I hope this finds you and your family enjoying the holiday season. It has been a super busy year at Somers Library and as we wind down 2023 there is a lot to look back on and be proud of.

For those of you who have read these missives each month, you know that we have been working towards creating a proper teen space in the library and in the process secured a $210,000 grant from the New York State Department of Library Development. Our Children's Room has been reinvigorated by the arrival of two phenomenal children's librarians, Jessica Veissy and Kristi Farrell, and we have seen a huge uptick in the amount of children and families using the library. Our teen librarian, Terre Thomas, has created a slew of great team programming that has created new library fans among our tween and teen population, and she has worked with over 100 volunteers throughout the year to support initiatives that would otherwise be impossible for our staff to handle. Juan Carlos Villagómez, provides one-on-one tech help, does outreach in the community and handles all of our publicity for the
Library. Tara Ferretti, Head of Public Services, oversees all of the public facing day to day librarian operations with grace, overseeing programming, collection development and staffing. We have our support staff, Margaret Widman, Anne Dehn and Edith Felis who go above and beyond to provide excellent customer service to our patrons. And then there are all of the part-timers who we would not survive without: Shane Aiello, Quinn Bolte, Diana Cunningham, Doris D'Souza, Nancy Illuzzi, Christina Johnson, Lily Konys, Beth Levine, Laura Marino, Anastasia Murphy, Sunny Nurgaziyeva, Cheryl Quinlan, Rebecca Rogan, and Christina Turiano-Sander. Each of these people are a huge asset to this Library and this community and I am grateful for all of them.

We would also not be able to do what we do without the unwavering support of our Library Board, who has done everything within their power to ensure that the Library functions in the most efficient way possible, while creating a welcoming work environment for employees (this is not an easy balance by any means). I'm proud that with them, we have created one of the best workplaces, in this town and among the libraries in this area.

Additionally, I need to also give shoutouts to the Friends of the Somers Library and the Somers Library Foundation, who work tirelessly to raise money to provide programming and extras for the building, such as the recently added study pod. Both of these organizations have also been Somers Library advocates and never miss an opportunity to emphasize what it means to have a well functioning library.

My last day as Director of Somers Library will be February 2. I have accepted an offer to be the Director of a neighboring library. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to work at Somers Library and I
Director’s Corner (Continued)

hope that I am leaving it a little better than when I arrived. If I have, it is with the help of all of the folks I mentioned above. I had hoped to remain in Somers until I retired, but things changed and my time here has come to a close.

My best wishes to you for a peaceful holiday season.

With Kind Regards,

Jennifer Daddio

Our programs are supported by the Friends of the Somers Library through our patrons' generous contributions.

Adult Programs & Events

Please register on our calendar or call the library for assistance.

Somers Library Book Group meets to discuss “Cold Sassy Tree,” by Olive Ann Burns

Hybrid, Friday, January 19th, 2:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Available to attend both in person and via Zoom.

On July 5th, 1906, scandal breaks out in a small town when the proprietor, a recent widower of the general store, elopes with Miss Love. He is barely three weeks a widower; she is half his age. “Cold Sassy Tree” is an entertaining and moving account of small-town Southern life in a bygone era. This Library-sponsored book group is led by Diana Cunningham, Librarian, who selects the books to be discussed, with suggestions from the group. Registration is required. For more information please call the reference desk at (914) 232-5717 ext.3. Copies of the book to be discussed are available on a first-come first serve basis.
Somers Library Classic Book Group meets to discuss “Buddenbrooks: The Decline of a Family” by Thomas Mann
Virtual, Monday, January 29th, 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM
This is a virtual meeting.
First published in 1901 Germany, this is a classic of modern literature, describing four generations of a wealthy bourgeois family in Northern Germany. In an uncertain new world, the family’s bonds and traditions begin to disintegrate, and the family’s prosperity sinks into bankruptcy. The author brings the reader into a new world of stunning vitality. This novel reportedly “surpasses all other modern family chronicles” as told in a riveting and tragic story.
The Somers Library Classic Book Group discusses classic titles recommended by the group, identified by surveys, and facilitated by Diana Cunningham, Librarian. The group meets on Monday nights, bimonthly. Meetings are now via Zoom and open to all interested Somers residents. Copies of the current title to be discussed are available at the circulation desk. Join us! New members please register on our online calendar.

Create and Donate Blanket Squares for a Good Cause!
The Somers Library will be collecting knitted or crocheted squares for a project called Loveys to Snuggle. This is a Girl Scouts Gold Award Project, which is the highest award a girl scout can earn. The goal is to help children in the hospital and their families feel loved through the gifting of handmade Loveys (blankets). Please help by making crochet/knit squares in any color(s). MUST BE WASHABLE ACRYLIC YARN! You can knit at home, join our Friday Yarns and Thread group (10:30-12) and teens can join our knitting/crochet social on Friday, February 2nd and 9th at 3:45 pm. For more details about the project and for blanket square directions, please call the library at 914-232-5717, option #3 or email the library at info@somerslibrary.org.
Art Discussion - (Re)Discover the National Gallery of Art: a Virtual Presentation - Thursday, January 18th, 11 AM - 12 PM
Whether this is your first time discovering the National Gallery or we are welcoming you back, this tour is for you! Designed to pique your curiosity and deepen your understanding of the nation’s collection, this one-hour tour will explore a range of art spanning more than 500 years from approximately 1400 to 1900. We will engage in conversation and make meaningful connections to art and our shared humanity.

James Herriot: The Simple Life of the World’s Most Famous Veterinarian (Virtual Presentation)
Thursday, January 11th, 7 PM - 8 PM
Join Anglophile and former UK resident Claire Evans as she recounts the life and times of Alf Wight, an unassuming country veterinarian who practiced for 50 years in one of England’s most beautiful places, the Yorkshire Dales. He rose to international fame later in life under the pen name James Herriot as he recounted the animal stories and colorful characters of a bygone era, inspiring films and multiple television series. Of the latest TV adaptation of “All Creatures Great and Small,” shown on PBS’ Masterpiece, The Guardian said, “Switching it on was the television equivalent of taking your brain out and dunking it into a bucket of warm tea (Yorkshire, obviously).” Bask in the visual beauty of Claire’s recent Yorkshire Dales visit and learn the surprising story of the vet whose books still entertain millions.

Virtual Adult Programs & Events
Please register on our calendar or call the library for assistance.
Ongoing Adult Programs & Events

Please register on our calendar or call the library for assistance.

Otaku Club
Last Sundays of the Month, 3 PM – 5 PM
If you are interested in anime, manga, comics, video games, and all things “otaku,” come hang out with like-minded people! We host watch parties and movie nights and talk about the newest series! Meetings are held at Somers Library between 3 - 5 PM the last Sunday of every month! We also plan outings every month for food, book store runs or to movie screenings when available! Snacks are provided! Members should be 18 or older. Suggestions and ideas for future meetings are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

Your Tech Coach: One-on-One Assistance for Seniors
Schedule your 30-minute appointment on our NEW online calendar
Whatever piece of technology is giving you difficulties, feel free to come into the library to better understand the growing world of electronics with staff member Juan Carlos. He has helped numerous patrons over the years with issues regarding laptops, tablets, smartphones, social media, internet browsing and so much more! He also offers virtual appointments over Zoom to help with tech too big to carry into the building such as printers or desktop computers. Make your appointment on our online calendar or with the reference desk. The library is here to help.

Drop-In MahJong Club
Fridays, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Drop in to play MahJong with your neighbors. This is for anyone who loves the game, wants to meet new people, and have some fun. We have some Mahjong sets, but players should try to bring their own. All are welcome, but enough knowledge to play unassisted is best.

Threads & Yarns
Fridays, 10:30 AM - 12 PM
Join us on Friday mornings with your fiber art handiwork of any kind! Bring your knitting, crochet work, embroidery, cross-stitch, quilting or anything that uses thread or yarn! You'll find good company, craft advice and time to finally work on your project. All levels are welcome from beginner to yarn wizard. No registration needed.
Teen Programs and Events
Please register on our calendar or call the library for assistance.

Everything Japanese Club for Teens
Tuesdays, 3:45 PM - 5 PM Meetings start up again on Jan. 18th
Do you love anime and manga? Would you like to travel to Japan one day? Join us for a weekly viewing of new, old and unusual anime. Once a month we will open a surprise snack box of Japanese goodies and try out Japanese games, crafts and on occasion we will invite a guest presenter to teach us something about Japanese culture. For our Jan. 18th meeting, we will make ramen.

YA Art Series: Anyone Can Draw - A Virtual Series
Thursday, January 18th, 4 PM - 5 PM
Anyone Can Draw! Have you ever said, “I can’t draw a straight line?” For anyone who enjoys drawing, this workshop will show you simple techniques to improve your observational drawing skills. In this relaxed session, we will learn contour drawing skills guaranteed to improve your drawing in one hour! 
*Supplies; mirror, three sheets of paper, pencil, sharpener, eraser.*
Please register on our online calendar.
*This program is part of a series of art classes, so don’t miss signing up for all of the other classes. Taught by Joyce Raimondo from the Pollock-Krasner House.*

YA Art Series: Face It! Learning to Draw a Portrait
Thursday, January 25th, 4 PM - 5 PM
A Virtual Series
Drawing Learn the basic of drawing the human head, face, and facial features. Understand universal proportions that will improve your ability to draw a portrait in one session. 
*Supplies; mirror, three sheets of paper, pencil, sharpener, eraser.*
Please register on our online calendar.
*This program is part of a series of art classes, so don’t miss signing up for all of the other classes. Taught by Joyce Raimondo from the Pollock-Krasner House.*

Visiting College Campuses and What to Expect
Tuesday, January 30th, 6 PM – 7 PM
A Virtual Presentation,
As Winter and Spring break approach, high school students and their parents start to think about visiting colleges on their list. Join Deborah Hardy of GuidED Consulting, LLC as she discusses the ins and outs of those visits and what to expect.
Teen Programs and Events
Please register on our calendar or call the library for assistance.

Middle School Classic Book Club
Wednesday, January 17th 3:45-4:45 pm
This month we are reading My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell. My Family and Other Animals is Gerald Durrell’s hilarious account of five years in his childhood spent living with his family on the island of Corfu. With snakes, scorpions, toads, owls and geckos competing for space with one bookworm brother and another who’s gun-mad, as well as an obsessive sister, young Gerald has an awful lot of natural history to observe. This richly detailed, informative and riotously funny memoir of eccentric family life is a twentieth-century classic.

Young Writers Creative Writing Seminar
Beginning January 9th to a series of 10 meetings
Tuesdays, January 9th, 16th, 23rd, February 6th, 13th, 27th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 4 - 5 PM
Concludes on Saturday, March 23rd, 12 PM - 1 PM
Through activities and lessons, inspiring prompts, and constructive feedback, young writers will develop their writing craft. We will look at diverse genres, and discover unique voices. The seminar will explore fundamental writing techniques, and participants will put into practice literary and storytelling elements. The seminar will follow a writers’ group style format, helping to prepare us for creative writing outside of the classroom, including a look at publishing our works. This vibrant group will endeavor to foster imagination, writing skills, and self-expression. We will culminate our nine sessions with a reading of our creative works.
This event is funded in part by Poets & Writers with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Additional funding comes from the Friends of the Somers Library through your donations. Thanks for your support!

Teen Supper Club
Beginning Thursday, January 18th, 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Knowing how to cook is one of the best basic skills a teen can learn that will last them a lifetime. Supper club is a cooking class followed by a sit-down meal which the teens prepare themselves. Teens will learn cooking terms, techniques and how to create something out of what you have on hand. Registration for each event is separate so don’t worry if you can’t make it to one!
First Class- Stone Soup (This is a meat dish)
Afterschool Craft
Thursdays, January 11th, 18th, 25th, 4 PM
Now at 4 PM on Thursdays! Join the children’s librarians for a themed craft after school! Best for ages 4 and up but little ones are welcome! No Registration Needed.

Lil’ Atoms STEM Club - Great Arctic Circle Challenge
Tuesday, January 16th, 3:45 PM
Join us each month for STEM/STEAM based experiments and projects. For this challenge, students will plan, design, and build an igloo warm enough and strong enough to survive the arctic! Grades 3 to 5.

Saturday Playdate at the Library
Saturday, January 20th, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Join us at the library for a play date. We’ll have toys, arts and crafts (self-guided), books & music for children to enjoy while parents/guardians get a chance to meet and mingle. No registration needed.

Kids Snack Club: Dips!
Tuesday, January 23rd, 3:45 PM
Each month the children’s room will indulge in making and tasting delicious snacks and foods for our new snack club! This month we’ll be learning how to make a dip or two. Children will be able to bring home the dips to make/eat and we will have some already made for taste testing! All materials will be provided. Ages 4 & up.

LEGO Club
Wednesday, January 24th, 3:45 PM
Welcome to LEGO club - make a themed creation at the library and we will display your creations in the children’s room. DUPLO & LEGO - Great for ages 3 & up. No registration needed.

Day of Play with Ms. Kristi!
Tuesday, January 30th, 3:45 PM
Join us each month for a fun make and play! We will be making fun items such as playdoh, cloud dough and more then play with our new creations! This month we will be making our very own snow! Registration Required. Ages 4 to 11.
Art Exhibit:
Evey Albert & her students
Silk Scarves on Display January & February.
Reception, Thursday, January 4th, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

My name is Evey Albert and I am a Silk Painting artist. I have been teaching Silk Painting for the last seven years in Heritage Hills in Somers. I am now retired from teaching at the Rippowam-Cisqua School and have taught art in both public and private schools for over 40 years. I am excited to present my work as well as my students’ work in this exhibition with the Somers Library. Audiences will see scarves, ties and clothing on display. Images made using resists, dyes and layering, made using texture and crackling techniques on silk fabric.
Giving Tuesday Follow-up: Thank you to everyone who contributed to our “Giving Tuesday” collaboration with the Somers Library Foundation. Due to donations from the community, we look forward to continuing to support library initiatives and programming.

“The Race Amity Gathering for Peace” that took place in December had 28 people, ages 15 and up, despite the bad weather that day! Attendees shared poems, prayers, quotes and songs for the healing of the human family. Please stay tuned for more Race Amity dates in 2024.

Our Holiday Concert with John Fiscella was great! Thank you to the Fiscellas and to everyone who attended for such a festive celebration of community and music.

We wish you all a happy, healthy 2024!

We look forward to sponsoring interesting, educational and fun programs in the coming months. Please stay tuned to the library calendar for more information.

Please support the work of the Friends of the Somers Library! As a philanthropic partner of the library, the Friends continues to play a vital role in supporting the library’s mission. Funding programs, both virtual and in-person, we have also given gifts beautifying the space and making the building look and function better. Your donations fund programs for all ages. Please return your donation by using your appeal letter tear-off or make a donation via PayPal by contacting FSLDonations@gmail.com. Any amount you feel comfortable donating to help ensure that our library remains a vibrant, valuable community resource will make an enormous difference. Thank you for your continued support!

The Friends of the Somers Library is a nonprofit organization chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York.
As 2024 opens with new possibilities, the Foundation wanted to take a moment to share our gratitude for the support this community has provided to the Foundation and to our library. We have received many donations, worked with new library staff, and appreciated the help of our volunteers. Through this support, we have completed several projects for the library including a new meeting pod, new seating in the children’s room, and signs for the teen area and meeting pod.

We have been so pleased to have long-time and first time supporters. We cannot improve our library without you! Please see the list of our 2023 donors on our website.

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.” — Maya Angelou

And it was a pleasure to once again work with the Friends on the annual Giving Tuesday activity which will provide new Playaway Launchpad tablets and Chromebooks for our library’s children’s area. These devices would be preloaded with educational materials that would be age appropriate and will be available at the library. More details on how to access and use these devices will be shared once they are available.

We are also pleased that a few donors purchased items from the Library’s wish list on Amazon. This is a great way to have an immediate impact on the library services.

(Continued)
"No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world."
– Robin Williams

As we look forward, we are excited to work with the library on the new teen area which was approved by the Town Board in June 2023. At our event in December, Library Board of Trustees President, Barbara Tepper, and architects Bob Gabalski and Marilyn Reid from Lothrop Associates discussed the plans for the teen area and why it is so important to our community. Watch for more details on this discussion and the teen area project later this month.

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much”
– Helen Keller

You can be part of our important efforts to raise awareness, plan fundraising events, and engage with our donors and sponsors. We are always looking for community members to be part of our mighty team of volunteers to raise awareness and fund projects that beautify, modernize and enrich the offerings and capabilities of the Somers Library. Learn about our many opportunities to get involved with the Foundation or just share your love of the Somers Library. You can text or call us at 914-361-9979, or you can visit our volunteer page. We’d love to hear from you and find ways for you to share your talents or learn a new skill as you support our library.

We wish you all a safe and joyful 2024 with many opportunities to love and support those you care about.

Somers Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that raises funds to support projects that beautify, modernize and enrich the offerings and capabilities of the Somers Library, our community’s intellectual and cultural center -- Working for YOU to improve our Library.