

CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY — SPRING 2022



The community art display in the Community Commons

A letter from Library Director Priya Rathnam:

I would like to share an interaction I had with a young dad who was checking out activities he could do at the library with his newborn baby, who was still in the hospital. He had seen pictures of musical instruments that the library loans on the library's digital bulletin board. He thought it was so cool that he could stimulate his baby by playing music and was eager to know what else the library had that parents and caregivers could use creatively with babies. I mentioned that we also have baby gear such as a baby monitor, booster seat, pack 'n play, sling 'n seat tub, and stroller. He could hardly contain his excitement and reminisced about how he and his Mom visited the library often when he was a child, and how he was eager to bring his baby and share all the treasures — board books, picture books, games, and puzzles — that one can find at the library.

This interaction made me reflect on how the library is not just a warehouse to store books. The library provides the space and the materials and serves as a catalyst for patrons to exercise their imaginations and devise ways to create and collaborate, dream and discover, learn and teach. We can see so many examples that illustrate this. Community members bring their personal collections to adorn the display case near the library entrance and every month visitors can admire a new display of handmade items — hand-sewn and knitted children's garments or an assortment of uniquely detailed ceramic dishes, bowls, plates, platters, and vases. The monthly art exhibits in the Community Commons also showcase the talented art work of Shrewsbury residents. Tweens and teens proudly share their creative dioramas (if you missed the PEEPS® dioramas of winter scenes, look out for the next display!) and other wacky but endearing artistic masterpieces.

You, our patrons, can and do contribute to the library collections and services in many ways. We are happy to consider your recommendations for new titles that can be added to our print and electronic collections. In library jargon, this is known as “patron-driven acquisition.” As the library is for the community, we want to make sure that we have the books you want to read. We will also take your ideas for new programs and try to host recreational or informative programs that interest you. We are grateful to our many volunteers who dedicate their time and share their expertise by teaching art or yoga or meditation, perform at the memory café, or facilitate the English Conversation Circle and enrich the lives of others. Children, teens, and adults avail themselves of volunteer opportunities, thereby enhancing the quality of service provided at the library.

Last but certainly not the least, monetary donations made by you to the Friends of the Library or the Shrewsbury Public Library Foundation or to our Sunday sponsorship program or special gifts in honor of a loved one are testaments of your love for this cherished community center. The library can truly be described as a facility that is “of the community, for the community, by 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 for the current season that started in October.

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 Heedles
- In 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 Gillam
- An anonymous donor

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



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Shrewsbury Public Library Foundation supports and enriches the capabilities and resources of the Shrewsbury Public Library. The foundation is committed to long-term development and improvements for current and future generations.

The foundation's focus is on developing a base of perpetual financial support to enhance the library's offerings and is dedicated to the library's tradition of excellence and its progressive approach to services, collections, programs, and facilities.

Foundation support will supplement, not replace, the town's responsibility for funding library operations. While the town provides standard services for the needs of the library, the foundation ensures that funding is available for enhanced services, programs, and technology and provides a conduit for dedicated donations.

How does the foundation differ from the Friends of the Library organization?

While both organizations are non-profit groups dedicated to supporting the library, the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library is focused on funding current programs and activities, while the library foundation is future-focused, with an eye toward developing long-term enhancements that will serve current and future generations.

What kind of projects might the foundation support?

The foundation's Distinguished Speaker Series kicked off in 2021 via Zoom with best-selling author Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, with over 500 attendees! The foundation also co-sponsored the community read kickoff for *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* with author Eric Klinenberg. In the future, the foundation plans to fund programs that would not normally be funded by the town, such as launching innovative services, introducing cutting edge technology, and fostering the support of the arts to meet the culturally diverse demographic of our wonderful community.

Our goal is to provide perpetual financial support to sustain our library's tradition of excellence. Donations in support of the foundation will be dedicated to sustaining the library's progressive approach to services, collections, programs, and facilities by providing financial support BEYOND that provided by the town. For more information, please visit <https://foundationspl.org>.

RECURRING PROGRAMS

English Conversation Circle

English Conversation Circle is on Zoom! Two weekly sessions are offered on *Tuesdays from 3:00–4:30 p.m. and on 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, send an email to splreference@cwmar.org.

Memory Café

Our virtual Good Day Memory Café meets on the *first and third Friday of the month from 2:00–3:00 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, please email cbudge@cwmar.org.

ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Institute for New England Native American Studies

**Tuesday, March 1st
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Join Dr. Cedric Woods, director of the Institute for New England Native American Studies (INENAS), for a discussion of the work done by the institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The institute's purpose is to connect Native New England with university research, innovation, and education. Currently, Dr. Woods is working on projects with tribes in the areas of tribal government capacity building, Indian education, economic development, and chronic disease prevention. 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.

An Evening of Poetry with Adam Falkner

**Thursday, March 10th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

During this one-hour virtual talk, award-winning poet Adam Falkner will read from his critically acclaimed collection, *The Willies*, a sharp portrait of the journey into queerhood and masculinity in America. 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.

Ask a Muslim Anything with Robert Azzi

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

"Ask a Muslim Anything" is a program presented by noted speaker, photojournalist, and Exeter, NH resident Robert Azzi. Azzi finds that most people — even those critical of Islam and Muslims — are willing to listen and engage with Muslims in small-scale or one-one-one conversations. Azzi speaks not as a scholar or academic, but as a neighbor, fellow citizen, and person of faith. Nothing, except disrespect, is off the table. 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.

Gorgeous Gardens of New England — Part 3

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

This lively presentation by photographer Joanne Pearson will feature a beautiful slideshow highlighting 12 more inspiring gardens in the region. In this enchanting visual journey, Joanne will share the fascinating history of the land owners and designers who developed these glorious gardens and landscapes. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library

Seed Lending Library

Starts Monday, March 21st

The seed lending library is returning! Families can take up to 10 seed packets, and the lending library will be available while supplies last.

Building Beautiful Aquariums for Beginners

**Thursday, March 24th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Have you ever dreamed of having a vibrant, colorful aquarium in your home? Join local expert Jonathan Rainey for this dynamic presentation as he discusses the basics of planning, setting up, and populating a beginner fish tank. Learn

how to best balance water chemistry, implement underwater vegetation, and select the ideal tank residents, as well as how to successfully maintain the tank once it's running. This talk will cover fresh water tanks, as well as give some pointers for salt water tanks. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

DAWNLAND Documentary Film Screening

**Thursday, March 31st
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Join the library for a virtual screening of the feature-length documentary DAWNLAND. The film, which won an Emmy for Outstanding Research in 2018, follows Maine's "truth and reconciliation commission" (TRC) to contemporary Wabanaki communities to witness intimate, sacred moments of truth-telling and healing. With exclusive access to this groundbreaking process and never-before-seen footage, the film reveals the untold narrative of Indigenous child removal in the United States.

The History of Chinese Americans in Massachusetts

**Tuesday, April 5th
7:00–8:00 p.m.**

Michael Liu, a lifelong activist and scholar of the Boston Chinatown community, will present a talk on the history of Chinese Americans in Massachusetts and the history of anti-Asian attitudes that continue into the present. Dr. Liu is the author of *Forever Struggle: Activism, Identity, and Survival in Boston's Chinatown, 1880–2018*, and is a former senior research associate at the Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

**Registration is
required for most
programs.**

Spring Cleaning Workshop with Jenna Elliott

*Thursday, April 14th
6:30–8:00 p.m.*

Jenna Elliott is the founder of The Naked Flower, Professional Organizers. This workshop will give participants a step-by-step approach to a cleaner house and a little less clutter. She will share tips on using products, 10 things that probably need a good cleaning, tackling the paper trail, and resources such as websites, stores, and literature on cleaning personal spaces. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

The History of Blues in America

*Tuesday, April 19th
7:00–8:00 p.m.*

In the spirit of Ken Burns's breakout PBS documentary series on American country music, acclaimed guitarist and music historian Joey Leone presents "The History of Blues in America," a one hour virtual program covering the history, influence, and social impact of American blues music through songs, stories, and historical facts. 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.

Women in Music: Folk, Rock, Soul, and Blues

*Thursday, April 21st
7:00–8:00 p.m.*

Kirsten Thien hosts a fun and informative virtual music program about the impact of women on music in America. She covers the early innovators and pioneers, as well as contemporary stars of today, touching on their musical contributions and their struggle

for equal pay and recognition. She also shares some of her personal journey as a professional touring and recording musician. Part concert, part history, part folklore, this event features Kirsten singing and playing guitar, accompanied by Eric Boyd on bass and guitar. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Lotus Lantern Craft Workshop

*Thursday, April 28th
7:00–8:00 p.m.*

The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (KSCPP) will teach participants how to make a lovely lotus flower lantern using colored paper and a pre-made wireframe. At the same time, participants will learn about Korea's unique history and culture and watch a short documentary film. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Ornery Teenagers: How to Compassionately and Effectively Manage Behavioral Problems

*Tuesday, May 3rd
7:00–8:00 p.m.*

Those who interact with teenagers need to understand how their brains are different from adults' or children's brains. This workshop teaches participants how to adapt their style for teenagers. It focuses on practical skills for: pre-conflict, mid-conflict, and post-conflict. 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.

New Leaves Concert

*Saturday, May 7th
2:00–3:00 p.m.*

New Leaves is an Americana duo consisting of Cameron Sutphin and Mary Hastings. They met in high school and became friends, starting the band Wing & A Prayer with two classmates before venturing out

on their own and becoming a duo. Cameron and Mary perform original material and classic country and folk cover songs such as "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (Bob Dylan) and "Take Me Home, Country Roads" (John Denver). Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Songs and Stories — The Highwaymen

*Tuesday, May 10th
7:00–8:00 p.m.*

Longtime New England singer/songwriter Matt York will perform the songs of Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, and Waylon Jennings and tell the stories of their careers. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Shrewsbury Local Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

SpeakOUT Boston

*Wednesday, May 11th
7:00–8:00 p.m.*

Join us for an evening of learning more about the LGBTQ+ community as members of SpeakOUT Boston share their personal stories. 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.

The Journey

*Thursday, May 12th
6:30–8:30 p.m.*

In this virtual program, psychic medium Diane Lewis will put participants into an altered, meditative state and guide them on an exciting exploration of their own thoughts and minds. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Children's Room

Weekly Storytimes

Book Beats

*Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.
Starting in April*

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, 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.

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.

Take-Home Kits

Thursday, March 10th:
Holi

Thursday, March 17th:
St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 31st:
Red Sox Opening Day

Thursday, April 14th:
Easter

Thursday, May 5th:
Mother's Day

All take-home kits are available starting at **10:00 a.m.** while supplies last.

Half Day of School Crafternoons

Tuesday, March 1st and April 5th 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Join us on half days of school for themed crafts. These programs are geared for kids ages 4 and up. Adult supervision required.

Engineer A Story — Leprechaun Traps

*Monday, March 14th
6:00 p.m.*

Listen to a story, then follow the engineering design process to figure out a solution! Share your ideas, edit your design, and, if time allows, build it! This program is for children in kindergarten to 5th grade. Registration required.

Holi Storytime

Tuesday, March 15th at 4 p.m.

Celebrate Holi with Miss Rashmi during this bilingual storytime. Enjoy stories and a Holi themed activity. For kids ages 3+ and their families. Admittance tokens required.

You are the Artist!

*Saturday, March 19th
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.*

In this program participants will celebrate children's book art and create their own masterpieces using various artistic mediums. Drop-in event for ages 6+.

Spring Storytime

*Monday, March 21st
10:00 a.m.*

Celebrate the first day of spring with flannels, fingerplays, songs, and stories. This storytime is geared toward preschoolers and their families. Admittance tokens required.

National Crayon Day

*Thursday, March 31st
All day*

Celebrate National Crayon Day with a community art project. Drop by anytime to draw, doodle, or write with crayons on a giant piece of paper that will be displayed in the children's room.

Pet Parade at Lake Street Park

*Saturday, April 9th
10:30–11:30 a.m.*

Put a leash on your pet and join the children's librarians for a stroll and parade to show off beloved pets in celebration of National Pet Day! All pets are welcome!

April Vacation

April 19th–April 23rd

Librarians are planning fun family activities for this week. Check the library's online calendar for an updated schedule of programs, including a scavenger hunt, STEM classes, and more!

Seed Starting

Wednesday, April 20th
12:00 p.m.

Learn how to start a garden from seeds! 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. Registration required.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

The library is taking part in this exciting national literacy program for kids ages 0+ and their families. For more information and to see how to register, please email splkids@cwmars.org.

StoryWalk®

Visit the StoryWalk® at Lake Street Park and stroll through a new picture book every month. Don't forget to look for additional special activities when there!

For additional information about these programs and more:

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

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

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

Follow SPL on Instagram:
[@SPLChildrensRoom](https://www.instagram.com/SPLChildrensRoom)

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

Middle School Improv

Wednesdays, March 9th–30th
7:30 p.m., Grades 5–8

Did you know that improvisation isn't just for entertainment? Students who study improvisation train their minds to think more quickly and creatively. They work better as a team and greatly improve their problem-solving skills. It's also a ton of fun! Registration required.

Post-Pi Day Extravaganza

Tuesday, March 15th
3:30 p.m., Grades 5–12

Celebrate pie after Pi Day! Drop in for fun with baking pies, playing pie games, making pie crafts, and more. No registration necessary.

Teen Advisory Meetings

Mondays, 8:00 p.m., Grades 5–12
March 21st, April 25th, May 16th

Teen Advisory is a way for teens to connect with the library and make their voice heard. It's an easy way to earn volunteer credit by attending monthly meetings. Teen advisory groups plan and run library programs, choose book displays, decide which books and other materials to add to the library's collection, and more! Who should join? People who like the library and have ideas about what could make it better, people who want to improve their collaboration and leadership skills, and people who want to make new friends. Registration recommended.

Teen Take and Make — Mirror Mosaic Plant Pots

Friday, March 25th
Grades 5–12

Add a little pizzazz to houseplants! Create a glitzy planter with recycled materials. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. While supplies last, no registration necessary.

SAT, ACT, or Both?

Monday, April 11th
6:00 p.m., Grades 9–12

Presented by the Princeton Review. Should you take the SAT or ACT? Learn the truths and

misconceptions, similarities and differences, and the strategies that improve scores on the SAT, the ACT, or both.

Teen Take and Make — Seed Starters

Friday, April 15th
Grades 5–12

The snow is melting, the birds are chirping — time to start gardening! Kits contain a mix of seeds. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. While supplies last, no registration necessary.

Test-Optional Admissions

Monday, May 2nd
6:00 p.m., Grades 9–12

Presented by the Princeton Review. "Test-Optional" has increasingly become the buzzword in college admissions, but it is still a new concept for students and parents (and many counselors!). Learn what test-optional admissions means, why schools adopt test-optional policies, and what test-optional admissions means for students.

Finding Your Dream Colleges

Monday, May 23rd
6:00 p.m., Grades 9–12

Presented by the Princeton Review. How can students choose from thousands of schools across the country? Students will explore what a dream college is for them, what a college wants in dream students, and what they must do to get into their dream colleges.

Teen Take and Make — Felt Sushi

Friday, May 27th
Grades 5–12

It's a feast for the eyes (don't eat it)! Make a lunch bento from felt and beads. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. While supplies last, no registration necessary.

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

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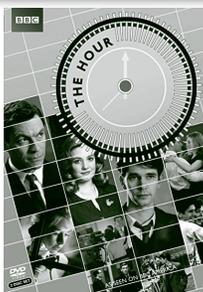


An Elderly Lady Is Up To No Good and
An Elderly Lady Must Not Be Crossed
by Helene Tursten

These two short reads by noted Swedish mystery writer Helene Tursten are a quirky take on how to get away with murder. Maud is an irascible, 88-year-old Swedish woman with no family and no friends. She likes it that way and she has no qualms about solving her problems with a few murders. Maud cleverly uses the disguise of a doddering old woman to her own advantage through several murders in the first book. In the second book, detectives return with a few more questions, and Maud decides to do her favorite thing — travel — and sets off on a tour of South Africa. There, she finds more problems that require her attention. These were fun reads and I wish there were more. (Mary Clare)



—STAFF PICKS—



The Hour
(TV series)

Set in the post-war days of television journalism on the BBC, *The Hour* is a bit like *Mad Men* if all the characters on *Mad Men* weren't hateful. At 12 episodes over two seasons, *The Hour* is packed (but well paced) with intrigue, conspiracy, and marvelous acting. Interpersonal dramas are played out against the backdrop of world events and investigative reporting. Oona Chaplin's character, Marnie, is a real standout in season two. (Annie Lee)

Cloud Cuckoo Land
by Anthony Doerr

Can an author combine multiple narratives set in various eras and weave a comprehensive, spellbinding story that connects the characters across time and place and still leaves the reader yearning for more? Anthony Doerr has successfully achieved this near-impossible feat with his genre-defying, literary tour de force in *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. One thread that binds all the narratives in this book is a quest for a Utopian world as encapsulated in a Greek legend. Each of the narratives also describes a coming-of-age story where the young protagonists embark on journeys that take them to far-off places but ultimately bring them back home. The novel is an ode to the magic of language, the power of storytelling, and the role of libraries as cherished places that preserve stories. (Priya)

