

CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - SPRING 2021



A letter from Library Director Priya Rathnam:

I have been the director of the library since March 2020 and, to put it mildly, the past 12 months have been challenging! Last March, when we first learned of COVID-19, we had no inkling that life would be paralyzed for more than a year. An unprecedented crisis required unorthodox thinking and innovative problem-solving tactics. Both the physical library space and our resilience as a team have helped my staff and me overcome the inevitable challenges and continue to serve Shrewsbury residents.

The library building was designed as a space for quiet study and contemplation, for collaboration and socialization, for communal celebrations and gatherings, or for just hanging out! However, we were able to successfully reconfigure the space and provide access to print and media resources without jeopardizing the health and safety of staff or patrons. The no-contact pickup and checkout of materials using the self-checkout machines,

the safe quarantining of returned materials, and the re-spacing of staff workspaces were all possible because of a spacious building that could be modified to accommodate the needs of a topsy-turvy world.

Our positive attitude, creativity in the face of adversity, ability to rise to the occasion, and capacity to invent ways to connect with each other and create a sense of community are assets that helped with the transition to a not-very-normal world.

We offered virtual recreational and educational programs such as storytimes, gaming, trivia contests, reading programs, community art projects, and "escape rooms," and the community responded by embracing these traditional library services even though they were in a digital format.

(continued on next page)

Of the many heartwarming incidents I have witnessed over the past year, two were especially endearing. A couple who had formerly attended our English Conversation Circle joined us from Seoul, South Korea, much to our delight. It was very touching to see the woman, who couldn't visit her husband in his eldercare residence, reconnect with him through Zoom during our memory café. And who has not enjoyed seeing our children's librarian doing a storytime with her infant daughter?

Our beautiful and functional facility, designed to be a 21st century library, has served us well during a crisis. You, the residents of Shrewsbury, have supported us in our endeavor to fulfill the library's mission. We will continue to think outside the box and will ensure that the next phases of reopening the library progress in a safe manner with our priority being the safety of the community.

Sincerely,

Priya Rathnam

THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SPONSORS

The Board of Library Trustees is very grateful to the generous donors who have sponsored Sunday hours. We're hoping to be able to provide library services on Sundays through May 23, 2021.

Providing four Sundays are:

- *Dr. B. Dale and Mrs. Melanie Magee*
- *Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti, Jr., Donor-Advised Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation*

Providing two Sundays are:

- *Dean Park Grill & Pizza*

Providing one Sunday each are:

- *Maureen Fujimori in honor of Eileen Mooney Evans*
- *Pam Osborn in memory of Harry Der Harootunian*

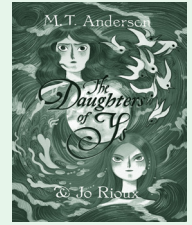
- *In memory of James A. Heedles*
- *In loving memory of Buckie Somers*
- *In memory of Marsha Williams*
- *The Bachini Family in memory of Ruth Seward*
- *Friends of the Library in memory of former Library Director Bonnie O'Brien*
- *John P. Collins and Nancy Hughes in memory of Dr. John P. Collins*
- *Shrewsbury Nursing and Rehabilitation Center*
- *Southgate at Shrewsbury*
- *Shrewsbury Rotary Club*
- *Shrewsbury Garden Club*
- *Selectman Beth Casavant*
- *The Del Dotto grandchildren: Drea, Dylan, and Devin*
- *Olivia, Peg, and Don Harbert*
- *Kathleen and David Rocheleau*
- *One anonymous donor*

STAFF PICKS

Amanda:

***The Daughters of Ys* by M. T. Anderson and Jo Rioux** (graphic novel)

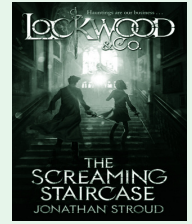
Based on a Celtic legend, this graphic novel tells the story of Ys, a wealthy, wondrous, sea-defying city with a dark, magic-rooted history. The beautiful artwork, mythical storyline, and captivating exploration of love, loss, and secrets make for an engrossing and fascinating read.



Annie Lee:

***The Screaming Staircase (Lockwood & Co. #1)* by Jonathan Stroud** (book)

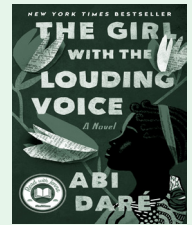
The Screaming Staircase is an incredible combination of murder mystery, supernatural thriller, and teenage workplace dramedy. The audiobook is particularly excellent for sending chills down your spine. (grades 7+)



Kim:

***The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Daré** (book)

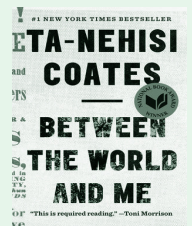
The Girl with the Louding Voice is a story about a 14-year-old Nigerian girl named Adunni. She is strong-willed, spirited, and determined to get an education despite her challenging circumstances. The story was inspiring and kept me rooting for Adunni's "louding voice." I listened to the story as an audiobook, and Adunni's dialect and voice brought her character to life for me.



Mary Clare:

***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates** (book)

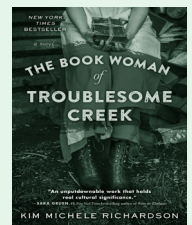
What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? The author, Ta-Nehisi Coates, attempts to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. This is a beautifully woven personal narrative that confronts the notion of race in America.



Noël:

***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson** (book)

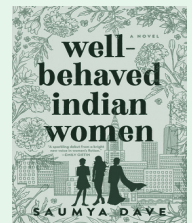
A captivating and heartrending story about a most unlikely heroine who survives prejudice, isolation, and poverty against all odds. Set in 1936 rural Kentucky, Cussy Carter, a rural route librarian and the last of the Appalachian blue-skinned people, reminds us that being a good, kind, decent human being who helps others is what life should be about. I listened on Hoopla.



Seema:

***Well-Behaved Indian Women* by Saumya Dave** (book)

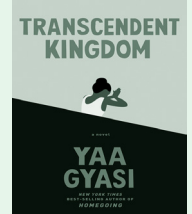
Fiction novel based on mother-daughter relationships and three generations who struggle to define themselves as they pursue their dreams. It keeps you engaged and the language is realistic and perfect for teenage girls and middle-aged women.



Shi Wen:

***Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi** (book)

Transcendent Kingdom touches on complex issues that many people in society face daily. Gifty, a fifth-year graduate researcher at Stanford, narrates the story of her Ghanaian immigrant family, from childhood to adulthood, as she deals with religion, relationships, addiction, and death. This novel beautifully weaves together past and present to illustrate how our personal histories shape who we are.



Suzanne

The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco (TV series)

Self-contained spinoff of the UK series *The Bletchley Circle*. Set after World War II, this series follows four women, all former code breakers, who have had to forget skills used during the war. A quest to stop a serial killer brings their pattern-breaking talents to the forefront again. Highly recommended for those who enjoy compelling mysteries.



ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Questions? Contact Suzanne at: sgorum@cwmares.org or 508-841-8609, x2.

The Healing Power of Meditation

**Tuesday, April 13th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

We live in stressful times, and meditation can be just the tool we need to help us cope with everyday challenges. Join Nirav Sheth, longtime meditator, who has been practicing meditation for over 30 years. He will discuss how meditation can improve our physical, mental, and spiritual health. You will have a chance to learn and practice a simple technique that can reduce stress, enhance relaxation, and promote inner growth.

Laugh! Thursday, April 15th 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Exploring the rib-tickling world of musical humor, this fun-filled virtual program, presented by Music Historian Craig Harris, is the perfect antidote to the blues.

Diabetic Foot Care Wednesday, April 21st 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Learn about diabetic foot care for yourself or a loved one. This program, presented by Dr. Donald Peltó, will cover what to look for, ways to prevent problems, and will discuss issues such as poor blood flow and neuropathy. It will also examine serious issues such as charcot and amputation. Please note that this program is for informational purposes only, and is not intended as medical care.

Spring Flowers: Glass Painting Workshop Thursday, April 29th

6:00–8:00 p.m.

Learn how to create your own amazing hand-painted flower vase! This is a beginner glass painting class where local artist Bindu Gupta will teach the basics of how to paint your own glass vase with artistic techniques that create fine detail effects. Professional tips will be provided.

Seed Lending Library

Monday, March 22nd

Our Seed Lending Library is returning this spring, and we will offer up to 10 seed packets per family! Please subscribe to our e-newsletter or follow us on Facebook to receive updates. We will start distributing seed packets in late March. Seed distribution details to come!

Musical Baseball Show with Howie Newman

Friday, March 26th

7:00–8:00 p.m.

Howie Newman's virtual Musical Baseball Show includes baseball songs, baseball trivia and stories about his days on the Red Sox beat. A sportswriter for 18 years, he covered baseball for several major daily papers in the Boston area, including the *Boston Globe* and *Patriot Ledger*. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. For more information about the Musical Baseball Show, visit www.howienewman.com/baseball-show

Digital Privacy Primer

Monday, April 12th

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Confused about buzzwords like digital privacy or data mining? Want to know more about where your data goes when you're online? Take this class and get an overview of all that and more. Learn how to make informed decisions with your digital footprint!

Paint by Sticker Take-Home Craft

Tuesday, April 13th

10:00 a.m.

Enjoy the therapeutic process of painting by sticker! It's similar to "paint by number," but with stickers and without the cleanup. Supplies will be provided in a convenient take-home bag. Depending on the weather, the bags will be left on a table in front of the library or placed inside the library.

Please limit one bag per person; available until supplies run out. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Intermittent Fasting Wednesday, March 10th

7:00–8:00 p.m.

Are you trying to lose weight by eating less and exercising more? If this is not working for you and you find your weight constantly yo-yoing, you may be interested in learning about intermittent fasting.

Bring your questions, because in this introductory class presented by Dr. Donald Peltó, you will learn everything you need to start fasting safely. We will go over what you can drink, what is allowed, what is not allowed, how long you should fast, and what tips can make the whole process easier.

Spring Hair Accessory Take-Home Craft

**Tuesday, March 16th
10:00 a.m.**

Make a flower hair accessory in a few easy steps! Supplies and instructions will be provided in a convenient take-home bag. Depending on the weather, the bags will be left on a table in front of the library, or placed inside the library.

Please limit one bag per person; available until supplies run out. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Questions? Contact Suzanne at: sgorum@cwmares.org or 508-841-8609, x2.

Meditation for Everyday Living Tuesday, March 16th 7:00–8:00 p.m.

In this fast-paced, stressful world, is there a way to decompress, recharge, and experience peacefulness? Explore the power of meditation with Arvind Naik and learn a simple yet powerful method of meditation that can be used daily to enhance your life.

Indigenous Music in the 21st Century Thursday, May 13th 7:00–8:00 p.m.

This stereotype-defying virtual program, presented by Music Historian Craig Harris, celebrates the diverse sounds of Native America and introduces its greatest artists.

We are excited to share that the Greater Worcester Community Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to sustain the English Conversation Circle and the Memory Café programs for another year! Read on to learn more.

English Conversation Circle

The English Conversation Circle meets virtually via Zoom!

Two weekly sessions are offered: ***Tuesdays from 3:00–4:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*** These sessions are for adults who wish to practice their conversational skills. The facilitators make the sessions engaging, interactive, and fun! To register, please send an email to: splreference@cwmares.org.

Memory Café

Our virtual Good Day Memory Café meets on the ***first and third Friday of the month from 2:00–3:30 p.m.*** A memory café is a welcoming place for people at early stages of Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia AND their care partners. Facilitators and volunteers enliven the meetings with conversation, music or other activities to entertain guests. To receive a Zoom invite for this meeting, email: cbudge@cwmares.org. Supplemental funding for this program is provided by the Friends of the Library.

Book Groups

The **Shrewsbury Readers Book Group** meets on the first Thursday of the month from 6:30–7:30p.m. We select titles from various genres and strive to be diverse in our choice of subject matter and authors. Copies of the book will be available for pick-up in a no-contact, safe manner. We will be discussing the following books:

March: *Conversations with Friends* by Sally Rooney

April: *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis

May: *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg

Please register to receive a Zoom invite.

The **Cookbook Book Group** continues to meet virtually on the fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30–7:30 p.m. We've planned an eclectic variety of programs designed to keep us cooking. We'll chat with cookbook authors, local food purveyors and other foodies. We'll learn, share ideas and maybe even find hidden culinary treasures. Check the library's calendar for each month's socially distant adventures in food! Please register to receive a Zoom invite!

All library programs are currently conducted virtually, so advanced registration is required. Please register at the library's website (<https://tinyurl.com/yb8usugx>) or call 508-841-8609 for information and to register by phone. An attendance link will be e-mailed to you before the start of the program.



Liked That? Try This!

We're launching a new service for all ages to help you find your next favorite book! Fill out a simple online form (or call the library) and our brilliant staff will use their expertise to give you a list of titles we think you'll enjoy. For more detailed information call or check our website and look for "Liked That? Try This!"

Learn more at our website: <https://bit.ly/3okAogC>

Children's Room

Weekly Storytimes

Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook Live for the following programs:

Book Beats: Tuesdays

Babies, Books, & Bubbles: Wednesdays

Wiggle Words: Thursdays

Take-Home Kits for Kids!

All kits will be available starting at 10:00 a.m. on the date advertised. Please only take one kit per child. Available while supplies last.

Plant a Flower: Thursday, March 11th

Holi Craft: Tuesday, March 23rd

Vaisakhi Craft: Tuesday, April 13th

Fossil Explorer Kit: Thursday, April 22nd

Ramadan Craft: Thursday, April 29th

Mother's Day Craft: Thursday, May 6th

Chopped: Art Edition: Monday, March 8th; Thursday, April 1st; and Thursday, May 13th

An assortment of art supplies will be provided. The challenge: Create a masterpiece using *only* the supplied materials. Participants who share their creations by emailing splkids@cwmar.org will be eligible to win an awesome prize! Thank you to the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library for sponsoring the supplies.

Special Programs

The **StoryWalk**® at Lake Street Park will be ongoing throughout the Spring, so strap on your sneakers and stroll through a new story every month!

Learn to Code Monday, March 8th 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

For kids in grade K-2 who would like to learn about coding with Miss Diana. Registration is required for this Zoom event.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month! Tune in to the library's social media throughout the month for special messages and book recommendations

from prominent women in our community.

Spring Bunny Scavenger Hunt Friday, April 2nd through Friday, April 9th

We have it on good authority that bunnies will be hiding in a popular Shrewsbury park! Will you be able to find them all? Check back to learn more about these silly rabbits.

Virtual Seed-Starting Wednesday, April 21st, 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. This program is sponsored by the Shrewsbury Garden Club and registration is required.

Pajama Storytime: Spring Edition Thursday, May 20th

Our children's librarians return with songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and bedtime stories for preschoolers and their grownups. Sign up for the children's e-newsletter to get first access to the storytime video and links to fun activities you can do at home.

For more information about children's programs:
call 508-841-8609, x4 or e-mail: splkids@cwmar.org

Sign up for our Children's Services e-newsletter for exclusive content <https://bit.ly/3gQ5edS>

Check out our online events calendar <https://bit.ly/3iz89YT>

Follow us on Facebook <https://bit.ly/2PLwfU7>

Check out the Shrewsbury Public Library YouTube channel and subscribe today! <https://bit.ly/2XQTe4o>

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

New Book Smell

See the latest titles hitting the shelves in the teen collection! Short “guided tour” videos of our new books are posted each Monday – check our YouTube channel for more: <https://bit.ly/2LnO4tq>

Teen Advisory Discord

Help us make our Teen Department amazing – tell us what materials, services, and programs you want. Earn volunteer hours! Request a Discord invite here: <https://bit.ly/3oulBQh>

Dream Colleges Tuesday, March 9th 7:30 p.m.

Learn the key elements of the admissions process and how to reduce stress and increase success in finding your dream college. Presented by the Princeton Review. Registration required.



Be Kind to Your Mind Meditation

**Thursdays: March 11th,
25th, and April 8th
7:30 p.m.**

Visualize calm, focus on gratitude, and practice goal setting in a series of meditation workshops from Amy Rutledge. Registration required for each session. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Teen Take & Make: Seed Starters Tuesday, March 16th

Collect a kit to get started with your own vegetable garden! While supplies last, no registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

You Can Cook! Friday, March 19th 6:30 p.m.

Surprise your family with dinner! Julie Manning will teach you how to make a delicious vegetable lasagna using ingredients you purchase from a provided list. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Teen Take & Make: LED Paper Circuits Tuesday, April 13th

Collect a kit and experiment with paper circuits! Use conductive tape and LEDs to make illuminated cards. While supplies last, no registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Mug Meals Tuesday, April 20th 12:00 p.m.

Don't call for takeout! Julie Manning will show you how to make pepperoni pizza in a mug using ingredients you purchase from a provided list! Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Teen Take & Make: Upcycled Gift Boxes Tuesday, May 11th

Collect a kit and make a special gift! Upcycle tea tins to create unique, reusable gift boxes. While supplies last, no registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

See our calendar for details and registration information:
<https://bit.ly/2JNk89F>

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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ECRWSS
Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

See library website for
full listing of service
hours.

Contact Information

Phone: 508-841-8609

Fax: 508-841-8524

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library



SHREWSBURY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

TECH TALKS

Talks on Technology Topics

Every Fourth Wednesday

7:00–8:00 p.m.

Each month during the spring, we will share a curated list of podcasts, articles, books, movies, short stories, or audiobooks about a topic related to technology. Join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:00–8:00 p.m. to discuss how technology, the Internet, and computers impact our world!

DNA Testing Companies

Wednesday, March 24th

With companies like 23andMe, AncestryDNA, and MyHeritage DNA, it has become incredibly easy to spit into a tube and find out where your ancestors came from, but how does it work?

Internet of Things Devices

Wednesday, April 28th

With technology today, you could automate your entire house, connecting everything from your doorbell to your washing machine, to the internet. It does make everything more convenient, but what is the tradeoff?

Artificial Intelligence

Wednesday, May 26th

This science fiction topic has increasingly become a reality for us. How does AI make our lives easier and how does it complicate them?

See our calendar for details and registration information: <https://bit.ly/2JNk89F>