

CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - SPRING '18



Library staff and friends bid a fond farewell to beloved long-time employee Debbie Alger who heads off to a well-earned retirement.

A letter from Library Director **Ellen Dolan**

This letter will be arriving in your mailboxes the beginning of March 2018, with spring-like weather hopefully close behind. Spring signifies a variety of happenings at the library. Youth services staff will be preparing for April vacation week activities, and gearing up for the major events of our active summer reading programs for children and teens. The Friends of the Library volunteers will be making final preparations for their annual book sale. Spring will also bring the return of larger groups of middle school students walking to the library. The cold weather months cut down on this practice, but as warm weather moves in, the tradition of walking to the library resumes. It has become almost a "rite of passage" in Shrewsbury for middle school students to walk to the library on Fridays and early release days, and it now appears that younger children (in grades five and six) are joining in the tradition. Thus it's a good time to ask parents to carefully consider the factors that go in to deciding if your child is ready to visit the library without an adult.

Libraries have evolved, and are much different places than many adults remember from their childhoods. Many people recall the library as a sleepy, quiet place where the librarian knew everyone and kept a watchful eye on all behavior. Today's library is broader in scope and mission. The Shrewsbury Public Library is a vibrant bustling space that sees an average of 1,200 to 1,300 visitors every day. Many visitors never check out books

or other materials. Adults might be at our library to use the free Wi-Fi or public computers, meet with others for work or study groups, or hole up in the quiet reading rooms for intensive study or work. Parents, grandparents or caregivers might be here enjoying the children's room play space or computers with their little ones. Patrons also might be attending a library program such as computer instruction, English conversation circles, book groups, craft programs, the memory café and more. Many people come to the SPL to attend meetings of the numerous informal, civic and social groups that make use of our group study and community meeting rooms.

By their very nature all public libraries are the most open of public spaces, with diverse people coming and going all day long. With this in mind, I often tell parents that although the library is a welcoming and friendly place, it can never be considered completely safe and secure in the way that one might expect. For this very reason the library has a Child Safety Policy that was instituted by the Board of Library Trustees and that sets a minimum age of independent use. Currently that policy states that a child must be in at least fifth grade (typically 10 years old) to use the library alone for up to two hours per day. The Trustees, however, are currently considering raising that threshold for independent use up to grade six or more. Some might consider that unnecessarily restricting; however that perception might be due in part to a misunderstanding of the nature of a public library. Please consider:

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- People entering a public library are not required to show a library card. Massachusetts General Laws requires that all public libraries be “open to all residents of the commonwealth”. Library cards are required only for borrowing materials or using public computers.
- Many of our patrons are “library hoppers” that use many libraries in the local area, i.e. people from all over central Massachusetts use the Shrewsbury Public Library.
- People passing through town for business or travel often stop at our library to use the free Wi-Fi, to find out information about our community, or even just to use a restroom.
- Many people use our free Wi-Fi during library hours, but also before opening and after closing while sitting in their cars in the library parking lot.
- Teens can talk with any library users who happen to be on the site.
- The ratio of staff to public in our building could be as low as 4 staff to 300 or 400 library users at any one time.
- Libraries do not have the specific resources or authority to directly supervise children or teens in any way. They do not act in loco parentis.

On any given Friday afternoon or early release day up to 130 tweens and teens may make their way to the Library and Teen Room; this is dramatically up from a more typical number of 20 to 30 only three years ago. Most teens arrive in small or large groups, sometimes going in and out of the building multiple times, sometimes visiting other sites in the town center before returning. Teen behavior while in large groups can be influenced by peer pressure and sometimes not up to the standard that many parents would expect of their child. While we find that high school students behave exceptionally well while in the library, young teens at times don't yet have the maturity to handle the dynamics of large groups of their peers without supervision. Also of note, when the library closes at 5PM on Fridays (a day that sees heavy use by teens), there are no staff on site to monitor people in the parking lot. Teens that remain on library property after closing can interact with other teens and adults, including patrons returning materials to the book return and with people who might be in their cars using the library's free Wi-Fi.

I write this letter to ask you to make an informed decision about at what age your child should begin unsupervised use of our busy public space. Library use is not similar to having your child in school, where teachers know each student, and the school assumes responsibility for each child's safety and security. Sending a child alone to the library is more akin to sending them alone to the mall or movie theater.

While I expect that some parents might be offended by this appeal, I am hopeful that most will be grateful for information that is meant to help them to ensure that their child is able to be safe and happy at the library. With that in mind, I make the following suggestions. First, if you are the parent of a middle school child and are considering allowing him/her to walk to the library after school, I recommend that you first visit the library with your child during after-school hours (roughly 3 to 5pm on any weekday). I also suggest that you meet with some of the librarians, particularly the Young Adult Librarian and any librarian at the service desk. If your child does not yet have a library card, this is a good time to sign up for one. In advance of any visit, make sure that your child knows how to reach you if he/she needs your support, or has been asked by staff to contact you. Please also be sure that you yourself know the library's hours of operation and that you arrive to pick up your child before closing; remember that holidays and storms will often trigger schedule changes. Make sure that your child understands your expectations for behavior while in the library, e.g. whether or not he/she is allowed to talk with and interact with anyone at the library, and whether or not he/she is allowed to leave the library and visit other areas in town. Please let your child know that swearing, running, yelling and bullying behavior will not be tolerated.

With independent teen use of the library dramatically up in the last year, I recently formed and consulted with a work group to advise me on addressing issues that have arisen during after-school hours. This group included parents of middle school students, an educator from the local school district who is training for administrative work, a representative from the regional health alliance, a Trustee of the library, our Young Adult and Children's librarians, and our Head of Circulation Services. They have advised me on policy and practices aimed at keeping our teens safe, and ensuring that all who use the library are able to have an enjoyable experience. One of the group's recommendations was to increase communication with parents; thus this letter. I will also be sharing similar information in other forums.

I invite you to reach out to me with suggestions, concerns or questions. Our goal at SPL is to use the resources that we have available to provide the best possible library experience for all patrons. Our young teen users are an important part of the library community, and we look forward to working with parents to best meet the needs of Shrewsbury's teen community.

Sincerely,

Ellen M. Dolan
Library Director

FRIENDS

The Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library, the Library's non-profit organization, is sponsoring a fundraiser
"ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE"

Dates: April 5, 2018 - Thursday 2 pm - 8:30 pm
April 6, 2018 - Friday 10 am - 4:30 pm
April 7, 2018 - Saturday 9 am - 4 pm
April 8, 2018 - Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm

Location: Shrewsbury Public Library-609 Main Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Payment: Cash and Checks only



**Friends of the
SHREWSBURY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

To become a member of the Friends organization - go to www.Shrewsbury-ma.gov/library.

To volunteer to be a book organizer, cashier or "set up for sales", contact Claire Nagle at crn160@hotmail.com tel. 508 845-1174 or Patricia Segerson at psegerson@verizon.net tel. 508/842-1123.

Watch for more information on line, on site, and in local news

*Friends members
receive one
complementary
book during the
sale*



"BYOB"
*Please bring your
own bag*

Thank you to our generous Sunday sponsors who provided funds to keep the library open on Sunday afternoons the entire Sunday season, October 1, 2017 through May 20, 2018.

If you know any of these sponsors, or frequent their business, please be sure to voice your appreciation!

Providing funding for three Sundays

- Dr. B. Dale and Mrs. Melanie Magee
- Robert (Chief Joseph) Terkanian

Providing funding for two Sundays

- Daniels Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Dean Park Grill & Pizza
- Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti Jr. Donor Advised Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Providing one Sunday each are:

- Central One Federal Credit Union
- In Memory of Dorby Thomas
- From Bill & Nancy Robbins, in Memory of Dorby Thomas
- From Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, in Memory of Dorby Thomas
- An anonymous donor
- In Remembrance of Harry Der Harootunian
- Rotary Club of Shrewsbury
- Joyce Hyde
- David and Kathleen Rocheleau
- In Memory of James A. Heedles
- Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, in memory of Ken Dearden
- In Memory of Buckie Somers
- Jeff and Priscilla Billingham
- Olivia, Peg and Don Harbert
- From Susan and Zak Cramer, in honor of Natalie and Allen Cramer
- Unibank for Savings
- In Memory of Elizabeth Woodring
- Shrewsbury Garden Club, in honor of Earth Day
- The Bachini Family, in Memory of Ruth Seward
- Joan Barry

ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Creating a Scavenger Hunt for School Aged Kids (and Older!)

Tuesday, March 13, 7-8 PM

Join local dad, Brendan Mahan, M.Ed., M.S. as he guides you in creating a scavenger hunt for your kids. You will learn how to structure the scavenger hunt, explore ways to make the creation process easier, and discover some excellent places around Shrewsbury to use in your own hunt. You will learn how to address multiple learning areas through your hunt, from logical puzzle solving, to social/emotional skills and resilience. Registration required.

"Promise is Hope" - Musical Performance Folk Duo - Thursday, March 15, 7-8 PM

Ashley and Eric L'Esperance first felt the electricity of their undeniable chemistry at an impromptu song swap. A year and a half later they were married and released their debut album "Where We've Been & Where We're Going." The Promise is Hope has earned their place among New England's finest emerging indie-folk duos.

Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Spanish Classes for Adults - Mondays, 6:30-7:30 PM

Beginner's Spanish class will be taught by Janine Hess.

March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9, 23

May 7, 14, 21

Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library!

Release Your Inner Artist with Janet Schwartz - Thursday, April 26, 6:30 PM

Westborough-based artist, Janet Schwartz, designed this unique hands-on program to help aspiring artists overcome their fear of painting, guiding them to produce work that surprises and delights, and often inspires them to continue painting long after the class ends. All materials are provided. Registration required as limited spots are available.

The Campaign Music of our Presidents - Washington to Obama by Musica Historia - Monday, April 23, 7:30-8:30 PM

The music group Musica Historia includes 2 trumpets, 2 trombones, piano and voice. David Neill has presented over 200 programs in the last nine years with eight different music groups. This program has some presidential trivia and a sing-along. He will pass out song sheets and ask the audience which President they would like to hear. Registration required.

Shrewsbury Readers

book group meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7-8:30 PM. Newcomers are welcome. You can pick up a copy of the book at the front desk. Titles picked for spring are:

March 1st - Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie

April 5th - My name is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout

May 3rd - The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George

Coloring Club - Saturdays, March 10, April 14, May 12, 10-11 AM

Drop in at our coloring club - coloring supplies and coloring pages will be provided. Join other like-minded folks and color your way to calm!

Time Management: You're Meant To Be Good At It - Thursday, March 8, 7 PM

Coach Jing Yao will help you explore your current challenges with time, deepen your existing insights on how to manage time better, take away a simple practice that most effectively aligns you with time and feel good about yourself in relation to time. Registration required.

The following three programs are sponsored in part by a grant from the Shrewsbury Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

From Ireland to America with Roger Tincknell - Sunday, March 11, 2-3 PM

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Roger Tincknell's music! Registration required.



English Conversation Circle

Exciting news about the English Conversation Circle program - Thanks to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation's award of a \$5,000 grant for the sixth consecutive year, we will continue to offer five classes a week for adults interested in learning English.

For the schedule and other details about this program, please contact Priya Rathnam at 508-841-8531.

Memory Café meetings are held on the first and third Friday of the month from 2-4 PM. A memory café is a forum for people with dementia and their caregivers to gather and socialize. Recreational activities including music and art are planned for participants. A drop-in program. This is made possible by federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC).

Local Author Talk - Monday, March 12, 7 PM

Shrewsbury resident Henry Grampietro is the author of the book *Dad's at Work and Mom Can't Drive*. The book is about what life was like in Shrewsbury in the late 50's and early 60's as seen through the eyes of an eleven-year-old. A time when the doctor would make house calls; when baseball was the only sport; and, when little mom and pop stores were on every corner. Finally, a time when Spags and White City Amusement Park were our favorite places! Registration required.

ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

ADHD Essentials – Monday, March 26, 7-8:30 PM

ADHD affects roughly 10% of the population, not to mention the people who love them! Join Brendan Mahan, from ADHD Essentials for a discussion about those very essentials. We will look at ADHD from a developmental and skill-building perspective, and address the challenging behaviors associated with it. Strategies to address common ADHD challenges will be addressed throughout the workshop. You can learn more about Brendan's work at his website: www.ADHDessentials.com. Registration required.

Money Smart Week – April 21-28

Financial planning doesn't have to be complex or overwhelming. Experts from Concord Wealth Management will run a series of educational workshops during Money Smart Week.

Saturday, April 21, 2-3 PM - Financial Success for Millennials

Sunday, April 22, 2-3 PM - Legacy Wealth/Estate Planning

Monday, April 23, 6:30-7:30 PM - Retirement Planning

Tuesday, April 24, 6:30-7:30 PM - Funding the Cost of Education

Wednesday, April 25, 6:30-7:30 PM - Divorce and Achieving Financial Success

Thursday – April 26, 6:30-7:30 PM - Taking Control of your Finances for Women

Learn to Play the Ukulele! – Friday, May 18, 11AM-12:30 PM

Julie Stepanek has developed a program teaching the ukulele to absolute beginners as quickly and enjoyably as possible. This program consists of a 30-minute lesson of the fundamentals, a Q&A followed by a strum-along of fun and easy songs. She will bring 20 ukuleles to share, answer questions about purchasing, tuning and playing. Registration required.

Addiction and Recovery: Book Talk and Discussion – Monday, May 7, 7-8 PM

Join Worcester authors James DiReda and Jack Maroney as they discuss their experiences leading to, and during, their writing of the biographical tale of substance abuse addiction and recovery "The East Side of Addiction." Registration required.

Pi Day – Wednesday, March 14

Fun activities for children, teens and adults!

International Tabletop Day – Saturday, April 28, 10 AM-3 PM

Join the Library for a day-long celebration of tabletop gaming! Drop in for demos of a number of popular games or bring your own favorites to find an enthusiastic crew to play with.

Let's Make: Household Cleaners! – Thursday, March 22, 2018 7:00-8:30 PM

We will be making non-toxic household cleaners! DIY household cleaners can be a cost-effective way to cut down on the chemicals you are using at home. Participants will go home with an all-purpose cleaner as well as recipes to try at home. Registration is required. Contact cmckeon@cwmares.org for more information.

Let's Make: LED Cloud Lights –

Thursday, April 12, 2018 7:00-8:30 PM

Bring a bit of a thunderstorm inside with these unique LED Cloud Lights. Suspend them from your ceiling using fishing line and have an interesting piece of décor that celebrates the spring showers! Registration is required. Contact Caitlin at cmckeon@cwmares.org for more information.

Moms Night Out! (and a Storytime for Kids) – Thursday, May 10, 2018 6:30-8:00 PM

Celebrate Mother's Day early with a fun, relaxing night out with other moms. A craft project, refreshments, and good conversation will be provided.

Wondering how you will relax with the kids along? Right next door in Program Room B, Miss Roxanne will have a storytime and supervise a simple craft. Children must be at least 3 years old.

Space is limited. Registration is required and opens online April 26th. Contact Roxanne for more information at rstarkin@cwmares.org.

Reading Glasses – now on Thursday nights!

Dates: One *Thursday* a month at 7pm @ O'Connor's Restaurant in Worcester

Reading Glasses is a books n' brews reading group for 20-30 (ish) somethings. Join us at O'Connor's Restaurant in Worcester one Thursday per month to discuss books from a wide variety of genres. Dates are chosen a month in advance to best suit participating members. Find us at Reading Glasses Collaborative on Facebook or email Caitlin @ cmckeon@cwmares.org if you're interested!

Dunkin' Donuts presents MATCH GAME

It's right around the corner! Our first ever game show fundraiser for a great cause, based on the classic game show will be held on Saturday, March 17th at 7PM (registration is required). Sponsored by Dunkin' Donuts, teams can enter to win great prizes! This event will be a '60s themed night for adults and older teens. Contact the Shrewsbury Public Library for more info.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Sign up for the teen e-mail list to learn about all the great teen programs coming up this spring! Get in the know at this link: <http://bit.ly/231GNO7>

Children's Room

Books and Fun

Literacy and Play Time

Mondays

9:30am

March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9, 23, 30

May 7, 14, 21

18 months to 3 years old. Siblings under 1 year old are welcome, but do not need to be registered.

Space is limited, please register two weeks before the date of each program.

Preschool Storytime

Mondays

1pm

March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9, 23, 30

May 7, 14, 21

A storytime for 4 and 5 year olds

Registration is required and opens online two weeks before each meeting date.

Wiggle Words

Thursdays

10am

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

April 5, 12, 26

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

A Storytime for 3 and 4 year olds.

Registration is required and opens online two weeks before each meeting date.

Babies Books and Bubbles

Wednesdays

10:30am

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 25

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Babies from birth to 2 are welcome, along with their caregivers.

This program is a free drop-in, however, we do require tokens for admission. Tokens will be available at the Children's Room desk on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 9:30 am on the day of the program and will be available until they run out. Every participant must have a token for admission.

Pajama Storytime – Spring Edition

Thursday

6pm

April 12

Wear your pajamas to the library and bring with you a favorite stuffed animal, doll, or blankie. We will have a bedtime snack, a lullaby sing-a-long, make a craft, and read some fun bedtime stories. Geared to children 2-5 and their families. Siblings are welcome. Registration is required and opens online two weeks before the event. Pajama Storytime happens four times a year, once each season.

Movement

Book Beats

Tuesdays

10am

March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 10, 24

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Program is recommended for ages 2-3. Siblings are welcome.

No registration is required, admission tokens will be handed out at the Children's Room circulation desk beginning at 9 am and will be available until they run out.

Games

Chess Club

Wednesdays

5:30pm

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 25

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

This program is open to anyone under 18 who already knows how to play chess.

Drop-in; No registration required.

Afterschool Lego Club

Tuesdays

March 20, April 17, May 15

4:30-5:30pm

For Grades K-4

Registration is required and will open two weeks prior to each meeting date.

Refreshments are provided by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Language

Preschool French

Mondays

4pm

March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9, 23, 30

May 7, 14, 21

A very casual approach to learning French for preschoolers (age 3-6) AND their caregivers.

Space is limited, registration is required.

Mandarin for All

Tuesdays

6:30pm

March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 10, 17, 24

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

This class is suitable for age 3 and up.... children and adults!

*** See website for registration details for all programs.**

<https://tinyurl.com/y8l2tvgc>

Special events

Shrewsbury Garden Club Junior Membership Presents

March Date TBA, 5:30 pm

"Maple Sugar Time" at
Shrewsbury Library

April 18, Wednesday, Noon

"Seed Starting" at Shrewsbury
Library

May 1, Tuesday, 5:30 pm

"May Day Baskets" at
Shrewsbury Library

Registration opens two
weeks before the date of the
program.

Holi Drop In Craft

Friday

10-noon

March 2

Celebrate the colorful spring
festival of Holi!

Drop in (no registration
required) and make a craft .

All ages welcome.

International Tabletop Day!

**Celebrate by playing games at
the library!**

Saturday

April 28

10am-2pm

Play puzzles, a classic game
or try a new board game.
Every game you play earns
you a raffle ticket! All families
welcome. Play as long you
like, you don't have to be
present when raffle winners are
announced.

Moms Night Out & A Storytime for Children

Thursday

6:30pm-8pm

May 10

Celebrate Mother's Day early
with a fun, relaxing night
out with other moms. A craft
project, refreshments, and good
conversation will be provided.

Wondering how you will relax
with the kids along? Right next
door in Program Room B, Miss
Roxanne will have a storytime
and supervise a simple craft.
Children must be at least 3
years old.

Space is limited. Registration is
required and opens online April
26th.

Dash & Dot

Thursdays

6pm

March 29, April 26, May 31

Grade 2-6

Registration opens 2 weeks
before the date of the
program.

Babysitting Job Fair

Saturday

10am-2pm

March 31

Looking for a babysitter
or "mother's helper"?
Graduates of certified
childcare courses (such as
the American Red Cross
Babysitter Training Course)
will be on hand to meet
parents/caregivers, play with
the kids, and discuss their
credentials.

Are you a certified
babysitter and interested in
participating in a babysitter
job fair? We are looking
for mature, dependable,
certified sitters 11-17 years
old to meet with families
in need of childcare. You
must be certified and be
able to show some form of
proof of this certification to
participate.

The job fair will be held
on Saturday, March 31.
Families can drop in anytime
between 10am and 2 pm.
Children are, of course,
welcome to come and meet
and play with the sitters. We
will have toys, puzzles, and
coloring pages available.

If you are interested in
participating in the job fair,
are between the ages of 11
and 17, and have certified
babysitter training, contact
Roxanne Starkin at 508-841-
8609 x4 or rstarkin@cwmars.org.



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - SPRING '18

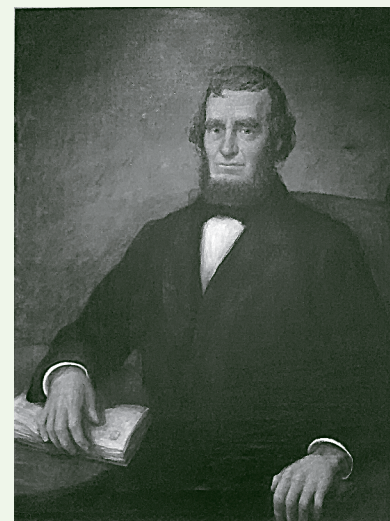
ECRWSS
Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Library Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 9AM - 9PM
Fri. 10AM - 5PM
Sat. 9AM - 5PM
SUN. 1PM - 5PM (OCT.-MAY)

Contact Information

Phone: 508-841-8609
Fax: 508-841-8524
www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library



Introduction to 3D Printing

Tuesday, March 6th, 5:30-7:00pm

Get an introduction to 3D design and printing in this interactive workshop. Participants will learn how to use Tinkercad's 3D modeling software to create basic designs they can print with the library's 3D printer (finished designs will be printed at a later date).

Google Docs & Google Drive

Wednesday, April 11th 6:30-7:30pm

Learn how to use Google's popular services for creating and storing documents within the cloud. This class will cover creating Google docs and Google sheets, as well as using Google drive to save and share files such as pictures and music.

COMPUTER INSTRUCTION

Microsoft Excel for Beginners

Tuesday, March 20th 5:30-6:30pm

Learn the basics of Microsoft Excel including designing spreadsheets, formatting cells, rows, and columns, and implementing basic formulas.

eBay for Beginners

Tuesday, May 8th, 5:30-6:30pm

Learn the basic ins and outs of buying and selling on eBay. The class will cover creating an account, placing bids, and listing items.

Getting the Most Out of Your Android Device

Thursday, April 12th, 6:00-7:30pm

Come and join us in this interactive knowledge sharing workshop where we will help you setup your Android smartphone just the way you want.

This workshop will also discuss a number of apps you may find useful or just interesting.

Learning about GTD

Thursday, May 24th, 6:00 -7:30pm

Have you struggled with actually getting stuff done? Learn the GTD methodology with theory and practical applications.

We will discuss the theory behind GTD and how to put it to practical use using some smartphone apps.

Registration is required for all computer classes