

February Newsletter

February 2026

sturbridgelibrary.org

508-347-2512



Program Highlights

THE FRIENDS OF THE JHPL MINI GOLF FUNDRAISER

Saturday, February 28 & Sunday, March 1

Get ready to showcase your skills at our indoor mini golf course! Each year holes are built by both community members and businesses. \$5 per person. \$20 max per family. Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

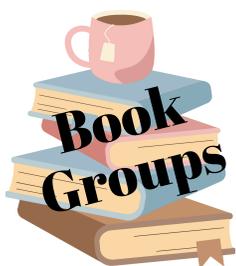


LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Saturday, February 7 at 1:00pm



Discover how you can support local wildlife by adopting wildlife-friendly gardening practices in your home, business, and community. Registration is required. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, February 10 at 1:00 pm

This month's book is "An Unfinished Love Story" by Doris Kearns Goodwin

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 pm

This month's book is "Absolution" by Alice McDermott

WORLD BUILDING BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, February 24 at 6:30pm

This month's book is "The Adventures of Amina Al-Safari" by S.S. Chakraborty

Library Quote of the Month

"You want weapons? We're in a library. Books are the best weapon in the world. This room's the greatest arsenal we could have. Arm yourself!
(from Doctor Who: Tooth and Claw in Season 2)"
— Russell T. Davies



OPEN ON SUNDAYS
12:00PM TO 5:00PM



The Library will be **CLOSED Monday, February 16** for President's Day

February Newsletter

Winter Toddler Time

Tuesdays at 10:45am

A play-based story time where toddlers will work on valuable skills with their caregivers and socialize with kids their own age. Through February 24th

Baby time

Wednesdays at 10:45am

Join Ms. Meredith for songs, rhymes, fingerplays and stories. For children 2 years and younger with an adult caregiver. Through February 25th

STORY TIME

Fridays at 10:45am

Stories, songs, rhymes and a craft. Designed for children 3-5 years old but open to kids of all ages with an adult caregiver. Through February 20th



DROP IN TECH HELP

Wednesdays ~ 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Bring your device and get your most basic smartphone, tablet or computer questions answered.

Tuesday, February 3 - VIRTUAL - 1:45pm to 2:45pm

UNSUNG HEROES OF CIVIL RIGHTS WITH BILL THIERFELDER

Have you heard of Nannie Helen Burroughs, Pauli Murray, Ella Baker, or Claudette Colvin? These individuals were just as important in fueling the civil rights movement as were the legendary historical figures we learned about in school. This is a virtual program and registration is required.

Wednesday, February 4 - 5:30pm to 7:30pm

COLOR ME CALM

Slow down, settle in, and color. Drop by the library for a friendly, low-key coloring session. We'll provide a wide variety of coloring pages and plenty of supplies. Come explore a creative activity that has been shown to support mindfulness and reduce everyday stress. This program is suitable for teens and adults.

Saturday, February 7 - 11:00am to 12:00pm

LET'S MEET... A FIREFIGHTER

David G. Martell and Stephen Joyce, Sturbridge's Deputy Fire Chief and SAFE Educator respectively, are coming to visit and talk about what it's like to work as a firefighter. Children will have the chance to ask questions, learn about fire safety, and make a craft. Registration is required.

Saturday, February 7 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm

LANDSCAPING & GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

See other side for more details.

Monday, February 9 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

FAMILY CRAFT TIME: PAPER QUILLING FOR KIDS

Kids are invited to try their hand at paper quilling! We'll make a lovely heart card perfect for gifting or displaying. For ages 7-12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Thursday, February 12 - At the Publick House - 6:30pm to 8:30pm

THE NEW MENOPAUSE: DISCUSSION

Kelly Tull, WHNP-BC, CSC of the Venus Collective-Women's Health & Intimacy, will be leading a discussion featuring topics from the book "The New Menopause: Navigating Your Path Through Hormonal Change with Purpose, Power & Facts" by Mary Clare Haver, MD. You do NOT have to read the book in order to participate! Registration is required.

Saturday, February 14 - 10:30am to 11:30am

BOOK SIGNING WITH WALTER HERSEE - TO DEFEND ALL THAT IS DEAR

Sturbridge resident, Walter Hersee, will read from and discuss his new book: To Defend All That Is Dear: The Soldiers Who Served Sturbridge, Massachusetts in the War for Independence 1775-1783. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

Tuesday, February 17 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

KIDS CONCERT WITH MUSIC AT THE BLISSFUL

Families are invited to come sing and dance along with Evan Haller from Music at the Blissful! This fun and highly engaging concert is perfect for children ages 2-8. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Wednesday, February 18 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm

CLAY GNOMES WITH RICK HAMELIN

Kids ages 6-12 will work with white clay, transforming it into whimsical gnomes using coils, pads, stamps and incising techniques for a perfect tactile texture. They will then paint their gnomes with an array of non-toxic acrylic colors, ensuring a vibrant finish. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Thursday, February 19 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

MUMBET'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"Mumbet's Declaration of Independence" by Gretchen Woelfle will be read by a costumed OSV educator. Listen to the story of Elizabeth Freeman who fought for and won her freedom in Massachusetts then create an art piece about what freedom means to you. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Thursday, February 19 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM: BOOK DISCUSSION

A discussion led by Christine Onodi-Engola of the books "Up From Slavery" by Booker T. Washington, "12 Years a Slave" by Solomon Northup, and "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" by Harriet Jacobs.

Friday, February 20 - 10:30am to 12:00pm

MANTRA INSECT SHADOW BOXES WITH POP-UP ART SCHOOL

Pop-Up Art School will teach kids ages 8 to 14 about the French muralist Mantra. Kids will then draw/paint their own realistic or imaginative insects and mount them in a paper shadow box. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by a caregiver. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council.

Saturday, February 21 - at the fire station - 11:00am to 12:00pm

DISCOVER THE FIRE STATION: A BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR

Families are invited to the Sturbridge Fire Department for a behind-the-scenes tour! We'll meet at the front entrance of the fire station at 11am; please arrive on time. Registration is required. This tour is designed for kids ages 3-12 and their adult caregiver.

Monday, February 23 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

FAMILY CRAFT TIME - PAPER SQUISHIES

Kids, ages 5 to 12, and their caregivers are invited to make their own squishy paper friends! Squishies can be decorations or fun toys. Making squishies is super fun and easy, and a great way to keep kids entertained.

Monday, February 23 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm

PUZZLE RACE & PIZZA

8 teams of 2 to 6 people (ages 12+) will be given the same 500 piece puzzle to finish in the allotted 1.5 hours. The first team to complete the puzzle wins! Pizza will be available starting at 6pm, and the Puzzle Race starts promptly at 6:30pm! One registration per team is required.

Monday, February 23 - VIRTUAL - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

(HOW TO AVOID) "DEATH IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK WITH AUTHOR RANDI MINETOR.

Randi, author of eight books, in the non-fiction "Death in the National Parks" series, explores the fatal mistakes people make when they venture into unfamiliar wilderness. This is a virtual program and registration is required.

Tuesday, February 24 - VIRTUAL - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

MATRIX PLANTING FOR HOME GARDENERS WITH DEBORAH CHUD

Matrix planting is naturalistic gardening in its purest form. This presentation provides a starting point. This is a virtual program and registration is required.

Thursday, February 26 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

LEGO CLUB

Come build with Legos. Suitable for kids ages 5 to 12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Thursday, February 26 - at the Publick House - 7:00pm to 8:30pm

EXPLORING MASSACHUSETTS PROPERTY RECORDS

This presentation introduces everyday researchers to the fascinating world of Massachusetts land records. Whether you're exploring genealogy or local history, land records can help piece together the past in a way few other sources can. This program is presented in collaboration with the Historical Society. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL unless otherwise indicated.

To register for programs and for more information go to sturbridgelibrary.org.