



Winter Classes & Events: Adults

James Blackstone Memorial Library | blackstonelibrary.org

ALL PROGRAMS ARE VIRTUAL — register at blackstonelibrary.org/calendar to receive meeting link, unless indicated otherwise

Need help setting up Zoom software to attend? Contact us for tech help: ckondziela@blackstonelibrary.org or 203-488-1441 x318

BOOK CLUBS

Books & Brews

Last Wednesday of each month @ 6–8 pm

December 30, January 27, February 24

Find us and register at meetup.com. Titles TBD.

2nd Tuesday

Second Tuesday of each month @ 6:15–7:30 pm

January 15, February 9

Note: no meeting in December. Titles TBD. New members welcomed; books available for loan in advance of the discussion. For more information email ckondziela@blackstonelibrary.org or call 203-488-1441 x 318.

First Friday Book Discussion

First Friday of each month @ 12–1 pm

December 4: *Under the Tulip Tree*

by Michelle Shocklee

January 8: Title TBD

February 5: Title TBD

Best Seller Book Club

Last Saturday of each month @ 3:30–4:30 pm

December 26: No Meeting

January 30: *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman

February 27: *The Searcher* by Tana French

TECH CLASSES

Staying Safe Online

Tuesday, December 8 @ 1 pm–2:15 pm

Are you concerned about staying safe online? Come to this class to learn more about what online risks you face and how you can protect yourself and your loved ones.

One-on-One Virtual Tech Help

Tuesdays @ 2–4 pm

January 5, February 12

Get help with iPhones, iPads, and more! Sign up for one-on-one tech help with Christina via Zoom or telephone call — your choice! Email ckondziela@blackstonelibrary.org for more information and to schedule a time.

Navigating the Library Catalog

Thursday, January 14 @ 2–3:30 pm

Learn how to navigate our online catalog, how to place holds and find the best way to browse the catalog from your home.

Adjusting to Digital Life

Thursday, February 11 @ 2–3:30 pm

This class will help you learn to navigate the new digital normal, including emailing, video chatting, web browsing, device maintenance, and more. Submit your question when you register online. We'll do our best to answer you!

ONGOING WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Virtual Introduction to Classical Latin

(grade 7 through adult)

Mondays @ 5–6 pm

Susan Craig will teach you Latin vocabulary, Latin and English grammar, and translation skills. A textbook will be provided. Contact Reference at 203-488-1441 x 318 or email programs@blackstonelibrary.org to register.

Virtual Knitting Group

Wednesdays @ 6–7 pm

Join us for a weekly knitting group! Beginners and experienced knitters are welcome. To register, contact Reference at 203-488-1441 x 318 or email programs@blackstonelibrary.org.

How to Eat a Poem: Discussion Group

Saturdays @ 11 am–12 pm

Learn to better understand and appreciate the wide world of poetry! Each week we'll read poems presented by group members. Contact Reference at 203-488-1441 x 318 or email programs@blackstonelibrary.org to register.

PROGRAMS

Connecticut Partnership for Long-Term Care Information Session

Thursday, December 3 @ 6:30–7:30 pm

Do you know how to protect your assets should you need long-term care? Aldo Pantano with the State Office of Policy and Management will discuss how you can plan ahead. No company specific products will be discussed, and there will be no sales pitch—just information that you need to know.

High School Diploma Information Sessions: Presented by Shoreline Adult Education

Thursdays @ 11 am or 6 pm

December 10, January 14, or February 11

Learn how Shoreline Adult Education can help you earn a high school diploma. These programs are free and designed to meet the needs of individuals in varying stages of life.

Little Sister: Local Author Talk

Saturday, December 12 @ 2:30–3:30 pm

Local author Patricia Walsh Chadwick will discuss her memoir, *Little Sister*, which sheds light on her childhood experience growing up in a religious cult in the 1950s and 60s.

Branford Forum: Creativity in Art and Science

Sunday, December 13 @ 2–3 pm

Corina Alvarezdelugo, gallery director of the Ethel Walker School, and Leonard Kaczmarek, Yale research professor of Pharmacology and Cellular and Molecular Physiology, will speak on "Creativity in Art and Science – What Lights the Spark and Leads to Innovation?"

Know Your Roots: US Census Basics

Saturday, January 9 @ 1–2 pm

Learn how to use the US census when researching your family history. You'll access the census at FamilySearch.org, so you can do further research from home. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.*

No Rules: Local Author Talk

Saturday, January 16 @ 1–2 pm

Local author Sharon Dukett discusses her memoir, *No Rules*. Sharon left home at 16 to escape the limited life her parents had planned for her—and found herself thrown into the 1970s counterculture, an adult world for which she was unprepared.

Making a Successful Career Pivot in Post-Pandemic Times

Saturday, January 23 @ 1–2 pm

Do you wonder if you are in the right job? Learn 8 strategies to adjust to a career change and evolving market demands. You'll learn ways to grow as a professional and be ready for change and opportunity. Presented by Mark Danaher.

Nourishing the Nervous System: Herbs for Stress and Anxiety

Thursday, January 28 @ 6–7 pm

Nora Toomey, Clinical Herbalist of True Bloom, will teach you about plants that nourish and support the nervous system. Twenty participants will receive a free relaxing tea blend to jump-start your home apothecary! Must be picked up at the Blackstone and are first come, first served. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.*

The Beatles: Liverpool to Abbey Road

Saturday, February 6 @ 2–3 pm

Rock Historian Vincent Bruno will give this talk that follows in the footsteps of The Beatles, from their early days as a cover band, to the excitement of Beatlemania, through their creative groundbreaking studio albums and their final recordings at Abbey Road Studios. We will also explore the highlights of each individual's post-Beatles work. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.*





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Babies & Kids

Weekly Live Storytime (ages 5 and under)

Mondays @ 10:30–11 am
Wednesdays @ 10:30–11 am

Join Miss Mary and Miss Carly for a virtual storytime with songs, hand rhymes, and stories. **Storytime kits (one per child) are available for pickup once you register.**

Weekly Picture Books Live

(ages 5 and under)
Fridays @ 11–11:30 am

Miss Mary and Miss Carly bring your favorite book characters to the big screen! Songs, hand rhymes, dancing, and books will be included.

Take & Make: Hands-on Activity to Pick Up in Person (grades K–4)

Wednesday @ 10 am–12 pm or 2–7 pm
December 23, January 13, and February 24, while supplies last

Stop by the library to pick up all the necessary materials to do a different activity each month. **Kits available while supplies last during contactless pick up hours, 10 am–12 pm and 2–7 pm. No registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.**

Snowmen at Night: Drawing Workshop with Library Arts (grades K–4)

Monday, December 28 @ 2–3 pm
Doris Benter of Library Arts will read Mark Buthner’s classic *Snowmen at Night*, and then will go step-by-step to help you recreate some of the illustrations. We’ll provide all necessary drawing materials through contactless pickup. Additional instructions will be included in the registration confirmation. **Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.**

Gingerbread Building Workshop with Cooking Social Kids (grades K–4)

Tuesday, December 29 @ 3:30–4:30 pm
During this virtual workshop, families will work together to create beautiful edible homes. We’ll supply all necessary materials through contactless pick up. **Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.**

Rick Riordan Presents: Book Club

(grades 3–6)
Tuesday @ 4–5 pm
December 31, January 28, February 25
Join us once a month for a virtual book club featuring titles from Rick Riordan Presents, which share cultures and backgrounds through stories inspired by their mythology, folklore, and heritage.

Take Your Child to the Library Day with Riverside Reptiles Education Center

(for families)
Saturday, February 6 @ 11 am–12 pm
This year things are looking a little different for Take Your Child to the Library Day. We’ll **come to you** with a presentation about all things reptile from the Riverside Reptiles Education Center. You will also be eligible for a free gift from Read to Grow (available through contactless pickup). **Sponsored by the Allan Louis Loeb Foundation.**

Life Under the Ice with the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

(grades K–4)
Tuesday, February 16 @ 2:30–3:30 pm
Discover how animals like fish, frogs, turtles and beavers survive life under the ice in their frozen habitat! Meet reptiles and amphibians who stay warm in the Nature Center all winter long. **Sponsored by the Allan Louis Loeb Foundation.**



Teens

TAG: Teen Advisory Group (grades 6–12)

Thursdays @ 3:30–4:30 pm
September 3, October 1, November 5
Whether you’ve volunteered for our in-person teen group in the past or you’re brand new to our library community, join us for a monthly club where we review new books for the library to purchase & choose upcoming events! Open to mature teens in grades 6 through 12.



Among Us: Teen Game Night (grades 7–12) Mondays @ 5–7 pm

December 14, January 11, February 8
Someone is acting suspicious on the library’s discord server. Is it you? Join us once a month for a teen game night where we’ll explore *Among Us*, an online social deduction game (like Werewolf), where some players are secretly working against the others. Identify the imposters & save your crew before it’s too late!

Mystery Take & Make 4 Teens

(grades 5–12)
Wednesday @ 10 am–12 pm or 2–7 pm
December 23, January 13, February 24
Once a month, we’re putting together mystery bags with a craft, just for you. Just drop by the library, pick one up, take it & make it! Each month is a different craft. What will you get? Who knows! It could be a craft to keep...or an edible activity you eat! **Kits are available while supplies last during no-contact pickup hours, 10 am–12 pm, 2 pm–7 pm. No registration is required; don’t forget your mask! Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.**

Cocoa Bombs (grades 5–12)

Monday, January 25 @ 4:30–6 pm
We’re making our own version of this viral TikTok craze: a giant chocolate truffle that, when you pour hot milk over it, will melt into the perfect cup of cocoa! Get a kit while they last & join Miss Sarah on discord to learn how to make your own cocoa bomb. The mold will be yours to keep, so you can make more for family & friends! Seats are limited, so register before it’s too late! A waiting list will open when full. **Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.**

Dungeons & Dragons & Dice Boxes: Make Your Own Dice Box (grades 5–12)

Monday, February 22 @ 4:30–7 pm
Calling all clerics, paladins, druids & monks! If you’re a D&D player (or you’d like to be) this program is for you! We’re gathering on discord to decorate our own wooden chests, which you can use to store your dice, magic items, or playing pieces. Seats are limited, so register before it’s too late! A waiting list will open when full. **Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.**

