

# SSSPIL

engage - entertain - educate - empower



## PROGRAM GUIDE

July & August, 2026

### ART & MUSIC, & MOVIES

#### 📺 Film Screening: *In Balanchine's Classroom*

Wednesday, July 1 | 6-8:30 p.m. | Community Room  
Unearth the stories of Balanchine's *Serenade* and the 60th Anniversary of Balanchine's *Midsummer Night's Dream* performed during NYC Ballet's SPAC debut in 1966, with performances of both significant ballets this SPAC season! Explore images, letters and documents on loan from the Saratoga Room including items from our SPAC, Ballet and McKelvey collections. Cosponsored by The Dance Alliance. Register online.

#### Stitch & Sip at Canopy of Saratoga

Fridays, July 3 & August 7 | 10-11 a.m. | Canopy of Saratoga  
Join us the first Friday of each month in the café at Canopy of Saratoga for a friendly handcraft circle! Bring your current handcraft project (knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, etc) to work on and chat with others while they work on their own projects. Register online.

#### Handcraft Meet Up

Tuesdays, July 7 - August 25 | 12-1 p.m. | Online  
Join our informal online knitting and handcrafting meet-up. This online gathering is a perfect opportunity to knit, crochet, embroider, or do other handwork while chatting with others who are working on their own projects. There will be no instruction, but we welcome the opportunity to show and share our creations and help each other. New members welcome. Register online.

#### Song Swap with Jeff Walton

Mondays, July 20 & August 17 | 6:30-8:45 p.m. | Community Room  
Grab your favorite acoustic (or electric!) instrument, bring your love of music, and join us for an informal song swap led by local musician, Jeff Walton. Feel free to bring your own tunes to play and share. No registration.

### BOOK GROUPS & LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

#### 📖 Read with Pride

Thursdays, July 2\* & August 6 | 7-8 p.m. | Check Calendar for Locations  
Read with Pride is an ongoing reading group that meets the first Thursday of each month and reads fiction and nonfiction from the LGBTQ+ community. Register online. **\*We will be joined by the author virtually for the July 2 session.**

#### 📖 Read Against the Machine

Mondays, July 6 & August 3 | 7-8 p.m. | Computer Lab  
Read Against the Machine is an ongoing reading group that meets the first Monday of each month and focuses on non-fiction titles that examine social issues of all types. Register online.

#### 📖 Book Club is My Alibi

Wednesdays, July 8 & August 12 | 7-8 p.m. | Susman Room  
A book group for fans of true crime! Join us for a different book discussion each month. Please check our Events Calendar for titles. Register online.

#### Poetry Café

Thursdays, July 9 & August 13 | 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Online with Zoom  
Join this online librarian-led poetry discussion group! A handout of poems for discussion will be available at the information desk prior to the meeting, and will be emailed to registrants. Register online.

#### Her Story Book & Discussion Group

Thursdays, July 9 & August 13 | 6-7 p.m. | Glasby Room  
In this group, we'll explore the various experiences of women over time and across the globe. Topics may include the following: Mental Health, Women in Business, Women Across the Globe, Motherhood, and more. Register online.

#### 📄 Make It! Flights of Fancy Paper Collage

Thursday, July 23 | 1-4 p.m. | Community Room  
Design fantasy bird portraits by simply cutting and gluing decorative papers to create your unique artwork. Bird templates, colorful printed papers and a selection of nature images will be available to choose from. No experience necessary! Register online.

#### 🎵 Luzerne Music Center Faculty String Quartet

Tuesday, August 4 | 6:30-8 p.m. | Community Room  
Join us, unearth your love of music, and enjoy a wonderful opportunity to experience live chamber music and connect with professional musicians in an intimate setting. Luzerne Music Center's Faculty String Quartet is an ensemble of four renowned musicians who serve as faculty at Luzerne Music Center's summer camp in Lake Luzerne, NY. No registration. **All ages welcome!**

#### 📖 Digging into the Past: The Story of Victorian Clothing

Thursday, August 6 | 12-1 p.m. | Susman Room  
What can we learn from examining Victorian clothing? Librarian Caitlin brings her personal collection of original Victorian-era garments to the library and explains what we can learn from looking inside them. Seams, stitches, linings, tears, and stains all tell the story of the garment, its maker, and a bit about the person who wore it. Come get up close to the story! Register online.

#### 📄 Geode Cupcake Decorating for Adults

Monday, August 17 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room  
Join Tara Allen of Bash Parties as she walks us through creating our own geode cupcake masterpieces! Register online.



#### Better Off Read

Tuesdays, July 14 & August 11 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Susman Room  
Better Off Read meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. in the Susman Room. Join us for a monthly book discussion covering mostly mysteries but includes variety of genres. Check our website for titles. Register online.

#### 📖 Books & Tea Discussion Group

Thursdays, July 16 & August 20 | 3:30-4:45 p.m. | Susman Room  
Books and Tea is an ongoing reading group that meets the third Thursday of each month. Copies of each month's book selection may be obtained in the Reading Group Collection or by placing holds from the online public catalog. Register online.

#### Fables & Fantasies: A Romantasy Book Club

Tuesdays, July 21 & August 18 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Susman Room  
Fables & Fantasies is a new book discussion group focusing on the "Romantasy" genre - a mashup of romance and fantasy. Register online.

#### Summer Scares

Tuesday, August 4 | 3-5:30 p.m. | Bailey's Saratoga (37 Phila St.)  
Join Saratoga Springs Public Library and a panel of touring horror authors for a summer afternoon of dread, drinks, and new releases on the porch of Bailey's Café, next door to the library. Featured guests include authors C.J. Leede, Kyle Kouri, Christoph Paul, Leza Cantoral, and Michael J. Seidlinger. This event is part of the Horror Writers Association's Summer Scares program (a reading program from The Horror Writers Association (HWA), in partnership with Book Riot, Booklist, NovelList, and iREAD) and is sponsored by Bailey's Café and the Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Register online.

# COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

## Apple for Everyone

Tuesdays, July 7 - August 25 | 9:30-11 a.m. | Computer Lab or Online

Apple for Everyone is a hybrid all-things-Apple chat group, where you can bring your device, app, or software questions to get some answers. Register online.

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## IntenSati

Mondays, July 6 & August 6 | 4-5 p.m. | H. Dutcher Community Room

IntenSati is a high energy workout combining music, mantras, and movement to inspire a growth mindset and body positivity. This practice is designed to help participants become more mindful of their thoughts. Whether you feel like working at a low impact level or your highest energy level, this practice is for you. Register online.

## Medicare Education for Seniors

Saturday, July 18 | 10-11 a.m. | Susman Room

Are you approaching Medicare eligibility or helping a loved one navigate their options? Join us for a free, no-pressure seminar designed to provide clear, accurate, and practical information about Medicare. No registration.

# LITERACY & LANGUAGES

## Learn English: Read a Book

To Kill A Mockingbird: Wednesdays, July 1 - August 19 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Charlotte's Web: Thursdays, June 25 - July 23 | 4-6 p.m. | Literacy Lab

An enjoyable way to learn English is to read a book in this new language: one that is not too difficult. Join a teacher who will, over weeks, guide this reading group through *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee or *Charlotte's Web* by E.B.White. There will be some brief writing exercises, and you will engage in discussions with other English learners. Register online.

## Beginning English Language Learning

Mondays, July 20 - August 24 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Literacy Lab

Mondays, July 20 - August 24 | 3-4:30 p.m. | Online (register online)

This class is for both beginning and intermediate level English speakers, whether you know few English words, or are becoming more fluent. We will work together to improve English comprehension, reading, writing and speaking. Attending all classes will help you progress faster. Register online.

## English Conversation Circle

Thursdays, July 2 - August 13 | 10:30-11:15 a.m. | Literacy Lab

Do you want to practice speaking English with others? Join this weekly English Conversation Circle, led by one of our experienced library literacy volunteers. Students help pick the topic of discussion. The focus is on speaking, gaining English fluency, and participating in a learning community! Register online.

## Intermediate English Language Learning

Tuesdays, July 21 - August 25 | 5:15-6:45 p.m. | Literacy Lab

If you feel confident in using some basic English phrases, join with others to increase your English comprehension and fluency! Learn through listening, reading, writing, conversation and some fun interactive projects. This class is offered both online and in person. Register online.

# LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

## Horseracing Wrongs

Wednesday, July 15 | 6-7 p.m. | Community Room

Tuesday, July 28 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Susman Room

Join us for a presentation that offers a critical examination of the American horseracing industry and the ethical concerns surrounding the sport. Through a non-graphic visual presentation, attendees will explore perspectives that are often overlooked amid the popularity and tradition of horseracing in Saratoga Springs. Register online.

## We The People: America 250 Edition

Thursday, July 16 | 7-8 p.m. | Community Room

In observance of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, join us for a Declaration-focused edition of We The People. Skidmore Professor Beau Breslin will give us a primer on the promises of the Declaration and where they stand today, and then answer your questions about our government and political systems to help you become a more informed and engaged citizen. Register online.

## Excavating Revolution: Archaeological Research at the Lake George Battlefield

Wednesday, July 22 | 7-8:30 p.m. | H. Dutcher Community Room

Join historical archaeologist and Skidmore professor, Siobhan Hart, Ph.D. as she describes the findings of recent archaeology in the Lake George Battlefield Park and discusses what has been learned from the material culture recovered. Register online.

## Unearthing Their Stories:

### Honoring the 44 Forgotten Soldiers of the Revolution

Monday, July 27 | 7-8 p.m. | Community Room

Local residents and volunteers Kerry Nelson and Larry Handy—whose efforts helped uncover the 44 soldiers during the remarkable 2019 excavation overlooking Lake George—will share their firsthand experiences and insights. Discover what this extraordinary rediscovery reveals about the Patriots who fought to build a new nation. Register online.

## Blood on the Clocktower

Beginner Friendly: Tuesdays, July 28 & August 25 | 6-8 p.m.

Advanced Game: Wednesdays, July 8 & August 12 | 6-8 p.m.

Community Room

Join us for a game or two of Blood on the Clocktower! "Blood on the Clocktower is a game of murder and mystery, lies and logic, deduction and deception for five-to-twenty courageous players and one devious storyteller." Register online.

## Bagels & Barks

Fridays, July 31 & August 28 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room

Stop in for a bite to eat and meet and greet with several therapy dogs and their owners. No registration. **All ages welcome!**

# TRAVEL & THE GREAT OUTDOORS

## Please Go Away! Planning Your Vacation Online

Wednesday, July 15 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Computer Lab

Ready to plan your next travel adventure? Join librarian and avid traveler Rhona Koretzky on an interactive tour through the new world of travel. We will explore planning your trip your way whether it be by land, sea or air. Discuss the latest information about traveling safely. Come with your ideas for a trip you are planning or travel from your armchair. Let's get out there! Register online.

## Aquatic Invasive Species

Monday, August 24 | 6-7:30 p.m. | Community Room

The Capital Region PRISM presents Aquatic Invasive Species: Threats to our waterways and how to stop them. Topics covered will include an introduction to invasive species and their characteristics, common aquatic invaders in Saratoga and how to identify them, new/emerging invasive species, and a basic overview of management strategies. No registration.



Adults can participate in Summer Reading 2026 by picking up a BINGO card at the Information Desk.



These programs were inspired by our 2026 Summer Reading Program, "Unearth A Story."

# On the Road



## On the Road with SSPL Mobile Outreach

We're taking the library to YOU! Check out and return items, sign up for a library card, learn how to download e-books, enjoy family activities, and more! Scan the QR Code for information.

## SSPL Visits the S. Johnson Recreation Center

Wednesdays, July 1 - Aug. 26 | 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | S. Johnson Rec. Park

## SSPL Visits West Side Recreation Center

Wednesdays, July 1 - Aug. 26 | 12:30-1:30 p.m. | West Side Rec. Center

## SSPL Visits the Greenfield Farmers' Market

Thursdays, July 2 - Sept. 10 | 4-7 p.m. | Greenfield Farmers' Market

## SSPL Visits Loudon Oaks

Fridays, July 3 - Aug. 28 | 12:45- 1:15 p.m. | Loudon Oaks

# Get Creative!

at the  
Greenfield  
Senior Center

Thursdays, July 9 & Aug. 13 | 12-1 p.m.

## SSPL Visits Pyramid Pines

Fridays, July 3 - Aug. 28 | 1:30-2 p.m. | Pyramid Pines

## SSPL Visits the Town of Greenfield Historical Society Car Show

Saturday, July 11 | 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Middle Grove Town Park

## SSPL Visits the Saratoga Farmers' Market

Saturdays, July 18, August 1 & 15 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | High Rock Park

## SSPL Visits Caboose Day in Greenfield Center

Saturday, August 8 | 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | King's Station - Greenfield Center

## PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

### Teen Crafternoons and Take-and-Make Craft Kits

Multiple Dates, Times, & Locations | Visit [www.sspl.org](http://www.sspl.org)

We've got lots to keep your hands busy and your creative juices flowing this spring. Visit our online Events Calendar at [www.sspl.org](http://www.sspl.org).

### Red Cross Babysitting Course

Tuesday, July 7 | 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. | Community Room

Earn a Red Cross Babysitting Certificate! Join our teen librarian, AnnaRae for this certified First Aid/CPR/AED American Red Cross course for babysitting and child care training. Learn new skills and gain valuable information designed to help you provide safe, high-quality care when babysitting. For residents of the Saratoga Springs City School District only. Register online.

For more information about The Teen Room and Teen programming at SSPL, please scan the QR Code.



### Teen Sip & Paint

Wednesday, July 22 | 2-3 p.m. | Teen Room

Teens in grades 7-12, stop by the Teen Room to sip on sparkling drinks and create your own custom painted glass cup with straw. Hang out and get creative! No registration.

### First Aid/CPR/AED Course for Teens

Tuesday, August 11 | 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Community Room

Join our Teen Librarian, AnnaRae, for this American Red Cross-certified First Aid/CPR/AED course and earn a 2-year certification in adult and pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED skills. This course teaches students how to recognize and handle first aid, breathing, and heart-related emergencies for people of all ages. For residents of the Saratoga Springs City School District only. Register online.

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND FAMILIES

### Build and Play

Wednesday, July 1 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Kids entering grades K-6 are invited to drop in anytime between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. to build with the library's LEGOs, KEVA planks, Magna Tiles, marble run set, blocks, and more. Try a suggested building challenge or let your imagination take the lead and create whatever you like! No registration.

### Dinosaur Hunter Safari

Monday, July 6 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Who LOVES Dinosaurs?! Professor Livingpebble does! A quasi-educational, wholly hilarious plunge into paleontology. Embark on a Dino-dig with the zany Professor Livingpebble to dig deeper into your library than ever before, and have an encounter with a LIFE-SIZED Velociraptor! Ages 4+ Kids encouraged to attend in Safari or Dino-Dig attire! No registration.

### Meet and Greet with Saratoga's Mounted Patrol Horses

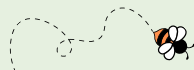
Tuesday, July 7 | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Henry St. Entrance

Come to the grassy area at the Henry Street side of the library and line up to meet Saratoga's Mounted Patrol horses and their handlers. You may ask questions and pet the horses. For all ages. No registration

### Local Beekeeping

Wednesday, July 8 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room

Children entering grades 1-5 are invited to join Elizabeth Warner from Betterbee as she describes the basics of beekeeping and demonstrates the equipment needed. She will be bringing a safely enclosed hive for you to observe! No registration.



### Kindergarten Camp

Friday, July 10 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Community Room

Tuesdays, August 4 & 18 | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Community Room

Future kindergartners, get ready for your new classroom by practicing everyday skills! Recommended for kids starting kindergarten in the fall, and their families. There will be a 'lunch' table for snacks brought from home, and juice provided. No registration.

### Family Movie Mondays

Mondays, July 13, 27 & August 3, 10, 24, 31 | 10 a.m. | Community Room

You're invited to a matinee showing of some of our favorite kids' films! Feel free to bring blankets for comfy floor seating. Open to children and their families. Please check our Events Calendars for film titles. No registration.

### Jurassic Park Origami

Tuesday, July 14 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room

Kids in grades 4-8, join us to make Jurassic Park themed origami. Learn to fold dinosaurs featured in the movies, while listening to the Jurassic Park soundtrack. Register online.

### Preschool Story Play

Fridays, July 17 & August 28 | 10:30-11 a.m. | Check Calendar for Locations

Kids ages 3-5 with a caregiver, join us for a story time full of movement and play! We will read the first part of a story together, then kids will act out the rest! Narrative play is essential to childhood development and early literacy. It builds vocabulary, communication, imagination, critical thinking, and social emotional skills. No registration

### Paint a Ceramic Dinosaur

Monday, July 20 | 12-1 p.m. | Community Room

Kids entering grades K-6, join us to paint a miniature ceramic dinosaur. Use acrylic paints and paint brushes and/or acrylic paint markers. Register online.

# HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND FAMILIES

## Unearthing Rocks and Fossils

Tuesday, July 21 | 3-4 p.m. | Children's Room

Kids grades K-6, explore some of the basics of geology. Learn about sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks and how they form. Become a geologist and paleontologist and leave the library with the beginnings of a rock collection, including bits of fossils. Presented by naturalist George Steele. Register online.

## Dinosaur Tea Party

Wednesday, July 22 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Community Room

Kids ages 3 up to grade 3 with a caregiver, join us for a Dinosaur Tea Party! Dress up in your fanciest princess or dinosaur outfit and enjoy juice and snacks in flowery tea cups and plates. Plus, hear some dinosaur stories and make some dinosaur crafts! A dinosaur may even be in attendance. Register online.

## Nature Journaling for Kids

Friday, July 24 | 10:30-11:15 a.m. | Community Room

Kids will make/assemble their journal and decorate it and then go to different activity stations themed around the nature of upstate New York to learn and practice making and recording observations. For children entering grades 1-6 with an adult. No registration.

## Stories in Sound

Monday, July 27 - Wednesday, July 29 | 2-2:30 p.m. | Community Room

Join us for an arts education program that teaches students how music can be connected with stories, and how they can create their own stories using music. Open to children in grades K-6. Register each child online. This program was made possible through the Saratoga ARTS Community Arts Re-grant Program, funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

## Minecraft Monday

Mondays, July 27 | 4-6 p.m. | Computer Lab

Kids entering grades 4-8, join us in the computer lab for a special summer edition of Minecraft Monday. We will spend two hours building a theme park in creative mode. Create roller coasters, pools, an aquarium, zoo exhibits, concessions stands, or whatever else you can imagine. Register online.

## Story Time Theater

Wednesday, July 29 | 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Join us for a special performance by our teen volunteers as they re-enact popular picture books. This program is for children ages 3 and up to grade 3. No registration.

## SSPL Visits the Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, July 29 & Aug. | 3-6 p.m. | High Rock Park

Visit the Saratoga Farmers' Market at High Rock Park and make a craft with a Children's Librarian. No registration.

## Make a Dragon Egg

Tuesday, August 4 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room

Kids and tweens in grades 4-8, join us to make a bejeweled dinosaur egg using foil, air dry clay, and assorted gems, and beads. Register online.

## The Whalemobile

Wednesday, August 5 | Multiple Times | Community Room

Grades K-6, join us to visit the Whalemobile, a life-sized inflatable humpback whale. Once participants walk into the whale through a slit on the side and sit on the floor, whale expert Cynde McInnis discusses whale anatomy, conservation and the amazing, unexpected ways they connect to our daily lives. Register online.

## Dinosaur Terrariums

Monday, August 10 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room

Grades K-6, join us to make mason jar terrariums featuring rocks, moss, and dinosaurs! Register online.

## Dinosaur Sensory Craft & Play

Wednesday, August 12 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Community Room

Kids ages 3 up to grade 3, join us to get messy while we enjoy dinosaur themed sensory crafts and activities. No registration.

## Intro to Embroidery: Mountain Sunset

Monday, August 17 | 3-4:30 p.m. | Susman Room

Kids entering grades 4-8, join us to learn some basic embroidery techniques and make an embroidered mountain scene. Learn the back stitch, satin stitch, and running stitch. Register online.

## The Tang Museum presents

### Spectacular Statum: The Art of Layering

Wednesday, August 19 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room

The Tang Teaching Museum's Summer Reading art project is inspired by Spectacular Statum, by mixed media painter, Joan Snyder, and Paul Lewing, a landscape painter. Participants will be able to create their own sand art landscapes using glass jars and colorful sand, or mixed media clay collages using beans, seeds and beads. For children in grades K-6, accompanied by an adult. Register online.

### Crunch the Shy Dinosaur: Presented by WMHT PBS Kids

Friday, August 21 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room

Kids ages 3 up to grade 2, join us to watch *Crunch the Shy Dinosaur* by Cirocco Dunlap on screen and then make a dinosaur craft. Each participant receives the book to take home. This program is limited to 25 participants. Please register online.

### Pokémon Club @SSPL Launch Party

Friday, August 21 | 2-3 p.m. | Community Room

Calling all trainers in grades K-6! We are starting an official Pokémon Club with this open party: whether you play the games, collect the cards or watch the show, stop by to have fun with fellow fans. Open to children and their families. No registration. This program was made possible through the American Library Association's partnership with The Pokémon Company International.

### Revolutionary Eats for Kids

Monday, August 24 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room

Kids grades K-6, you may know the facts of the American Revolution like battles and famous figures, but do you know how everyday citizens survived this turbulent time? Educators from the Schenectady County Historical Society discuss home life during the Revolutionary War, focusing on the foodways that sustained the fight for freedom. Participants will churn butter and sample period-appropriate recipes. Register online.

### End of Summer Reading Party!

Tuesday, August 25 | 2:30-4 p.m. | High Rock Park

Kids and families are invited to meet us at High Rock Park for a grand party to celebrate the end of summer reading. The Utica Zoo is bringing their ZooMobile to say hello (2:30 - 3:30 p.m.), Jani Poppins is bringing her bubble truck and Ben and Jerry's will be scooping some ice cream. Librarians and teen volunteers will add some other fun activities. Register online. Some activities may have limited availability.



Jani Poppins  
Bubble Parties



Summer Reading runs June 19 - August 31

Scan the QR Code to register online,  
or stop by Children's Room at the library.

Kids and teens get a free book just for registering!



Scan the QR Code for our Events Calendar  
and more information on the following offerings:

- Story Times
- Take-Home Craft Kits
- Paws4Reading
- Drop-In Crafts



FOR MORE PROGRAMS & RESOURCES,  
VISIT [WWW.SSPL.ORG](http://WWW.SSPL.ORG) OR FOLLOW US

