



SOMERS LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Your Library in the Park

FEBRUARY 2024



Director's Corner

This is my last Director's Report for the Somers Library. I am sad to be leaving such a wonderful place. It was my hope that when I began here three years ago that I would stay until I retired; it was not meant to be.

Municipal libraries are challenging because they receive their money directly from the municipality. From there, it is the Director and the Library Board (who answer to New York State, not the municipality) who make the decisions about how the library is run, from what is spent on salaries to materials and operations. It is not uncommon for a municipality to not understand that the running of a library falls squarely on the Director and the Library Board as the laws are written. The current Library Board and myself faced challenges throughout 2023 related to this issue.

In a situation like this, municipal libraries have the option of going for a 414 vote. Chapter 414 of the laws of 1995 in New York State enables libraries of any type to put their budget up for a public vote,

(Continued)

Director's Corner *(Continued)*

held on Election Day, to establish the municipal budget appropriation for the library. Should the vote pass, the municipality will fund the library at the approved level.

If voters decide to pass a 414 vote, this will mean there will be a slight increase in the Library tax. It does not mean that there will be a new tax created.

The library's building, staff and resources all cost money, but as a public library we may not discriminate or show bias toward anyone who wishes to use library services, including those who would be unable to pay for library use. Free, open access to information and services reflects not only our core values but also the New York State Education law which governs libraries. In short, free public libraries are a benefit to American democracy.

If the Library Board approves going for a 414 vote, the residents of Somers will have the opportunity to show their support for the library in November.

Working with this community has been a great experience and there is so much that I will miss. Thank you for all of the support you have given me while I was here.

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.](#)

Madam C. J. Walker: The First Black Female Millionaire **Virtual, Monday, February 5th, 7 PM - 8 PM**



Born in 19th century rural Louisiana to former slaves, Sarah Breedlove rose to become the first female, African-American, self-made millionaire in the United States. Known as Madam C.J. Walker, she developed a line of beauty care products for black women. Walker built a factory, hair salon, mail-order business and a beauty school which trained 20,000 sales agents. Later she became a philanthropist and was active in organizing the NAACP's Silent Protest Parade in New York in 1917.

Presenter: Rick Feingold teaches American Business History at Bergen Community College and holds an MBA from Penn State University and a B.A. in History from Rutgers University. This is a shared program with the following libraries: Pound Ridge, Yonkers, New Rochelle, Chappaqua, and Somers.

Travel Presentation: Our Renowned US National Parks **Virtual, Thursday, February 29th, 7 PM – 8 PM**



Join us virtually for an awe-inspiring evening, as the Mount Kisco, New Rochelle and Somers Public Libraries proudly present a captivating public speaking program on our US National Parks. Immerse yourself in the beauty and wonder of America's most cherished natural treasures through a journey led by professional traveler, Chris McCormack. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to delve into the natural wonders that define the soul of America and how you can go see it for yourself, affordably. McCormack will share his tips, tricks, and favorite apps he uses to make the trip more budget friendly. Join us for a memorable evening celebrating the US National Parks! Registration is required for this event, so make sure to secure your spot early.

Virtual Adult Programs & Events

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



Date with a Book for Adults and Teens

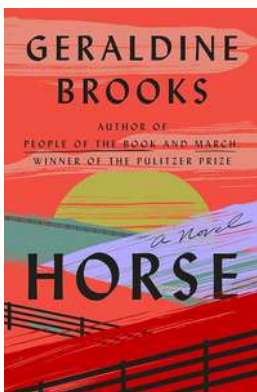
Sign Up Now. Pick Up starts February 1st and Ends February 29th

Date with a book is the biggest trend on TikTok and Etsy right now. Come into the library and pick up a mystery book complete with surprises. Your book will be wrapped and includes treats to make your read a bit cozier! Register on our online calendar with the questionnaire form regarding your favorite types of books. You will then receive a call when your book is ready. The sooner you sign up, the sooner you can pick your book up and start reading! **Registration** is located on **February 29th** on the calendar.

Somers Library Photo Contest

Photo Contest submission from Feb. 1 until Apr. 1

Calling all photographers!! Our newest contest is all about those cute pets and animals. We have two categories: “Funniest / Cutest Pet” and “Wildlife in Winter.” Please submit your entry in PNG format with a title and your contact information to teens@somerslibrary.org. You can submit only one entry for each category.



Somers Library Book Group to discuss “Horse,” by Geraldine Brooks ~ Friday, February 16, 2:30 - 4 PM
Hybrid Program (available in person and via Zoom). A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in the attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history. From these strands, a Pulitzer prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession and injustice across American history. This book is an homage to the horse, horse racing, and antebellum south. Inspired by true events.

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

Schedule your 30-minute appointment on our NEW online calendar

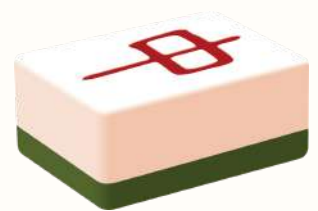
Whatever piece of technology is giving you difficulties, feel free to come into the library to better understand the growing world of electronics with staff member Juan Carlos. He has helped numerous patrons over the years with issues regarding laptops, tablets, smartphones, social media, internet browsing 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

Do you love anime and manga? Would you like to travel to Japan one day? In this program we learn about Japanese culture, food and anime. Each week we try something new such as making sushi, origami or watching a documentary on pop culture. Walk ins are welcome if you just want to see what the program is about but we cannot guarantee that we will have enough supplies if we are doing something special.



YA Art Series: Art of the Eye

Thursday, February 1st, 4 PM - 5 PM

A Virtual Series

Art of the Eye: Drawing Workshop Learn how to improve your observation skills to draw the human eye more accurately. Draw alongside Joyce Raimondo, as she presents techniques to help you look carefully and draw eyes with enhanced precision. *Supplies: mirror, pencil, eraser, sharpener, three sheets of paper.* 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.



Teens Knit & Crochet for Charity

Friday, February 2nd & 9th, 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Calling all teen knitters and crocheters! A local girl scout is organizing a project to make Loveys (small blankets) for children in the hospital and their families to make them feel loved while going through trying times. You must have basic skills and be able to make a simple square. We will provide yarn for the project but if you have size 8/5 mm needles for knitting or an H hook, please bring them along. This will be a fun time to hangout, craft and snack while earning volunteer time for charity work.



Teen Programs and Events

[Please register on our calendar or call the library for assistance.](#)

YA Art Series: Who Am I? Self Portraits

A Virtual Series - Thurs., Feb. 8, 4 PM - 5 PM

Who Am I? Self-Portraits – How do artists Pollock, Krasner, Picasso, Miro and others express their inner life in self-portraits? Following a presentation and tour of the Pollock-Krasner barn studio, participants will create expressive self-portraits working alongside Joyce Raimondo live on Zoom. Have drawing supplies on hand. *Supplies; mirror, pencil, eraser, sharpener, three sheets of paper.*



Westchester LGBTQ History Project for Adults and Teens

A Virtual Program - Monday, Feb. 12, 7:30 - 8:30 PM

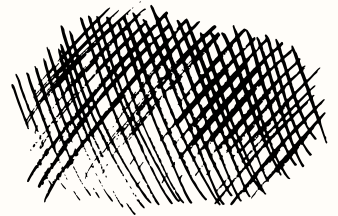
There's much to learn about the way LGBTQ+ people have impacted our county. Learn about LGBTQ+ heroes with ties to Westchester through an interactive presentation by The Westchester LGBTQ+ History Project founder Allee Manning. Test your knowledge of LGBTQ+ icons through a low-stakes trivia game, and find out how they're connected to Westchester! Uncover unsung local heroes who have made national history!



YA Art Series: What's My Line!

A Virtual Series - Thursday, Feb. 15, 4 - 5 PM

Following a presentation of Pollock's early graphite drawings, we will explore basics of observational drawing and modeling with pencil. From cross hatching, blending, and highlighting, this workshop will teach you creative ways that you can use pencil to create light and shade. *Supplies; several sheets of paper, pencil, sharpener, eraser.*



Snacks Around the World - Scandinavia

Monday, February 26, 3:45 – 4:45 PM

This is the return of our very popular snack program where teens sample the cookies, chips, crackers and candy that teens are eating in other countries. Each month you will have to sign up anew and this month our snacks are coming from Scandinavia! We cannot take responsibility for any food allergies.



Teen Programs and Events

[Please register on our calendar or call the library for assistance.](#)

College Essay Workshop

Tuesday, February 27th, 6 PM - 7 PM

A Virtual Presentation by Deborah Hardy of Guided Consulting. This workshop will assist students and families in understanding the common application components and the supplemental essays and provide examples and tips for the process. It will also give you tips on writing that all-important and rather daunting college essay. Deborah Hardy has helped many of our Somers students get into the colleges of their dreams. This is your chance to gain some of her wisdom. This is a free event.

Workshop for
College
Essay



YA Art Series: Capture the Pose!

A Virtual Series - Thursday, February 29th, 4 PM - 5 PM

Capture the Pose! Figure Drawing Improve your ability to draw people from observation in one session! Learn drawing techniques that help you capture the figure in motion and expressive poses. We will begin with a slide show exploring how artists such as Matisse capture the essence of the pose to emphasize feeling. Working alongside Joyce Raimondo on Zoom, we will then learn various techniques for drawing the figure.



Teen Supper Club

Thursdays, 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!

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.

Tot Time

Every other Wednesday, 10:30 AM – 11 AM

Enjoy songs, rhymes and books with our children's librarians!

For ages 0-3 and caregivers.

No registration required.

See online calendar for specific dates.



Playdates at the Library

Thursdays, Now - February 15th, 10:30 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.



Day of Play with Ms. Kristi!

Tuesday, February 13th, 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.

Afterwards we will play together with our creations! Ages 4-11.



Saturday Playdate at the Library

Saturday, February 17th, 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 but children under age 10 must be accompanied by an adult.



Snack Club: Winter Recess Edition: Cupid Crunch!

Tuesday, February 20th, 2 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 are making Cupid Crunch! All materials will be provided. Space is limited, registration required. Ages 4 & up.



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.



Winter Recess Family Movie: The Super Mario Bros Movie
Tuesday, February 21st, 2 PM

Bring the whole family to the library for a movie day and bring your own snacks!

A Brooklyn plumber named Mario travels through the Mushroom Kingdom with a princess named Peach and an anthropomorphic mushroom named Toad to find Mario's brother, Luigi, and to save the world from a ruthless fire-breathing Koopa named Bowser.

RATED PG, 1 HR 32 MIN.



Take Home Crafts Week

February 20th - February 24th

Take home craft is back for the school break! Come to the Children's Library anytime to get your craft supplies and directions to make a special creation at home!

Also, join us in the library for,

Make & Play Craft – Bird House!

Thursday, February, 22nd, 2 PM

Drop into the library and make a specially themed craft in our Program Room, if you want you can also take it home! All materials will be provided, while supplies last.

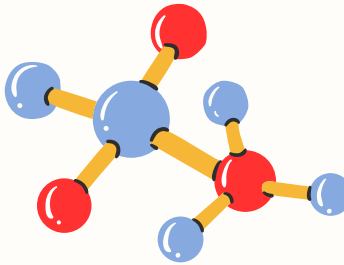
No registration required anywhere.



Lil' Atoms STEM Club - Great Arctic Circle Challenge

Tuesday, February 27th, 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! Ages 8 to 11. Registration Required, Space is limited.



Afterschool Craft

Thursday, February 8th, 4 PM

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.



**Art Exhibit:
Evey Albert & her students
Silk Scarves on Display through the end of
February.**

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.



Friends of the Somers Library

February 2024



The Friends of the Library wish the best of luck to Jennifer Daddio as she pursues her career in a different library. We appreciate the contributions she has made to our library that have improved its service to our community.

Race Amity of Northern Westchester and Putnam Program: Join us at “The Strange Career of Jim Crow” on February 18, 2024 at 2:00 PM in the program room. Our presenters will be Charmaine Aleong and Gerald Watson. For more information, please visit the [Race Amity of Northern Westchester / Putnam Facebook page](#).

Valentine’s Day is a great time to pick-up a “sweet” book! Check-out the Friends book sale titles on the bookshelves inside the main entrance of the library.



SAVE these DATES and watch for more details:

April 6 -7 Ready, Set, GO - to our first Etsy craft fair.

Back by Popular Demand: “The Hudson Bells”! Sunday, May 5th.

The Friends of the Somers Library is a nonprofit organization chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York.

Somers Library Foundation February 2024



Somers Library
Foundation

The Foundation Board members are very grateful to our outgoing Director, Jennifer Daddio. She has brought about many exciting changes in our Library specifically the work to expand and improve the teen space in the library and the purchase of a sound proof Study Pod available to all patrons. The New York State Department of Library Development \$210,000 grant Jennifer has secured will enable the plans for the Flexible Teen/Meeting space work to continue. We wish Jennifer well in her next position and thank her for all she has done for the Somers Library.

Did you know that February is Library Lovers Month?

The Foundation hopes that you will join with us in letting our librarians and the staff know how much we appreciate all the programs and expert help they offer us. In addition, you might consider purchasing one of the items on the Library's Amazon Wish List – items that have been requested by the staff for use in the children's room or teen space.

The Wish List is accessible on the Somers Library Foundation's [website](#).



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.