



# April Newsletter



April 2026

sturbridgelibrary.org

508-347-2512



## Program Highlights

### PEEPS DIORAMA CONTEST March 22 through April 18

It's time to get crafty, Peeps lovers! Patrons of all ages are invited to participate in the Joshua Hyde Library's 2026 Peep Diorama Contest! The rules are simple: 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! The completed dioramas can be dropped off in the Children's Room anytime between **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**. No dioramas will be accepted after April 4th! The public can come and vote on their favorite dioramas during the week of **April 6<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>**. Winners for each category will be announced by **April 18<sup>th</sup>**. The age categories are as follows: children - ages 12 and under; teens - ages 13 to 17; adults - ages 18 and over; and family/group: a mix of ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.



### HONEY BEE SWARMS: BEES ON THE MOVE AND WHAT TO DO Thursday, April 16 at 6:30pm



Swarms are a healthy and natural part of the bee life cycle. This PowerPoint presentation will teach you what to do if you spot one, and how beekeepers can help. When honey bees outgrow their home half of them and their queen move on to a new one. It is nature's way of building new bee families. Honey bees are useful in pollinating more than half the food we eat, so who would not want more bees moving into their neighborhood? Honey bees need our help, so if you spot a swarm report it. A beekeeper can catch it, if it is not way up high out of reach, and give the bees a new home. David Wade is a 20 year beekeeper in Sturbridge and is a long time member, mentor, and newly elected board member with the Worcester County Beekeepers Association.



**AFTERNOON  
BOOK GROUP**  
**Tuesday, April 14**  
**at 1:00 pm**

This month's book is  
**"The River is Waiting"** by  
Wally Lamb

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS  
BOOK GROUP**  
**Wednesday, April 15**  
**at 6:30 pm**

This month's book is **"The  
Mighty Red"** by Louise  
Erdich

**WORLD BUILDING  
BOOK GROUP**  
**Tuesday, April 28**  
**at 6:30pm**

This month's book is  
**"Wool"** by High Howey

### Library Quote of the Month

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."

— Jorge Luis Borges



The library will be **CLOSED**  
Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> for Easter.

The library will be **CLOSED**  
Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> for Patriots Day.

**DONATION**

Friends of the JHPL  
**BOOK DONATIONS**

Tuesday, April 7 - 5:00pm to 7:30pm



Friends of the JHPL  
**BOOK SALE**

Saturday, April 11 - 10:00am to 3:00pm

**Sale!**

# April Newsletter

## 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.



## OPEN ON SUNDAYS

**12:00pm to 5:00pm**

Saturday, April 18 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm

### FAMILY NATURE WALK

Join the JHPL, conservation agent Lauren and community engagement coordinator Emma, for a family-friendly nature walk! We will meet at the Heins Farm parking lot before walking the Pond Loop. This 0.7 mile trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Registration is required.

Tuesday, April 21 - 3:00pm to 4:30pm

### CHAIN REACTIONS AND CREATIVE CONTRACTIONS

Playful Engineers is bringing STEAM-based fun to the JHPL this April vacation! Kids are invited to come play and experiment with a variety of materials to build their own Rube-Goldberg machines. This program is highly hands-on and encourages learning through play. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Thursday, April 23 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

### KIDS SPRING PAINT NIGHT: BLOSSOMING HYDRANGEAS

Kids ages 7-12 are invited for a fun and seasonal paint night! We will use a variety of methods to create a portrait of blooming hydrangeas. Registration is required.

Friday, April 24 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

### UPCYCLED ART FOR KIDS

Kids ages 6 to 12 can come and create works of art using recycled materials! We will provide the supplies, you bring the creativity. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. DONATIONS of clean, recycled items will be accepted in the Children's Room through April 13.

Saturday, April 25 - 11:00am to 11:45am

### BEGINNING BIRDING WITH HANDS ON NATURE

Come learn more about the local birds in your yard and how to start identifying them! Learn which birds are common in Massachusetts and easy ways to get started in the world of birding. We will also create two simple bird feeders to bring home and enjoy. Begin the easy journey to learn more about these beautiful creatures that are an essential part of our natural world. For ages 4 to 12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Monday, April 27 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

### FAMILY CRAFT TIME: FELT MONSTER DOLLS

Kids ages 7-12 and their caretakers are invited to create their own felt monster dolls using simple sewing techniques. Registration is required.

Tuesday, April 28 - 6:30 to 8:00pm

### COME AS YOU ARE: HOW SEXUAL DESIRE REALLY WORKS

Part 1 of 3 discussions of the book "Come as You Are: The Surprising New Science That Will Transform Your Sex Life" by Emily Nagoski, PhD. The topic of this discussion is How Sexual Desire Really Works. For anyone who has ever wondered if their desire is "normal". You can attend any or all of the 3 discussions. The discussions will take place upstairs at the Sturbridge Town Hall. Books are available at the JHPL, and downloadable as e-books or e-audio on Libby.

Thursday, April 30 - 6:30 to 8:00pm

### MUSHROOM BASICS & FORAGING

This presentation on mushrooms focuses on what they are, how they live, and why they're fascinating. Jonathan Kranz - MA Audubon Certified Field Naturalist and vice president of North America's oldest mushroom organization, the Boston Mycological Club - covers the basics of fungal life with insights on foraging for food and avoiding toxics. There will be a special emphasis on common mushrooms participants are likely to find in New England.

Wednesday, April 1 - 2:00pm to 3:30pm

### WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE: MARGARET FULLER

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 Margaret Fuller. 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, April 1 - 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.

Tuesday, April 7 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

### BUILD A BEAVER DAM

April 7 is International Beaver Day! To mark this momentous occasion, kids are invited to try their hands at building one of nature's wonders: a dam. Find out what it takes to be an industrious engineering beaver and why these animals are so important to their ecosystems. This program will be held outside, weather permitting. Registration is required. For children ages 5 to 12 with an adult caregiver.

Thursday, April 9 - Virtual - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

### IN CONVERSATION WITH ROMANCE AUTHOR & BASEBALL ENTHUSIAST, KD CASEY

This is a virtual program and registration is required. Just in time for Spring Training, we are thrilled to be chatting with MM romance author, KD Casey. Her most recent book, "Breakout Year", features some of our favorite tropes - fake relationships and second chance romance. We'll find out why KD is such a huge baseball fan, how she decided to feature this in her writing and all of the reasons why we should pick up her books. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library and is in partnership with a multitude of MA libraries.

Monday, April 13 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

### FAMILY CRAFT TIME: PIPE CLEARER CHERRY TREE

Kids and their grown-ups can bring home that pink cherry blossom vibe with this fun pipe-cleaner craft! This program is intended for ages 7-12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Thursday, April 16 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

### LEGO CLUB

Come build with Legos. For ages 5 to 12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

Thursday, April 16 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm

### HONEY BEE SWARMS: BEES ON THE MOVE & WHAT TO DO

See other side for more details.

To register for programs go to [sturbridgelibrary.org](http://sturbridgelibrary.org).

## SPRING - READ FOR TREATS

April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>

Kids will take a reading log home, fill it in and return it for a prize. Reading logs and more information are available in the Children's Room.

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