

Speaking Volumes



Winchester
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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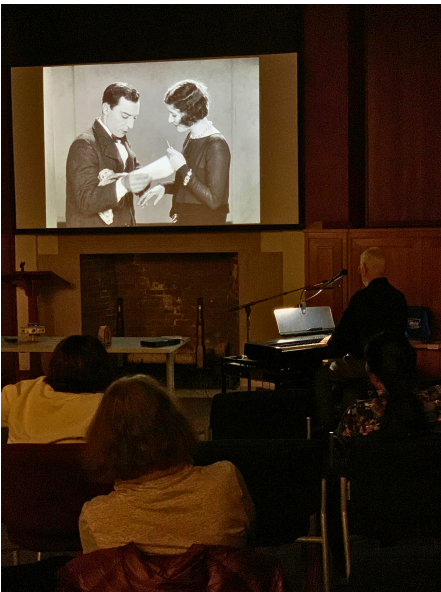
UPGRADED SOUND & SCREEN ENHANCE LIBRARY EVENTS!

Programs, classes, and special events held in the Library's Large Meeting Room just got elevated to a dynamic new level thanks to the new AV system upgrade installed in late August of this year. Funded by the Friends of the Winchester Public Library, the new AV setup will now enhance the experiences of both Library staff for internal presentations as well as events, talks, workshops, and more presented to the public.

As Winchester Public Library's Assistant Director Christine Amatrudo shared, the new AV system replaced the previous somewhat-antiquated one that, though it functioned well enough for many years, the time had come to advance the audio-visual equipment to this new state-of-the-art setup. "The main difference is the ease of setup and how unobtrusive the technology is," explained Christine. "Previously, we had an AV cart that had to block the aisle in order to be positioned correctly. The power cord running from the cart in the center of the room to the wall was a constant trip hazard for attendees, not to mention the untidy appearance. Speakers/instructors can now move freely in front of the screen, whereas before they often had the projector shining in their face and would accidentally cast distracting shadows. Overall it's a more comfortable experience for attendees and a more professional experience for presenters and staff."



Library patrons were able to enjoy the new AV system during a special silent movie night with live musical accompaniment.



Featuring a high-powered wall-mounted projector connected to the in-room audio system, attendees and Library patrons can now enjoy a sharper, brighter picture on the screen, as well as enjoy the benefits of the crisp-sounding audio emitting from the already-installed six speakers.

The significant visual and audio improvements have expanded the Library's options to offer new programs centered on sound and vision – such as a recent movie screening that was presented this fall, as previously the projector's sound would be of poor quality, producing more of a tinny effect. That alone caused Christine and staff to hold back on pursuing certain events. "Setting up the old projector was never a smooth process," Christine added, "it was outdated and temperamental and, while librarians are great at troubleshooting, I know it was a headache for staff. It's great to have some technology that simply works as it should." A whole brand-new pictorial/film/sonic world is now wide open for all at the Winchester Public Library thanks to this exciting new AV addition.

EVERYONE'S INVITED TO STEP INSIDE

WE HAVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR EVERY AGE AND INTEREST!

Your Library team is always listening, refreshing and expanding offerings – with the help of resources from The Friends. Many programs are shaped by participants themselves, so you can help make what we do even better!

Explore the next few pages to discover some exciting and fun offerings sponsored by the Friends.

We think you'll love what we have in store!

For more information and to check schedules on these and other programs, please visit <https://www.winpublib.org/events/>



HANDS-ON FUN FOR CURIOUS YOUNG LEARNERS +

Books & Building (ages 3-6)

Wednesdays 3:30- 4:15

Storytime plus an open-ended building challenge. We read one or two books, then engage in a hands-on design challenge that encourages problem-solving and sparks the imagination of our littlest learners. No registration.

Bracelet Buddies (grades 3-5)

3rd Thursday monthly 3:30- 4:15

Meet other makers and make wearable art! We supply materials—bring your ideas or learn new techniques from friends. Your ideas and suggestions make it extra fun. All skill levels are encouraged to drop in and start creating. No registration.

Kids Writing Club (grades 3-5)

Monthly (days vary)

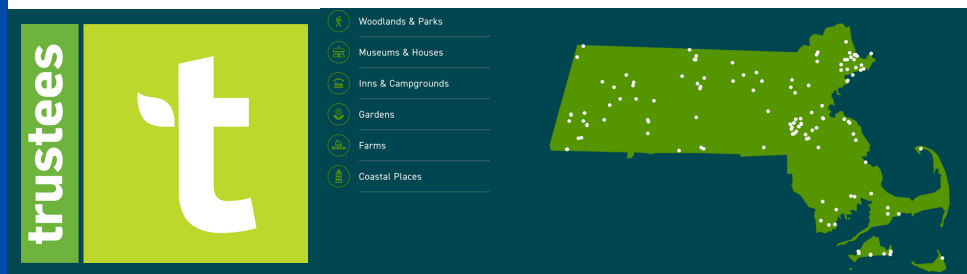
For budding storytellers, poets, and comic-makers. Each month we try a short writing prompt or activity, share work in a welcoming, fun setting, and offer encouraging feedback and simple tips to help young writers grow. No registration.

+ parents/caregivers must remain in the building for children under 8

LOOKING FOR A FUN OUTING? CHECK OUT OUR NEWEST MUSEUM PASSES!

North Shore Children's Museum

Accessible, hands-on learning through play, this is a wonderfully inclusive, welcoming space that uses the power of play to nurture young imaginations.



Trustee's Go Pass

Unlocking endless new experiences and opportunities to enjoy special places protected by The Trustees. With thousands of events and programs at inspired places, there is no end to what you can discover!

For more information or to secure any of our Museum passes please visit <https://www.winpublib.org/museumpasses/>



WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY DONOR LIST

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Friends of the Winchester Public Library and/or the Winchester Library Endowment Fund. Your generosity makes it possible for the Library to continue vital programs and enhances its services to the community. We appreciate you!

(Names reflect donations received between July 1, 2024 and October 1, 2025. If there are omissions or errors in the list, please accept our apologies!)

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JOIN US AS A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY

Dear Neighbors,

Your generous donations have brought incredible enhancements to our Library. We now have a powerful new projector and sound system in the large meeting room, ready to elevate your experience during author talks and Library-hosted events with sharper visuals and clearer sound.

This summer, your support kept our kids engaged with enriching activities. Children aged 4 to 11 kicked off summer with a fun-filled foam party before diving into our Level Up Summer Reading Program. Kids marveled at all kinds of creatures from Curious Creatures and our elementary school aged children created beautiful art with Studio on the Common. Itsy Bitsy Readers charmed our littlest ones with songs, rhymes, and playful stories.

Our teen programs offered a variety of engaging programs just for teens. From our new fiber arts program to learn the basics of knitting and crocheting, to crafting the Milky Way with a 3,000-piece LEGO set, to painting landscapes while sipping lemonade, and discussing sci-fi and fantasy books with the Young Adult Book Club, our community's teens connected safely with one another all summer long.

Looking forward, we're excited to offer more children and teen programs in the months ahead: Matt Heaton will entertain kids under six with music, kids in grades 2-5 will craft festive holiday confections, and teens will enjoy colorful crafts and Friday board games.



Library Offerings by the numbers

(July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

5,375 kids attended
445 Children's programs

876 teens attended
105 Teen programs

1,036 adults attended
194 Adult programs

2,112 museum passes
were enjoyed

The Museum of Science (241 uses),
New England Aquarium (236 uses),
and the Museum of Fine Arts (230 uses)
were our most requested passes.

Your donations to the Friends make all this possible by funding:

- A state-of-the-art A/V system to enhance Library performances and presentations
- Free children's art, reading, and exploration programs
- Engaging teen activities in arts and sciences
- Adult gatherings like Monthly Mahjong Meetup, Craft Night, Author Talks and other free year-round presentations
- Free or reduced admission passes to 12 museums including Museum of Science, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Children's Museum, and 6 outdoor adventure spots like Drumlin Farm, Garden in the Woods and Ferry rides to Boston Harbor Islands

We cannot do this without you! Your contributions directly support technology and enhanced programs the Town budget can't cover. With 100% of your donations directly supporting these programs and services you are helping strengthen our Library as a cornerstone of the vibrant, welcoming community life we all enjoy. Thank you for your past generosity, and please keep us in mind for your support this year.

Winchester Public Library
Nicole Langley, Director

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Speaking Volumes is published by the Friends of the Winchester Public Library.

Library Liaison
Christine Amatrudo, Assistant Director

INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS FOR TEENS TO MAKE FRIENDS, TRY NEW THINGS, AND SHAPE COMMUNITY

Library Initiative for Teens (LIT) (grades 6-12)

Monthly (days vary)

Want to have a hand in what the Library offers the teen community? LIT members plan programs, select new books, help with social media and displays, and craft Teen Space decorations. It's a teen-only leadership space where you can build skills, meet peers, directly impact teen engagement, and earn volunteer credit—one hour per meeting.

Snacks provided; please register so we have enough!

Board Game Afternoon – (grades 6-12)

Fridays 3:30 - 5:00

Game on! Join us in the Large Meeting Room on Friday afternoons for board games, snacks, and lots of laughs. We'll supply a large mix of games – bring friends for some friendly competitive fun. Tell us what games you love and each new school year we'll try to add to our collection. Welcoming all teens - no adults! - to drop in and play!

Young Adult Book Club (high school)

Monthly (days vary - typically 1st Tuesday) 6:15-7:15

Drop in to discuss this month's YA pick—engage in enthusiastic conversation, share book recommendations, and enjoy plenty of snacks. We explore a new title every month; copies are available in the Reference Room.



WELCOMING ADULTS TO CONNECT WITH NEIGHBORS, TRY NEW SKILLS, AND FIND MEANINGFUL WAYS TO UNWIND AND GROW

Monthly Mahjong Meetup

Monthly: 2nd Thursday, 1:00-3:00 PM & 3rd Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 PM

Mahjong is having a huge moment and we are there for it! Join a relaxed, social game that blends strategy and conversation. Beginners are welcome to learn as they play; experienced players will find good company and lively games. We provide a limited number of sets; feel free to bring your own.

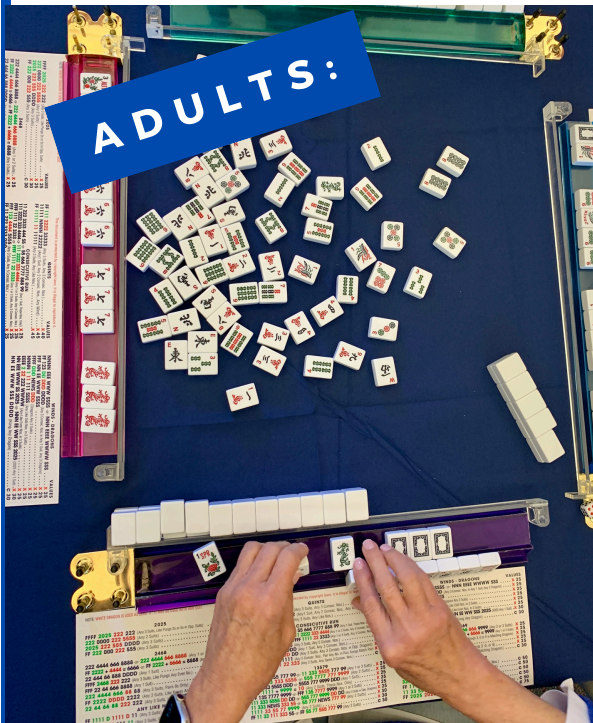
Drop in; no registration

Write-On Winchester

Last Tuesday every month

Join your fellow writing enthusiasts in a welcoming, constructive circle for fiction writers, poets, and memoirists. Together we will help sharpen our craft with writing prompts, short exercises and activities, and share thoughtful feedback in a respectful setting.

All levels are welcome to drop in.



Craft Break

Monthly (days vary)

We've expanded our popular craft night so you can now take a creative lunchtime break. These fun, hands-on projects are perfect for decompressing, trying a new craft, or socializing with friends. Days vary, so find a time that fits your schedule; registration required



Who are we?

The Friends of the Winchester Public Library is an all-volunteer run 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Friends operates independently of the Winchester Public Library administration and the Library Board of Trustees. 100% of the funds raised by the Friends directly support many Library programs, services, and projects to ensure that these vital initiatives continue to thrive.



Our Mission

The mission of the Friends of the Winchester Public Library is to enhance and support our community's Library by raising funds and advocating for programs and services not funded by the Town.

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Support your community by becoming a valued member of the Friends of the Winchester Public Library.
____Yes, I want to be part of the Friends of the Winchester Public Library community!

____\$50 ____\$100 ____\$250 ____\$500 ____Other \$_____

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If paying by check, please make your check payable to *Friends of the Winchester Public Library, Inc.* and mail it to 80 Washington Street, Winchester, MA 01890

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