

SSPL

engage - entertain - educate - empower



PROGRAM GUIDE

January & February, 2025

ART, MUSIC, & MOVIES

Sewing Skills 101: Handsewing

Friday, Jan. 3 | 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. 7 - Feb. 25 | 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.

Intergenerational Drum Circles

Fridays, Jan. 10 & Feb. 14 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Community Room

Beat the winter doldrums away in this free-flowing, drum circle. Bring your own drum. Library drums may be available. Register online. **All ages welcome!**

BOOK GROUPS & LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

Read with Pride Book Group

Thursdays, Jan. 2 & Feb. 6 | 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. **Teens welcome too!**

Read Against the Machine

Mondays, Jan. 6 & Feb. 3 | 7-8 p.m. | Susman Room

Read Against the Machine is an ongoing reading group that will meet the first Monday of each month and focuses on non-fiction titles that examine social issues of all types. Register online. **Teens welcome too!**

Book Club is My Alibi

Wednesdays, Jan. 8 & Feb. 12 | 7-8 p.m. | Glasby 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, Jan. 9 & Feb. 13 | 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Online with Zoom

Join this online librarian-led poetry discussion group! In January, we'll discuss Mosab Abu Toha's *Forest of Noise* and in February, Brandon Som's 2024 Pulitzer-winning collection *Tripas*. Register online.

Better Off Read

Tuesdays, Jan. 14 & Feb. 11 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Glasby Room

Join us for a monthly book discussion covering a variety of genres, including some narrative nonfiction. Better Off Read meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Register online.

Make It! Crafting Series

Multiple Dates & Times | Susman Room

In January, join us to crochet your own scarf or a paper quilled Valentine. In February, make a snuffle mat for your dog or create Tiny Art. Register online.

Lantern Making Workshop for Adults

Wednesday, Jan. 22 | 2-4 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 1st Winter Lantern Festival and Stroll on Beekman Street. Register online.

Song Swap with Jeff Walton

Mondays, Jan. 27 & Feb. 24 | 6:45-8:45 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 Sew: Envelope Pillow Covers

Friday, Feb. 7 | 10 a.m.-12:30 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 you are welcome to bring your own fabric. Register online.

Books & Tea Discussion Group

Thursdays, Jan. 16 & Feb. 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.

Her Story Book & Discussion Group

Thursday, Jan. 16 | 6-7 p.m. | Susman 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.

A New Chapter

Thursday, Jan. 16 & Friday, Feb. 21 | Multiple Times | Glasby Room

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. Register online.

Forever Young

Tuesdays, Jan. 21 & Feb. 18 | 7-8 p.m. | Susman Room

Forever Young is a book discussion group for adults who enjoy reading YA (Young Adult) novels. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Register online.

Hygge Reading Party for Adults

Thursday, Feb. 20 | 6:30-8 p.m. | Community Room

We will turn the Community Room into a silent book club for the evening. Enjoy reading a book, preferably the SaratogaREADS! book, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune in a quiet, cozy space shared with other book lovers. Hot chocolate and herbal tea will be served. No registration.

WWW.SSPL.ORG

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.

Access Local News with NewsBank

Monday, Jan. 6 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Computer Lab
NewsBank features current and archived articles from multiple local newspapers. Available to library card holders within the Saratoga Springs City School District only. In this session, learn all about NewsBank and how to navigate it to find what you're looking for. Register online.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

intenSati: Workout for the Body & Mind

Tuesdays, Jan. 7 & Feb. 4 | 2:30-3:45 p.m. | Community Room
intenSati combines movement from Martial Arts, Yoga, and Aerobic Dance while shouting positive affirmations. The name of each pose or move is a positive attitude participants visualize, such as "Willpower," "Strong," and "Brave." This program is for all levels. Register online.

Bokwa Dance Moves

Tuesdays, Jan. 14 & Feb. 11 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room
Bokwa is a unique Dance Cardio fitness program that accommodates people of all ages and fitness levels. Participants dance structured movements based upon letters and numbers, and move to the sounds of popular music. No set choreography to learn. If you love to dance (like nobody's watching), you will love Bokwa. If you can walk, you can do Bokwa. Register online.

Yoga for Bone Health with Jael Polnac

Tuesdays, Jan. 21 & Feb. 18 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room
Join us to practice the poses and techniques proven to protect and improve your bone health. This class is appropriate for beginners as well as experienced students. Register online.

Mindfulness Meditation with Susan Meyer

Tuesdays, Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Community Room
Mindfulness meditation is a refuge that provides grounding, clarity, and calm that are so vital for navigating challenging times. Register online.

LITERACY & LANGUAGES

Beginning English Language Learning

Mondays, Jan. 6 - Feb. 24 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Susman Room
This class is for beginning level English learners. Opportunities for speaking, writing, interacting with peers, reading and listening will be created. Efforts will be made to address the different English fluency that students bring. Regular attendance is expected and appreciated! Register online. **No class Oct. 14*

English Conversation Class

Wednesdays, Jan. 8 - Feb. 26 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Glasby Room
This class is for intermediate to advanced level English speakers who would like to improve their conversational English as well as their writing in this language. Led by an experienced SSPL Literacy Volunteer, discussions are generated by topical articles or other discussion prompts. Register online.

LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

Escape Room: Downtime for Adults

Mondays, Jan. 6, 13, 27; Feb. 3, 24 | 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.

Bagels & Barks

Thursday, Jan. 23 & Feb. 20 | 10-11:30 p.m. | Community Room
Stop in for a bite to eat and meet and greet with several therapy dogs and their owners. Socialize with humans and canines while taking part in activities, and learn about the certification process. This program is brought to you in partnership with North Country Paws For Obedience. No registration. **All Ages Welcome!**

Apple Enthusiasts

Tuesdays, Jan. 7 - Feb. 25 | 9:30-11 a.m. | Online with Zoom
Apple Enthusiasts is a hybrid all-things-Apple chat group, where you can bring your device, app, or software questions to get some answers. Register online.

How to Start Your Ancestry Adventure

Friday, Jan. 17 & Monday, Feb. 3 | Multiple Times | Computer Lab
Learn about Ancestry Library Edition, the largest online family history resource available, which provides unprecedented access to family history via documents that record the lineage of individuals from the United States, Canada, and more. Join us to learn how to search, save, and print your discoveries. Register online.

Know Your Rights: SSI/SSD Benefits

Thursday, Feb. 6 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room
Were you denied Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits? Join us to understand how Social Security evaluates disability cases, how to appeal, and the amount of SSI and SSD benefits you could receive. Presented by the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. Register online.

Hands-Only CPR Demonstration

Monday, Feb. 24 | 2-3:30 p.m. | Community Room
A member from HeartCorps (American Heart Association) will educate participants on CPR and give them a hands-on demonstration. Please note that attendees will NOT be receiving CPR certification. Register online.

HOME & GARDEN

Seed Starting Workshop: Grow a Native Plant Garden from Seed

Saturday, Jan. 11 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room
It's easy and far less expensive to grow a pollinator garden from seed. This workshop will show you a simple way to start growing your own native plants. You will leave with a few seed plugs you can overwinter and plant after germination next year. Register online.



Intermediate Level English Class

Tuesdays, Jan. 14 - Feb. 25 | 5:15-6:45 p.m. | Glasby Room
Join this intermediate-level English language class, for adult learners who have achieved basic fluency. Continue building your English speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Attendance at all classes is requested. Register online.

English Conversation Circle

Thursdays, Feb. 13 - 27 | 10-11 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.

Small Business and Start Up Help from SCORE

Thursday, Jan. 16 | 12-1 p.m. | Community Room
Are you interested in starting your own business? Are you already a small business owner and want to grow your company? SCORE is a national non-profit working with the Small Business Administration to provide mentorship and guidance to small business owners and those looking to start their own business - all free of charge and confidential. Register online.

LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

Blood on the Clocktower:

A Social Deduction Game for Adults

Tuesdays, Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | H. Dutcher 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 Series

Thursdays, Jan. 30 & Feb. 27 | 7-8 p.m. | Community Room
In this three-part series Skidmore Professor of Political Science, Beau Breslin, discusses the ins and outs of some of our most discussed and perhaps least understood government systems. Get answers to your most pressing government procedure questions. In January, we'll discuss The Three Branches of Government; February, The Electoral College; and March, The Supreme Court. Register online.

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Saturday, Feb. 8 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room
If you're an avid puzzler who doesn't know what to do with all of the puzzles you've already completed, participate in our puzzle swap, and change out your jigsaw puzzles for fresh ones! No registration.

Cat Adoption Event

Saturday, Feb. 22 | 11 a.m.-2 p.m. | Community Room
Looking to add a new furry friend to your household? Come meet adoptable cats from the Saratoga County Animal Shelter, and hopefully find the perfect match for your family! No registration.



TRAVEL & THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Please Go Away! Planning Your Vacation Online

Wednesday, Jan. 15 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room
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. Register online.

First Growth and Old Growth Forests of the Catskills

Wednesday, Feb. 26 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room
Dr. Dan Bogan of Siena College is mapping old growth forests in the Catskills and examining data to learn more about forest ecology nutrients, the carbon cycle and carbon sequestration, and combating climate change. These forests should also be protected simply for their aesthetic and even spiritual meaning. Co-sponsored with Southern Adirondack Audubon Society. 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 winter. Visit our online Events Calendar at www.sspl.org.

Teens Paint & Vibe

Friday, Jan. 3 | 2-3 p.m. | Teen Room
Teens in grades 7-12, join us in the Teen Room to complete paint-by-number canvases while we listen to music! Snacks will be provided. No registration.

Teen Advisory Board Meetings

Mondays, Jan. 6 & Feb. 3 | 7-8 p.m. | Glasby 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 DIY Mini Pizzas

Wednesday, Jan. 8 | 3:30-4:30 p.m. | Teen Room
There is never a wrong time for pizza! Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to come to the Teen Room to make and eat their own mini pizzas. No registration.

Sophie Visits the Teen Room

Wednesdays, Jan. 15 & Feb. 12 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Teen Room
Come de-stress from school and pet a therapy dog! Sophie the Golden Retriever will visit to hang out and snuggle with teens. No registration required.

Neurodiverse Gaming Group

Tuesday, Feb. 4 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Teen Room
Teens in grades 7-12 who love gaming, whether on a screen or IRL, join us to play table top games, video games, or relax and color in an environment that embraces and celebrates all neurodiverse identities! Register online.

Teen Chocolate Fondue

Wednesday, Feb. 5 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Teen Room
Teens, come to the Teen Room to dip fresh fruit, marshmallows, cookies, and pretzels in chocolate fondue! Grades 7-12 only. While supplies last. No registration.

Teen Winter Volunteer Information Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 9 | 1-2:15 p.m. | Susman Room
Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to come to our information meeting and find out how they can volunteer at the library! Register online.

Teen Ice-Cream Floats

Wednesday, Feb. 26 | 3:30-4:30 p.m. | Teen Room
Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to the Teen Room to customize their own ice cream float! There will be vanilla ice cream as the base with different sodas to choose for the "float". No registration.



HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, PARENT, AND FAMILIES

Brush Up on Braids

Thursday, Jan 2 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room
Come learn and practice different styles of braids to do for your friends, your family, and dolls — bring your own doll to give them a makeover! Recommended for children in grades K - 6 and their families. No registration required.

Board Game Party

Thursday, Jan. 2 | 2:30-4 p.m. | Crawshaw Room
Fight boredom with board games! Come for a chance to hang out and play any number of games -- meet up with your friends, or make new ones! Juice boxes and snacks are provided. Recommended for age 4 to grade 6. No registration.

Kids Book BINGO

Friday, Jan. 3 | 11-11:30 a.m. | Community Room
Get excited for a new year of reading! Come play bingo with us to learn about recent and upcoming titles, and maybe win a prize. For children in grades 3 to 5. Register online.

Winter Storytelling and Crafts with Jeannine Laverty

Saturday, Jan. 4 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Community Room
Enjoy some winter-themed stories with storyteller Jeannine Laverty followed by a family craft activity. This program is suitable for children grades K and up, accompanied by an adult. No registration required.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, PARENT, AND FAMILIES

Homeschool Hangs

Thursdays, Jan. 9 & Feb. 13 | 2-3 p.m. | Community Room
Homeschooling families with kids in grades K-6, come hang out and learn about a different topic each month. In January, we'll talk about the Mars Helicopter, and in February, Let's Build! Register online.

Lantern Making Workshop

Sunday, Jan. 12 | 1-3 p.m. | Susman Room
Join artist Frank Lombardo for a lantern making workshop, using an oiled paper technique and LED flameless candles. For grades 2-5. Register online.

Minecraft Mondays

Mondays, Jan. 13 & Feb. 24 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Computer Lab
Kids in grades 4-8, join us for Minecraft Monday. Each meeting, we will work on a different challenge or activity in either creative or survival mode. Register online.

Neurodiversity Club

Tuesdays, Jan. 14 & Feb. 11 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Community Room
Kids and teens in grades K-12 who are neurodivergent, along with their friends and families, are invited to join us at Neurodiversity Club. Have fun and connect in a welcoming environment. Register online. **Teens welcome too!**

Chess Club

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 29 & Feb. 12 | 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. Please register for each session individually.

Celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year with the World Awareness Children's Museum

Saturday, Jan. 18 | 1-2 p.m. | Community Room
Kids will learn about Chinese Lunar New Year through hands-on stations of clothing, food and other objects used to celebrate the holiday. Join in a Dragon parade through the library and do a take-and-make craft. Recommended for grades K - 4. Register online.

The Bookmark Bunch

Wednesdays, Jan. 22 & Feb. 26 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Crawshaw Room
Beginning readers discover a new chapter book series every month at the Bookmark Bunch. Register online.

Meet and Greet: Mini-Horses from Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga

Wednesday, Jan. 22 | 5:30-6 p.m. | Community Room
Join us for an informal Meet and Greet with mini-horses. Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga will be on hand to introduce families to our horse visitors and answer questions. This program is for children and their families. Register online.

Nintendo Switch Gaming

Fridays, Jan. 24 & Feb. 7 | 4-5 p.m. | Crawshaw Room
Come play video games on the library's Nintendo Switch! This program is for kids in grades K-6. No registration.

Saratoga Area Preschool Fair

Saturday, Jan. 25 | 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 event will host several of the areas preschools. Information about the schools and their programs will be available, as will school representatives to answer questions. No registration.

Library Goes to Town

Fridays, Jan. 31 & Feb. 28 | Check Times Online | Various 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 Senior Center, and in February, the SPAC's School of the Arts. Register online.

SaratogaREADS! Junior Online Discussions

Mondays, Feb. 3 & 10 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. | Online
Students in grades 4-6 residing in the SSCSD are invited to participate in this 2-session junior discussion program in cooperation with Skidmore College. Participants will discuss the 2025 SaratogaREADS! Jr. book selection, *Midnight at the Barclay Hotel* by Fleur Bradley. Register online.

Flurry Festival Family Programs

Saturday, Feb. 15 | Check Schedule Online | Community Room
Experience Saratoga's annual Flurry Festival of traditional participatory dance and music with free family programming all day long at the library. No registration.

LEGO Minifigure Party

Tuesday, Feb. 18 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Community Room
Get creative and make your own Lego minifigure. We'll supply varying minifigure parts and accessories for each child to make one to take home. Snacks will be provided. Recommended for kids K-6. Register online.

Animal Tracking on Snowshoes

Tuesday, Feb. 18 | 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.

Campfire Stories & Songs

Wednesday, Feb. 19 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Community Room
Children ages 4-12 are invited to gather 'round the campfire for stories and songs. Enjoy s'mores, make a few outdoorsy crafts and listen to stories. No registration.

Homeschool Curriculum Swap

Wednesday, Feb. 19 | 2-3 p.m. | Community Room
Bring in your curriculum, workbooks, educational items, and anything else homeschool or teaching related that you no longer use and are ready to pass on to someone else! Share ideas and take home something new to you. Everything will be free. No registration.

Marshmallow Engineering Challenge

Thursday, Feb. 20 | 10-11 a.m. | Community Room
Work with your family or friends on this fun engineering challenge! Who can build the tallest free-standing structure that can hold a marshmallow on top? For kids in grades K-6 and their families. No registration.

Owl Prowls

Thurs., Feb. 20 & Fri., Feb. 21 | 5-6 p.m. | Wilton Wildlife Preserve
Participants in grades K and up, along with an adult or caregiver, will meet at Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park, learn owl calls and then go for an Owl Prowl walk to listen for these nighttime predators. Register online.

Family Yoga Experience

Friday, Feb. 21 | 10-10:45 a.m. | Community Room
Learn breathwork, yoga postures, and other yoga-related games and activities for the whole family. Register online.

Author Meet & Greet with Tommie Burch

Friday, Feb. 21 | 11-11:15 a.m. | Community Room
Chat with Tommie about yoga, writing a book, and how taking care of our bodies can help us to shine our inner light through her new book, *Being Me*. The book is available for purchase, and Tommie will be happy to sign your copy. No registration.

Intro to Embroidery

Friday, Feb. 21 | 2:30-4 p.m. | Susman Room
Learn some basic embroidery techniques and make a steaming mug of hot chocolate. This program is for students entering grades 3-8. Register online.

We also offer the following and more in January & February. Please check our Events Calendar at www.ssp.org or scan the QR Code for a direct link.

- Story Times
- Baby Raves
- Drop-In Crafts
- Paws4Reading
- Baby Music
- Take-Home Craft Kits
- Music & Movement



Look for SaratogaREADS! programming inspired by our 2025 selection, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune.