

CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY - WINTER 2021-2022



The Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale was held in October and was a great success!

A letter from Library Director Priya Rathnam:

The debate over print books versus e-books has been ongoing for more than a decade now. Purists prefer print books and love the feel of hardcover books in their hands or the smell of new books. Adults prefer to read print books to children, as it encourages them to pause, reflect, and engage in dialogic reading. Many people claim that there are few things as pleasurable as sitting in front of a cozy fireplace and getting lost in a good book. Though books are available in various formats and can be read on various devices — and avid readers embrace all formats — print is here to stay.

I've heard many people say that they read more during the past year, as they were home during the pandemic. Anecdotally, I've heard that more people started downloading e-books and felt comfortable reading books on their e-readers or tablets. The accessibility of e-books has increased

substantially over the past decade and has contributed to greater use. Audiobooks or e-audiobooks are also a preferred format for many, as they allow for multitasking — one can listen to an audiobook while exercising or doing housework — and some people say that they retain information better when they listen to an audiobook. Others opine that concentrated reading is only possible if one has a book in their hands and can take notes or annotate.

In my opinion, a book is a book is a book! If the content of a book is enthralling, I can read it on a phone or a tablet, I can listen to an audiobook while driving or during a workout, and I can enjoy the printed version in my favorite comfortable recliner at home. However you like to read, the library can help you get hold of a print copy, an audiobook, an e-book, or an e-audiobook.
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Our monthly library materials usage statistics reveal a very interesting picture. Despite only a portion of the library being open from January through May 2021, about twice the number of books and physical materials were checked out as e-books and e-audiobooks. In June, when the library reopened for limited hours, the number of physical materials borrowed was three times the number of e-resources. In July, when the library was open for regular, pre-pandemic hours, there was an upsurge in physical materials being borrowed that was SIX times the number of e-resources being accessed. While e-book usage has remained steady over the last year, the library being open has been an impetus to patrons who like to browse the physical materials and choose what they wish to borrow.

The growing popularity of e-books has not diminished people's love of the printed word, the library, or the serendipitous discovery of interesting reading material that the library offers.

Sincerely,
Priya Rathnam

THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SPONSORS

The Shrewsbury Board of Library Trustees is very grateful to the generous donors who have sponsored Sunday hours for the period October 2021 – May 2022.

Providing eight Sundays:

- Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

Providing two Sundays:

- Dr. B. Dale and Mrs. Melanie Magee
- Dr. Anne Larkin and Peter Larkin

Providing one Sunday:

- Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti, Jr., Donor-Advised Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- Olivia, Peg, and Don Harbert
- Kathleen and David Rocheleau
- In memory of James A. Heedles
- In loving memory of Buckie Somers
- Bette Ann Kirby in memory of Bonnie L. O'Brien

- John P. Collins and Nancy Hughes in memory of Dr. John P. Collins
- Maureen Fujimori in honor of Eileen Mooney Evans
- The Bachini family in honor of Ruth Seward
- The Del Dotto grandchildren: Drea, Dylan, and Devin
- Central One Federal Credit Union
- Avidia Bank
- Rotary Club of Shrewsbury
- Shrewsbury Garden Club
- Dean Park Grill & Pizza
- The Friends of the Library in honor of Dean Gilliam
- One anonymous donor

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

STAFF PICKS

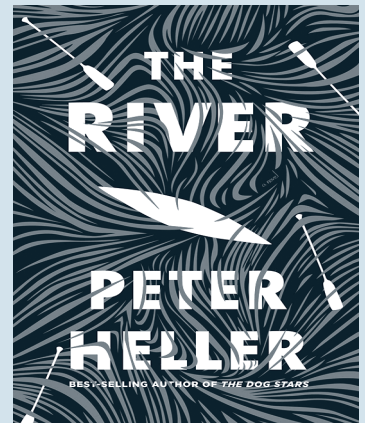
Amanda:
My Favorite Thing Is Monsters, Vol. 1
by Emil Ferris

This mystery-horror masterpiece examines humanity's monstrous side as seen through the eyes of 10-year-old Karen Reyes. Using jaw-dropping, pulp horror magazine-inspired artwork, the story follows Karen as she attempts to solve her neighbor's murder. Jumping back and forth between Nazi Germany and Karen's present day — turbulent 1960s Chicago — this graphic novel evokes feelings of unease, dread, and terror as its dark, disturbing, and riveting storyline gradually unfolds.



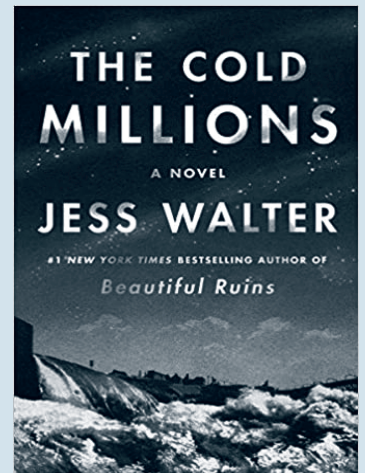
Mary Clare:
The River
by Peter Heller

College friends Jack and Wynn find their friendship tested by fire, white water, and violence on a canoe trip through the Canadian wilderness. This book is beautifully written with atmospheric descriptions of the surrounding environment and the power of nature, as well as a thrilling story of friendship and adventure.



Priya:
The Cold Millions
by Jess Walter

This engaging and gripping novel explores the gulf between the wealthy and the poor in early twentieth century America and the factors that contributed to an inequitable society. While describing the lives of two brothers struggling to keep a job and earn enough to live a decent life, the author imbues the story with credibility by introducing the historical figure of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, an indomitable activist championing the cause of industrial workers. If historical fiction is a genre that you enjoy, this book will surely be a satisfying read.



LIKED THAT? TRY THIS!

A 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>

ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

The History of Race and Politics in the Northeast

**Thursday, December 9th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Virtual Program

From Brooklyn to Boston, from World War II to the present, Jason Sokol traces the modern history of race and politics in the Northeast. Is the Northeast's history a microcosm of America as a whole — outwardly democratic, but inwardly conflicted over race?

This program is brought to you with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Hit the Bus Performance

**Saturday, December 11th
2:00–3:00 p.m.**

In-person Program

Formed in 2008 by founding members David Garden and Eric Yanaway, Hit the Bus Band has played throughout New England at local clubs and restaurants. This afternoon performance will feature their acoustic trio, playing hit songs from the 50's through today.

Visit their website at www.hitthebusband.com to see where they are playing next!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Dot Mandala Workshop

**Tuesday, December 14th
6:00–8:00 p.m.**

In-person Program

Dot mandala painting is a traditional painting art form with a very meditative and therapeutic effect on mind and body. Participants will paint along with Bindu Gupta

to make their very own dot mandala artwork masterpieces. Learn the fundamentals of dot mandala painting with step-by-step instructions. No artistic ability needed!

Recommended for older teens and adults. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Understanding Your Cat

**Saturday, January 8th
2:30–3:30 p.m.**

In-person Program

Everyone loves a good cat video, but what if your cat isn't acting quite as cute as the ones you see on the internet? Are you tired of your cat thinking "outside the box" or living with a hardcore shredder? And when it comes to your multi-cat household — why can't they all just get along?

Meet Dr. Rachel Geller, certified cat behaviorist. She'll answer these questions and more in her informative, fun presentation.

Finding Inner Peace and Calmness Through Meditation

Tuesdays

**January 11th, January 18th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Virtual Program

Join Eileen Carlotto, longtime meditator, for this engaging two-part virtual meditation workshop. During this workshop Eileen will talk about the journey of finding lasting peace, happiness, and a greater sense of wellbeing. She will share a simple technique of spiritual meditation (explained and practiced during the session) that can help participants achieve a lasting state of peace and happiness.

Yoga with Bindu

Wednesdays

**January 19th, January 26th
February 2nd, February 9th
9:00–10:00 a.m.**

Virtual Program

Take part from home as certified yoga instructor Bindu Gupta guides participants through an hour-long

hatha yoga practice. Hatha yoga brings physical, emotional and spiritual awareness to practitioners' bodies and minds while also helping to relieve stress. Participants will use yoga poses and breathing techniques to strengthen the body and mind. No yoga experience is needed to participate. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Abraham Lincoln: From Rail-splitter to President

**Tuesday, February 15th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Virtual Program

In this interactive dramatic program, actor-storyteller Lou Del Bianco portrays Lincoln as Civil War President, frontiersman, and storyteller. Audiences will learn about Lincoln's struggles as president, from his suspension of the writ of habeas corpus to his stand on slavery. Authentic historical quotations are used throughout, and a question and answer period will follow the program. This show is endorsed by the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Dementia and Alzheimer's: Compassionately and Effectively Working with People with Dementia

**Wednesday, February 16th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Virtual Program

In the first half of this workshop, acclaimed author and speaker Ryan Dowd provides a practical overview of Alzheimer's. The second half covers "dos" and "don'ts." Participants will learn how to use nonverbal cues, closed-ended questions, and a "redirecting" technique.

This program is brought to you with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library

Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. It is also partially sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Filling Your Heart with Love Through Meditation

**Thursday, February 17th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Virtual Program

Join longtime meditator Nirav Sheth as he offers this engaging workshop on how to use the practice of meditation to transform the heart. Learn how to let go of anger, fear, and worry in order to create more harmonious relationships, improve work and home environments, and experience a deep sense of personal peace and love. The workshop will include a short meditation session.

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@cwmares.org to join.

CHROMEBOOK LOANER PROGRAM

The library now offers Chromebooks, available for checkout for up to three weeks. Please call the library at 508-841-8609 or inquire at the reference or circulation desks to learn more.

English Conversation Circle

Free conversation circles are a great way to learn English in an informal, relaxed setting. This program is for adults who wish to improve their conversational skills.

Virtual classes meet via Zoom on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00–4:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

In-person classes are held at the library on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m., and at St. Anne's Church on Fridays from 10:00–11:00 a.m. If you would like to attend some of these classes, please email spreference@cwmares.org and specify which classes you wish to attend.

Good Day Memory Café

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.

The memory café will meet on the **first and third Friday of every month from 2:00–3:30 p.m.** First Friday meetings are held in person, and third Friday meetings are held on Zoom.

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 6:30–7:30 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, December 2nd:

The Bookshop on the Corner

by Jenny Colgan

Thursday, January 6th:

The Garden of Small Beginnings

by Abbi Waxman

Thursday, February 3rd:

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

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

Tuesdays from 10:00–10:30 a.m.

A lively early literacy music and movement program for ages 2–4 years with caregivers. Admittance tokens required.

Babies, Books, and Bubbles

Wednesdays from 10:00–10:30 a.m. and 11:00–11:30 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.

Wiggle Words: Thursdays from 10:00–10:30 a.m.

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

Listen Together Storytime

Wednesdays and Thursdays 4:00–4:30 p.m.

Starting December 1st

Join us this winter for an enjoyable storytime for

school-aged children and their grownups who may not read English fluently. Admittance tokens required.

Holiday Gift Making Saturday, December 4th 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Drop in and make an assortment of crafts perfect for holiday gift-giving season. For kids ages 3+ with adult supervision.

Hanukkah Storytime Sunday, December 5th 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Celebrate Hanukkah with stories, songs, and a craft. Admittance tokens required.

Hour of Code for Kids Monday, December 6th 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Celebrate Computer Science Week by learning to code with Miss Diana! We will use Hour of Code to learn the basics of coding. For students in grades 2–5. Registration required.

Advanced Creative Drama

Tuesdays December 14th and January 11th 5:00–6:00 p.m.

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

James Webb Space Telescope Take-Home Kit

Thursday, December 16th Starting at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope with this take-home kit for kids. Available while supplies last.

Puppet Show for Kids Monday, December 27th 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Through Me To You Puppetry invites you to join Newton and his puppet friends for some storytime fun as he and his friends take turns reading stories and singing songs with the kids. Geared toward ages 3–7, but all are welcome. Registration required.

Winter Crafternoon Tuesday, December 28th 3:00–4:30 p.m.

Welcome the new season with this crafting program. For kids ages 3+ with adult supervision. Drop in, no registration required.

New Year's Eve Take-Home Kit

Thursday, December 30th Starting at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate the new year with this take-home kit for kids! Available while supplies last.

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

Pajama Storytime – Winter Edition

Thursday, January 6th
6:00–7:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun evening of bedtime stories, songs, and a simple craft. Wear your jammies and bring a favorite sleepytime pal or blanket! For preschoolers and their families. Registration required.

Baby Sign Language

Monday, January 10th
10:00–11:00 a.m.

Learn how to reduce frustration and help give babies the ability to communicate before they can speak. For parents or caregivers with pre-verbal children ages 4 months and up. Registration required.

Engineer a Story

Monday, January 24th
6:00–7:00 p.m.

Listen to a story, then follow the engineering design process to figure out a solution! You'll share your ideas, edit your design, and, if time allows, build it! For children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Registration required.

Indian Republic Day Storytime and Craft

Wednesday, January 26th
3:00 p.m.

Learn about India's Republic Day in this bilingual program and related craft. For kids ages 3+ with adult supervision. Admittance tokens required.

Valentine's Day Take-Home Kit

Thursday, February 10th
Starting at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with this take-home craft for kids. Available while supplies last.

StoryWalk®

The StoryWalk® at Lake Street Park is ongoing throughout the winter so pull on your boots and stroll through a new book every month. Don't forget to look for additional special activities when you are there!

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Take part in this exciting national literacy program for kids ages 0+ and their families. For more information, please email splkids@cwmars.org.

In conjunction with the Adult Community Read, the Children's Department will be hosting two Civic Hub reading programs for kids!

Book Discussion

A Good Kind of Trouble

by Lisa Moore Ramée

Wednesday,

February 23rd

Starting at 6:00 p.m.

For kids ages 9–13.

Storytime, featuring

Sofia Valdez, future Prez

by Andrea Beaty

Friday,

February 25th

Starting at 11:00 a.m.

For kids ages 4–8.

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

For the latest and greatest teen and tween news and events, check our online calendar:

<https://bit.ly/3y80edb> and sign up for our mailing list <https://bit.ly/3iVA6Mi>

Students in grades 5–12, join our Teen Advisory! Connect with the library and earn volunteer hours. Teen Advisory meets at 8:00 p.m. in the Teen Room on Mondays; December 20th, January 24th, and February 28th.



Thank you Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union for sponsoring our annual Wake Up With Wimpy event!

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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ECRWSS
Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Mon.-Th. 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. 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Contact Us

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

RETURNS



SHREWSBURY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMPUTER CLASSES

Practical Freeware Applications
Tuesday, December 7th
7:00-8:00 p.m.

We'll go over several practical and useful free software tools. Meets in-person at the library's Learning Lab, registration required.

Windows Skill Builder
Tuesday, December 21st
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Build skills for working with the Windows 10 Operating System. Coverage includes files and folders, device management, and more. Meets in-person at the library's Learning Lab, registration required.

Microsoft Excel
Tuesday, January 25th
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Excel for beginners. Learn how to use Excel spreadsheets. We'll go over formatting, formulas, and data types. Meets in-person at the library's Learning Lab, registration required.

Microsoft Word
Tuesday, February 8th
7:00-8:00 p.m.

An introduction to the Word application. A look at text and document formatting, fonts and styles, and inserting other media into your documents. Meets in-person at the library's Learning Lab, registration required.

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