

SSPL

engage - entertain - educate - empower



PROGRAM GUIDE November & December, 2026

ART & MUSIC & MOVIES

Stitch & Sip at Canopy of Saratoga

Fridays, Nov. 6 & Dec. 4 | 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) and chat with others while they work on their own projects. Register online.

Handcraft Meet Up

Tuesdays, Nov. 10 - Dec. 15 | 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.

La Traviata with Tom Denny

Monday, Nov. 23 | 12-1 p.m. | Community Room

Tom Denny, retired Skidmore professor and music department chair, will lead this educational presentation on Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*. Opera Saratoga will be performing *La Traviata* at Universal Preservation Hall on December 4. Register online.

Song Swap with Jeff Walton

Mondays, Nov. 23 & Dec. 21 | 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.



Make it! Adult Crafting Series

Recycled Decoupage Ornament: Thurs., Dec. 3 | 2-4 p.m. | Community Room
Paper Quilled Ornament: Friday, Dec. 11 | 2-4 p.m. | Community Room
Celebrate the season with a couple of beautiful holiday ornaments. Make it a gift or keep one for yourself. Space is limited. No experience necessary. Register online.

Make it Sew: Reusable Gift Bags

Friday, December 4 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Go green this holiday season by replacing your paper gift wrap with reusable fabric gift bags. We'll show you how to make them in this class for sewing beginners! Fabric in non-denominational winter prints will be provided, but feel free to bring a yard of a woven cotton print of your choice. Space is limited. Register online.

Jane Austen Birthday Movie Night

Tuesday, December 15 | 6:30-8:45 p.m. | Community Room

Take a break from the holiday hustle to slow down and celebrate Jane Austen's birthday with some cake and a movie. Light refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome to wear Austen-inspired outfits and bring a handcraft to work on during the movie if they wish. The movie will be chosen by popular vote at the beginning of the program! No registration.

Winter Solstice Sing with Chelsie Henderson

Friday, December 18 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Community Room

Gather with your community to honor the dark through song, led by songleader and multi-instrumentalist Chelsie Henderson. Participants will be invited to sing simple melodies centered on themes of peace, resilience and the power of kindness. No musical experience is necessary! Register online.



BOOK GROUPS & LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

Read Against the Machine

Mondays, Nov. 2 & Dec. 7 | 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.

Read with Pride

Thursdays, Nov. 5 & Dec. 10 | 7-8 p.m. | Susman Room

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.

Better Off Read

Tuesdays, Nov. 10 & Dec. 8 | 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.

Poetry Café

Thursdays, Nov. 12 & Dec. 10 | 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, Nov. 12 & Dec. 10 | 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.

Fables & Fantasies: A Romantasy Book Club

Tuesdays, Nov. 17 & Dec. 15 | 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.

Book Club is My Alibi

Wednesdays, Nov. 18 & Dec. 9 | 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 or guest speakers/authors. Register online.

Books & Tea Discussion Group

Thursdays, Nov. 19 & Dec. 17 | 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.

Book Talk & Bagels: *The Shady Side of Saratoga* with Author, Richard Cobello

Saturday, November 28 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room

Author Rick Cobello will join us to discuss his debut novel, *The Shady Side of Saratoga*. Enjoy a bagel, meet the author, and hear more about the story behind his new book. Register online.

Scan the QR Code for Book Group Titles
and the ability to register.



COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Senior Planet Classes from AARP

Multiple Dates & Times | Please Check Events Calendar
Saratoga Springs is offering multiple opportunities for seniors to become more acquainted with technology through classes that cover everything from online shopping to using Zoom, and LOTS more! Don't miss out on these programs. Register online.

Apple for Everyone

Tuesdays, Nov. 3 - Dec. 29 | 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.

Savvy Shopping for the Holidays

Monday, Nov. 16 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room
Get ready for the holiday shopping season with confidence in this practical and timely program led by Kim Maercklein from the New York State Division of Consumer Protection. Savvy Shopping will help you spot deceptive deals, avoid common retail scams, and make smart purchasing decisions both online and in stores. Register online.



Digital and Downloadable Offerings

Library resources aren't just books and movies. Try our language learning tools like Mango and ABC Mouse to improve literacy or pick up a new language. Find ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and comics to download through our available services like SALON, Libby, Hoopla, and Comics Plus. Instantly download and stream movies, television shows, documentaries, and instructional programs with Hoopla and Kanopy. All of these services are FREE! Just visit www.sspl.org or scan the QR Code here for a direct link.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

IntenSati

Mondays, Nov. 2 & Dec. 7 | 4-5 p.m. | H. Dutcher Community Room
Combines a high-energy workout with the power of positive thinking. Register online.

Yoga for Healthy Aging with Jael Polnac

Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9, & 16 | 12-1 p.m. | Community Room
In this three class series, we will practice a different yoga sequence each week, all with the goal of promoting healthy aging. Classes may include bone health poses to increase bone density and muscle mass, yin yoga poses to lengthen our connective tissues and improve flexibility, balancing poses to improve physical stability, and restorative poses to calm our nervous systems and reduce stress. Bring a yoga mat, if you have one. Register online.

LITERACY & LANGUAGES

Beginning English Language Learning

Mondays, Nov. 6 - Dec. 14 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Literacy Lab
Mondays, Nov. 6 - Dec. 14 | 3-4:30 p.m. | 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.

Intermediate English Language Learning

Tuesdays, Nov. 3 - Dec. 15 | 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.

English Conversation Class (In-Person or Online)

Wednesdays, Nov. 4 - Dec. 16 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Literacy Lab
This class is for English learners who are improving, and have some English fluency. The experienced instructor will lead the participants in discussions and introduce new vocabulary, grammar, and idioms, according to student interest. Register online.

English Conversation Circle

Thursdays, Nov. 5 - Dec. 17* | 10-11:15 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! *No class on Nov. 26. Register online.



LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

Escape Room: Downtime for Adults

Mondays, Nov. 2 - 23 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Teen Room
Adults of all abilities are welcome in the Teen Room only during our specially scheduled time. Enjoy gaming, board games, puzzles, coloring, and the sensory cart, and relax socially with other adults. No minors will be in the space during the adults-only hours. No registration.

Blood on the Clocktower

Beginner Friendly: Tuesdays, Nov. 3 & Dec. 1 | 6:15-8:30 p.m.
Advanced Game: Wednesday, Dec. 2 | 6:15-8:30 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.

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

Thursdays, Nov. 12 & Dec. 10 | 12-1 p.m. | Community Room or Online
This monthly local history educational seminar is a partnership with the Saratoga Heritage Area Visitor Center. In November, our program is Veterans and Community Housing Coalition, and "Forever," and Chestwood: A Portrait of Saratoga through the Lives and Legacy of a Victorian Farmhouse in December. Register online to attend in-person or online.

Move with Confidence: Upsizing, Downsizing, and Timing Your Transition

Friday, November 13 | 3-4:30 p.m. | Community Room
Join Kathy Schechner, Licensed Real Estate Salesperson for an interactive seminar designed to help you navigate your next real estate move with confidence. Learn how to look beyond online home estimates, understand local market trends, and determine when and how to make your move. Register online.

LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

Mah Jongg Practice

Tuesdays, Nov. 17 & Dec. 1 | 9:30-11 a.m. | Community Room

Come practice your Mah Jongg skills by playing here at the library! All experience levels are welcome to join in on the fun. Our instructor, Rhona, will also be there for reminders and any questions. We will be focusing on American Mah Jongg, and Mah Jongg sets will be provided. Register online.

The Cozy Hour: Sip & Share

Wednesday, Nov. 18 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Community Room

Stop by the library for tea, a sweet treat, and an easygoing hour to spend your way. Try a simple craft, bring a book or project, chat with others, or enjoy a quiet moment. Crafts will be provided, and you're welcome to join in as much or as little as you like. Come when you can and stay for as long as you'd like. TLDR: Choose any activity, bring your own, or just enjoy being here. Conversation is welcome but never required. No registration.

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.

Please Note: The Mobile Library will not visit when the library is closed or open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. for certain holidays.

TRAVEL & THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Bird Rockstars: The Wild World of Bird Courtship

Wednesday, November 4 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Community Room

Did you know birds can clap, backflip, tango, and inflate themselves? That some build 14 different nests so their mate can choose the one they like best? That some attract a mate using their armpits? Join us for a lively look at bird courtship as Dr. Samantha Carouso Peck describes the weird and wild behaviors of birds from around the world when trying to attract mates, sometimes going so far as to risk their lives in pursuit of love. Register online.

Money Talks: What's Your Number?

Monday, Nov. 30 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Susman Room

Understanding the basics can change your financial future. Are you wondering how to save for retirement, your children's education, a first home—or maybe even that vacation home you've always dreamed about? In this seminar, we'll introduce some of the fundamental concepts of personal finance and help you better understand how money works—and how to get more of your money working for you. Register online.

Repair Café

Saturday, December 5 | 1-4 p.m. | Community Room

Toss it? No way! Bring an item that needs repair and work with a Repair Café coach to fix it. Saratoga Springs Public Library and Sustainable Saratoga are excited to host our 17th Repair Café at the library. We will have coaches available to help you fix your lamps, small appliances, computers, leather, jewelry, or sew/hem your favorite item of clothing or beloved stuffed animal. NEW in 2026: The Library's Archivist will teach you the essentials of caring for family collections, including preservation techniques, minor repairs, and rehousing solutions.



Greenfield Community Center

Mondays, November 2, 2026 - April 26, 2027

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Saratoga Farmers' Market - Wilton Mall

Saturdays, November 14, 2026 - April 24, 2027

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



Please Go Away! Planning Your Vacation Online

Wednesday, November 18 | 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.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Teen Crafternoons and Take-and-Make Craft Kits

Multiple Dates, Times, & Locations | Visit 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.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons

Saturdays, Nov. 7 & 21 | 1:30-3:30 p.m. | Teen Room

Calling all adventurers in grades 7-12! Join us in the Teen Room for our D&D campaign. Space is limited. Register online.

Teen Advisory Board Meetings

Mondays, Nov. 9 & 30 | 7-8 p.m. | Check Calendar for Locations

Calling all teens entering grades 7-12! This is your chance to make the Teen Room YOUR space, and earn community service while doing it! Join us if you're a teen interested in having your voice heard. Register online.

Paws & Chill with Sophie, The Golden Retriever

Tuesdays, Nov. 17 & Dec. 8 | 3:30-4:30 p.m. | Teen Room

Need a break from homework and life? Come hang out with Sophie the Golden Retriever in the Teen Room! She'll be there for snuggles, pets, and unlimited cuteness. Just bring yourself (and maybe your stress, she'll help with that). No registration.

Gingerbread Workshop for Teens

Monday, December 7 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Teens in grades 7-12 may sign up to build a Gingerbread House. Please bring a cube tissue box to use as the base. Register online.

Teen Winter Hangout

Monday, December 21 | 6-8 p.m. | Susman & Crawshaw Story Rooms

Join teen librarian AnnaRae and the Teen Advisory Board for a cozy winter night! Enjoy a hot chocolate bar, tasty snacks, a movie, and more. Wear your coziest pajamas and come warm up with us! No registration.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

Tuesday, December 29 | 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. | H. Dutcher 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. Register online.

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



HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES

Minecraft Mondays

Monday, Nov. 2 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Computer Lab

Kids in grades 4-8, join us in the computer lab for Minecraft Monday! We will come back to the same creative world at each Minecraft Monday meeting in September - December, so that we can work together to build a detailed and expansive world. Join us for any or all sessions. Register online.

The Bookmark Bunch

Wednesday, Nov. 4 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Beginning readers discover a new chapter book series every month at the Bookmark Bunch. This program is for kids in grades K-4. Register online.

Meet & Greet with a Sheep

Wednesday, Nov. 4 | 5:30-6 p.m. | Susman Room

All ages are invited to join us for an informal meet and greet with a sheep. Farmer Sylvia Franke will be on hand to introduce families to our sheep visitor and answer any questions they may have. Register online.

Puppet Story Time with The Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs

Saturday, Nov. 7 | 10:30-11 a.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Join the Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs for a show with puppets and gentle narration; for young children and families.

No registration

Pokémon Club

Saturday, November 7 | 3-4 p.m.

Tuesdays, Nov. 24 & Dec. 22 | 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Crawshaw Story Room

Trainers in grades K-6, join us for a session of Pokémon card gameplay and other Pokémon-themed activities. Card game players of all skill levels are welcome. No registration.

Homeschool Hang: Optical Illusions

Monday, Nov. 9 | 2-3 p.m. | Community Room

Homeschooling families with kids in grades K-6, come hang out and talk about optical illusions! View some classic optical illusions together then make our own optical illusion toys. Register online.

The STEAM Scene: Craft Stick Cars

Tuesday, Nov. 10 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Community Room

Kids and teens in grades K-12, join us at the STEAM scene. Have fun and make connections in a welcoming and inclusive environment. This month, we will be making cars that roll out of plastic wheels, dowels, straws, and craft sticks. Crafting materials like modeling clay, pipe cleaners, and gems will also be available to make your car look cool. No registration.

Library Goes to Town

Fridays, Nov. 13 & Dec. 11 | Check Calendar for Times & Locations

Join our Children's Librarian, Kristine, as she travels around Saratoga Springs with a super fun story time. In November we'll visit Universal Preservation Hall and the Spa State Park's Creekside Classroom in December. Story time is intended for children ages 2-5 but siblings are welcome with accompanying adult. Register online.

Mario Kart Meetup

Fridays, Nov. 13 & 20 | 4-5 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Racers in grades K-6: drive on down to our Story Room to race a cup of Mario Kart! Meet up with your friends, or meet new friends while you're here. No registration.

Love Yourself More

Saturday, November 14 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room

Heather Schwartz is an improviser, singer, and children's book author. She will be sharing a silly, interactive show full of songs and stories demonstrating strategies kids can use to show themselves care and compassion—such as holding boundaries, using their voice, paying attention to their own moods, and giving themselves grace for mistakes. No registration.

Sensory Play

Tuesday, November 17 | 4-5 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Kids age 3 up to grade 6, join us after school for a calming sensory experience. Circulate between sensory stations including sensory bins, play dough, kinetic sand, and LEGOs in a room with sensory lighting and soft music. Register online.

Chess Club

Wednesdays, Nov. 18 & Dec. 2 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Children's Room

Kids in grades 2 and up are invited to join the Chess Club. Beginners are welcome. Librarians and volunteers will be on hand to help with skill-building. Register online.



Dinosaur Picnic: Presented by WMHT PBS Kids

Saturday, November 21 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Community Room

Kids ages 3 up to grade 2, join us to watch *Dinosaur Picnic* on screen and then make dinosaur crafts. Each participant receives the book to take home. This program is limited to 25 participants. Register online.

Gingerbread House Workshops

Multiple Dates & Times (check online calendar) | Crawshaw Story Room

Children in Kindergarten through 6th grade may sign up to build a Gingerbread House. Each child may bring one accompanying adult helper. Registration is limited to Saratoga Springs City School District residents ONLY. Please bring a cube tissue box to use as the base. Register online.

Saratoga Springs Youth Ballet presents The Nutcracker

Sunday, December 13 | 1-2 p.m. | Community Room

Join Saratoga Springs Youth Ballet for a 30-minute movement class in which participants will learn age-appropriate choreography from *The Nutcracker*, followed by a 30 minute live performance from *The Nutcracker Suite* along with a reading of *The Nutcracker Story*. Register online.

Tween Graphic Novel Book Club: Next Stop

Tuesday, December 15 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Susman Room

Twins in grades 4-8, join us to read and discuss graphic novels, do related activities, and have snacks. At our December meeting, we will discuss *Next Stop* by Debbie Fong. Each tween will receive their own copy of the book to keep. Register online.



Parachute Play

Monday, December 21 | 10:30-11 a.m. | Community Room

Children age 3 and up to grade 3, with an accompanying caregiver, are invited to join us for some cooperative parachute games and songs. Let's play! Register online.

Pancake Pig Party

Monday, December 28 | 10:30-11 a.m. | Community Room

Join us for a party with the star of Laura Numeroff's *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*. Listen to a story, enjoy and activity and have your photo taken with the Pancake Pig. For children and families. No registration.

Paint Your Own Mini Ceramic Bank

Monday, December 28 | 2-3 p.m. | Community Room

Kids in grades K-6, join us to paint your own mini ceramic bank! Use acrylic paints and paint brushes and/or acrylic paint markers. There are several shapes of bank to choose from, and will be available first come, first served. No registration.

Intro to Embroidery: Snowflake

Wednesday, December 30 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Susman Room

Kids and teens in grades 4-8, join us to learn some basic embroidery techniques and make an embroidered snowflake. Register online.

Fairy Dance Party

Wednesday, December 30 | 2-3 p.m. | Community Room

Kids age 3 to grade 3 are invited to dance with some special guest instructors from Pixie Hollow! After dancing there will be time to meet and take pictures with the fairies -- costumes are welcome, given they don't hinder movement. No registration.

Baby Rave: Goodbye 2026!

Thursday, December 31 | 9:30-10:15 a.m. | Community Room

Lights! Music! Dance! Bring your little one (ages 0-18 months) for a fun session of glowing toys and EDM songs to boost motor development and bilateral coordination. Costumes or matching outfits are encouraged! Register online.

Noon Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31 | 11:30 am.-12:15 p.m. | Community Room

Families with children ages three and up, join us to celebrate the new year at noon! Join us at 11:30 for New Year's themed crafts and snacks. Then, we will count down to New Year's at Noon and dance it out with dimmed lights and glow sticks! No registration.

Puppet Show: Jack Tuesday, Fairy Tale Investigator

Saturday, Jan. 2 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room

Join us for an original story from Lionheart Puppets! Jack Tuesday: Fairy Tale Investigator is a fun-filled mystery starring several favorite story time characters. This show is suitable for ages 4 to grade 5, with a caregiver. No registration.

Super Smash Bros Meetup

Saturday, Jan. 2 | 3-4 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Kids in grades 3-6 are invited to our Story Room for one or more rounds of Super Smash Brothers Ultimate. Meet up with your friends, or meet new friends while you're here. Turns are first come first served. No registration.

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
- Music Programs
- Scavenger Hunts

