

PROGRAM GUIDE Fanuary & February, 2026

ART & MUSIC, & MOVIES

Make It! Crafting Programs 🕍

Multiple Dates | Multiple Times | Multiple Locations

Join us this winter for our ongoing crafting series. Crafts include a Valentine Card, and SaratogaREADS! inspired Cupcake Decorating and Crocheted Coral! Register online.

Sewing Skills: Handsewing

Friday, Jan. 2 | 10 - 11:30 a.m. | Susman Room

Learn hand sewing skills from basic stitches to buttonholes, and learn tips and tricks, too, in this sewing class for all levels. Topics covered will include knotting thread, choosing needles, stitches and their uses, thimbles, and more. Materials will be provided. Register online.

Handcraft Meet-Ups

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 - Feb. 3 | Noon-1 p.m. | Online

Join our informal online knitting and handcrafting meet up. This gathering is a perfect opportunity to knit, crochet, embroider or do other handwork while chatting with others who are working on their own projects. Register online.

Frame Drumming for Absolute Beginners

Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13, 27, & Feb. 3 | 4-4:45 p.m. | Community Room Discover the history and basic techniques and rhythms of the ancient handheld frame drum with Chelsie Henderson of EarthBeat Music. This program is a four week commitment. Register online.

Remaking the Baroness: A Saratoga 250 Project

Fridays, Jan. 23 - | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | New & Popular Area

Taking a cue from the Saratoga 250 augmented reality banner of Baroness von Riedesel that you may have seen in the library and around town, Caitlin will be making the Baroness' dress in a series of public sewing demonstrations to show the detail and craftsmanship that went into clothing during the revolutionary period. No registration.

BOOK GROUPS & LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

Read Against the Machine

Mondays, Jan. 5 & Feb. 2 | 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.

Poetry Café

Thursdays, Jan. 8 & Feb. 12 | 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, Jan. 8 & Feb. 12 | 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.

Song Swap with Jeff Walton

Mondays, Jan. 26 & Feb. 23 | 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.

Lantern Making Workshop with Frank Lombardo

Thursday, Jan. 29 | 2:30-4 p.m. | Susman Room

Join artist Frank Lombardo for a lantern making workshop, using an oiled paper technique and LED flameless candles. Participants are invited to join the Saturday, February 7 Winter Lantern Festival and Stroll on Beekman Street! Register online.

Midwinter Drum Circle

Sunday, February 1 | 1-2 p.m. | Community Room

The days are getting longer. Hooray! Join librarian Kali for a friendly, noninstructional drum circle. Bring your own drum or borrow a drum from our library of things. Register online. Please indicate on your registration form if you have or need a drum.

Make It Sew! Envelope Pillow Covers

Friday, February 6 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Update your home decor by learning how to sew envelope-style throw pillow covers in this class for beginners. Sewing machines and materials to make one cover suitable for a 18" x 18" throw pillow will be provided, but attendees are welcome to bring one yard of fabric of their choice to use. A pillow is not included. Register online.

Documentary Screening: Eyes on the Prize

Saturday, February 28 | 1-4 p.m. | Community Room

Join us for a special screening of "No Easy Walk" from Eyes on the Prize, the landmark documentary series that chronicles the history and ongoing impact of the Civil Rights Movement. Following the viewing, we'll hold a guided community discussion to reflect on the themes, stories, and legacies highlighted in the film. Co-sponsored by MLK Saratoga. Register online.

Better Off Read

Tuesdays, Jan. 13 & Feb. 10 | 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

Books & Tea Discussion Group

Thursdays, Jan. 15 & Feb. 19 | 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.

Trifecta Book Group

Thursday, January 15 | 6:30-8 p.m. | Community Room

Join us for a special crossover of three SSPL book groups: Book Club is My Alibi x Read with Pride x A New Chapter. We will be discussing Serial Killer Support Group by Saratoga Schaefer and joined by the author for a discussion! Register online.

BOOK GROUPS & LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

Fables & Fantasies: A Romantasy Book Club

Tuesdays, Jan. 20 & Feb. 17 | 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.

Read with Pride

Thursday, February 5 | 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. Cosponsored by Saratoga PRIDE. Register online.

Hygge Reading Party

Monday, February 9 | 7-8:15 p.m. | Computer Lab

We will turn the Computer Lab into a silent book club for the evening. Enjoy reading a book, preferably the SaratogaREADS! book, *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery in a quiet, cozy space shared with other book lovers. Register online.

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.

Digital Newspaper Access

Monday, Jan. 5 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | New & Popular Area

Did you know the Saratoga Springs Public Library has digital newspaper subscriptions that allow you to access news behind a paywall for FREE? Drop by the New & Popular area to learn more. No registration.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

IntenSati

Monday, January 5 | 4-5 p.m. | H. Dutcher CommunityRoom Combines a high-energy workout with the power of positive thinking. Register online.

Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesdays, February 4 - 25 | 12-1 p.m. | Online with Zoom Mindfulness meditation is a refuge that provides grounding, clarity, and calm that is so vital for navigating challenging times. Register online.

LITERACY & LANGUAGES

Beginning English Language Learning

Mondays, Jan. 5 - Feb. 23 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Susman Room* Mondays, Jan. 12 - Feb. 23 | 3-4 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. *No registration.

Intermediate English Language Learning

Tuesdays, Jan. 27 - Feb. 24 | 5:15-6:45 p.m. | Glasby Room

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.

Book Club is My Alibi

Wednesday, Feb. 11 | 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.

A New Chapter 🛦

Friday, Feb. 20 | 2-3 p.m. | Susman Room

A New Chapter is an ongoing reading group that reads fiction across all genres. This collaboration between Healing Springs Recovery Center and SSPL provides a space for people in recovery to meet and connect, but all are welcome to attend. Co-sponsored by Healing Springs. Register online.

Please visit our online Events Calendar for monthly book discussion titles or scan the QR Code here for a direct link.



Apple for Everyone

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 - Feb. 24 | 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.

Accessing Library eBooks

Thursday, January 8 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Computer Lab

Whether you got a new device for the holidays, or you've just always been interested in borrowing library ebooks and haven't dipped your toe in yet, this session will get you started. Register online.

Computer Basics Boot Camp

Fridays, Jan. 16 & 23 | 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | Computer Lab

Plan to attend both sessions. Session One is an introduction to the basics of using a computer. Session Two will explore the functions of the World Wide Web, Internet, Browsers, Search Engines, and Social Media. Register online.



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!



English Conversation Class

Wednesdays, Jan. 14 - Feb. 25 | 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. | Glasby Room 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, February 19 & 26 | 10:30-11:15 a.m. | Glasby Room 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 registration.

LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

Escape Room: Downtime for Adults

Mondays, Jan. 5, 12 | 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.

TED Talk Discussions

Mondays, Jan. 12 & Feb. 9 | 2-3 p.m. | Susman Room

Join us each month for thoughtful discussion on curated TED talks! Together, we will watch a TED talk (or two) then have the opportunity to discuss. In January, we'll discuss Setting & Reaching Goals and in February, Love. Register online.

LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

Winter Sleigh Ride

Saturday, January 24 | 2-3 p.m. | Loon Meadow Farm

Join us for a fun, family-friendly sleigh ride at Loon Meadow Farm. Enjoy a 10minute ride around the farm on a horse-drawn sleigh!* Before or after your ride. join us inside for hot cocoa and a story. Space is limited. Register online. All ages welcome!

Blood on the Clocktower

Tuesdays, Jan. 27 & Feb. 24 | 6:30-8:30 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.

We The People: Democracy Check-In

Thursday, Jan. 29 | 7-8 p.m. | Community Room

We're one year into the current government administration, and Skidmore Professor Beau Breslin is back to answer even more topical questions about our government systems and how current events relate to the history of our constitution. Get answers to your most pressing government procedure questions, and become a more informed and engaged citizen. Register online.

Bagels & Barks

Fridays, Jan. 30 & Feb. 27 | 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!

Mah Jongg Practice

Tuesday, February 17 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Susman Room

Come practice your Mah Jongg skills by playing here at the library! All experience levels are welcome to join in on the fun. Mah Jongg sets will be provided. Register online.

Animals I Have Met with Dr. Frank Akawi, DVM 💺

Wednesday, Feb. 18 | 7-8 p.m. | Community Room or Online

With a career as a healer spanning 35 years, Dr. Frank Akawi, DVM will share armchair stories about the animals he encountered in both clinical settings and far off places. Dr. Akawi will also describe alternative modalities used to successfully treat creatures great and small. Register online.

1893 Chicago World's Fair through American Photos

Saturday, Feb. 21 | 2-3 p.m. | Susman Room

Join us for a fascinating presentation by Skidmore College art history senior Andrew Crews, who will share his honors project with our community. Andrew will explore the 1893 Chicago World's Fair through three remarkable American photo albums. No registration.

Animal Communication

Thursday, February 26 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Community Room

Join us for a heartfelt psychic medium gallery reading devoted to animals who have passed on. Kelly Voorhis, psychic medium and animal communicator of Infinity Healing, will share messages of comfort and connection. Attendees are encouraged to bring a photo of their animal companion. Register online.

TRAVEL & THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Please Go Away! Planning Your Vacation Online

Wednesday, Jan. 14 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Computer Lab

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.

Audubon Programs

Wednesdays, Jan. 28 & Feb. 11 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Check Calendar Our popular programs with the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society continue with Flight Paths and Future Forests - How Active Stewardship is Supporting Bird Habitats in the Southern Adirondacks in January, and Wild Stories from the History of Bird Migration Research in February. Cosponosered by Southern Adirondack Audubon Society. Register online.

Confessions of a Professional Aquarist 🕍

Tuesday, February 10 | 7-8 p.m. | Online

Aquarium Specialist, James Biggers will join us virtually* and share not-so-tall tales of his work in aquascaping and coral farming, including how a surprise confrontation with the poisonous coral, palythoa stopped his heart. Register

Save the Sea: The Importance of Protecting Our Oceans

Monday, February 23 | 2-3:30 p.m. | Community Room Join educators from the ViaPort Aquarium in Rotterdam for a dynamic 60-

minute program with live animal interactions designed especially for adults. Learn how climate change is impacting our oceans, explore promising solutions, and discover practical steps individuals and communities can take to protect marine ecosystems. Register online.



Look for SaratogaREADS! programming inspired by our 2026 selection, *The Soul of An Octopu*s by Sy Montgomery or our SR! Junior selection, Pax by Sarah Pennypacker, in this Program Guide.

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 winter. Visit our online Events Calendar at www.sspl.org.

Teen Advisory Board Meetings

Mondays, Jan. 5 & Feb. 2 | 7-8 p.m. | Susman Room

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.

Teen World Tours

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 & Feb. 3 | 3-4 p.m. | Teen Room

Teens, take a trip around the world—without leaving the library! Students in grades 7-12 are invited to the Teen Room each month to sample the snacks, create a craft, and discover the culture of a new country. Earn a sticker for your library 'passport' each time you participate! In January, we'll visit Scotland, and Brazil in February. No registration.

Paws & Chill with Sophie, The Golden Retriever

Tues., Jan. 13 & Wed., Feb. 11 | 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.

Teen Bite Club

Thurs., Jan. 22 & Wed., Feb. 25 | 3-4 p.m. | Teen Room

The first rule of Teen Bite Club... you have to eat what you make! Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to make s'mores in January and Mug Cakes in February. No registration.

Teen Winter Volunteer Information Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 8 | 1-2:15 p.m. | Susman Room
Our teen volunteers not only help us with tasks that need to be done, but they bring their own special talents to our library, too! Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to come to our information meeting and find out how they can assist us!Register online.

First Aid/CPR/AED Course for Teens

Tuesday, Feb. 17 | 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | H. Dutcher 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. Teens in grades 7-12 are welcome. This program is open to Saratoga Springs City School District residents only. Register online



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

HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND FAMILIES

Star Lab Planetarium with Up Yonda Farm

Friday, Jan. 2 | 10 OR 11 a.m. | Community Room

Join an environmental educator from Up Yonda Farm to experience the stars indoors! Families will learn how to identify some of the constellations in our Northern/Southern sky and hear about some Greek star myths and current astronomical events. Register online.

Minecraft Survival Club

Mondays, Jan. 5 & Feb. 23 | 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Computer Lab

Kids entering grades 4-8 are invited to join us to play Minecraft in survival mode. Hone your survival skills by gathering resources, crafting, and possibly fighting monsters or playing PVP games against other players. Register online.

Preschool Dance

Friday, January 9 | 10:30-11 a.m. | Community Room

Children ages 2-5 with a caregiver, will use music, props, and playful movement activities to build coordination and confidence. The Dance Factory's Tiny Tots Dance will lead us. No registration.

Minecraft Creative Club

Monday, January 12 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Computer Lab

Kids entering grades 4-8 are invited to join us to play Minecraft in creative mode. This peaceful event will focus on a different building theme at each meeting. Register online.

Chess Club

Wednesdays, Jan. 14, 28, & Feb. 11| 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.

Homeschool Hangs

Thursday, Jan. 15 & Feb. 12 | 2-3 p.m. | Community Room

Homeschooling families with kids in grades K-6, come hang out and learn about a new subject each month. In January, we'll create Cosmic Art and in February, we'll Balance the Forces with a mobile craft. Register online.

VIA Aquarium Presents: Where Do Ocean Creatures Sleep at Night?

Saturday, January 17 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Community Room

Families with children ages 3-8, join us to listen to a picture book about ocean animals, *Where Do Ocean Creatures Sleep at Night*? by Steven and Clifford Simmons. After the readaloud, kids can see and touch small live sea creatures and learn more about marine invertebrates and their ecology, anatomy, and conservation from VIA Aquarium educators. Register online.

Kindness Jars

Monday, Jan. 19 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room

Kids in grades K-6, join us to make kindness jars! Decorate a mason jar using decoupage techniques. Then, take your jar home and place a button or marble in your jar any time you do something kind. Register online

Neurodiversity Club

Tuesdays, Jan. 20 & Feb. 10 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Community Room Kids and teens in grades K-12 who are neurodivergent, plus their friends and families, are invited to join us at Neurodiversity Club. Have fun and make connections in a welcoming environment. Register online.

The Bookmark Bunch

Wednesdays, Jan. 21 & Feb. 25 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Community 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.

Animal Meet & Greets

Wednesdays, Jan. 21 & Feb. 25 | 5:30-6 p.m. | Multiple Locations Join us for an informal Meet and Greet with a Cashmere Goat in January and a Rooster in February. Register online. *All ages welcome!*

Library Goes to Town

Fridays, Jan. 23 & Feb. 13 | Multiple Times | Multiple Locations

Join our Children's Librarian, Kristine, as she travels around Saratoga Springs with a super fun story time. In January, we'll visit The Saratoga Auto Musuem, and the National Racing Hall of Fame in February. Story time is intended for children ages 2-5 but siblings are welcome with accompanying adult. Register online

Saratoga Area Preschool Fair

Saturday, January 24 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Children's Room

The annual Saratoga Area Preschool Fair will be held in the Saratoga Springs Public Library's Children's Room. The Fair will include the preschools listed below. Information about the schools and their programs will be available, as will school representatives to answer questions. No registration.

Sensory Play

Tuesdays, Jan. 27 & Feb. 24 | 4-4:30 p.m. & 4:45-5:15 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.

Lantern Making Workshop

Saturday, January 31 | 1-3 p.m. | Susman Room

Join artist Frank Lombardo for a lantern making workshop, using an oiled paper technique and LED flameless candles. Please register each child in grades 2-6, separately. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Register online.

SaratogaREADS! Junior Discussions

Mondays, February 2 & 9 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | Online

Students in grades 4-6 residing in the Saratoga Springs City School District are invited to participate in this 2-session junior discussion program in cooperation with Skidmore College. Participants will discuss the 2026 SaratogaREADS! Jr. book selection, *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker. Register online.

Animal Tracking on Snowshoes at Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park

Tuesday, February 17 | 1-2:30 p.m. | Wilton Wildlife Preserve

Join us on a Scavenger Hunt for animal tracks and other signs of winter at Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park. For children in grades K and up accompanied by an adult. Register online.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Wednesday, Feb. 18 | 3-4 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Kids in grades 4-8 are invited to join us for an unofficial Super Smash Bros tournament. Compete in a bracketed competition against your peers. Last one standing will win the trophy! No registration.

Family Engineering Challenge: Touchdown on the Moon

Thursday, February 19 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room

Families with children in grades K-6 plus any other siblings, join us to use your engineering skills to design a vehicle to allow astronauts to land safely on the moon! Lesson plan created by the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Register online.

Owl Prowls at Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park

Thurs. Feb. 19 & Fri. Feb. 20 | 5-6 p.m. | Wilton Wildlife Preserve In this program for children and their families, you'll learn owl calls and then go for an Owl Prowl walk to listen for these nighttime predators. Register online.

Clifford the Big Red Dog's Birthday Party

Friday, February 20 | 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room Families with children ages 3-8, join us as we watch the 8-minute video "Clifford's Big Surprise" and do several related crafts. Then we'll sing Happy Birthday to Clifford, have some cake and have a Meet and Greet with Clifford at the end of the program. Register online.

· Take-Home Craft Kits

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

- Baby Raves
- Story Times
 - Drop-In Crafts
 - Scavenger Hunts
 - rams











