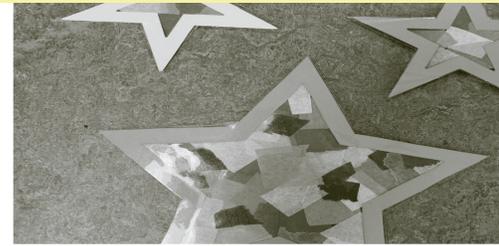


# CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - SUMMER 2021



Over 25 take-home crafts for various multi-cultural holidays have been offered since Fall 2020!



## **A letter from Library Director Priya Rathnam:**

More than any other institution in the U.S., the public library best symbolizes democracy. Any resident can get a free library card that ensures access to print and e-resources, curated and peer-reviewed e-content, research databases that facilitate lifelong learning, and recreational materials to expand one's worldly knowledge.

The public library has expanded its offerings over the years from physical books to audiobooks, DVDs, music CDs, downloadable books, streaming content, and varied materials such as telescopes, wifi hotspots, gardening tools, kitchen gadgets, sewing machines, and musical instruments – materials collectively known as the Library of Things. Library users can also provide recommendations for items to be added to collections.

I like this quote from Senator Wendell Ford at the 1998 ALA Annual Conference: "If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are its banks." The library as a cornerstone of democracy affords all members of the community opportunities to engage in debates and discussions on literary, social, cultural, and timely topics. Virtual conversations and meetings have drawn people from diverse backgrounds to participate in many interactive sessions during the past year.

As I reflect on the status of the library in society, I'm encouraged by the responses we received to questions posed by us in an online community survey. One of the comments that was really heart-warming was, "Thank you so much for your service! Ordering and picking up our library books is a highlight."  
**(continued on next page)**

Enjoying the books at home and expanding our world, whether or not there is a pandemic, is eye-opening and an absolute joy for us. The library is truly one of the best places on earth. Thank you SOOO much!" Another one was, "You all are doing an amazing job at a very difficult time! Thank you! We appreciate the library being a source of materials and comfort and continuity for our community and its residents." These remarks illustrate how Shrewsbury residents cherish the library.

As I write this piece in mid-April, I feel hopeful, as most people will be eligible to receive vaccinations soon. I'm also optimistic that it will be safe to expand library services in the summer. It would still not be feasible to gather in large numbers for events at the library, but I'm confident that you will be able to browse collections in different sections. While you will be able to participate in online summer reading activities and virtual educational and entertaining programs, I hope that the library will gradually become the communal hub that it was before the pandemic.

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:**

***It's Alive!: Classic Horror and Sci-Fi Movie Posters from the Kirk Hammett Collection* by Daniel Finamore, Joseph E. LeDoux, and Steve Almond (book)**

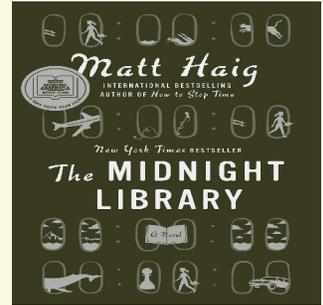
Filled with incredible full-color photos and illustrations, this classic sci-fi/horror homage covers the genre's expansive history through one of the world's premier movie poster collections — that of Metallica lead guitarist Kirk Hammett. Intermingling Hammett's contributions with thought-provoking essays, the book examines the human response to fear and provides a visual and historical feast for horror fans.



**Kim:**

***The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig (book)**

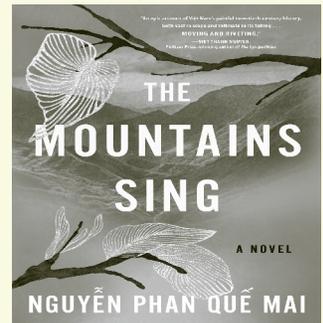
"Between life and death there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived." The main character, Nora Seed, is given a chance to make different life choices through books at the Midnight Library. It was interesting to see how just the smallest decisions and choices Nora made could influence others' lives. I listened to this book on Libby and enjoyed the narrator's voice.



**Mary Clare:**

***The Mountains Sing* by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai (book)**

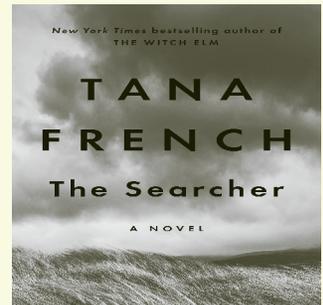
Celebrated Vietnamese poet Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai's beautifully written family narrative spans a century of Vietnamese history, from the French colonial period through the communist Viet Minh's rise to power, the separation between North and South Vietnam, the Vietnam War, to the present day. Told in alternate voices by the family matriarch, Dieu Lan, and her granddaughter, Guava, it is a multigenerational tale of the Tran family. It brings to life the human costs of colonization and war from the points of view of all the Vietnamese people, as well as the triumph of love and redemption.



**Monika:**

***The Searcher* by Tana French (book)**

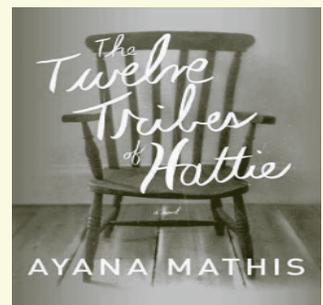
This literary thriller is beautifully written, suspenseful, and mysterious. It's a story that makes everyone question the fine line between right and wrong. There is everything here to love: good plot, great pace, realistic and interesting characters, reveals and twists, and a cracking ending. Perfection in a book. I was lost in this from start to finish and honestly didn't want it to end.



**Priya:**

***The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis (book)**

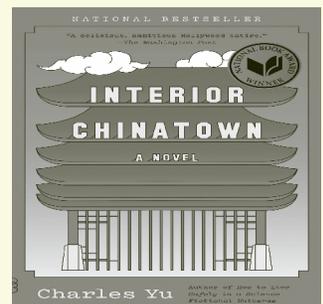
Centered around strong, stoic Hattie Shepherd, this novel recounts her story from the time she flees Georgia in 1923 as a teen to settle in Philadelphia. Initially, she is filled with optimism, but the death of her infant twins makes her hard and outwardly unaffectionate. The twins, her nine surviving children, and one granddaughter make up the "twelve tribes" from the title. The journeys of the children as young adults and their struggles to find their place in the world make for a compelling story. Mathis' powerful writing makes this book a page-turner.



**Shi Wen:**

***Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu (book)**

This novel is a reflection on cultural and racial stereotypes faced by Asian-Americans. The author, Charles Yu, cleverly uses a screenplay format to tell a story both funny and serious that forces the reader to confront racism toward Chinese Americans — especially relevant and important today.



# ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

## Relieve Stress Through Meditation Tuesday, June 1st 7:00 p.m.

When uncertainty surrounds us, tap into the calm, clarity, and stress relief that comes through meditation. Join Arvind Naik, long-time meditator, as he explores the benefits of meditation. Learn and practice a simple method of meditation that you can use anytime, anywhere.

## Borderland: The Life and Times of Blanche Ames Ames Thursday, June 10th 7:00 p.m.

Blanche Ames Ames (1878–1969) was an artist, activist, builder, inventor, birth control maverick, and a leader of the Massachusetts suffrage movement. *Borderland: The Life & Times of Blanche Ames Ames*, chronicles Blanche's life. Edmond Hands, a local teacher of history, will host a Q&A after the film. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## Out of Rushmore's Shadow Tuesday, June 15th 7:00 p.m.

In this 45-minute special presentation for the entire family, storyteller Lou Del Bianco portrays his grandfather, Luigi Del Bianco, and explores his unsung contribution as chief carver on the Mount Rushmore Memorial. Authentic photos, timelines, and primary source documents bring Luigi's story to life.

Designer Gutzon Borglum will offer praise of Luigi, the 25 year struggle to get him recognized, and the CBS Sunday Morning tribute where a plaque at Mount Rushmore was finally unveiled. Now a

published book authored by Lou, *Out of Rushmore's Shadow* is a dramatic and touching story about Luigi's legacy and the immigrant struggle. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## Snail Mail Society Kits

- **Thursday, June 24th**  
Theme: *Thank You Cards*
- **Thursday, July 22nd**  
Theme: *Travel*
- **Thursday, August 19th**  
Theme: *Kawaii*  
(Japanese for cute!)

For those who love letters, we'll have kits to up your snail mail game throughout the summer! Kits will contain items such as cards, stationery, seals, washi samples, etc.

No registration required! Kits will be placed either inside or outside the library; available until supplies run out. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## Summer Reading 2021 Monday, June 28th–Saturday, August 21st

Participate in our annual eight-week-long Summer Reading program!

Submit the title/author of a book or audiobook you've read to enter our weekly raffles; we will also have a grand raffle at the end! Prizes are gift cards.

How to participate:

**Option 1:** Fill out our online form: <https://forms.gle/KvW1gwFmbgmepYok6>



**Option 2:** Fill out a paper form (available in the library).

**Option 3:** Call the reference desk at 508-841-8609, x2, to submit your entry via telephone. If you leave a voicemail, please include your name, title/author of the book, and your telephone number. Homebound patrons will receive paper entry forms delivered with their items. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## Gorgeous Gardens of New England

Tuesday, June 29th  
7:00 p.m.

Joanne Pearson is a professional photographer and formerly registered landscape architect in Massachusetts, where she practiced for 12 years. Joanne will be presenting *Gorgeous Gardens of New England*. This enchanting visual journey features a slideshow of her favorite public and private gardens in our region. Along with the history of these gardens, she will share some valuable tips on garden design and techniques for photographing flowers and gardens. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## Shrewsbury Comic-Con July

Join Shrewsbury Public Library for its annual (virtual) celebration of comics, animation, sci-fi, and all things pop culture! This year's programs will feature art demonstrations, a pet cosplay photo contest, and various raffles, with our keynote-address (Tuesday, July 13th, at 7:00 p.m.) being delivered by renowned graphic novelist Joel Christian Gill, creator of *Fights: One Boy's Triumph Over Violence and Strange Fruit*. See our website and social media for future updates!

## Computer Shopping Guide

Wednesday, July 21st  
7:00 p.m.

Bewildered by the array of options and jargon in tech device specifications? Learn what all the jargon means and how to select appropriate options when shopping for a computer or other tech device. Please see our calendar to register for this event.

## Melodious Zach

Thursday, July 22nd  
7:00 p.m.

Melodious Zach will be performing Motown classics and other hits in his sweet soul vocal style! With

Zach on acoustic guitar, enjoy this family-friendly concert by a New Englander and ASCAP Plus award winner. Melodious Zach has been performing music and comedy for over 16 years. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## Meditation Vacation

**Thursday, August 12th  
7:00 p.m.**

Need to relieve stress and immerse yourself in peace and calm? Join longtime practitioner Arlene Samsel to learn meditation techniques that can revive your spirit just like a relaxing vacation. There will even be a short meditation sitting.

## 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 [spreference@cwmars.org](mailto:spreference@cwmars.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 in the 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@cwmars.org](mailto:cbudge@cwmars.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 6:30–7:30 p.m. We select titles from various genres and strive to be diverse in our choice of subject matter and authors. Copies of book selections will be available for pickup in a no-contact, safe manner. We will be discussing the following books:

**Thursday, June 3rd:** *The Fisherman* by Chigozie Obioma

**Thursday, July 1st:** *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter

**Thursday, August 5th:** *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin

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!

All library programs are currently conducted virtually, so advance 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 emailed to you before the start of the program.



Shrewsbury Public Library now offers free access to **Kanopy!** Kanopy is a video streaming service that provides instant access to thousands of critically acclaimed movies, documentaries, and kids' favorites. You can also stream Kanopy on any of your favorite devices!

**kanopy**  
THOUGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT

## Liked That? Try This!

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, and Bubbles: Wednesdays**

**Wiggle Words: Thursdays**

## Take-Home Kits for Kids!

Take-home kits will be available starting at 10:00 a.m. every Thursday in June, July, and August. Please only take one kit per child. Available while supplies last. Check our e-calendar, Instagram, and Facebook page for each week's theme.

## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

SPL is taking part in this exciting national program for kids ages 0+ and their families. For more information and to see how you can register your little one, please email [splkids@cwmar.org](mailto:splkids@cwmar.org).

## StoryWalk®

The **StoryWalk®** at Lake Street Park will be ongoing throughout the summer, so lace up your sneakers and stroll through a new book every month! Don't forget to look for additional special activities when you are there!

## Summer Reading 2021: Tails and Tales Monday, June 28th–Saturday, August 21st

This summer we will be celebrating reading, animals, and community! For every two hours read, children will track their progress on Beanstack, receive virtual badges and be eligible to win prizes. Check out our website and Facebook page to find out how to register and get more information about additional summer programs.

## Laugh and Learn Show

**Thursday, July 8th, 6:00 p.m.**

Enjoy a Zoom comedy show with comedian David Maloof. This program is great for anyone 9+ years old. Pre-registration is required for this program.

## Learn to Code for Kids

**Monday, July 12th or August 9th, 6:00 p.m.**

Learn to code with Miss Diana. This virtual class is geared toward kids in grades K–2. Pre-registration is required for this program.

## Harry Potter Week-Long Celebration Monday, July 26th–Friday, July 30th

Join us in celebration of our favorite wizards. Enjoy themed take-home crafts and virtual programs throughout the week.

## Pajama Storytime – Summer Edition Tuesday, August 3rd, on the SPL YouTube Channel

Your favorite children's librarians are back for songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and bedtime stories. For preschoolers and their grownups.

## Tales and Tails Trivia with Miss Diana

**Tuesday, August 10th, 6:00 p.m.**

Gather your family for this all ages Kahoot game and test your story and animal knowledge. Please pre-register as space is limited!

For more information about children's programs, call 508-841-8609, x4, or email [splkids@cwmar.org](mailto: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> or Instagram: @SPLChildrensRoom

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>.

## **Summer Reading Program**

**Monday, June 28th–  
Saturday, August 21st**

Keep your reading streak going this summer! Participate in challenges, collect badges, compete with friends, and earn prizes. Sign up on Beanstack: <https://bit.ly/3mr0nDw>. Grades 7–12.

## **Choose Your Own Adventure Storywalks**

**Monday, June 28th–Friday, July 16th and Monday, July 19th–Friday, August 6th  
Lake Street Park  
Grades 5–12**

Take a walk and have an adventure! Play through two stories as you walk around and make choices until you reach a triumphant end... or realize you’ve made a big mistake. No registration necessary.

**Visit our Island Library on Animal Crossing! We’ll have drop-in events for teens and adults. Talk to librarians, get DIY recipes and materials, and more.**

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

## **Teen Take and Make: Origami Animals Tuesday, June 29th Grades 5–12**

Collect a kit to start your paper menagerie! Includes special paper and instructions. While supplies last, no registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## **Peeps on Vacation Monday, July 12th– Saturday, July 24th Grades 5–12**

Grab a pack of Peeps and make some summer memories with a vacation-themed diorama! Use supplies from home to picture your Peeps camping, swimming, hiking, or relaxing, then send us a photo to share on social media. Registration required starting June 28th.

## **Teen Take and Make: Paracord Snake Bracelets Tuesday, July 13th Grades 5–12**

Collect a kit and make a survival gear snake you can wear! While supplies last, no registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## **Teen Take and Make: String Art Creatures Tuesday, July 27th Grades 5–12**

Collect a kit and bring your own hammer! Follow a pattern (or not) to create a 3-D art piece. While supplies last, no registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

## **Summer Vacation Virtual Escape Rooms Monday, August 9th– Saturday, August 21st Grades 5–12**

We’re bringing the puzzles to you with our virtual escape rooms! With easy and difficult options, these online puzzles games will be available anytime. No registration necessary.

## **Teen Take and Make: Soothing Eye Pillows Tuesday, August 10th**

Collect a kit and treat yourself! With some easy sewing, you’ll have a relaxing pillow to soothe tired eyes. While supplies last, no registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.



**Friends of the  
SHREWSBURY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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Worcester, MA 01613

# CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - SUMMER 2021

ECRWSS  
Resident Customer  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

See library website  
for full service  
hours listing.

## Contact Information

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



## TECH TALKS

### Talks on Technology Topics

Every fourth Wednesday

7:00 p.m.

Each month during the summer 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 these technologies impact our world!

### Facial Recognition

Wednesday, June 23rd

Facial recognition technology is becoming more and more common; it can unlock your phone for you! For what else is it being used?

### Genetically Modified Organisms

Wednesday, July 28th

GMOs have long been a buzzword when it comes to food. What are GMOs and how are they created?

### Blockchain

Wednesday, August 25th

Blockchain is seen as incredibly secure to some, but to most it's a mystery. We'll explore what blockchain is and how it is used in this month's talk.

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