

# SSPL

engage - entertain - educate - empower



## PROGRAM GUIDE

July & August, 2025

### ART & MUSIC, & MOVIES

#### Handcraft Meet-Ups

Tuesdays, July 1 - August 26 | 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.

#### Art Museum Day Trips

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

In this special Summer Reading edition of Librarian Caitlin's Day Trips series, we highlight several art museums within easy travel distance of Saratoga. Take a drive and take in the color at the museums that surround our Capital District! No registration.

#### Pawcasso in the Park

Saturday, July 12 | 9:30-11 a.m. | Henry St. Entrance

Drop by between 9:30 - 11 to the grassy area outside the library with your dog to make a custom "pawcasso" painting! While supplies last. No registration.

#### Luzerne Music Center's Faculty Brass Quintet

Tuesday, July 15 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Community Room

Luzerne Music Center's Faculty Brass Quintet is an ensemble of five renowned musicians who serve as faculty at Luzerne Music Center's summer camp in Lake Luzerne, NY. Their repertoire features an engaging variety of music, from classical masterpieces to popular works. No registration. *All ages welcome!*

#### Song Swap with Jeff Walton

Mondays, July 21 & August 18 | 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 tune to play and share. Register online. *Teens welcome too!*

#### Make It! Floral Bookmark

Wednesday, August 6 | 6-7 p.m. | Community Room

Join us for a special creative workshop led by local artist and art teacher Sandy Garbrandt! Discover how to design a stunning flower-themed bookmark using colored pencils, featuring your own initial and a meaningful short quote. Register online. *Teens welcome too!*

### BOOK GROUPS & LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

#### Read Against the Machine

Mondays, July 7 & August 4 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Susman Room

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.

#### Better Off Read

Tuesdays, July 8 & August 19 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Friends Coffee Shop

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.

#### Read with Pride Book Group at Mocha Lisa's Café

Thursday, July 8 & Tuesday, August 12 | 6-7 p.m. | Mocha Lisa's Café

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. This summer, we're teaming up with the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library and meeting offsite at Mocha Lisa's Café at the Clifton Country Mall. Co-sponsored by Saratoga PRIDE. Register online. *Teens welcome too!*

#### Book Club is My Alibi

Wednesdays, July 9 & August 13 | 7-8 p.m. | Community 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 10 & August 14 | 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 14 | 6-7 p.m. | Friends Coffee Shop

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.

#### Books & Tea Discussion Group

Thursdays, July 17 & August 21 | 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.

#### A New Chapter

Thursday, July 17 | 7-8 p.m. | Healing Springs (125 High Rock Ave.)

Friday, August 15 | 2-3 p.m. | Healing Springs (125 High Rock Ave.)

A New Chapter is an ongoing reading group that reads fiction across all genres. This reading group is a collaboration between Healing Springs Recovery Center and SSPL to provide 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.

WWW.SSPL.ORG



# COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

## Apple for Everyone

Tuesdays, July 1 - August 26 | 9:30-11 a.m. | Computer Lab or Online with Zoom

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

## Tuesdays to Thrive: Nourishing Mind and Body

Every Tuesday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Please register for each event individually.

**intenSati** | July 1 & August 6

Combines a high-energy workout with the power of positive thinking.

**Bokwa** | July 8 (no class in August)

Dance the digits with this dynamic cardio workout.

# LITERACY & LANGUAGES

## Global Readers: Reading Group of English Learners

Wednesdays, July 9 - August 27 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Glasby Room

If you enjoy reading and are at least an intermediate level English learner, this class is for you. Join other adult English learners who also love to read! No registration required, but regular attendance is encouraged.

## English Conversation Circle

Thursdays, July 10 - August 14 | 10-11:30 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! Register online.

**Yoga for Bone Health** | July 15 & August 19

Unite body and mind with balancing poses that support bone strength.

**Mindfulness Meditation** | July 22 & August 26

Guided practice exercises that help you learn strategies to dramatically shift the experience of your life.



## Beginning-Intermediate English Language Learning

Mondays, July 14 - August 18 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Susman Room

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 as a learning community to assist each other in improving English comprehension, reading, writing and speaking. Attending all classes will help you progress faster. No registration.

## Early American History for English Learners

Mondays, July 14 - August 25 | 5:50-7:30 p.m. | Glasby Room

Improve your English while discovering American History - from the Colonial Era through the writing of the United States Constitution. Learn about the diverse people who helped create this country. The class will be taught by an experienced library literacy volunteer. No registration.

# LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

## Bagels & Barks

Tuesday, July 29 | 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!* ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

## Blood on the Clocktower:

### A Social Deduction Game for Adults

Wednesdays, July 30 & Aug. 27 | 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.

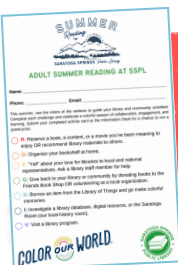
# TRAVEL & THE GREAT OUTDOORS



## Please Go Away! Planning Your Vacation Online

Wednesday, July 16 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Friends Coffee Shop

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. Register online.



This summer, adults can use the colors of the rainbow to guide their library and community activities! Just pick up an Adult Summer Reading Card at the Information Desk!

# 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!

## Greenfield Farmers' Market

Thursdays, July 3 - August 28 | 4-7 p.m.

## Saratoga Farmers' Market - High Rock Park

Saturdays, July 5 & August 2 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Geyser Road Elementary School

Tuesdays, July 8 - August 26 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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



# 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).

## Teen Advisory Board Meetings

Mondays, July 7 & August 4 | 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 Drop-In Craft: Water Bottle Decorating

Monday, July 14 | 1-4 p.m. | Teen Room  
Come to the Teen Room to decorate mini water bottles with stickers! Water bottles and stickers will be provided. While supplies last. No registration.

## Shaved Ice for Teens

Wednesday, July 16 | 1:30-3 p.m. | Teen Room  
Teen in grades 7-12, join us in the Teen Room to watch the The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) and customize your own fruit flavored shaved ice! While supplies last. No registration.

## Bagels & Barks

Friday, July 29 | 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!*

## Henna for Teens with Stellar-NY

Wednesday, July 30 | 2-4 p.m. | Teen Room  
Teens and Tweens, Henna is coming to the library! Come to the Teen Room to get some beautiful body art professionally done by Stellar-NY. For grades 7-12. Limited to 15 participants. Register online.

## Teen Summer Button Making

Monday, August 11 - Friday, August 15 | 1-4 p.m. | Teen Room  
Celebrate the final month of summer! Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to come to the Teen Room and press their own pin-back buttons. No registration.

## Teen Lemonade Bar

Wednesday, August 13 | 2-2:30 p.m. | Teen Room  
Students entering grades 7-12 are invited to visit the Teen Room and quench your thirst by customizing your own lemonade! Make your own unique concoction with flavored lemonade and fresh fruit. No registration required.

## Ice Cream Social

Monday, August 25 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room  
Celebrate the end of Summer Reading with some sweet treats, and join us to create your own sundae! Please register everyone who wants a treat so we can buy the right amount of ice cream.



# HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND FAMILIES

## Balloon Twisting with Balloon Gal Jenny

Tuesday, July 1 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room  
Kids will learn balloon twisting basics, starting with the classic dog. Participants will learn four different shapes and receive an instruction sheet to take home. This program is for kids in grades K-6. Children ages 5-7 can participate with the assistance of a caregiver. Limited to 30 participants. Register online.

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

Monday, July 7 | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Henry Street 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.

## Terracotta Pot Wind Chimes Craft

Monday, July 7 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room  
Kids entering grades K - 6 are invited to join us and make a colorful wind chime craft using a mini terracotta pot, paint markers, and beads. Register online.

## Kindergarten Camp

Tuesdays, July 8 - Aug. 26\* | 11:30-12:30 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 boxes provided. No registration. \*No program on July 29

## Parachute Play

Wednesdays, July 9 & Aug. 20 | 11-11:30 a.m. | Community Room  
Children age 3 and up to grade 2, with an accompanying caregiver, are invited to join us for some cooperative parachute songs and games. Let's play! Register online.

## Percy Jackson Party

Friday, July 11 | 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Community Room  
Calling all fans of Percy Jackson - join us for Greek God themed crafts, activities, and refreshments. Then, show off your knowledge of the Percy Jackson series in a trivia competition. Come dressed in costume for a small prize! Recommended for Grades 3 - 6, and siblings are welcome. No registration.

## Baby Raves

Saturday, July 12 & August 16 | 2:30-3:15 p.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.

## Family Movie Fridays

Fridays, July 18, August 1 & 29 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Community Room  
You're invited to morning showings of *Dog Man* (2025) in July, *Encanto* (2021) & *Ratatouille* (2007) in August, and to drink juice, hang out, and color! Feel free to bring blankets for comfy floor seating. Open to children and their families. No registration.

## Finger Knit Snakes

Friday, July 18 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room  
Kids entering grades 3 through 6, learn the technique of finger knitting. Make a snake or two using only yarn and your fingers! Please register online.

## Minecraft Hunger Games

Monday, July 21 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Computer Lab  
Kids entering grades 4-8, enter the Hunger Games arena in Minecraft. Last one alive wins! Everyone attending this program will be expected to play in survival mode and battle with other players. Register online.

## Smokedance with Chris Thomas & Ongwe'hon:wehkah Dancers

Wednesday, July 23 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room  
Join us for a demonstration of the Smokedance with Chris Thomas & Ongwe'hon:wehkah Dancers. The group is from the Onondaga nation Beaver clan and travel the United States and Canada demonstrating Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois) social dancing, and teaching people a little bit about their culture. No registration. All ages welcome!





# HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES

## Tips and Tricks to Solving the Rubik's Cube

Friday, July 25 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Ever wonder how to solve the Rubik's cube? A good place to start is by learning a 2x2 cube. Several local cube enthusiasts will unlock the mystery by guiding beginners through a Powerpoint presentation that explains the basic rules for solving a 2x2 cube. We'll provide free giveaway cubes for kids to take home and keep practicing. Feel free to bring your own cube, as well, if you'd like. Recommended for kids in Grades 2-6. Register online.

## Intro to Embroidery: Rainbow

Saturday, July 26 | 3-4:30 p.m. | Community Room

Kids entering grades 4 through 8, learn some basic embroidery techniques and make a rainbow using different stitches! Register online.

## Bagels & Barks

Friday, July 29 | 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!*

## Story Time Theater

Wednesday, July 30 | 11-11:30 a.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 2. No registration.

## SSPL Visits the Saratoga Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, July 30 & August 27 | 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.

## Silent Wings

Saturday, August 2 | 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Community Room

Meet a variety of native raptors including owls, hawks, ravens and more, presented by Trish Marki of the Wildlife Institute of Eastern NY. This program is for children and teens of all ages and their families. Registration is not required, but space is limited based on room capacity.

## Minecraft Creative Coding

Mondays, August 4 - 25 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Computer Lab

Kids entering grades 4-8, join us each Monday in August to work on the same creative world in Minecraft. Some coding concepts that make building faster and more efficient will be introduced. Please register online for each weekly session that you will attend.

## Meet the Artist Series

Wednesdays, August 6 - 27 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room

Kids in grades K-6, join us to learn about a famous artist, then make a craft based on their art. We'll focus on Frida Kahlo (8/6), Katsushika Hokusai (8/13), Vincent van Gogh (8/20), and Alma Thomas (8/27). No registration.

## Alyx Magic - Color Your World

Thursday, August 7 | 3-4 p.m. | Community Room

Join us for a family friendly magic show with Alyx Magic! This program is for children and their families. No registration required, but space may be limited based on room capacity.

## SCAT: The Incredible Science of Wildlife Poop with Author Anita Sanchez

Friday, August 8 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Join author Anita Sanchez as she reads from her latest book. Afterwards, we will learn about some ways to track signs of animals in the backyard using footprints, gnawings and poop. For children in grades 1-5. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Register each child online.

## Ghost Adventures with the Tang Teaching Museum

Monday, August 11 | 2-3 p.m. | Community Room

The Tang Teaching Museum presents Ghost Adventures, inspired by Ghost River, a painting by artist Tyson Reeder. For the program, participants will create their own ghostly scenes out of air-dry clay and card stock. For children in grades K-6, accompanied by an adult. Please register each child online.

## Colorful Critters Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, August 12 - 24 | Open Hours | Children's Room

12 colorful critters are hiding in the Children's Room at the library! Can you us help find them? Discover them all and complete a puzzle to earn a prize! No registration.

## Messy Art Party

Wednesday, August 13 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Circulate between messy art stations that incorporate sensory play, fine motor skills practice, and early STEM concepts like counting and color mixing. Dress for a mess. For ages 3 up to grade 2. No registration.

## Woven Yarn Bracelet

Thursday, August 14 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room

Kids entering grades 3 - 6, learn a weaving technique using a loom made of straws, and make a colorful woven yarn bracelet. Register online.

## Elephant & Piggie Party!

Friday, August 15 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room

Come celebrate our highest circulating children's book series. We will have crafts, games, and a meet-and-greet with the literary stars themselves! Recommended for children age 3 to grade 3 (and their families). No registration.

## Ice Cream Social

Monday, August 25 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room

Celebrate the end of Summer Reading with some sweet treats, and join us to create your own sundae! Please register everyone who wants a treat so we can buy the right amount of ice cream.



Summer Reading 2025 runs through August 31<sup>st</sup>. We also offer the following and more in July & August. Please check our Events Calendar at [www.sspl.org](http://www.sspl.org) or scan the QR Code for a direct link to our Summer Reading page.

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

