but for movies! WATCH THE MOVIE ON YOUR OWN... then come to the club to discuss it. For a list of movies, check out the library’s online calendar.