

Winter 2008/2009

From the Director:

Dear Readers,

Many years ago while searching through some old records of the library at which I used to work, I encountered an interesting news clipping. The article described how during "The Great War" (WWI) the library had served as a Red Cross bandage making center. I was impressed by the idea of the library stepping into a nontraditional library role during a time of community need.

With dismal news on the economy, recent reductions in state funding, and so many people struggling with personal budgets, I started thinking back to that example from my earlier library. Specifically, I wondered, what role can the library play in helping the community and its citizens? My staff and I are aware that many library users have discovered the ways that the library can help in tight times. We've had many people tell us they are borrowing books from libraries instead of purchasing personal copies. We hear from patrons that they are using library computers to conduct job searches. We know that individuals and families are borrowing library movies and games instead of renting elsewhere. Our statistics show growing numbers of students using the library's free online tutoring service as a viable no cost alternative to private tutoring. We see visitors spending more time at the library, taking the opportunity to turn down home thermostats for a few hours. We've also heard stories of people scaling back personal newspaper and magazine subscriptions, and using the library's collection instead. This summer especially, we witnessed growth in use of our museum passes, participation in our summer reading programs, and attendance at cultural and entertainment programs. Many patrons have said they were forgoing trips and were instead taking advantage of library programs. Just this past week, Head of Circulation Services Nancy Colby commented on the growing number of new library cards we've issued.

While these services are helpful, the times call for a more focused or proactive approach. We could focus some of our programming on topics that will help people save money, develop new skills or make sound personal finance choices. We could highlight our print and electronic resources that teach do-it-yourselfers how to handle basic home repairs. We could be sure that our programming offers information and entertainment for all ages. Essentially, we could develop a sort of lyceum for people facing the lagging economy, a sort of "Budget Band-Aid." I discussed this idea with our Assistant Director George Brown who manages adult programming. He liked the idea and thought the Adult Services Advisory Group (a volunteer group that plans adult programming) would likely be interested.

Because we plan our newsletter months in advance, early promotion of such a series would be limited. The programs listed in this newsletter were developed before the extreme economic downturn, before this Budget Band-Aid series idea was considered. That shouldn't stop us from trying. Surely, we can start some of the programs this season. The other challenge we face is that recent budget cuts, which I described in the last issue, have reduced our resources. Therefore, I ask you to consider any ideas or skills you could contribute to a program or event for our series. Maybe you could help with a program on developing a personal budget, or offer a class on creating inexpensive meals for families.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...



FOR GRADES 3-12 - IN TEAMS

Hey there teens and 'tweens, get teams of three or four together for a fun hunt event!

This time, you'll be solving puzzles and deciphering clues that all have to do with rivalries. You will have to compete tasks based on things like cats and dogs, Sox and Yanks, and some off-beat rivalries you may have never even heard of!! You'll be in a race against the clock, attempting to beat out other teams (who might just become your lifelong rivals) for a grand prize that is truly something special! These hunts are so much fun and they provide a great way for FREE entertainment!

Eh, teens and 'tweens, what do they know? I don't think you'll have any fun at this event. Solving puzzles? What is this - daycare? Famous rivalries? You know you'll probably have to do something like count the number of cat or dog cut outs taped to a wall, or go through a maze made out of metal chairs and some table cloths. LAME! And a 'race against the clock? What is this, an episode of some bad reality show? And what could this place give for a prize that is 'something special?' A new library card? Nothing is good if it's free!

APPLICATION FORM

GIVE TO CHILDREN'S ROOM WHEN COMPLETED

Team Name:

Teammate #1:

Teammate #2:

Teammate #3:

Parent Signature:

Phone Number:

Session (Circle One): 6PM or 7:30PM

CONTINUED FROM FRONT...

Possibly, you know great ways to insulate a home or have basic home repair skills you could share. Maybe you have musical or other talents that would allow us to offer a free entertaining program for library users. When a local educator read about cuts to our programming budget, he spoke to me about offering a free mythology story and craft program for children. If we put our heads together, I'm sure there are many ideas out there. If you would like to help or have specific ideas, please contact George Brown or myself.

I encourage you to look to future press releases from the library, check the library bulletin board, or review future library newsletters to find information on Budget Band-Aid offerings. Clearly, pulling together is what can help a community weather even the most difficult times.

Sincerely,
Ellen Dolan

ADULT SERVICES

~ EVENTS FOR THE WINTER ~

Cyndi Creedon's
Eclectic Browsers BOOK CLUB

Wed., Dec. 17th, at 10:30AM
Kissing Christmas Goodbye
by M.C. Beaton

Wed., Jan. 28th, at 10:30AM
Castle in the Forest
by Norman Mailer

Wed., Feb. 25th, at 10:30AM
Water for Elephants
by Sara Gruen


All are welcome to attend. Books will be held at the circulation desk one month prior to date of meeting. Free refreshments served!

NOTICE

LIBRARY PARKING LOT

FLOW CHANGES! AVOID 

AND EVERYONE WILL BE 



The Shrewsbury Public Library will once again host the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program . During the months of November and December donations of new, unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the Library. This is part of a national annual effort that is administered locally. All toys that are collected are distributed in the community that they are collected. You can make a difference in a child's holiday.



Officially 443 people came together to read "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" on the front lawn of the library on Saturday October 25. Many who attended didn't pass through the counting gates, so we estimate that over 500 people showed up to read together on the stormy, rainy, wind-driven night. Thank you to all who attended!

Jason Cavanaugh's
SCIENCE FICTION BOOKCHAT

December 3rd
The Chimes by Charles Dickens

January 7th
Jumper by Steven Gould

February 4th
The Crystal Shard by R.A. Salvatore

March 4th
Halo - Ghosts of Onyx by Eric Nylund

All chats are on Wednesday nights at 7:00 P.M.


FORGOT YOUR PIN?

On the catalog login screen, click the "FORGOT YOUR PIN" icon and follow on-screen instructions. Your e-mail must be on file to complete this task.

DID YOU KNOW?



The library has **PLAYAWAYS** - entire books loaded on an MP3 player for you to check out for a three-week loan. All you need is a pair of headphones!



MONTHLY HEALTH DISPLAYS

DECEMBER:
National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month

JANUARY:
Thyroid Awareness Month

FEBRUARY:
American Heart Month

***FREE E-TUTORING SERVICE**

***PROFESSIONAL TUTORS**

***LOGON WITH LIBRARY CARD**

***EVERY DAY FROM 4PM - 10PM**



CLICK THE LINK: <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>

WANT TO BE A FRIEND?

The Friends of the SPL are always looking for more members to help with events. Come to the library for more information.

Come to the library for free information and book suggestions on these important topics.

ADULT SERVICES

~ EVENTS FOR WINTER ~

The Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library Present...

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Festive Fun for the Whole Family

Visit the Shrewsbury Public Library on Saturday, December 6th between the hours of 10:00 and 1:00 for festive fun. The Friends of the Library is hosting the annual Hoilday Open House. Students from the Shrewsbury High School Music Department, until the direction of Michael Lapomardo, will be here to perform holiday music. There will also be stories, crafts, refreshments and merriment for all.

Sat. Dec. 6th, 10AM-1PM

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

We're looking for MATERIAL SHELVERS. If you have two to three hours a week to help reshelve items at the Library, stop by the Circulation Desk and speak with Nancy Colby.



computer classes Winter 2008

Pre-Registration and a \$5 cash deposit are required for all classes. Must sign up at least 24 hours in advance.

Crash Course in Computers (1 Hour, 30 Min) Size: 18

A beginner's workshop designed for those who have never used a computer.

Tues. Dec. 16th, 2:30PM

Digital Cameras 101 (1 Hour) Size: 8

Bring your digital camera for an informative session on how to unlock its full potential.

Mon. Dec. 29th, 2:30PM or

Tues. Feb. 24th, 10:30AM

Advanced PowerPoint (1 Hour) Size: 18

Expand your PowerPoint knowledge. Requires Intro to PowerPoint class or basic knowledge of PowerPoint.

Wed. Jan. 14th, 3:00PM

Advanced Word (1 Hour) Size: 18

Learn more about the most popular word processing tool. Requires Intro to Word class or basic knowledge of Word.

Tues. Jan. 27th, 2:30AM

Advanced Excel (1 Hour) Size: 18

Enhance your spreadsheet prowess. Requires Intro to Excel or basic knowledge of Excel.

Wed. Feb. 11th, 3:00PM

**Questions? Contact Dennis Holtgrefe
dholtgrefe@cwmars.org 508-842-0081 x4076**

Have a library card? You have **FREE** access to



Value Line Online

"Value Line is the most trusted and prestigious name in the investment field. For more than seventy-five years Value Line has been synonymous with trust, reliability, objectivity, independence, accurate information and proven performance for investors." Logon for free with your library card. If you don't have a card, get one for free at the library! This is just one of our many online databases.
<http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library/reference.asp>

An Evening of Poetry

Fri. Jan. 30th at 6PM

Poetry Reading for Adults & Teens.

Come and read your own poetry or your favorite poems. Light refreshments and door prize!



SHREWSBURY GENEALOGY CLUB



Open to anyone interested in genealogy and family history.

Dec. 15, Jan. 26 & Feb. 23 - 7:30 pm

French Conversation Circle



Come practice speaking in French and conversing around topics of interest to Francophiles.

2nd Monday of each month 4PM

YOUNG ADULTS

~ News and Events for those in Grades 5-12 ~



30
Minutes
Mystery Items
What will you
create?

HOW TO ENTER THE TEEN COOKING COMPETITION:

Get a team of two people in grades 5-12 together. Call the library to register your team of two. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Come to the event and your team will make up part of the audience.

At the beginning of the night, we'll draw the names of four teams to compete in the challenge. The remaining teams will stay as part of the audience to cheer on the other teams and sample their creations after the competition has concluded. There will be a great mystery prize to the winning team, and a special

"twist" ending. **If you are not a teenager, you are welcome to come and be a part of the audience. You'll be invited to sample the creations as well!! No need to register for this - first come, first served.**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29th - 5:30PM-7PM

MR. RAINDROP'S EDIBLE AQUIFER

Tues., Dec. 30th, 1PM-2PM

A fun, hands-on activity that will teach middle school students about the need for water conservation through the use of ice cream, soda and candy! Each participant will create their own "edible aquifer" and learn some simple ways to conserve water at home.

The "Edible Aquifer" program is open to students in grades 5 - 8. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. Stop by the Library or call 508-842-0081 x-3 to sign up!

The program is being offered by the Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project

FINDING ATLANTIS

A Choose Your Own Adventure...

...Where YOU are IN the story!

A Drop-In Event

in January 2009!!

Come to the library anytime during the month of January to take part in this interactive adventure. The story begins in the YOUNG ADULT ROOM.

VIDEO GAME NIGHT

**Feb. 19th,
5-8:30PM**

Teens, bring your own gaming consoles, games, and controllers to this special video game night! You will have to sign in what you bring, and the library is not responsible for lost or damaged items. The games will be projected on two screens, and we have a television to hook into as well! Pizza and soda will be provided until they run out!! Sign up at the library at least 24 hours in advance.

SPLAT

Shrewsbury Public Library Advisory Team

NEXT MEETING:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 4PM

A special thank you to WICKED GOOD COOKIES for co-sponsoring our cookie day last October!



CHECK OUT THE NEW SPLAT BLOG!

Be the first to know about upcoming events! Pictures! Short stories! Much, much more!

<http://www.splatatspl.blogspot.com/>

Children's Room

To register for the programs below, call 508-842-0081 x. 4

Family Winter Workshop

Monday, December 8th, 6:30PM

Come join us for a family night of crafts, refreshments (each family is asked to bring in a dessert to share), and fun. This evening is recommended for children in Grades K-4 and their families. One adult may work with up to 2 children. Please register in the Children's Room beginning Nov. 24th



Long Winter's Nap Puppet Show

Tuesday, Feb. 17th, 1:30PM

Ages 3-9 and their family. Space is limited. Free tickets available beginning Feb.3.



This program is generously sponsored by "Aunty Jean" in memory of Dick, Dorie and Mom. This is the second in a series of performing arts programs being sponsored by the Whitney family, as a way to share the joy and delight of the arts with the children of Shrewsbury.

Letters from Linda

A Special Note from the Head of Children's Services

As we head into the holiday season, Sharon, Priya, and I would like to thank all the people and organizations who have generously given of their time and money to help bring a variety of programs to the children of Shrewsbury. Without their "gifts," it would become more and more challenging to present quality programming.

Sincerely,

Linda Johnson Dashnaw
Head of Children's Services

December Vacation Week

Dec. 29th - Jan. 2nd

READ TO ACHIEVE

Magic Show

Tuesday, Dec. 30 @ 2:30PM
Space is limited. Free tickets will be available beginning Dec. 16th. This performance is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library

Clean Out Our Closet

Crafts all week long!
Come see what we have unearthed!



NAME A HERO CONTEST

Beginning vacation week. Come into the library to learn more!

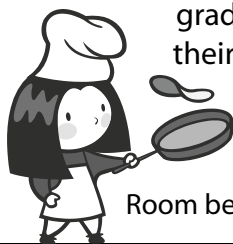
January 26-30



Drop in anytime during this week and make a valentine for a Vet. We will make sure someone receives your creation. Make one for your own special valentine too!

Chef Priya Returns!

Fri. Feb 20th, 11AM-12PM.
Indian Cooking Program for grades K-4 and their caregivers. Register in the Children's Room beginning 2/6.



Baby & Me Storytime

A 30-minute program of stories, finger plays, songs, and movement designed for children ages birth to 2 1/2 with an accompanying adult. Siblings welcome. Tuesdays at 10:30AM.

Session 1 - Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27

Space is limited. Lottery will be held Dec. 29 - Jan. 2.

Session 2 - Tuesdays, Feb. 10, 17, 24, March 3

Space is limited. Lottery will be held Feb. 2-6.



R2A Saturdays, Dec. 6, 13, Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 7, 28 at 9:30AM

Come read to therapy pets - Kuma or Willow! Great for reluctant readers. Grades K-4. Register in the Children's Room.

Provided by Paws for People, a volunteer group located at the Tufts Center for Animals, Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

Library Buds

Go behind the scenes in the Children's Room! All participants must submit to a CORI check. Grades 4-7. Saturdays from 8:30AM - 10AM. Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 7

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Thursdays - Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4
Preschool - Kindergarten. Drop in. 10:30AM

Lunch Bunch Storytime

A blanket, a lunch, and you! Come and listen to stories while you eat.
Wednesdays - 11:30AM. January 7, 14, 21, 28
February 11, 18, 25, March 4

Drop in! No registration required!
All ages welcome with accompanying adult.

HERO HUNT

Tues. Jan. 20th - NO SCHOOL!
Drop in between 10AM-4PM to do a "Hero Hunt" (crafts included). Vote for your favorite hero poster!

Kids' Video Guide to Pets Sat. Jan. 31st at 10:00AM

Presentation and discussion by Harue Midtmoen, MSPCA Volunteer. Come learn how to "Be Kind to Animals." Special guest appearance by Willow and her trainer Nancy Gilbert. Ages 4 and up and their caretaker. Reg. beginning Jan. 16th.



CELEBRATE HANUKKAH

Monday, December 22nd

Drop in anytime during the day to make a craft and listen to a Hanukkah story at 10:30AM. No registration required.



Shrewsbury Public Library
609 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #192
Worcester, MA 01613

Library Newsletter

ECRWSS
Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Library Hours

Mon.-Wed. 10AM-9PM

Thurs. 9AM-9PM

Fri. 9AM-5PM

Sat. 9AM-5PM (Winter/Spring/Fall)

Sun. 1PM-5PM (Winter/Spring/Fall)

Closed Weekends in July and August

Contact Information

Phone: 508-842-0081

Fax: 508-841-8540

TTY: 508-841-8530

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library

THANK YOU SUNDAY SPONSORS



A special thank you to the sponsors of our Sunday Season (Fall '08-Spring '09)

Two Sundays Each

Central One Federal Credit Union

One Sunday Each

Shrewsbury Firefighters Association

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David & Johanna Musselman

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And two anonymous donors

**SPONSORSHIPS
STILL AVAILABLE**

Contact Library Director
Ellen Dolan

for more information.
edolan@th.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us