



Mount Laurel
Library

Newsletter and Program Guide

Vol. 35, Issue 1 January 2026



A sincere thank you for your contributions to this year's Rotary Holiday Drive. Your donations are greatly appreciated and were distributed to many families in our community this holiday season.

ADULTS



2nd Sunday Concert Series Featuring:

Brian Betz Jazz Quartet

Sunday, January 11, 2PM

Back by popular demand! Guitarist and composer Brian Betz brings his Quartet to the library. With Charles Ford on bass and Dan Monaghan on drums. Featuring Behn Gillece on vibraphone. No registration required.



Silent Book Club

Mondays, January 12, 26 6:30PM

Are you looking for a cozy spot to read in companionable silence? The first half hour will be set aside to share and socialize; the next hour will be quiet reading. We will provide comfortable seating and refreshments. No registration required.

Strength & Conditioning *Virtual

Mondays, January 5, 12, 26 6PM

Join Harman Ransi in his beginner-friendly resistance training course. The class will teach fundamental stretches and weighted exercises to build flexibility and muscle. Registration required.

You will receive a Zoom link before the class.



Dance Class:

The Jitterbug

Tuesday, January 20 7PM

Fight the winter blues with a fun dance class! Stop in at the Library for a beginners' dance lesson taught by Dances with Diane. No registration required.



Knit and Crochet

Mondays, January 5, 12, 26 6:30PM

Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 1PM

Fridays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 1PM

Like to Knit or Crochet? Come and join this friendly group. Beginners to experts are welcome. Please bring your own materials. No registration required.



Music:

Songs About Trains *Virtual

Thursday, January 22 7PM

Join us for a listening party and discussion of blues, jazz, pop, country, and rock songs devoted to the thrill of locomotion. All aboard! This program is hosted by Paul Howe. Registration required. You will receive a Zoom link before the event.

The Library will be CLOSED Thursday, January 1 and Monday, January 19, 2026

Library Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:30am - 9pm, Fri. 9:30am-7pm, Sat. 9:30am - 5pm, Sun. 12noon-5pm
100 Walt Whitman Avenue, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 856-234-7319 www.mountlaurellibrary.org



Mah Jong

Tuesdays, January 6,13,20,27 1PM

Mahjong is a fun and popular tile-based game of strategy, skill, and lots of luck. Some experience recommended. Bring your National Mahjong League 2025 card and a Mahjong set (if you have one). No registration required.

Mindful Meditation *Virtual

Wednesdays, January 7, 21 10AM

Join an experienced meditation instructor and relax your mind and body. This program will be conducted on Zoom. Registration required. You will receive a link to the meeting a day prior to the event.



Tai Chi for Health *Virtual

Wednesdays, January 7,14,21,28 4PM

Certified instructor Bob Stanton teaches tai chi, a gentle exercise that can improve muscle tone, flexibility, and coordination. It can be done sitting or standing. Registration required. You will receive a Zoom link the day before the event.

ESL Conversation Class with NJ Literacy

Wednesdays, January 7,14,21,28 6PM-8PM

This class is for upper-level beginner to lower-level intermediate learners. To register for free classes through NJ Literacy, please fill out an application on their website at <https://literacynj.org/become-a-student/?county=Burlington>, or text them at 609-388-1506. They will contact you and place you in an appropriate class for your learning level. This class is for adults only (18+).



Yin Yoga

Wednesdays, January 7, 21 7PM

Join us for a beginner-friendly yoga class led by Monica Walsh, focused on restorative principles, with an emphasis on relieving stress and muscular tension, and maximizing range of movement. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one – a small number will be available to borrow. Registration required.

Magic the Gathering Night

Thursday, January 29 6PM

Stop by the Library and play Magic: The Gathering. New and experienced players welcome. Commander has been the most popular format for experienced players at these events. New players can borrow a starter deck and learn the game - a librarian will be available to teach you the rules. No registration required.



Crystal Bowl Sound Bath Meditation

The Northern Lights

Saturday, January 17 2PM

Join us for an immersive sound bath meditation in an hour of harmonic crystal bowl sound frequencies for mind, body, and soul healing, combined with the ambience of the Aurora Borealis that will soothe away your stress and anxieties. Please bring your pillow, yoga mat and/or blanket for your comfort. Chairs will be available for those who choose not to lie down on the floor. Registration required.



Dungeons & Dragons

Thursdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 6PM

Come and join one of the adventures in the original roleplaying game. 5E ruleset. New and experienced players welcome. Registration required.



Scrabble Club

Tuesday January 6 6PM

Join us for an enjoyable and engaging evening of Scrabble, perfect for word game enthusiasts of all skill levels. Scrabble boards and all necessary materials will be provided. Bring your friends or make new connections while enjoying a friendly game of Scrabble! No registration required.

Chair Yoga *Virtual

Wednesdays, January 14, 28 10AM

Chair Yoga involves gentle yoga exercises that can be done while seated. This class will teach guided breathing, simple physical stretches, and meditation. The exercises are safe for all levels. Registration required. You will receive a link to the meeting a day prior to the event.

Spill the Tea: An Open Mic Night

Wednesday, January 14 6PM

Join us for an evening of spoken word, poetry, storytelling, comedy, performance, and song. Recite an original work, one by a favorite poet, or simply come to listen. Free tea and snacks provided. No registration required. Performer sign-ups sheet available at the event. Musicians, please bring your own instruments.



Medicare Information Session

Friday, January 16 1PM

State Health Insurance Program and Medicare information session. Registration not required.

ADULTS



Film Forum: *Virtual Shadow of a Doubt

Thursday, January 8 7PM

In this thriller, Alfred Hitchcock's favorite of his own films, a serial killer hides out in a sleepy little town with his unsuspecting relatives. Starring Joseph Cotten and Teresa Wright. Screenplay by Thornton Wilder (Our Town). Hosted by Paul Howe. Registration required. You will receive a Zoom link before the event.



Saturday Matinee: Sophie and the Rising Sun Saturday, January 10 1PM

A gentle-hearted romantic drama set in a small town in the Deep South in 1941. Sophie, a lonely, white Southern woman, becomes captivated by Grover Ohta, a Japanese American gardener. Their shared passion for art sparks a forbidden courtship. In the wake of Pearl Harbor, a wave of xenophobia and violence sweeps through the town, forcing Sophie to decide whether she will risk everything for love. R. 1hr 45min. Free popcorn and snacks provided. No registration required.

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Foreign Film: My Life as a Dog

Sunday, January 18 1PM

A coming-of-age story from Sweden's Lasse Hallstrom (The Cider House Rules) tells of a pre-teen named Ingemar, sent to live away from his mother and brother with his aunt and uncle in the late 1950s. In his relatives' small town, Ingemar encounters the eccentric locals while learning important life lessons in the process. 1985. 101 min. In Swedish with English subtitles. Not Rated (brief nudity) Hosted by Irv Slifkin. No registration required.



Poetry Discussion: Seamus Heaney *Virtual

Thursday, January 15 7PM

In honor of the recent publication of his complete poems, we'll read and discuss some of the best works by the late, great Irish poet. A packet containing a selection of the poems will be sent out by email before our meeting. Program presented by Paul Howe. Registration required. You will receive the Zoom link before the event.



Book Chat *Virtual The Wedding People

Wednesday, January 21 7PM

Join a lively book discussion on Zoom of Alison Espach's The Wedding People. Check out our events calendar to see what book we are discussing this month. Registration required.

Adult Craft: Folded Book Hedgehog

Tuesday, January 13, 7PM

This project is all about folding book pages into a shape that looks like a hedgehog. This book-hedgehog is so fun to make! This event is intended for adults; the Library will provide all supplies. Registration required.



Chess Club

Saturday, January 10, 24 2PM

Come play Chess at the Library! New and experienced players welcome. We'll provide chess boards, but feel free to bring your own if you like. Registration not required.

ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Programs for Adults with Disabilities

Note that the Library does not provide respite care; caregivers are required to stay with adults who need them. Adults who do not require a caregiver are also welcome to attend. Ages 18+ only.



Arts & Crafts for Adults with Disabilities

**Tuesday, January 6 10:30AM and
Wednesday January 21, 10:30AM**

Fun arts & crafts class designed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We may be using materials such as clay and paint that can get messy, so please wear appropriate clothing! Registration required.



Music for Adults with Disabilities Thursday, January 22 11:30AM

Join Mr. Jim Gaven for a fun, interactive music program designed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This program will include sing-a-longs, guided percussion activities, and sign language through song. Registration required (please register participants only; no need to register caregivers).

KIDS EVENTS

Some events require registration. Some events require registration WITH a current Mount Laurel Library card. Please check the descriptions in advance to determine what you will need to participate. Many children's programs are designed for children and accompanying adults. Please plan to attend and be engaged with your child for these programs. Drop-offs will not be permitted.



Storytimes

Ages 0 – 2 years:

Tue., Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 10:30AM

Ages 2 – 5 years:

Wed., January 7, 14, 21, 28 10:30AM

Family all ages:

Sunday, January 4, 18 12:30PM

La Hora del Cuento (Storytime in Spanish):

Tuesday, January 13, 27 4:30PM

La Hora del Cuento (Storytime in Spanish):

Friday, January 9, 23 11:30AM

中文双语故事时间

(Chinese Bilingual Storytime):

Saturday, January 3 4PM

Join us for stories, songs, and rhymes as we explore a new theme every week! No registration required.

Caregiver & Me Yoga

Friday, January 2, 16, 30 10:30AM

Connect with your child through yoga! This class incorporates yoga poses, breathing techniques, music, and games in a safe and engaging way. The class is open to children of all abilities, ages 2 – 5 years old. Please bring a mat or towel if possible and come prepared to have fun! Registration for children required (no need to register accompanying caregivers).



Yoga for Kids

Wednesday, January 7, 21 4:15PM

This 45-minute yoga class is designed for kids ages 6 – 8 years old. Students will build strength, balance, and flexibility while promoting body awareness and self-confidence. This class features adaptations like lower lighting, smaller class size, a visual schedule, and fidget toys/tools. Registration required. Please bring a mat or towel if possible.

Tumblin' Tots

Thurs., January 8, 22 10:30AM & 11:15AM

A fun and energetic movement class designed especially for ages 2.5 – 5 years old. Registration with library card required.

Tots Art Time

Tuesday, January 8, 22 10:30AM

An art class for the little ones to enjoy with parents and caregivers. Designed for ages 18 months – 3 years old. Registration with library card required.



Art Workshop

Tuesday, January 20 4PM

Join the fabulous and knowledgeable Ms. Susan for a fun art lesson and go home with your own masterpiece! Suitable for kids aged 8-12. Registration required.

Move & Groove

Monday, January 5, 12, 26 10:30AM

Does your little one love to dance, sing, and move? Designed for ages 18 months – 5 years old, this program will give kids a chance to learn new dance moves and get active! No registration required.

NextGen Gardeners



Sat., January 24 10AM (Grades 2-4)

Sat., January 24 12:30PM (Grades 5-8)

Students will design & make their own terrarium while learning about how plants interact with soil, air, and water to sustain life and work together in balance with nature. Activities will be taught & facilitated by Mt. Laurel Garden Club Members, several of whom have backgrounds in education. Registration required.

KIDS



Paws for Reading

Saturday, January 10 11AM,
11:15AM, 11:30AM, 11:45AM
Thursday, January 15 4PM, 4:15PM,
4:30PM, 4:45PM
Sunday, January 18 2PM, 2:15PM,
2:30PM, 2:45PM

Practice your reading skills with a captive canine audience in a private setting. Bring your favorite book from home or arrive early to choose a book from the Library's collection. Grades K – 4. Please note, sessions are in 15-minute blocks. Registration required.

Art Time

Sunday, January 11 2PM

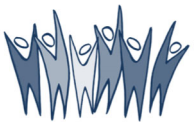
Miss Susan combines Art History, Literature, Science, and maybe even a little Math! Participants will be exposed to a variety of artists, mediums, and techniques. No experience or supplies necessary! This is a school-aged program for grades Kindergarten and up. A library card is required to register for this event.

TEENS & TWEENS

First Chapter Friday

Friday, January 2 All day

Looking for something new to read but can't decide where to start? Join Ms. Carrie for a selected reading from Opal Watson, *Private Eye*, by Brittany J Thurman. This book introduces the intrepid kid-detective as she investigates the toughest mystery yet! This program will be available on our YouTube account starting the first Friday of the month.



Student Volunteer Sunday

Sunday, January 4, 18 2PM

Join us biweekly for a variety of volunteer service projects to help improve the Library. Available for students ages 10-17 (18 if still a student), Volunteer Sundays are a great way to get community service hours and give back to your library. Limited to 12 students per Sunday. Registration required.



Curbside Crafts

All month long

2026 is a brand new year, so it's time to plan for the months ahead. Accordingly, our curbside craft will be a foldable desk calendar! Kits will be available on the table outside of the Youth Services office starting January 2, while supplies last. No registration required.



Which Would Win?

All month long

This month we're hoping to solve a quirky quandary, which would win: a hike thorough a redwood forest, or a swim in a coral reef? Stop by the alcove near Juvenile Non-Fiction to cast your vote and make your voice heard. No registration required.



Drawing Board

All month long

Visit the Drawing Board in the juvenile section for step-by-step drawing tutorials. This month we are drawing everyone's favorite blue heeler: Bluey! Stop by the Circulation Desk for drawing supplies. When you are finished, you can either take your drawing home with you or turn it into the Information Desk to be hung on the Drawing Board. No registration required.

Literary Horoscope

All month long

See what the stars have in store for you, dear reader. Full horoscopes with reading recommendations are available on the slat wall in the teen section. Appropriate for readers ages 14+. No registration required.



2025: A Year of Holidays

All month long

Located on the wall next to circulation (across from the Holds Shelf), this is a monthly calendar that tells you how to celebrate each day. Celebrate 10 days in a month and collect a small prize. No registration required.

AARP TAX HELP

Beginning Friday, Feb. 6 and continuing Fridays through tax season, AARP volunteers will be at the Mount Laurel Library to provide free tax help by appointment. **Call the Info Desk after Tuesday, January 20, 9:30am to make an appointment at 856-234-7319 x 4333 or use our online events calendar to make your own.**



Free SAT Prep Workshops through our online Brainfuse service.

Get ready for the SATs with a special live workshop series led by Brian Stewart, author of Barron's ACT/SAT/PSAT prep books and president of BWS Education Consulting.

Each session runs 6–7 PM Eastern and covers key SAT topics—from reading strategies to grammar essentials to using Desmos for Math.

If you would like to attend all the workshops, be sure to scan both Zoom codes.

January 7: SAT Introduction
January 14: Reading Information & Ideas
January 21: Reading Craft and Structure
January 28: Writing Expression of Ideas
February 4: Writing Boundaries
February 11: Writing Form, Structure, & Sense
February 18: Math Using Desmos™
February 25: Math Algebra
March 4: Math Advanced Topics in Math
March 9: Math Problem Solving and Data Analysis
March 11: Math Geometry & Trigonometry



For any questions, please contact info@brainfuse.com

Friends Corner

First, an important reminder we will not be having a book sale in January. The next book sale will be April 23 - April 27, 2025.

One of the many items that book sale money has been used to help the Library was the purchase of 43 museum passes. When you are trying to think of something to do, check out the passes for the names of the museums you can visit. The museums are located in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Thank you and please continue to attend our book sales, and between time buy books at our daily in-house book sales.

