

CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - SPRING 2019



A family poses with Children's Department Head Sonja Drotar during Baby Shark Day festivities.

A letter from Library Director **Ellen Dolan**:

I have this memory of stomping along the icy edges of the swamp that ran just below and behind our old neighborhood with a group of cousins and friends of varied ages. Being in the swamp was not unusual. Spending the entire day outside on a Saturday was the norm, and lack of adult oversight (what my mom called "benign neglect") was pretty standard. The swamp always proved a strong attraction. There was fun to be found jumping off the grassy hillocks at the edge of the small stream that ran through the area and battling with cat-o'-nine tails and milkweed pods, which would burst into fluffy splendor! Woolen scarfs, mittens, and hats would get wet and eventually encrusted with the plant fluff. Boots, most second-hand, well-worn, and fortified inside with bread bags to keep us dry, made us look like a tribe of ragamuffins. But there was such joy, freedom, and delight in racing through the swamp and playing outdoors for hours. I know that those days gave me a deep love of the outdoors, and to this day my heart sings when I have a chance to be outside on a bright and blustery winter day. As one of the younger kids in the neighborhood, those play battles helped

me to learn to be brave and stand up for myself. Most of all I learned a lot about risk; mainly that a bit of risk often translates into abundant fun! All good life lessons!

I write about play memories because of a new project we are undertaking with a federal Library Services and Technology Act Grant. We will be transforming our indoor and outdoor courtyard play spaces to encourage more free play, providing opportunities and programs for parents and other adults to interact with their children in creative play, and learn why it's so important to child development. Our project will be informed by the Mind in the Making initiative and other early learning research.

The federal agency that funds this grant program has chosen to invest in projects that support early learning, noting that libraries can "help address the important social, emotional, and cognitive aspects of learning and foster persistence, self-direction, critical thinking and problem solving." The agency called attention to the Mind in the Making program for its research-based work on "seven critical

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skills that children need most... including 1.) focus and self-control, 2.) perspective taking, 3.) communicating, 4.) making connections, 5.) critical thinking, 6.) taking on challenges, and 7.) self-directed, engaged learning." These skills are called life skills because of their powerful potential to help children succeed socially, emotionally, and intellectually in the short- and long-term. Check out the Mind in the Making website (<http://mindinthemaking.org/>) for more details about this exciting new look at early learning.

We have a lot planned for the coming year. First, we will be creating two creative play spaces in the Children's Department in what we are calling our Play Lab. There will be a Town Market-themed play space in the Children's Room play area equipped with well-stocked grocery baskets, with toy groceries, and a cash register. There will also be a toy kitchen space for cooking up all those groceries. We also plan to install some interactive panels for the youngest visitors to explore. In our outdoor courtyard we will set up a "Construction Site" outfitted with a set of "Imagination Playground" soft blocks, which children can use to make animals, rocket ships, and robots, or imaginary places like houses, factories, and cities. There will also be "construction toys" including tool belts with plastic tools, construction vests, play hard hats, and small wheelbarrows. The grant will allow us to make greater use of our courtyard for children's programs by funding portable cushions on a small rolling cart for use during outdoor performances. We will offer training for staff on the benefits of creative play and learn how to incorporate such methods into our existing story programs. There will also be informational programs for parents and caregivers on the value of play as a learning method some or adults and some for both child and parents.

Investing in play might seem unnecessary to some, but educators, parents, and grandparents are painfully aware that time for "free play" is very limited. Children often have very scheduled lives with planned activities and programs filling their days. Adult life is so busy that it can be hard to remember to enjoy downtime together with children. And screens of all sorts (iPads, phones, TVs, and more) are ubiquitous and distracting. Our intent is to offer space and equipment that not only encourages creative play, but reminds us of the joy play offers.

Take a look in the children's section of this newsletter to see our beginning programs!

Thank you to our generous Sunday sponsors who provided funds to keep the library open on Sunday afternoons the entire 2018/2019 Sunday season, from October 7, 2018 through May 19, 2019.

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

Providing funding for five Sundays

- Southgate at Shrewsbury

Providing three Sundays

- Dr. B. Dale and Mrs. Melanie Magee

Providing two Sundays each

- Dean Park Grill and Pizza, owner Mr. Christo Baltas
- Daniels Insurance Agency, Inc.
- In honor of Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti Jr.

Providing funding for one Sunday each

- Jeannine and Ron Boulanger in memory of Nicole Boulanger
- David and Kathleen Rocheleau

- Maureen Fujimori in honor of fabulous librarians Bonnie O'Brien and Polly Hess
- A gift in memory of John J. Morrissey
- A gift in memory of Harry Der Harootunian
- A gift in memory of James A. Heedles
- A gift in loving memory of Buckie Somers
- Zak and Susan Cramer in honor of Natalie and Allen Cramer
- Pat Silvestri in memory of Elizabeth Woodring
- The Shrewsbury Garden Club in honor of Earth Day
- The Shrewsbury Education Association
- The Rotary Club of Shrewsbury
- Central One Federal Credit Union
- The Bachini Family
- Olivia, Peg, and Don Harbert
- Selectman John Lebeaux
- Joan Barry

Thank you to outgoing Friends President Carrie Hendricks

The Library staff and trustees wish to offer their sincerest thanks to outgoing Friends President Carrie Hendricks, who stepped down from the position after 10 years in the role. Carrie joined the board in 2008, bringing with her enthusiasm and strong organizational skills. She helped the organization adopt stronger non-profit practices and oversaw the growth of the organization, which now provides over \$20,000 per year to fund library programs and needs.

Carrie provided exceptional leadership. The board was in a bit of a decline when she took over, but Carrie gave it the shot of energy and enthusiasm it needed. Her tenure as president saw us through the advocacy for the building project, tight budget times, and countless changes. So we thank her for 10 tremendous years, and we look forward to her continued participation on the board as a Member at Large!

The Friends organization now welcomes new Friends President Vanessa Hale, who will carry on the fine work of this organization that is so important to the success of the library,



Join us for the most important fundraiser of the year:

The Friends Annual Used Book Sale

Dates: Thursday, April 4, 2019, 12:00 P.M.—8:30 P.M.
Friday, April 5, 2019, 10:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 6, 2019, 9:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.
Sunday, April 7, 2019, 1:00 P.M.—4:30 P.M.

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

Payment: Cash and checks only

Please 'BYOB' (bring your own bag)

Watch for a new and improved children's section.

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 assistant, contact Claire Nagle (crn160@hotmail.com or (508) 845-1174) or Patricia Segerson (psegerson@verizon.net or (508) 842-1123).

Watch for more information online, onsite, and in local news.



ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Astronomy

Celebrating 50 Years Since the First Moon Landing

Thursday, March 14th,
7:00-8:00 P.M.

Join us for a presentation by M.J. Johnson that will review some of the trivia, local connections, and drama surrounding NASA's fledgling efforts and the race to reach the moon. Then we'll review some of NASA's current efforts to explore Mars.

Weather permitting, attendees will even have an opportunity to step outside and view the moon for themselves through a telescope! Registration required.

Author Visits and Book Talks

Local author Lou Pepi, *My Brothers Have My Back*

Monday, March 11th,
7:00-8:30 P.M.

In November 1969, what Time Magazine called the "largest battle of the year" took place less than two miles from the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone. Three companies of Task Force 1-61 met about 2,000-3,000 North Vietnamese. The author, a member of Alpha Company who rode in on the last helicopter, offers unique insights into the story of the men who fought those three days in 1969. Registration required.

Michael McGowan, *Ghost: My Thirty Years as an FBI Undercover Agent*

Thursday, April 18th, 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Michael McGowan entered law enforcement as a police officer before joining the FBI 30 years ago. Though he currently lives in New England he has spent the past 25 years working domestic and international undercover operations and has been recognized at the highest levels for his undercover assignments. Michael will share some of the fascinating stories described in the book, and he will sign copies of purchased books.

Jacqueline Finn, *French Canadian Genealogy*

Monday, May 13th, 7:00 P.M.

Jacqueline Finn is the author of *From Habitants to Immigrants: The Sansoucys, the Harpins, and the Potvins*. The book describes the immigration of a French-Canadian family to Shrewsbury. While telling the story of the French-Canadian people, the author will also share her research process for those interested in genealogical studies. Registration required.

Gardening

Seed Lending Library

Wednesday, March 20th,
7:00-8:00 P.M.

Celebrate the spring equinox with a seed celebration! Bring seeds to share and come select seeds from the opening of the Seed Lending Library! Sponsored by the Friends of the Library!

Health and Wellness

Memory Café

First and third Friday of each month, 2:00-4:00 P.M.

The Memory Café provides socialization opportunities for people with memory loss, Alzheimer's, and other forms of dementia and their caregivers. Drop in and have an enjoyable afternoon with music, games, and other fun activities. Thanks to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation for a \$2,500 grant that enables us to continue with this service. We are also grateful to the Friends of the Library for providing refreshments.

Shinrin-yoku or Forest Bathing

Thursday, March 28th,
10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. with rain date of Thursday, April 4th

Join Linda Pietropaolo, a Certified Forest Bathing Guide trained by the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy, on a forest bathing walk. Forest bathing is a slow, mindful walk that focuses on our senses and the nature around us. The walk includes activities to help us connect with the natural world. We will stop to gather, sit, and reflect on our experience. The walk will be two hours long and concludes with a tea ceremony. Location to be determined. Registration required.

Language Learning

Thanks to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation for awarding a \$5,000 grant for the **English Conversation Circle** program in 2019. All the English language learners and the conversation circle facilitators appreciate the Foundation for their continued support for the seventh consecutive year. Five weekly sessions are offered for adults wishing to practice their English-speaking skills in a safe environment. For schedule details please call Priya Rathnam at (508) 841-8531 or email prathnam@cwmars.org.

Movie Screening

Special Documentary **Alice's Ordinary People**

*Wednesday, March 13,
6:30-8:30 P.M.*

Alice Tregay's story is the story of ordinary people effecting extraordinary changes for human rights. It also documents five decades of fearless activism and the continuing relevance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the ongoing fight for justice. The movie screening will be followed by a discussion with filmmaker Craig Dudnick. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Music

From Ireland to America

Sunday, March 17th, 2:00 P.M.

Let's commemorate St. Patrick's Day with Roger Tincknell's Irish music! Registration required.

Sliding Around the World by Solstice Sackbuts

Tuesday, May 14th, 6:30 P.M.

Escape for an evening as the Solstice Sackbuts take you on an international folk and pop music tour. No passports are required while your toes tap to sambas, tangos, tarantellas, polkas, horahs, waltzes, jigs, and calypsos as well as rock, jazz, and some of the world's most famous and popular music. The Solstice Sackbuts will take you to Peru, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Haiti, France, England, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Russia, the Czech Republic, Israel, Kenya, and other destinations while playing lively and familiar selections.

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Shrewsbury Cultural Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Middle Beethoven – Talks by Robert Oakan

*Wednesdays, April 10th, 17th, 24th,
and May 1st, 6:30-8:00 P.M.*

Beethoven is widely acknowledged as a towering genius among composers of classical music. In spite of his gradual hearing loss, which began in his late 20s, he continued to write music of the very highest quality. In this four-part course (a continuation of this past spring's "Early Beethoven"), we will focus on how his tragic deafness may have shaped his middle works. A retired Clinical Psychologist, Robert Oakan has taught classical music history courses for many years.

Registration required.

Creative Workshop

Windsor Chair-Making Demonstration

Saturday, April 13th, 10:00 A.M.

Join Patrick Perkins as he shares his knowledge and experience designing and building Windsor chairs. During his presentation, Patrick will describe the types of wood used in chair construction and how wood is taken directly from logs and fashioned into finished chair parts. Patrick will also share examples of the antique-style tools used in chair construction and how milk, paint, and oil are combined to produce a durable finish. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



The Library is thrilled to welcome Suzanne Gorum as its new Reference Librarian. We're sure you'll enjoy working with and getting to know her.

Children's Room

Repeating Programs

Literacy and Play Time

Mondays, 9:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

Join us for a play group focused on early literacy and language stimulation through exposure to books and play. Geared to children ages 18 months to 36 months. Registration required.

Book Beats

Tuesdays, 10:00 A.M.

Book beats is a lively early literacy music and movement program for children ages 2-4 with their caregivers (siblings welcome). Admittance tokens required.

Babies, Books, and Bubbles

Wednesdays, 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.

Preschool Storytime

NEW DAY

Wednesdays, 1:30 P.M.

A storytime featuring a mix of classics, favorites, and new titles for children ages 4-5 with their caregivers. Activity to follow. Admittance tokens required.

Wiggle Words

Thursdays, 10:00 A.M.

Join us for singing, dancing, and stories. For walkers up to 3 years old who love to move. Admittance tokens required.

Lego Club

March 12th, April 9th, and May 14th, 6:00 P.M.

Come build with us! For grades K-4. Registration required.

Dash and Dot

March 28th, April 25th, and May 30th, 6:00 P.M.

Learn to code robots with a different challenge every month to test your skills! For grades 2-5. Registration required.

Sensory Storytime

First Saturday of every month, 10:00 A.M.

This storytime is designed for children with autism spectrum disorders, sensory integration issues, other developmental disabilities, and their typically developing peers. Registration required.

March

Half Day of School Snack Attack

Tuesdays, March 5th and April 2nd, 2:00 P.M.

Make snacks with friends. Registration required.

Read to a Dog

Saturday, March 9th, 16th, and 23rd, 9:30 A.M.

Practice your reading skills with a patient and adorable pup. Registration required.

Pi Day

Thursday, March 14th, 5:30 P.M.

Celebrate Pi Day with pie-eating contests and crafts! Drop in while supplies last.

Power of Play Lecture

Tuesday, March 19th, 7:00 P.M.

What exactly is play and why is it such a powerful vehicle for learning? Those are the questions Boston College Professor Peter Gray will answer during this talk geared towards parents, guardians, and educators. A drop-in program.

Seed Swap

Wednesday, March 20th, 7:00 P.M.

Attendees of all ages can bring seeds to share and select seeds from the lending library. A drop-in program.

Holi Celebration

Thursday, March 21st, 6:00 P.M.

Join us while we celebrate Holi, the Indian Festival of Colors. A drop-in program.

Check out the Library's new homework help database, HelpNow by Brainfuse! Get live one-on-one tutoring, submit papers for editing suggestions, or use any of its various study resources!

<https://tinyurl.com/y7ztqacr>

Babysitters' Job Fair

*Saturday, March 30th,
10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.*

Local families seeking childcare are invited to meet with babysitters ages 11-17. Certified sitters (courses include the American Red Cross Babysitter Training) will be here to meet families, play with children, and discuss their credentials. Registration not required.

Are you a mature, dependable, certified babysitter interested in participating? E-mail Roxanne Starkin at rstarkin@cwmars.org to register. You must be able to show proof of certification to participate.

April

Pajama Storytime

*Thursday, April 11th,
6:00-7:30 P.M.*

Put on those pajamas, and bring your favorite stuffed animal or blanket. We'll have stories, songs, snacks, and a craft. Registration required.

Building with Recyclables

*Tuesday, April 16th,
2:00-4:00 P.M.*

Build whatever your imagination can think up. For kids comfortable using scissors. Drop in while supplies last.

Seed Starting

*Wednesday, April 17th,
12:00 P.M.*

Learn how to start a garden from seeds! You'll plant a variety of seeds and learn how to care for them until they go outside. A drop-in program.

Engineer a Story

*Wednesday, April 17th,
3:00 P.M.*

Children will listen to a story and participate in the engineering design process to solve a problem - a fun twist on S.T.E.M. programming! Registration required.

International Tabletop Day

*Saturday, April 27th,
12:00-3:00 P.M.*

Play some new games and check out games from our lending library too! A drop-in program.

April vacation is all about the **Power of Play!** Join us during the week for the activities listed above and more!

May

Kentucky Derby Party

*Saturday, May 4th,
2:00-4:00 P.M.*

Come celebrate the "fastest two minutes in sports." We'll have family-friendly activities related to this popular annual event. All ages welcome to drop in.

Pokemon Party

Tuesday, May 7th (half day of school), 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Celebrate the release of the new Pokemon movie! Trade cards, make a pompom Pokemon, and go on a Pokemon hunt! A drop-in program for ages 5+.

Mom's Night Out

Thursday, May 9th, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Celebrate Mother's Day early with a fun, relaxing night out getting crafty with other moms! As a courtesy, we are providing childcare if you need it. There will be fun activities for the children in another room. Children must be at least 3 years old. Registration is required.

Engineer a Story

Thursday, May 23rd, 6:00 P.M.

Children will listen to a story and participate in the engineering design process to solve a problem - a fun twist on S.T.E.M. programming! Registration required.

TEEN SERVICES

Do you want VOLUNTEER HOURS? Do you have OPINIONS? Are you in GRADES 7-12? Then we want YOU to join SPLAT (Shrewsbury Public Library Advisory Team)! Come tell us what we need in the Young Adult Department! If you have ideas, we want to hear them! SPLAT meets the first Tuesday of the month from 4:15-5:00 P.M.

We discuss what books and music to add to the Young Adult collection, which programs and events we should offer, how to manage our social media, and anything that's on your mind.

Sign up for the YA mailing list at <https://goo.gl/2o7HQ8>.

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY
609 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - SPRING 2019

ECRWSS
Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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.

Contact Information

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



COMPUTER INSTRUCTION

Introduction to 3D Printing

Tuesday, March 12th
5:30-7:00 P.M.

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.

Microsoft Excel for Beginners

Tuesday, March 26th
5:30-6:30 P.M.

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

Microsoft Word for Beginners

Tuesday, April 16th
5:30-6:30 P.M.

Learn the basics of MS Word including how to modify text, how to format a paragraph, and how to save and open files.

Registration is required for all computer classes.
<https://tinyurl.com/yb8usugx>

eBay for Beginners

Tuesday, May 7th
5:30-6:30 P.M.

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