

CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - FALL 2021



A letter from Library Director Priya Rathnam:

The library has been awarded a Civic Hub grant from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) administered at the national level by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and at the state level by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). This grant will allow us to invite experts in various fields to talk to our community and provide education and training. For the duration of the grant period from October 2021 through September 2022, we are planning a number of programs, events, and activities that will bring the community together. We propose to partner with area schools, Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, the Council on Aging, members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, and other local civic organizations.

The main event will be a community-wide reading of the book *Palaces for*

the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life by Eric Klinenberg. In his book, the author focuses on the importance of re-building social infrastructure – places like libraries, playgrounds, athletic fields, and community centers – as that will help bridge divisions in our society and bring us together. We are excited to announce that the author will be addressing our community on Wednesday, October 20th, at 7:00 p.m., in what will undoubtedly be an engaging discussion.

One of the target objectives of the activities planned around this grant, aptly titled *Radical Empathy*, is fostering a sense of empathy across the board toward people with diverse points of view and varied perspectives. Some programs that aim to achieve these ***(continued on next page)***

objectives include A Night of Poetry with Dr. Adam Falkner, author of *The Willies*, that deals with “the journey into queerhood and masculinity in America”; lectures by Ryan Dowd, Executive Director of Hesed House, a large homeless shelter in Aurora, IL, and the author of *The Librarian’s Guide to Homelessness* on the homeless experience, dealing with problem behaviors of teenagers, and ways to work compassionately with people with dementia; and a series of moderated discussions with officials in local government. Program details will be communicated via our e-newsletter and posted on the online event calendar and social media.

The number one service priority in the library’s 2020–2024 strategic plan is to “Celebrate Diversity: Cultural Awareness — Residents will have programs and services that promote appreciation and understanding of their personal heritage and the heritage of others in the community.” One of the goals to reach that vision was articulated as: “Encourage community dialogue on topics of diversity, culture, politics, and town priorities.” This grant award will help us strengthen our print and electronic collections on eclectic topics, sustain existing community partnerships, develop new collaborative ventures, and draw more people to the library to engage in meaningful discussions. The library will continue to be the go-to place for residents seeking recreational and educational reading material, a place offering socializing opportunities, and a safe, inclusive, and welcoming civic hub.

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 for the next season starting in October 2021.

Providing two Sundays:

- *Dr. B. Dale and Mrs. Melanie Magee*

Providing one Sunday:

- *Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti, Jr., Donor-Advised Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation*
- *Bette Ann Kirby, in memory of Bonnie L. O’Brien*
- *Rotary Club of Shrewsbury*
- *Olivia, Peg, and Don Harbert*
- *In memory of James A. Heedles*
- *In loving memory of Buckie Somers*
- *One anonymous donor*

You can help us reach a full season of Sundays (October 3, 2021 through May 22, 2022). The cost for sponsoring one Sunday is \$800, or \$750 for sponsorships received before October 1, 2021.

Please contact Library Director Priya Rathnam at (508) 841-8537 or prathnam@shrewsburyma.gov if you wish to provide a sponsorship or need more information.

FRIENDS ANNUAL BOOKSALE

The Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library are thrilled to announce that they will hold their annual book sale from Thursday, October 14th, through Sunday, October 17th, at the Shrewsbury Public Library.

You can expect the same book sale you've come to love, but this year with a twist: **\$10 bargain bags!** All bags will be provided so no need to bring your own. Throughout the sale, simply fill a bag for \$10.

Find treasures among the plethora of paperback and hardcover books, CDs, DVDs and much more. Stock up for the winter!

Local educators will have the opportunity to fill a bag with books, CDs, and DVDs on the last day of the sale for free. Just sign in with a cashier using your name and school name.

Books, CDs, and DVDs can also be purchased individually at unbeatable prices. So, mark your calendars:

Book Sale Schedule:

- Thursday, October 14th, 12:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 15th, 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 16th, 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, October 17th, 1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.



Volunteers are vital to the success of the sale, and we need your help!

To volunteer as a book organizer or cashier, contact Claire Nagle at crn160@hotmail.com or 508-479-4664.

Check or cash payments only, please. Watch for more information online and in the local news. To become a member of the Friends, visit: <https://splfriends.weebly.com>.



ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Evanston's Living History **Tuesday, September 14th** **6:30 p.m.**

Join filmmaker Craig Dudnick for an involved discussion of the history behind his documentary, *Evanston's Living History*. Learn about Evanston's greatest generation and their courageous fight to free Evanston from the bondage of racial discrimination. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Know the Ten Signs of Alzheimer's: Early Detection Matters **Thursday, September 30th** **7:00 p.m.**

Alzheimer's causes changes in memory, thinking and behavior that are not part of normal aging. Join us to learn about:

- The difference between normal aging and Alzheimer's
- Common warning signs
- The importance of early detection and benefits of diagnosis
- Diagnostic process steps and expectations
- Alzheimer's Association resources

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association®.

Dot Mandala Workshop **Tuesday, October 5th** **6:00 p.m.**

Dot Mandala painting is a traditional art form with a meditative and therapeutic effect on the mind and body. Learn the fundamentals to make your own masterpiece with step-by-step instructions provided by Bindu Gupta. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Before Brooklyn: The Unsung Heroes Who Helped Break Baseball's Color Barrier

Thursday, October 7th
7:00 p.m.

Join *Chronicle's* Ted Reinstein for this fascinating exploration of the individuals who helped bring down the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

New Leaves Concert **Thursday, October 21st** **7:00 p.m.**

New Leaves is an Americana acoustic duo consisting of Cameron Sutphin and Mary Hastings. The pair perform original material and classic country and folk cover songs such as "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (Bob Dylan); "Take Me Home, Country Roads" (John Denver); "Jackson" (Johnny Cash); "Hallelujah" (Leonard Cohen); and "Wake Up Little Susie" (Everly Brothers). Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Yoga with Bindu **Wednesdays,** **October 20th, 27th;** **November 3rd, 10th** **9:00 a.m.**

Join us as certified yoga instructor Bindu Gupta guides us through an hour-long hatha yoga practice. Hatha yoga brings physical, emotional and spiritual awareness to the body and mind. It also helps to relax the mind and relieve stress. This class will use yoga poses and breathing techniques to strengthen the body and mind. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Lotus Lantern Craft Workshop **Thursday, November 11th** **7:00 p.m.**

In this virtual program, the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (KSCPP) will teach participants how to make lovely lotus flower lanterns using colored paper and pre-made wireframes while learning about Korea's unique history and culture. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Intermittent Fasting for Beginners

Tuesday, November 16th
7:00 p.m.

Dr. Donald Pelto will introduce intermittent fasting, a popular weight control technique seen frequently in the media. He will go into detail about why it works, what the health benefits are, who should and should not attempt it, and how it works for weight loss and diabetes control.

As part of our year-long, grant-funded programs exploring empathy, the library will offer the following programs in the fall:

Community Read Kickoff with Eric Klinenberg **Wednesday, October 20th** **7:00 p.m.**

As the kickoff for our five-month community read of *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*, the book's author, Eric Klinenberg, will deliver a virtual address on the importance of community spaces. Partially funded by the Shrewsbury Public Library Foundation.

Battleground Virtual Screening **Tuesday, November 9th** **7:00 p.m.**

Battleground is an intimate look at our current political divide as seen through the eyes of two grassroots activists with radically different political beliefs in the pivot counties of the Lehigh Valley, PA. Join the library for a virtual screening of this film followed by a live Q&A with the film's creators.

More information about these and other grant-funded programs will be shared via the library's calendar, mailing lists, and website.

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America **Tuesday, November 16th** **7:00 p.m.**

In this virtual discussion, acclaimed author Richard Rothstein will demonstrate how residential segregation was created by racially explicit and unconstitutional government policy in the mid-twentieth century.

His lecture will educate attendees on the history of this policy so they can be prepared to undertake the national conversation necessary to remedy the unconstitutional racial landscape.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library, the Shrewsbury Rotary Club, A Better Shrewsbury, The Needham Diversity Initiative, Needham Rotary Club, Grafton Public Library, Hopkinton Public Library, Westborough Public Library, and Southborough Public Library.

Stay tuned! Some of these programs may be held in-person at the library! Check our online calendar for the latest updates.

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.

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. 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. Titles are selected from various genres and subjects. Copies of book selections will be available for pickup at the main desk. We will be discussing the following books:

Thursday, September 2nd:
I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman
by Nora Ephron

Thursday, October 7th:
Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization and the Decline of Civic Life
by Eric Klinenberg

Thursday, November 4th:
Meet Me at the Museum
by Anne Youngson

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!



Children's Room

Weekly Storytimes

Book Beats in the Courtyard

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

A lively early literacy music and movement program for ages 2–4 years with a caregiver (siblings welcome). Admittance tokens required.

Babies, Books, and Bubbles

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. (Facebook Live) and 11:00 a.m. (in-person)

Enjoy songs, fingerplays, and books with the littlest listeners. Babies from birth to age 2 are welcome along with their caregivers. Admittance tokens required.

Wiggle Words in the Courtyard

Thursdays at 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.

Grandparent's Day Take-Home Kit

Thursday, September 9th

starting at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate the grandparents in your life with this fun take-home craft for kids ages 3+. Kits are available on a first come, first served basis and while supplies last.

Celebrate Autumn Crafternoon

Wednesday, September 22nd 2:30–4:30 p.m.

Join us in the children's program room for fall-themed crafts! For children ages 4+ with adult supervision. Drop-ins welcome.

Indigenous People's Day Take-Home Kit

Thursday, October 7th starting at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Indigenous People's Day with a take-home craft for kids ages 5+. Kits are available on a first come, first served basis and while supplies last.

Advanced Creative Drama

Tuesday, October 12th, and Tuesday, November 9th 5:00 p.m.

Learn theater skills with Little Spark Theater! This class is for kids ages 7–9. Registration required.

STEM Week

Throughout this week-long event, the library will be focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math!

• **Monday, October 18th, 6:00 p.m.:** Coding with Miss Diana (registration required)

• **Wednesday, October 20th, 6:30 p.m.:** ImagArena Building Workshop (Registration required)

• **Thursday, October 21st, Starting at 10:00 a.m.** STEM Take-Home Kit available on a first come, first served basis and while supplies last.

Halloween StoryWalk® Trick-or-Treat

Saturday, October 30th, 10:30 a.m.

Join the children's librarians at Lake Street Park for Halloween fun! Come in costume, read the story along the path, and get a Halloween take-home kit while supplies last.

Diwali Storytime and Craft

Tuesday, November 2nd 2:00 p.m.

Join Miss Rashmi for stories in this bilingual program. Stay after for a Diwali-themed craft. For preschool-aged children. Admittance tokens required.

For more information about children's programs, call 508-841-8609, x4, or email 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>

Veterans Day Take-Home Kit

Thursday, November 4th
starting at 10:00 a.m.

Make a poppy wreath for Veterans Day. For kids ages 3+. Kits are available on a first come, first served basis and while supplies last.

Pajama Storytime – Fall Edition

Thursday, November 18th
6:00 p.m.

The children's librarians are back for songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and bedtime stories. For preschoolers and their grownups. Registration required.

Garden Club Thanksgiving Greens

Monday, November 22nd
5:00 p.m.

Join the Shrewsbury Garden Club and make Thanksgiving table centerpieces. Registration required.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Take part in this exciting national literacy program for kids ages 0+ and their families. For more information and to see how you can register your little one, please email: spkids@cwmar.org

StoryWalk®

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

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

For the latest and greatest teen and tween news and events, check our online calendar: <https://bit.ly/3y80edb>

Also be sure to sign up for our YA Library News mailing list: <https://bit.ly/3iVA6Mi>

STAFF PICKS

Jane:

***The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett** (book)

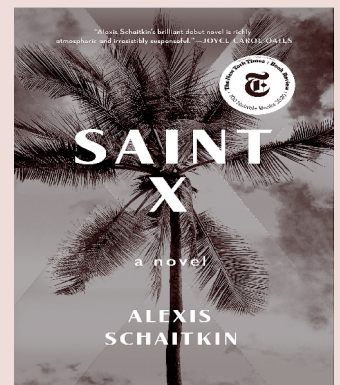
A 2020 Pulitzer Finalist, this novel is a moving family drama that unfolds like a puzzle, as bits of narrator Danny's story unfold through non-linear reveals encompassing decades. Themes of loyalty and loss between siblings, parents, self, history, and future all commingle as we see the small stories of siblings Danny and Maeve Conroy weave into a textured and gracious end, of which many are reflected upon while sitting in front of their erstwhile, grandiose home. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Tom Hanks' narration of this book on Libby.



Mary Clare:

***Saint X* by Alexis Schaitkin** (book)

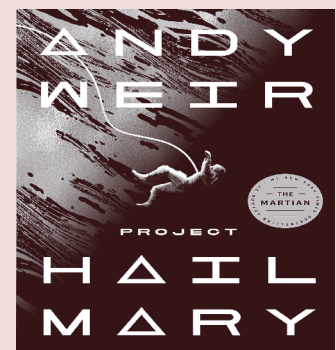
Murder and white privilege on a family holiday in the Caribbean. *Saint X* is a fascinating character study that explores familial relationships, the boundaries of friendship, racial divide, and class through the death of an 18-year-old girl on an exclusive island resort in the 1990s.



Monika:

***Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir** (book)

This science-based thriller by the bestselling author of *The Martian* is a tale of impending catastrophe, survival, and interstellar adventure in which the only hope for humanity rests with Dr. Ryland Grace, if only he could remember his mission.



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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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



TECH TALKS

Talks on Technology Topics

Every fourth Wednesday

7:00 p.m.

Interested in learning more about technology? Join our Tech Talks, a discussion group that meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:00–8:00 p.m. Much like a book club, attendees will read, watch, or listen to a title provided on a technology-related topic. During the meeting, we will discuss what we've learned about the topic! Email Arielle at asorenson@cwmars.org to join!

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