

CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY — WINTER 2022-2023



Check out the Friends of the Library Bookstore, located on the lower level across from the Children's Room.

A letter from Library Director Priya Rathnam:

The Board of Library Trustees is embarking on an important project to develop the library's strategic plan for fiscal years 2025–2029. The consultant facilitating the process is Barbara Alevras of Sage Consulting. There are two ambitious goals for our planning project: 1) to envision what role the library could and should play in the community and 2) to set a course for growth, change, and excellence for the future.

An important part of this planning process is to invite community members to serve on our Strategic Planning Advisory Committee. Thanks to the representatives from town government, local organizations and committees, Library Trustees, Friends of the Library, Foundation Board, and Select Board members who have volunteered to be on the Advisory Committee. Thanks to

the residents — parents, grandparents, teens, and other library users — for volunteering their time and demonstrating their commitment to the library.

Every resident of Shrewsbury will have an opportunity to share their thoughts and provide feedback on what they would like the library to look like in the next five to ten years. A survey will be posted on the library website and on the library's social media platforms, and a print copy will be available in the library. Here is the link to the survey online:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPLSurvey2022.

Mandarin and Spanish translations of the survey will also be available. The survey responses will indicate to us what the community wants in respect to improving the facility, the collections and

Continued on next page...

resources available, and the programs and services offered at the library.

There will be focus groups that will participate in a community visioning exercise, that is, a group brainstorming exercise in which participants envision what the ideal library is. A gathering space for all residents? A community hub? A destination for seekers of information and knowledge? A meeting space for people with similar interests? All of the above?

The consultant will help us analyze the feedback collected; identify, summarize, and prioritize key themes, ideas, and trends; compile the data and develop a vision statement, a mission statement, user needs assessments, multi-year strategic goals, and multi-year supporting objectives. The strategic plan will also be submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC).

Please scan the QR code to access the survey and send an email to the Library Director at prathnam@shrewsburyma.gov if you would like to be part of the focus group. Please use this opportunity to inform us about how the library can enhance, enrich, and empower the residents of Shrewsbury.

Sincerely,

Priya Rathnam



Scan the QR code
or go to
www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPLSurvey2022

THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SPONSORS

I would like to thank the businesses and individuals who have contributed to the Sunday season starting in October 2022. If you would like more information about our Sunday sponsorship program, please contact Library Director Priya Rathnam at 508-841-8537 or send an email to prathnam@shrewsburyma.gov.

Providing eight Sundays:

- Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

Providing four Sundays:

- Dr. B. Dale and Mrs. Melanie Magee

Providing two Sundays:

- Dr. Anne Larkin and Mr. Peter Larkin

Providing one Sunday:

- In memory of James A. Heedles
- Bette and Rick Kirby
- David and Kathleen Rocheleau

- Jack and Nancy Collins in remembrance of Dr. John P. Collins
- The Bachini Family, in honor of Ruth Seward
- Don, Olivia and Peg Harbert
- The Del Dotto grandchildren: Drea, Dylan and Devin
- Maureen Fujimori, in honor of Eileen Mooney Evans
- Shrewsbury Garden Club
- Dean Park Grill & Pizza
- Central One Federal Credit Union
- Tara Kumaraswami, in memory of Nancy Kumaraswami
- An anonymous donor

What's new? . . . A Perpetual Booksale and the Return of Foreign Films!

The Friends of the Library Bookstore, pictured on the front of the newsletter, is open **Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m and 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.** The bookstore is on the lower level across from the Children's Room.

The Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library invite you to our annual Holiday Open House on **Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** There will be fun craft activities and a scavenger hunt for all ages! Special Storytime with Santa at noon! The popular Friends Foreign Film Festival will be back in February! Titles will be announced soon. Save the dates: **February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th, at 2:00 p.m.**



TECHNOLOGY

Computer and technology classes are back at the Shrewsbury Public Library! Join our Digital Services Librarian, Sierra Chastain-Rittue, to learn new skills while improving your confidence with technology.

Space is limited and registration is required for each of these programs.

Please email schastain-rittue@cwmar.org with questions or technology topics you would like to see covered in the future.

Goodbye OverDrive . . . Hello Libby!

*Monday, December 5th
6:00–7:00 p.m.*

Do you currently use OverDrive to access digital books and audiobooks? Are you worried about making the switch to Libby? Bring your device and join us for a class in the Learning Lab to get help with the transition!

Get Started with Libby

*Thursday, December 8th and Tuesday, January 17th
6:00–7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 21st
5:30–6:30 p.m.*

Want to have access to digital books, audiobooks, magazines, and more, anytime and anywhere? You can with Libby! Bring your device and join us for a class in the Learning Lab to get set up and familiar with the Libby app.

Tech Tuesdays: Digital Privacy and Security

*Tuesday, January 10th
6:00–7:30 p.m.*

Join us in the Learning Lab for Tech Tuesdays! In this class, we will cover **Digital Privacy and Security**. Attendees will learn how to assess potential risks in their digital privacy, some specific tools and strategies they can implement as part of a security plan, and how to take action when their data has been breached. This program is intended for proficient computer users and those familiar with navigating the internet.

Tech Tuesdays: Microsoft Excel Basics

*Tuesday, February 7th
6:00–7:30 p.m.*

In this class, we will cover **Microsoft Excel Basics**. Attendees will learn how to enter text and numbers into an Excel worksheet, use autofill, format cells, perform basic calculations, and how to print a workbook. Laptops will be provided.

ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

The Benefits of Meditation

Tuesday, January 10th
7:00–8:00 p.m., Virtual

Meditation can bring about a sense of calm and balance that benefits both emotional and physical well-being, which in turn will impact overall health and reduce stress. It is easy to learn and can have many lasting and beneficial effects. Join Clare Vidich, who has been meditating for many years, for this lively and engaging virtual workshop.

Introduction to Personal Finance

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

This workshop, run by Merwyn Figueiredo, will help attendees learn about the financial planning process and how to use financial statements and budgets to help increase their savings and net worth.

Merwyn worked for Digital Equipment and Millipore for a combined 25 years and then retired at the age of 50. For 12+ years he taught courses at Quinsigamond Community College, including Micro and Macro Economics, Introduction to Business, Personal and Corporate Finance, Principles of Real Estate, and Principles of Management.

Taste of Korea

Thursday, January 12th
6:00–7:30 p.m., Virtual

Please join us for an online cooking lesson with the Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project on how to prepare japchae (potato starch noodles with vegetables) via Zoom. KSCPP will also explain the health benefits of traditional Korean meals and show a short documentary on bangjja, traditional Korean bronzeware.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Registration is required for most programs.

Shrewsbury Sisters — Two Distinctly Different Memoirs

Saturday, December 3rd
2:00–3:00 p.m.

Join local authors Christine Noyes and Paula Francis, two sisters who have lived very different lives, as they present a reading and discussion of their two memoirs, *Close Enough to Perfect: A True Story of Love, Grief, Resilience & Spirit* and *18 Pair of Shoes: A Memoir*.

Overcoming Stress and Anxiety Using Meditation

Wednesday, December 7th
7:00–8:00 p.m., Virtual

Incorporating meditation into daily life can make a big difference when dealing with the confusion and stress of modernity. In this virtual session, join long-time meditator Eileen Carlotto as she teaches a simple meditation technique to improve personal well-being.

Paper Crafting Workshop

Thursday, December 8th
6:30–8:00 p.m.

Let's get festive! Professional paper artist Lisa Siciliano (www.sparkcreations.com) will guide you through the steps to make a greeting card and gift box, both inspired by the season.

All materials will be provided, but participants are asked to bring a pencil and ruler.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Paul Newman — Star of Stage, Screen, and Salad Dressing

Tuesday, December 13th
7:00–8:00 p.m.

Beloved Hollywood actor Paul Newman's status as a screen icon is cemented in film history.

However, he was most passionate about his philanthropic work with gravely- and terminally-ill children. Come hear about his life and career with film lecturer Frank Mandosa. There will be trailers, free handouts, and chances for movie-themed door prizes!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Sewing for Beginners

Wednesday, December 14th
6:30–8:00 p.m.

Join the library's own Shi Wen Chen and Lynne Johnson to learn the basics of operating a sewing machine to create beautiful fabric pieces. Sewing machines and material will be provided (although participants can bring their own). No experience necessary.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Ukulele with Julie — For Teens and Adults

Wednesday, December 28th
6:00–7:00 p.m.

Join Julie Stepanek as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. Attendees will learn how to tune, strum, and read chords, and after a short lesson, be able to play songs. No experience necessary; participants may bring their own ukulele or borrow one of Julie's. Grades 7 and up.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Tips and Tricks for Weight Management

Wednesday, January 4th
10:30–11:30 a.m., Virtual

Many people focus on weight management and improving health in the new year, but what is the best approach that is sustainable with long-lasting results? Join Jill Patterson, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and AFAA Certified Personal Trainer and Aerobics Instructor, for this workshop to learn science-based, practical tips and tricks for weight management.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Crowes Pasture Concert

Thursday, January 26th
7:00–8:00 p.m.

A roots-infused husband-wife folk duo, Crowes Pasture performs sometimes joyful and oftentimes poignant songs that reflect a mutual passion, sense of discovery, and celebration of the human connection. Monique's romantic clawhammer banjo playing, Andy's expressive guitar picking, and the duo's intimate harmonies can only be described as "banjo-guitar romance."

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Meditation for a Healthy Lifestyle

Thursday, February 9th
7:00–8:00 p.m., Virtual

People try to exercise and eat right to keep fit and healthy, but doctors are now recognizing that a positive attitude and "food for the soul" are just as important. In this virtual workshop facilitated by Bruce Faithwick, discover a simple meditation technique that can melt away stress and be a powerful addition to a healthy living regimen.

New Leaves Concert

Saturday, February 25th
2:00–3:00 p.m.

New Leaves is an Americana duo consisting of Cameron Sutphin and Mary Hastings. They perform original material and classic country and folk cover songs as an acoustic act.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library.



For more information about these programs and more:

Sign up for our Wowbrary newsletter to see what's new at <https://tinyurl.com/3ywrj2wa>

Check out the online events calendar for library programs at <https://bit.ly/3iz89YT>

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

Follow us on Instagram @ShrewsburyLibrary

Ongoing Programs

Virtual 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group

Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group meets on the *first and third Wednesday of the month from 9:30–11:30 a.m. on Zoom.*

If you are unemployed and actively looking, underemployed, seeking a new career, re-entering the job market, or are recently retired and looking for your "Encore Career," then this group is for you!

English Conversation Circle

Four weekly sessions are offered: *On Zoom on Tuesdays from 3:00–4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m., in person at the library on Wednesdays from 10:30–11:30 a.m., and in person at St. Anne's Church on Fridays from 10:00–11:00 a.m.*

These sessions are for adults who wish to practice their English conversational skills. The facilitators make the sessions engaging, interactive, and fun. To register, send an email to spreference@cwmars.org.

Spanish Conversation Club

¿Buscas un espacio informal en el que puedas practicar tu Español y aprender más de las múltiples culturas que hablan este idioma? Únete a nuestro club de conversación *todos los martes a las 6:00 p.m.* en la biblioteca pública de Shrewsbury.

Are you looking for a casual space in which you can practice your Spanish and learn more about the multiple cultures of those who speak that language? Join our Spanish Conversation Club *every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.* at the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Memory Café

Our 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.

Book Clubs Shrewsbury Readers In Person

This group is about good books and good discussion and meets on the *first Thursday of the month from 6:30–7:30 p.m.* New members welcome; to register, please email prathnam@shrewsburyma.gov or call 508-841-8537.

Reading Glasses Virtual via Google Meet

Our book group for adults in their 20s and 30s meets monthly. New members welcome; to register, please email spreference@cwmars.org.



Children's Room

Ongoing Programs

Infant Explorers

1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

A program for our littlest patrons to explore the world around them! This sensory program will have children 0–2.9 years old explore through touch, sight, and sound. This program is intended for caregivers to engage 1-to-1 with their child. Admittance tokens required.

Book Beats

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. 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 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for singing, dancing, and stories. For walkers up to 3 years with a caregiver. Siblings welcome. No tokens required.

Fun Lab!

Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.

Geared for kids in grades 2–5, this weekly themed program will range from painting to building with LEGOs to making popcorn, and more! Check out our e-calendar for details and to register.

Tinker Time

Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Tinker Time is a fun, hands-on learning program for older toddlers and preschoolers. Together parents and children can explore a variety of age-appropriate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and early-literacy stations. This is a drop-in program. No registration is required, but please note that space is limited.

Family Trivia

*Mondays, December 5th, January 9th, and February 6th
6:00 p.m.*

Make a team and head to the library for trivia and pizza! Each month the trivia will be different, so check the library's e-calendar for details and to register.

Hour of Code

*Tuesday, December 6th
6:00 p.m.*

Celebrate Computer Science Week with an Hour of Code using CS First Unplugged from Google. For grades 1–5. Space is limited. Please pre-register starting two weeks prior to the program date.

Little Kid Creative Drama

*Saturdays, December 10th and January 14th
10:00 a.m.*

Come get silly with your little one! Creative drama is a process-focused form of theater that establishes the building blocks of performance. In this class we focus on senses, feelings, and movement through fun and imaginative play. Children build confidence, social awareness, empathy, and problem-solving skills. Each class has an early literacy component and is aligned with state standards for Theater Education.

This class is for ages 2–5 and a caregiver. Space is limited. Please pre-register starting two weeks prior to the program date.

It's Almost Hanukkah: LEGO Menorah Making with PJ Library and the SPL

*Sunday, December 11th
3:00 p.m.*

Join PJ Library and make LEGO menorahs! Space is limited. Please pre-register starting two weeks prior to the program date.

Little Gym — Move and Learn

*Tuesday, December 13th
2:00 p.m.*

The Little Gym is the world's premier enrichment and physical development center for children ages 4 months through 12 years. Programs offer children a "Springboard to Life's Adventures" by using movement-based learning and imaginative play to help build the confidence and skills needed at each stage of childhood. They do this through our gymnastics, dance, and sports classes. This event will cater to ages 2–6 and will max out at 15 children. Caregivers are required to stay with their children during the class.

This is a token program. Tokens will be given out 30 minutes before the program begins.

Delicious Destinations

Tuesdays, December 6th at 3:00 p.m. and January 24th at 4:00 p.m.

Join Miss Rashmi and learn how to make (and enjoy eating) snacks from around the world. Each session will focus on a type of food or a country. For kids in grades 2–4. Space is limited. Please pre-register starting two weeks prior to the program date.

Wildlife Encounters!

*Tuesday, December 27th
2:00 p.m.*

Come learn about six different small animals with Wildlife Encounters! This engaging program will teach all about the animals and allow attendees to meet

them! This program is geared towards children in preschool through grade 5.

Tech Tear Down

Wednesday, December 28th
2:30 p.m.

Ever wondered what is inside different electronics? This program will give attendees a chance to open them up and see what's inside! No registration necessary, for ages 5+ with constant adult supervision.

Ukulele with Julie — For Kids!

Wednesday, December 28th
4:00 p.m.

Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join Julie Stepanek as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. Attendees will learn how to tune, strum, and read chords. After a short lesson, they'll be able to play songs. No experience necessary. Bring a ukulele or borrow one of Julie's. This program is geared for kids in grades 3–6 and starts promptly at 4:00 p.m. Please pre-register starting two weeks prior to the program date.

Award Winning Book Challenge

Throughout the month of January, read Caldecott- and Newbery Award-winning titles. Log minutes read on Beanstack and win prizes! Check out our website for more details.

Pajama Storytime

Thursday, January 26th
6:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun evening of bedtime stories, songs, and a simple craft. Participants can wear jammies and bring a favorite sleepytime pal or blanket! For preschoolers and their families.

Valentine's Day Crafternoon

Tuesday, February 7th
2:00 p.m.

Drop by and make valentine cards for loved ones! For kids of all ages and their families.

February Vacation: Bring Back Summer!

This vacation week we are dreaming about fun in the sun. Join us on **Tuesday, February 21st, at 3:00 p.m.** for an ice cream party and on **Thursday, February 23rd, at 2:00 p.m.** for a library luau! Check out our website for more.

StoryWalk®

Visit the StoryWalk® at Lake Street Park (430 Lake Street) and stroll through a new picture book every month. Don't forget to look for additional special activities when you are there!

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

The library is taking part in this exciting national literacy program for kids ages 0+ and their families. Caregivers can read to their child, log reading activity, and win free books and a t-shirt upon completion! For more information and to see how you can register your little one, visit our website at <https://bit.ly/3KWf6ID>.

For more information about these programs and more:

Sign up for our Children's Services e-newsletter for exclusive content at <https://bit.ly/3gQ5ed5>

Sign up for the Teen Services e-newsletter at <https://bit.ly/3SS8cCb>

Check out the online events calendar for children's and teen programs at <https://bit.ly/3iz89YT>

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

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

TEEN PROGRAMS

Mason Jar Cookies

Tuesday, December 13th
3:00 p.m.

Grades 5–12. No registration necessary.

Get a head start on your holiday gifts or make yourself a nice treat! Drop in while supplies last to make mason jar cookies — all the ingredients needed to make delicious cookie mixes in a charming mason jar, complete with instructions. We'll have a few varieties to choose from, like classic chocolate chip and cowboy cookies or the more adventurous lemon crisps.

Teen Advisory Meeting

Mondays, December 19th, January 23rd, February 27th
8:00 p.m.

Grades 5–12. Registration required.

What is Teen Advisory? It's a way for teens to connect with the library and make their voices heard. It's a chance to see ideas and opinions come to life. It's an easy way to earn volunteer credit by attending monthly meetings. Join us to meet some new people, eat snacks, and help us make our Teen Room (and library) THE BEST!

Learn to Play Ukulele

Wednesday, December 28th
6:00 p.m.

Grades 7–12. Registration required.

This is a ukulele lesson for total beginners — no musical experience necessary! Julie Stepanek will teach teens how to tune, strum, and read chords as they learn songs by popular artists like Billie Eilish and Twenty One Pilots!

Disaster at Moon Base Artemis

Thursday, December 29th
2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Friday, December 30th
10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Grades 5–12. Registration required.

In space, no one can hear you scream . . . with excitement, as you conquer our Escape Room: Disaster at Moon Base Artemis!

Adventurers are invited to test their wits, speed, and teamwork as they find clues, solve puzzles, and prevent an AI from destroying humanity's home on the moon. Please sign up for only one session or waitlist.

Youth Corps Leadership Program

Tuesdays, January 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
6:30 p.m.

Grades 9–12. Registration required.

This program, in partnership with the Boroughs YMCA, will provide participants with leadership training, job readiness skills, and CPR & first aid training. Participants may choose to attend sessions at the library or at the Boroughs Family Branch of the Y and should register for the location that is most convenient.

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY
609 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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CHAPTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY — WINTER 2022-2023

ECRWSS
Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545



Library Hours

Mon.–Thurs. 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 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
(October–May)

Contact Information

Phone: 508-841-8609
www.shrewsburypubliclibrary.org

MORE TEEN PROGRAMS!

Friday Crafternoon

Fridays, December 2nd, January 27th, and February 17th
3:00 p.m.
Grades 5–12

You made it through another week of school! Try a fun craft or activity that will change each month. No crafting experience (or talent) necessary; just try it out!

Friday Afternoon Movie

Fridays, December 9th, January 6th, and February 3rd
3:00 p.m.
Grades 5–12

Celebrate the end of the week by relaxing with a movie and snacks! Movie TBD; stop by the Teen Office with suggestions.

Registration is not required for these programs.

Friday Afternoon Videogames

Fridays, December 16th, January 20th, and February 10th
3:00 p.m.
Grades 5–12

School is over — work off a little steam with videogames! We'll have some of the most popular multiplayer games for the Nintendo Switch, like Super Smash Bros, Mario Party, and Overcooked. Show up ready to play or just watch your friends!

Friday Afternoon Doodles

Friday, January 13th
3:00 p.m.
Grades 5–12

This Friday, we bring the art supplies, you bring the doodles. Drop in for some unstructured art fun with markers, colored pencils, tissue paper, pom poms, googly eyes, glitter, and whatever else is on the table.

Super Smash Bros Tournament

Tuesday, February 7th
1:00 p.m.
Grades 5–12

We're kicking off tournament season! Tournaments will feature single-elimination, one-on-one matches in Nintendo's classic fighting game. Earn raffle tickets for participating and even more for winning! Raffle prizes will be awarded at the end of the season in May — the more you take part, the better chance you have of winning a prize!

February Vacation Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday–Saturday, February 21st–25th
All day. Best for ages 5+.

Got some free time during vacation week? Drop in and try our scavenger hunt! Search the library from top to bottom to find everything on our list of clues. The first 100 finishers will receive a small prize.