



March Newsletter



March 2026

sturbridgelibrary.org

508-347-2512



Program Highlights

ANNUAL BOSTON BRUINS PAJAMA DRIVE

Now through March 15

The JHPL is a drop-off location for the Boston Bruins Annual Pajama Drive. The Boston Bruins, Cradles to Crayons®, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and Wonderfund are partnering to rally communities in support of children in need across Massachusetts by encouraging donations of new pajamas. We are collecting brand new pajamas in all sizes, including adult. The most needed sizes for this season are 12-18 months, 18-24 months, and 18/20 (both boys and girls sizes). Feel free to bring pajamas to the library or make a monetary donation. You can also donate directly to Cradles to Crayons using the QR Code at the library.

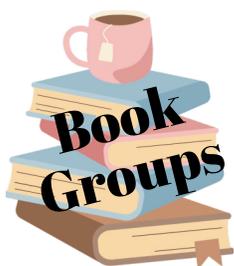


STEWING OVER MYSTERIES: TESS GERRITSEN

Wednesday, March 11 - 6:15pm to 8:30pm - at the Publick House



Join us for an evening where suspense simmers and stories unfold at Stewing Over Mysteries, hosted by the Friends of the JHPL at the historic Publick House in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. This special literary dinner event features bestselling author Tess Gerritsen, acclaimed for her gripping thrillers and the beloved Rizzoli & Isles series. Guests will enjoy a delicious meal while diving into the art of mystery writing with Tess Gerritsen. She will read from her latest book, share insights on her writing, and conclude with an audience Q&A. Tickets include a dinner of beef stew or vegetarian/gluten-free butternut squash bisque, rolls, coffee/tea and dessert. Prices: Ticket only - \$22; Ticket & Book Bundle - \$36 (save \$3); Book only - \$17. Tickets may be purchased online at sturbridgelibrary.org or at the library. Get your tickets soon! This event usually sells out.



AFTERNOON
BOOK GROUP

**Tuesday, March 10
at 1:00 pm**

This month's book is
"Sarah's Key" by Tatiana
de Rosney

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS
BOOK GROUP

**Wednesday, March 18
at 6:30 pm**

This month's book is
"Little Fires Everywhere"
by Celeste Ng

WORLD BUILDING
BOOK GROUP

**Tuesday, March 24
at 6:30pm**

This month's book is "The
Color of Magic" by Terry
Pratchett

Library Quote of the Month

A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it.

- William Styron, novelist (1925-2006)

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

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SPRING 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.



Wednesdays at 10:45am

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



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.

DROP IN TECH HELP

**Wednesdays
5:00pm to 7:00pm**

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



Saturday, February 28 - 10:30am to 4:30pm & Sunday, March 1 - 12:30pm to 4:00pm

FRIENDS OF THE JHPL MINI GOLF FUNDRAISER

Get ready to showcase your skills - join the fun at our INDOOR mini golf course! \$5 per person. \$20 max per group. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, March 2 through Friday, March 6 - All day

DROP-IN RAMADAN CRAFTS

Stop by the Children's Room anytime during the week for crafts focusing on Ramadan! For kids of all ages.

Wednesday, March 4 - 2:00pm to 3:30pm

WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE: LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

This project shines a light on the little-known stories of inspiring women of Concord, MA during the American Renaissance of the 1800's. This presentation focuses on Louisa May Alcott, author of Little Women, and a family dedicated to abolition, social reform, education for all, and a deep love for the humanities and the arts. Presented by Ellen Duzak. 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.

Wednesday, March 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.

Friday, March 6 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm - at the Sturbridge Senior Center
FILM SCREENING: THE M FACTOR 2, BEFORE THE PAUSE - PERIMENOPAUSE

Perimenopause can begin in a woman's mid-30s and last up to a decade, yet it remains widely underdiagnosed and misunderstood. This prequel to the M Factor focuses on perimenopause and aims to provide awareness, support, and solutions for thriving through it. There will be time for discussion and Q&A at the conclusion with Kelly Tull, WHNP-BC, CSC of the Venus Collective-Women's Health & Intimacy. Coffee & pastries will be provided. Registration is required.

Saturday, March 7 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

NEEDLE FELTED BOOKMARKS - rescheduled from 1/31/26

Discover the fun of needle felting in our Bookmark Workshop! By the end of the session, you'll take home your finished piece, a handmade reminder of the joy of creating something yourself. This event is full.

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

FAMILY CRAFT TIME: ORIGAMI BUTTERFLIES

Let's welcome March in with some colorful origami! Kids will follow along with simple origami folding techniques to make a rainbow array of butterflies. This program is intended for ages 7-12 with a caregiver. Registration is required.

Monday, March 9 - VIRTUAL - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

"VACATIONS CAN BE MURDER: THE MID ATLANTIC STATES" WITH TRUE CRIME AUTHOR DAWN M. BARLCLAY

This is a virtual event and registration is required. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library and is in partnership with a multitude of MA Libraries.

Tuesday, March 10 - AT THE CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

BOOK DISCUSSION: BURNED BY BILLIONAIRES

Join us for a special book discussion about "Burned by Billionaires" by Chuck Collins in advance of the author's visit in Charlton on Tuesday, March 31st. See the author talk for more information. Registration is appreciated.

Friends of the JHPL BOOK DONATION Drop-off Times

Friday, March 27 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Saturday, March 28 - 10:30am to 2:00pm

Tuesday, March 31 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm



Saturday, March 14 - 1:00pm to 2:30pm

SCULPT A DRAGON EYE WITH POP UP ART SCHOOL

Participants will design and sculpt their very own dragon eye using a glass eye and air dry clay to build realistic textures, and shimmering metallic paints to bring it to life. You will learn simple sculpting and painting techniques to add detail, depth, and personality to your mythical creation. If time allows, participants will also make a dragon egg. For ages 13 to 18. Registration is required.

Monday, March 16 - VIRTUAL - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

SHANNON MCKENNA SCHMIDT DISCUSSES "YOU CAN'T CATCH US" A STORY OF LADY BIRD JOHNSON

This is a virtual program and registration is required. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library and is in partnership with a multitude of MA Libraries.

Thursday, March 19 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

POKEMON CLUB

Young Pokémon fans, ages 5 to 12, and their caregivers are invited to join us for themed activities and fun! Kids can also bring their card collections to play the official TCG game or simply show off their favorites. Registration is required.

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

FAMILY CRAFT TIME: DRAGONFLY ORNAMENTS

Kids ages 5-12 are invited with their caregiver to come make their own dragonfly ornaments and decorate them with all sorts of glitz and glam. Registration is required.

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

AUTHOR MATTHEW ALGEO DISCUSSES "NEW YORK'S SECRET SUBWAY"

This is a virtual program and registration is required. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library and is in partnership with a multitude of MA Libraries.

Thursday, March 26 - 6:30pm to 7:45pm

YOUR TREE BEGINS HERE: LEARNING ANCESTRY.COM FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Getting Started with Ancestry.com: A Practical Introduction to Family History Research. This beginner-friendly session introduces you to the core features of Ancestry.com, including how to navigate your family tree, evaluate hints, and manage your research standards. Through live demonstrations and helpful tips, you'll learn how to confidently search, analyze, and organize genealogical information on one of the most widely used family history platforms.

Tuesday, March 31 - AT THE CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

AUTHOR TALK: CHUCK COLLINS - "BURNED BY BILLIONAIRES"

Chuck Collins is an American author and a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC, where he directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good. He is also co-founder of Wealth for Common Good. He is an expert on economic inequality in the US, and has pioneered efforts to bring together investors and business leaders to speak out publicly against corporate practices and economic policies that increase economic inequality. Registration is appreciated. In collaboration with: Charlton Public Library, Pearle L. Crawford Library in Dudley, Oxford Public Library, and Joshua Hyde Public Library in Sturbridge.

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

To register for programs go to sturbridgelibrary.org.



PEEPS DIORAMA CONTEST 2026

It's time to get crafty, Peeps lovers! Using a shoebox sized container, participants will create a diorama depicting a book, movie, TV show, or band featuring Peeps as the main characters! Let your imagination run wild and have fun with it!

To be a part of the fun, please fill out the entry form on our website. Drop off completed dioramas in the Children's Room between Sunday, March 22nd and Saturday, April 4th. Come vote on your favorite dioramas during the week of April 6th-11th. Winners will be announced by April 18th. The age categories are as follows: Children: ages 12 and under; Teens: ages 13 to 17; Adults: ages 18 and over; Family/group: a mix of ages.