Director’s Corner

"I always felt that if I can get to a library, I'll be okay."
-Maya Angelou

As we approach the end of 2023, I'm filled with gratitude for the outpouring of support and appreciation that Somers Library has received this year; it was truly a great year for us, and by extension for the residents of our community.

We were able to reinvigorate our Children's Room by hiring two incredibly talented children's librarians, expand our services to teens, successfully apply for a New York State Construction Grant in order to create a proper space for Teens, expand our technology services, create a Spanish Language Collection and expand online and in person programming for every demographic in our community.
Director’s Corner (Continued)

We have also been successful in partnering with other town entities, such as Somers Schools, Parks and Rec, Embrace the MOMent, the Historical Society, St. Luke's Food Pantry and more.

Due to the rising costs of everything, the Library has to reconsider its services and there will most likely be changes to Library operations in 2024. What this will most likely mean is reduced hours, reduced materials purchased and reduced programming. There will be a final decision made at our Library Board Meeting on December 20th.

What I hope will remain the same is that we are able to retain the talented staff we have managed to attract and that any visit you have to the Library building will be a happy and successful one. We love serving this community and we promise to keep doing so to the best of our ability.

My best wishes to you for a joyful holiday season.

Jennifer

Our programs are supported by the Friends of the Somers Library through our patrons' generous contributions.
Craft-A-Gift Holiday Fair
Saturday, December 9, 11 AM - 4 PM

After last year's successful fair, we decided to make it bigger and better. Join us in the library program room, where all ages can craft gifts for friends and loved ones. All the crafts are quick and easy!

Make crafts for whichever holiday you celebrate!

To get everyone into the holiday spirit, there will also be live holiday music from the Somers Middle School Bell Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Advanced Choir beginning at 11:30. No registration needed, just bring your holiday cheer.
Braver Angels

Politics and the Family: Presented by Braver Angels
Saturday, December 2, 1 PM - 3:30 PM

Family relationships can become casualties of a toxic political environment. Family members are having bitter political arguments, avoiding each other, or even cutting off lifetime relationships.

If you want to preserve important family bonds while still being true to your values and political beliefs, this in-person workshop will offer you:

- Insight into why family differences over politics are uniquely challenging
- Recognition of common roles that family members play in political conversations
- Strategies and skills for handling family political differences in a constructive way

Although the focus is on family relationships, you can use learnings in this workshop with any loved one. You’ll laugh and have some fun in this workshop—it won’t be all serious. After all, we all come from quirky families.

John & Eddie Fiscella Holiday Concert
Sunday, Dec. 3 from 2-3:30 pm

John and Eddie Fiscella will be playing all your favorite classic holiday songs (with special emphasis on great Christmas songs of the 1950s). There will be singalongs, special guests and a few surprises. Come start the season with good music, good cheer, and good friends. No registration required. First come, first served.
The Great British Baking Tour: Holiday Edition
Virtual, Monday, December 11, 7 PM - 8 PM
Join UK travel/relocation consultant and former UK resident Claire Evans for a delightful culinary tour of the UK inspired by “The Great British Baking Show” television series, aired on PBS. Learn about making a proper cup of tea, regional specialties, their origins, and the particular parts of the UK they hail from. As it’s the holidays, she’ll focus on festive baking in particular. She’ll translate the trickiest parts of British recipes for Americans so you can try them in your own kitchen. Pick up a few useful travel tips as well, just in case you’d like to create your own tour!

Reels: Somers Library Movie Matinee presents: “A Christmas Carol”
Monday, December 11, 10:15 AM - 12:45 PM
This seasonal classic tells the story of Scrooge, the unscrupulous businessman, who doesn’t think much of charity; but then the ghost of his deceased business partner appears to him, trying to get him to change his mind and learn to open his heart. George C. Scott plays the role of Scrooge in this 1984 made for TV movie. 1 Hour 40 Minutes.
Movies selected are based on monthly themes, quality and ratings, with length approximately two hours. Join us!
Tech Help at the Somers Library
Staff member Juan Carlos provides Tech Help for those seeking advice in operating their electronics and other e-services offered by Somers Library. Call for available times and to schedule your appointment in person or virtually.

ESL Conversation Group
Tuesday, December 12, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Are you a non-native English speaker looking to brush up on your English conversation skills? Come join us for a low-key meeting with like minded individuals and native/fluent English speakers to practice your English speaking and listening skills. No classwork! No homework! Just good conversation and pointers on pronunciation to improve your speech. New members welcome!

Drop-In MahJong Club
Fridays from 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 wants to have some fun. All are welcome, but enough knowledge to play unassisted is best. The library has a very limited number of MahJong sets, so please try to bring your own.

Threads & Yarn Club
Fridays, 10:30 AM - 12 PM
Join us on Friday mornings with your knitting, crochet work, or anything that uses threads & yarn! All levels welcome, no registration needed!
Teen Programs and Events

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

Teen Winter Glow Bottle
Monday, December 4, 3:45 PM - 5 PM
Come and create a winter wonderland glow bottle. Perfect as a winter decoration or even as a gift. All supplies are provided as well as hot chocolate and cookies to get into the winter spirit. Just jump on the bus after school for a fun afternoon of DIY.
Please register on our online calendar.

Everything Japanese
Tuesdays, 3:45 PM - 5 PM
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.

Teen Book Clubs!
New Members Welcome!
- Tuskers of Text High School Book Club
  ○ Monday after school, See calendar for updates
- Classic Book Club for Middle School
  ○ Wednesday after school, See calendar for updates
Children's Events & Programs

Please register on our calendar or call the library for assistance.
Children under age 10 must be accompanied in the building by an adult.

Read with a Therapy Dog!
Harper: Saturday, December 16, 11 AM -12 PM
Reading with a Therapy dog is back! We are welcoming Harper from Paws for a Cause to the Somers Library! We have four time slots available per day. Each child will get to read with a special friend for 15 minute increments. Best for beginning readers & up. Registration opens 7 days prior to the session and must be done in person or by calling the children’s desk. Saturday time Slots with Harper:
11:00 AM, 11:15 AM, 11:30 AM, 11:45 AM

Day of Play with Ms. Kristi!
Wednesday, December 20, 3:45 PM
Join us each month for a fun make and play! We will be making fun stuff such as playdoh, cloud dough and more then playing with our creations! Please register on our online calendar. Ages 4-11.

Snack Club: Cookie Decorating
Thursday, December 21, 3:45 PM
The Children’s room is starting our very own Snack Club! For our first program we are decorating holiday cookies. A gift box will be provided to take your decorated cookies home and gift to a friend or family member. We will also have cookies to snack on too! All materials will be provided. Space is limited, registration required. Ages 4 & up.

Wednesday, December 27, 2 PM
High up on a mountain peak surrounded by clouds, a secret Yeti society lives in peace and harmony. One day, a Yeti witnesses an airplane crash; Inside lies "Smallfoot", a legendary creature that will rock the society to its core. (via IMDB) 1 hr 36 min Rated PG.
Art Exhibit:
Jean Morley, Artist & Creative Professional
On display the entire month of December.

My art journey began at birth, as the daughter of two artists. Following suit, my educational studies included fine arts and graphics. However, in 2018, I was diagnosed with late-stage cancer and given only months to live. Overnight, this ended a 30+ year career heading up a Creative Department for a renowned global publisher, and life as I had always known it to be. Pursuing my painting, now full time, has provided me a way of expressing and processing the kaleidoscope of emotions that come with this kind of diagnosis - many fears of course, but also, I've become keenly aware of the many miracles and blessings I continue to receive, such as unexpected synchronicities and genuine heartfelt happiness. Living in the joy of art has become a pillar of life force and a testament to the wonders and miracles of creative expression.

My work portrays human emotions - light/dark, soft/hard, calm/chaos, but always a flow. My heart's emotions pour out the ethereal beauty of the unknown world around us. To me, contemporary abstract art delivers an emotional impact stronger than traditional figurative or subjective paintings. My intention is to express, see, and share these emotions.

My medium is primarily ink, oftentimes mixed with other multi-media pigments. The ink’s fluidity and vibrancy produce an ever-changing, ever-evolving image, until finally, the expressive emotion is complete. The works project the unknown, often the worlds we cannot see, hear, or touch, yet we are somehow able to feel. Through these new perspectives, it is hoped that the viewer can begin to see and feel the world around them in a new and inspiring way.
Please join us for these December programs:

John & Eddie Fiscella Holiday Concert
Sunday, Dec. 3 from 2-3:30 pm
John and Eddie Fiscella will be playing all your favorite classic holiday songs (with special emphasis on great Christmas songs of the 1950s). There will be singalongs, special guests and a few surprises. Come start the season with good music, good cheer, and good friends. No registration required. First come, first served.

This Sunday Dec. 3 at 2pm - 3:30 at the Somers Library

Race Amity of Northern Westchester & Putnam present
Vigil for the Healing of Humanity
Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 pm
While we grieve together and stand together we will hold out hope for relief from all forms of suffering around the world. Please join us as we gather as a caring community.

The Friends of the Somers Library Annual Membership Drive

The Friends of the Somers Library is dedicated to supporting and enriching the Somers Library. Over the years, the library has played an essential role in the Town of Somers by providing (Continued)
access to knowledge, fostering literacy, and serving as a gathering place for residents of all ages. Our organization has been working to fund the library's resources and programs. We have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that the library has on our community, and we are committed to ensuring its continued success. To date, generous donations have enabled us to:

- **Enhance Educational Programs**: Through your support, we've been able to offer engaging and educational programs for children, teens, and adults (e.g. author talks, workshops, and live events).
- **Improve Facilities**: Your contributions have helped us make vital improvements to the library ensuring a comfortable and welcoming environment for all visitors.
- **Promote Involvement**: Your donations have enabled us to launch initiatives aimed at community involvement in our town, including summer reading including summer reading programs for children and educational programs for adults.

As we look ahead, we are eager to expand our offerings. We kindly ask for your continued financial support. To make an online donation, please visit our website page.

Or, to donate in person, there are membership flyers available at the library. If you received one of our mailings, you can send a check in the envelope provided. Donating to the Friends of the Somers Library is an investment in the future of our town. Thank you!

**We wish you a wonderful holiday season**

**and a happy, healthy 2024!**

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*The Friends of the Somers Library is a nonprofit organization chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York.*
Thanks for your generosity: The Somers Library Foundation would like to thank all those who participated in Giving Day by donating to the Somers Library Foundation, the Friends of the Somers Library, or any one of the many worthy entities that provide support to those in need. This past Tuesday, the Library Foundation and the Friends joined forces again to raise funds to be used to purchase Chromebooks and Launchpad tablets for the library’s amazing Children’s Room. If you would still like to contribute, donations via check to the Friends of the Somers Library can be sent to P.O. Box 443, Somers NY 10589 marked “Giving Tuesday”.

Upcoming Teen Room Project Event - December 7: The Somers Library Foundations will be hosting an event at the Library to provide the Somers Community an opportunity to learn more about the Library Teen Area Improvements. The architects for the project will be on hand to discuss the plans and walk attendees through the project. Please join us in the Library Reading Room on Thursday, December 7, from 5:30 to 7:30. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided. You won’t want to miss the gift basket raffle – three with books for young children, two for families, and one wine basket (for after the kids go to bed!) -- to be held during the event. We look forward to seeing you.

About the Somers Library Foundation: Our vision is for the Library to continue to spark imagination, inform inquisitive minds and create lifelong learners. Literate people make for literate communities and informed citizens improve the quality of life for all of us. The Foundation is committed to providing Somers with a modern and welcoming place to read and explore ideas, to connect with others, and to learn and grow. To learn more, visit https://somerslibraryfoundation.org/