

SSPL

engage - entertain - educate - empower



PROGRAM GUIDE November & December 2024

ART, MUSIC, & MOVIES

Handcraft Meet-Ups

Tuesdays, Nov. 5 - Dec. 17 | 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.

Sewing Skills 101: What You Need to Get Started

Friday, Nov. 1 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Susman Room

Ready to start your sewing journey but don't know what you need to start? This sewing skills class will cover all of the tools, notions, fabric types, and resources you need to know about to start your journey or expand your toolkit, and help you feel less intimidated by sewing. Register online.

Make It! Crafting Series

Multiple Dates & Times | Susman Room

In November, join us to make your dog their very own paracord collar and/or crochet a dish cloth. In December, we'll use quilting to create a beautiful holiday ornament or create a snuffle mat for your dog. Register online.

BOOK GROUPS & LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

Read Against the Machine

Mondays, Nov. 4 & Dec. 2 | 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!**

Read with Pride Book Group

Thursdays, Nov. 7 & Dec. 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. Register online. **Teens welcome too!**

Better Off Read

Tuesdays, Nov. 12 & Dec. 10 | 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.

Book Club is My Alibi

Wednesdays, Nov. 13 & Dec. 11 | 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.

The Healing Pages at The Community Hospice

Thursday, Nov. 14 | 12-1 p.m. | The Community Hospice

In partnership with The Community Hospice, we will meet to discuss books related to the healing process. If you are healing from loss and looking for a supportive environment, please join us. Our first book is *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald. No registration required.

Song Swap with Jeff Walton

Mondays, Nov. 18 & Dec. 16 | 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: Reusable Gift Bags

Thursday, Dec. 5 | 10 a.m.-1 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. Register online.



Poetry Café

Thursday, Nov. 14 | 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Online with Zoom

Join this online librarian-led poetry discussion group! In Nov., we'll discuss Emily Wilson's translation of Homer's *The Odyssey*. Register online.

It Ends with Us Book & Film Discussion

Thursday, Nov. 14 | 6-7 p.m. | Glasby Room

Join the Library and Wellspring for a discussion of Colleen Hoover's, *It Ends with Us*. Whether you've read the book or watched the movie, please join us for this important discussion. Light refreshments will be provided. Register online.

A New Chapter

Fridays, Nov. 15 & Dec. 20 | 2-3 p.m. | Susman 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, Nov. 19 & Dec. 17 | 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.

Books & Tea Discussion Group

Thursdays, Nov. 21 & Dec. 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.

Cocoa and A Christmas Carol

Tuesday, Dec. 17 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Community Room

Join us as we listen to the 2014 BBC Radio production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, drink cocoa, and enjoy some cozy winter ambiance. Join in the festivities by dressing in Victorian clothing if you wish. No registration required. **All ages welcome!**

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Half-Hour One-on-One Computer or Device Help

Multiple Dates & Times | Computer Lab

Have questions about devices, apps, or software applications? Register online for a 30-minute one-on-one help session to get some tech tips and assistance.

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.

HEALTH & WELLNESS



An Introduction to Sound Therapy

Friday, Nov. 1 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Community Room

Join Claudia from Yoga Mandali for a sound therapy demo and informational session, with time for Q&A. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat and whatever props you want to be comfortable (pillow, blanket, etc). If you can not be on the floor, a chair will be provided for you. Register online. **Teens welcome!**

Stress to Serenity:

Ear Seeding Techniques to Reduce Stress

Wednesday, Nov. 6 | 2-3 p.m. | Susman Room

Join Colleen Conroy, a Licensed Acupuncturist, Massage Therapist and Ear Seeds Specialist who will introduce the power of ear seeds - non-invasive acupressure stickers that are applied to the ear for health and wellness benefits like stress relief and pain relief. Register online.

Yoga for Bone Health with Jael Polnac

Fridays, Nov. 8 & Dec. 13 | 12-1 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. **Teens welcome too!**

Bokwa Dance Moves

Tuesdays, Nov. 12 & Dec. 10 | 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.

Understanding Medicare

Saturday, Nov. 16 | 10-11 a.m. | Susman Room

Join Kevin Murphy for a free seminar with accurate, practical information about Medicare, explained in an easy-to-understand manner. This information session will help you navigate the ins and outs of signing up, and choosing plans best suited for your needs. Register online.

HOME & GARDEN

Who's Afraid of Making Pie?

Thursday, Nov. 21 | 9:30-11:30 p.m. | Community Room

Does baking for the holidays intimidate you? Have no fear! Teri and Gloria are here to teach you how to make an easy, homemade pie that your family and friends will delight in. This is a hands-on program and everyone will go home with a ready-to-bake pie! Please bring an apron to protect your clothing. Baking tools and ingredients will be supplied. Register online.

LITERACY & LANGUAGES

Beginning English Language Learning

Mondays, Nov. 4, 18, 25; Dec. 2-16 | 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*

Apple Enthusiasts

Tuesdays, Nov. 5 - Dec. 17 | 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.

Adult Minecraft Meetup

Thursdays, Nov. 21 & Dec. 19 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Computer Lab

Do you play Minecraft and want to meet other Minecraft players at the Library? Build peacefully in creative mode, play with friends, or fight creepers in survival mode. All are welcome, including beginners! Register online.

intenSati: Workout for the Body & Mind

Mondays, Nov. 18 & Dec. 16 | 5:30-6:30 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. **Teens welcome too!**

Talking to Your Child's Doctor

Tuesday, Nov. 19 | 7-8 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room Room

Karen DeBonis, local author of the award-winning memoir *Growth: A Mother, Her Son and the Brain Tumor They Survived*, discusses practitioner-patient communication with Dr. Frank Salamone, the psychologist who treated Karen's son, validated her fears, and facilitated her search for a correct diagnosis. Register online.

Mindfulness Meditation with Susan Meyer

Mondays, Nov. 25 & Dec. 23 | 7-8 p.m. | Online

Mindfulness meditation is a refuge that provides grounding, clarity, and calm that are so vital for navigating challenging times. Register online.

Transgender and Non-Binary Name-Change Clinic

Friday, Dec. 6 | 11 a.m.-5 p.m. | Community Room

Get free legal help changing your name and gender markers through the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York and Empire Justice Center. Pre-register by reaching out to one of the contacts on our online Events Calendar.

Intuitive Medium, Deb Decelle

Thursday, Dec. 12 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Community Room

Did you know that there's a difference between mediumship and intuitive (psychic) abilities? Deb Decelle's style of blending these two abilities gives you an experience that offers healing, hope, and a fresh perspective. If you are interested in Intuitive Mediumship, and are open to the chance of a possible reading during the group presentation, please join us. Register online. **Teens welcome too!**

Repair Café

Saturday, Dec. 7 | 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. One repair per household. Co-sponsored with Sustainable Saratoga. No registration required.



English Conversation Class

Wednesdays, Nov. 6 - Dec. 18 | 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.

LITERACY & LANGUAGES

Intermediate Level English Class

Tuesdays, Nov. 5 - Dec.10 | 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, Nov. 7 - 25; Dec. 5 - 19 | 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.

LOCAL INTERESTS & COMMUNITY

Escape Room: Downtime for Adults

Monday, Nov. 4 | 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, the sensory cart, and relax socially with other adults. No minors will be in the space during the adults-only hours. No registration required.

The Nazi Seizure of Power and the Road to Kristallnacht

Thursday, Nov. 7 | 12-1 p.m. | Community Room

Professor Matthew Hockenos of Skidmore College will describe the historical events that began in 1933 and led to Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass). Recalling these events helps us to acknowledge what can happen when antisemitism and hate in any form are allowed to intensify. It also reminds us why Holocaust education is necessary. Register online. *All ages welcome!*

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

Thursdays, Nov. 14 & Dec. 12 | 12-1 p.m. | Community Room

This community lecture series is in partnership with the Saratoga Springs Heritage Area Visitors Center, and is meant to highlight the rich history, culture and traditions of the Saratoga area. Programs attract an audience of mostly locals who are interested in area history and learning about their community. Register online.

TRAVEL & THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Seneca Ray Stoddard's Saratoga Connection

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Community Room

Join Daniel Way, a native of Glens Falls and retired primary care physician for Hudson Headwaters Health Network, as he discusses the remarkable life and impact of Seneca Ray Stoddard, the renowned artist, photographer, explorer, surveyor, cartographer, inventor, and Adirondack environmentalist. Co-sponsored by the Adirondack Mountain Club. No registration required.

Sophie Visits the Teen Room

Wednesdays, Nov. 13 & Dec. 11 | 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.

Teen Neurodiversity Club

Mondays, Nov. 18 & Dec. 16 | 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Teens in grades 7-12 who are neurodivergent, plus their friends and families, are invited to join us for Teen Neurodiversity Club! Register online.

Teen Waffle Wednesdays

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Teen Room

Waffle makers aren't just for waffles! Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to check out other tasty creations you can make on mini waffle makers! No registration required.

Gingerbread House Workshop for Teens

Monday, Dec. 9 | 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 Lock-In

Friday, Dec. 13 | 7 p.m.-12 a.m. | Children's Room

Ever wanted to hang out at the library after hours? Then this is the place for you! Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to our Library Lock-in, hosted by our Teen Advisory Board. There will be pizza, games, crafts, an epic series of tag, an indoor snowball fight, and more! Please register online.

Teen Holiday Cookie Decorating

Wednesday, Dec. 18 | 3-4 p.m. | Teen Room

Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to the Teen Room to decorate (and eat) delicious holiday-inspired cookies! While supplies last. No registration is required.

Teen Polar Express Party

Monday, Dec. 23 | 6:30-8:15 p.m. | Community Room

Teens in grades 7-12 are welcome to join us for a festive movie showing of "The Polar Express." Arrive in pajamas, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Register online.

Mah Jongg Open Play

Tuesday, Dec. 3 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Susman Room

Come to the library for open-play Mah Jongg! All experience levels are welcome to join in on the fun. Mah Jongg sets will be provided. Register online.

Bagels & Barks

Fridays, Nov. 22 & Dec. 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 is required. *All Ages Welcome!*

Blood on the Clocktower:

A Social Deduction Game for Adults

Tuesday, Dec. 10 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Susman 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.

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, Nov. 4 & Dec.2 | 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.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, & FAMILIES

Percy Jackson Party

Sunday, Nov. 3 | 2-3:15 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. No registration required.

Minecraft Mondays

Mondays, Nov. 4 & Dec. 2 | 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, Nov. 5 & Dec. 10 | 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 make connections in a welcoming environment. Register online. **Teens welcome too!**

The Bookmark Bunch

Wednesdays, Nov. 6 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Beginning readers discover a new chapter book series every month at the Bookmark Bunch. Register online.

Meet & Greet with Bunnies

Wednesday, Nov. 6 | 5:30-6 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Join us for an informal Meet and Greet with bunnies. Shelby Wimet-Himelrick of Hop on Home Rabbit Sanctuary in Saratoga Springs will be on hand to introduce families to our bunny visitors and answer any questions they may have. This program is for children and their families. Register online.

Library Goes to Town

Fridays, Nov. 8 & Dec. 13 | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Various Locations

Join our Children's Librarian, Kristine, as she travels around Saratoga Springs with a super fun story time. In November, we'll visit Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga, and in December, the Saratoga Hilton. Register online.

Hallway Art

Saturday, Nov. 9 & Dec. 7 | 3-4 p.m. | Children's Room

Help us create new art for the Children's Room hallway. Our theme for November is dogs and in December, cats. For grades K to 6. No registration required.

Chess Club

Wednesday, Nov. 13 & Dec. 4 | 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.

Nintendo Switch: Super Smash Bros. & Mario Kart

Tuesdays, Nov. 19 & Dec. 17 | 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Join us after school to play our Nintendo Switch! Super Smash Bros in November and Mario Kart in December. For kids in grades K-6. No registration required.

Board Game Get-Together

Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Nothing to do tonight? Come for a chance to hang out and play any number of games — meet up with your friends, or make new ones! This program is recommended for grades K to 6. No registration required.

Homeschool Hangs

Thurs., Nov. 21 & Wed., Dec. 18 | 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 November, we'll talk about Dinosaur Bones, and in December, an Animal Remix! Register online.

Teddy Bear Story Time

Friday, Nov. 29 | 10:30-11 a.m. | Crawshaw Story Room

Children ages 0-5 are invited to wear their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal to story time. Enjoy stories, songs, and activities alongside your furry friend. No registration required.

Pajama Party

Friday, Nov. 29 | 2-3 p.m. | Children's Room

Join us for Pajama Day in the Children's Room. Wear your PJ's and enjoy fun activities, snacks, a craft, dancing, and more! No registration required.

Saratoga Springs Youth Ballet presents the Nutcracker

Sunday, Dec. 1 | 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* and watch a live performance from The Nutcracker Suite along with a reading of *The Nutcracker Story*. Registration will open on November 10th. Please register online.

Baby Raves (New!)

Multiple Dates & Times | Community Room | Visit www.sspl.org

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! Each event will have a different theme. Please register each child online.

Gingerbread House Workshops

Multiple Dates & Time | Crawshaw Story Room | Visit www.sspl.org

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 register online and bring a cube tissue box to use as the base.

Family Movie Monday

Monday, Dec. 23 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Community Room

You're invited to a matinee showing of *Rise of the Guardians* (2012), with coloring pages and a snowflake craft available. Feel free to bring blankets for comfy floor seating. Open to children and their families. No registration is required.

Design Your Own Medieval Sword & Shield

Friday, Dec. 27 | 10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. | Community Room

Kids in grades K-6, join us to decorate your own cardboard sword and shield. Learn about Medieval coats of arms and decide what yours would look like! Choose either session. Please register each child individually.

The Reluctant Dragon Puppet Show

Saturday, Dec. 28 | 11-11:45 a.m. | Community Room

Based on the story by Kenneth Grahame, *The Reluctant Dragon* is presented by the Lionheart Puppet Company. This show is suitable for ages 4-11. No registration is required, but space may be limited by room capacity.

Kids Paint & Sip

Monday, Dec. 30 | 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Community Room

Create a winter landscape using acrylic paints! Educators from The Hyde Collection will provide step-by-step instruction for children ages grades K-6. Cocoa and holiday goodies will be served. Please register online.

Noon Year's Eve

Tuesday, Dec. 31 | 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Community Room

Families with children ages two and up, join us to celebrate the New Year at noon! We will craft our own shakers, count down to noon, and then dance it out with dimmed lights and glow sticks! No registration is required..

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.

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.

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

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

