

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





Library Snapshot FY 2024

- 358,961 people visited the library
- 26,871 active library cardholders

CIRCULATION

- **364,562** Books, Videos, eBooks, Magazines and Audio Items Borrowed
- **38,000** Items Borrowed from Other Libraries via Inter-Library Loan
- **15,016** Items Loaned to Other Libraries



OUTREACH

- **771** Visits to Elder Care Residences, Home-bound Patrons, and Preschools
- **7,844** Items delivered



VOLUNTEERS

195 volunteers donated **3,595** service hours to support library programs and services.



ADULT SERVICES

- **124** Documents Notarized
- **68** 3-D Printing Requests Fulfilled
- **5,036** Study Room Reservations Accommodated



REFERENCE

Library staff answered **46,592** reference questions.



PROGRAMS

26,521 Children, Teens, and Adults Attended **947** Programs.



TECHNOLOGY

- **15,912** Library Computer or Research Sessions
- **88,184** Databases and Online Learning Platforms Accessed by Patrons



OTHER RESOURCES

- **66,124** Titles Downloaded, Viewed, or Streamed
- **2,269** Museum Passes Provided for Visits to Area Museums



kanopy

hoopla



shrewsburypubliclibrary.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Priya Rathnam

I feel truly blessed to have supportive board members, committed to the library and willing to contribute their time, energy, and expertise to help me and my staff fulfill the library's mission of making the library a welcoming space for all.

Library staff truly embody the spirit of community and excellence through their dedicated work and unwavering commitment to serving the community. Whether collaborating as a team or supporting patrons individually, they consistently deliver exceptional customer service. The inventive ideas and thoughtful solutions they bring to the table enrich the library experience, fostering an environment that inspires learning, connection, and discovery.

They are fun-loving and their enthusiasm is contagious. Their warmth and professionalism at the public service desk create a positive and inviting atmosphere that leaves a lasting impression on everyone they assist.



National Library Week in April 2024



Library staff as dementia friends



Staff appreciation during National Library Week

And, last but not least, the community we serve is very appreciative of the library services and programs that are offered. Residents reciprocate by congregating at the library during a major event like a solar eclipse, or by displaying their art and artifacts in the library, or by volunteering and donating funds to the Friends or Foundation board or to the Sunday sponsorship program. So, I feel thrice blessed to work with wonderful staff, dedicated board members, and engaged community residents.

JOINT LETTER FROM 3 BOARD PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends and Donors:

Thank you for your support of our beautiful public library! In the heart of our town center, the Shrewsbury Public Library is an institution worth maintaining for the enjoyment of future generations. We often encounter questions as to the nature of the three boards that work to support the library, i.e. the Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Library and the Foundation Board. We'd like to take this opportunity to explain the distinct roles of these three boards.

The Board of Trustees consists of nine elected residents of Shrewsbury, all passionate about the library and committed to its success. Each takes seriously their role as an agent of the public trust. Among their responsibilities are reviewing the annual budget, keeping the library policies up-to-date, ensuring that the library stays true to its strategic plan, and hiring and evaluating the library director. Think of the Trustees Board as the bedrock on which everything else is built.

The Friends of the SPL is the next layer of support. The Friends are a non-profit organization of more than two hundred volunteers that raise significant funds that go towards the rich array of programs offered through the library, e.g. the International Film Festival held every February, puppet shows and other children's programming, the twice monthly Memory Cafés, the annual Holiday Open House, reading groups for all ages, among many other offerings. These programs are well-attended with over 20,000 participants every year. Recently the Friends were gratified to receive a generous gift of \$30,000 from an anonymous donor. This money will go to meet the growing cost of library programming.

While many public libraries in the Commonwealth are supported by both a Trustees and a Friends Board, the SPL has the added benefit of an additional layer of support in the **Foundation Board**. The Foundation Board's goal is to develop a base of perpetual financial support to endow the library beyond the confines of the town budget. These funds are needed for professional development of our library staff, innovative technology, capital projects as well as its signature offering to the community, the distinguished speaker series. The Foundation Board has recently been entrusted with a very generous legacy gift from former trustee Laurie Hogan. This gift is specifically earmarked towards the speaker series. The Foundation Board's goal is to invite best-selling authors to speak in Shrewsbury in the coming years.

Working together in partnership with our library director, Priya Rathnam, and her dedicated staff, we will continue to support the library's commitment to being a hub of civic engagement and learning both now and in the future. Thank you for helping us in this endeavor.

Gratefully,

Nancy Gilbert & Maurice Boisvert,

Co-Chairs of the Foundation Board

Vanessa Hale,

President of the Friends Board

Lisa Powers,

Chair of the Trustee Board

Members of the Library Board of Trustees

Noor Ali

Jeffrey Billingham

Maurice Boisvert

Deborah Lebeaux

Clare M. O'Connor

April Jones Prince

Elizabeth R. Powers

Poornima Tekumalla

Barbara Trudel

REPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Foundation is thrilled to announce the addition of five new energetic, dynamic and community-focused members to the Board. Welcome to Sunita Jandyam, Jean Fitzgerald, Jean Campaniello, Louise Garone, and Richard Ricker. Along with our existing Board members, Nancy Gilbert, Michael Hale, Donald Harbert, Ragoo Raghunathan, Deb Del Dotto, Mike Pagano, Mindy McKenzie, Autumn Hotaling, and Maurice Boisvert, the Foundation Board of Directors looks forward to another productive year fulfilling our mission.

This year our Foundation Board sponsored three distinguished speaker programs on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Dr. Fabricio Murai from WPI gave an informative talk on the history and status of AI. Congressman James McGovern and State Senator Michael Moore did a stimulating presentation and discussion on proposed regulations around AI, and finally, Dr. Yvonne Masakowski guided the audience through the world of Ethics and Global Security in the process of implementing the power of AI.



From L to R: Nancy Gilbert, Rep. Jim McGovern, Moe Boisvert, Library Director Priya Rathnam, Senator Michael Moore



Attendees at Yvonne Masakowski's talk on Ethics and Global Security

We are also committed to securing the resources - above and beyond town funding - necessary to ensure the future success of our outstanding library. Our privately raised dollars support the Distinguished Speakers' Program and enable the library to keep ahead of advancing technology and maintain a first-class facility with capital improvements as needed. We are excited that so many friends, corporations and foundations support our efforts through our annual appeal, weekend openings fund, contributions from the Friends of the Library for ongoing programming, and our new Laurie and Matthew Hogan Legacy Society.

Trustees of the Foundation Board

Maurice Boisvert
Nancy Gilbert
Deborah Del Dotto
Ragoo Raghunathan

Michael Hale
Michael Pagano
Donald Harbert
Mindy McKenzie

Autumn Hotaling
Jean Fitzgerald
Jean Campaniello
Sunita Jandyam

Louise Garone
Richard Ricker

STRATEGIC PILLARS AND GOALS

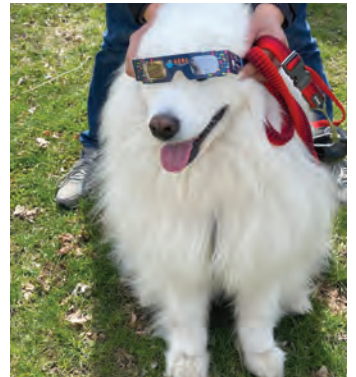
The library's strategic plan for 2025-2029 has broadly defined strategic pillars and goals that help us to prioritize the allocation of resources and guide the development and delivery of the Library's programs, resources, and services. We are positioning the Library as a Community Hub, Literary Hub, Information Hub, Civic Hub, and Idea Hub.

COMMUNITY HUB

Present safe, welcoming and accessible physical and virtual spaces.



Outreach at schools, Farmer's Market, and other community events



The community gathered at the library to view the solar eclipse on April 8th

LITERARY
HUB

Cultivate creativity, inspire a love of reading,
and foster a commitment to lifelong learning.



Teddy Bear Storytime



Writer's workshop

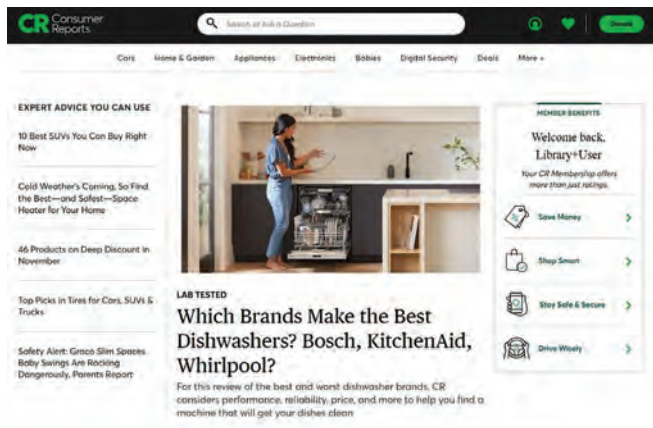


Storytime with Miss. Roxanne

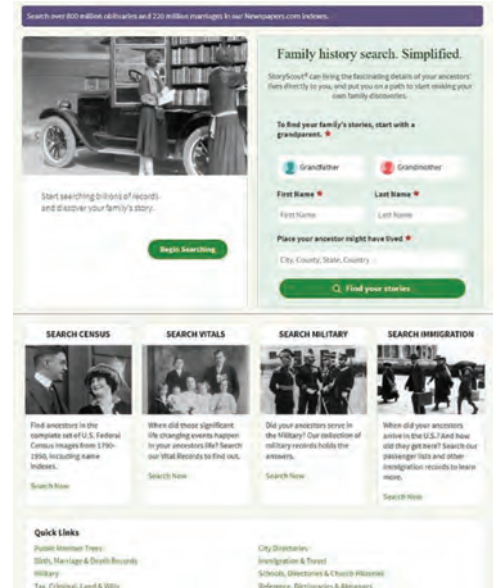
Offer easy access to plentiful resources and materials that support community members' diverse interests.

Your library card gets you free access to a wealth of information, in the form of electronic resources.

Consumer Reports provides ratings, reviews, and news reporting for thousands of products and services. Language learning with Mango Languages prepares learners for realistic conversations and communication in over 70 world languages. Niche Academy features a number of video tutorials demonstrating how to use many of the Shrewsbury Public Library's electronic resources. Ancestry Library Edition is an enhanced version of the popular consumer genealogy database, Ancestry.com.



Consumer Reports



Ancestry

Library of Things



More online resources:

Stream, download and listen to free music with Freegal; download and enjoy e-books and e-audiobooks with Libby, by Overdrive; get online and mobile access to movies, TV shows, audiobooks etc. with Hoopla; and view critically acclaimed movies with the video streaming service, Kanopy.

Celebrate community diversity, invite participation in democratic processes, and foster empathy for all.

The Town's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee had a panel discussion at the library on February 1st. It was titled: "Coming to the Table Forum: Cultivating a supportive community for diverse affinity groups and fostering togetherness amongst differing views."

Committee members Adeola Darlene Mbaneme, Bindu Gupta, and Cynthia Mesquita were present and the panelists included Efraim Yudewitz and Ridha Alam. Yudewitz is the Director at Crane Lake Camp in West Stockbridge, MA. CLC is an immersive, overnight camp for Jewish kids to build resiliency, develop lifelong friendships, connect to their Jewish identity and affirm their identities.

Ridha Alam restarted the Shrewsbury branch of Students Together Opposing Prejudice (STOP) which is a comprehensive initiative designed to foster inclusivity and combat prejudice among middle school students. The panel discussion was well attended.



DEIB Committee Members with panelists

Continually reimagine what a library can be by exploring opportunities to expand services and offering innovative programming.



Community members share their artwork, photography and collectibles to create esthetically pleasing art displays and themed monthly exhibitions



Ramadan display

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Report from the Friends Organization

As we wrap up 2024, we have almost 200 members among us that contribute in a myriad of ways.

Annually, the Friends organization is honored to provide a \$1,500 scholarship to a deserving high school student every year. In June of 2024 Kyra Tompsett joined our board meeting so we could congratulate her in person. Miss Tompsett conveyed to the members that she will be going to WPI for Environmental Science and Biology. Additionally, she talked glowingly about having so many fond memories of coming to the Shrewsbury Public Library throughout her formative years.

As the Friends continue to plan for creative and diverse programming, we were overwhelmed to receive a very generous donation in the amount of \$30,000. This thoughtful gift is just one way the Friends can continue to support the long-range mission of a free public library, open to every patron of any educational or income level.

During 2024 we brought back sales of candy bars from Hebert's Candy Mansion which has been extremely popular and an example of how the Friends has collaborated wherever possible with local businesses.

All of this is made possible through various fundraisers, such as the Friends bookstore (located in the lower level of the Library) and membership fees. Contributions are very valuable and enrich the programs and services offered at the library. As we head into 2025, the board has several openings. We meet the first Wednesday of the month and are seeking new volunteers to join us. Even a few hours a month is sufficient! To find more information about the Friends of the Library, including membership and donations, please visit splfriends.weebly.com or call 508-841-8609, x3. Informational flyers are also available at the library's Circulation desk.



Friends of the Library Board Members,
from L to R: Melanie Petrucci,
Mark Adler, Deb Lebeaux, Judy Pugliese,
Vanessa Hale, Arathi Cowlagi,
Kathleen Thompson and Jeff Billingham



Friends scholarship recipient,
Kyra Tompsett, with the Friends President
Vanessa Hale and Director Priya Rathnam



Talking Hands



Edible crafts

Friends Board Members

Vanessa Hale
Judith Pugliese
Jeffrey Billingham
Mark Adler

Deborah Lebeaux
Annemarie Bird
Arathi Cowlagi
Gail Skiff

MaryEllen Killelea
Kathleen Thompson
Carrie Hendricks
Ellen Hornig

Melanie Petrucci
Nancy Gilbert (Trustee Liaison)
Melissa Wentworth (Staff Liaison)

SUNDAY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to our Sunday sponsors for a successful Sunday season from October 2023 – May 2024. We would like to thank the businesses and individuals who have contributed to this Sunday season.

Providing eight Sundays:

- Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

Providing five Sundays:

- Dr. Dale Magee and Mrs. Melanie Magee

Providing two Sundays:

- Southgate at Shrewsbury

Providing one Sunday:

- Clinton Savings Bank
- Central One Credit Union
- In memory of James A. Heedles
- David and Kathleen Rocheleau
- Jack and Nancy Collins in remembrance of Dr. John P. Collins
- The Bachini Family, in honor of Ruth Seward
- Don, Olivia and Peg Harbert
- The Del Dotto grandchildren: Drea, Dylan and Devin
- Tara Kumaraswami, in memory of Nancy Kumaraswami
- Brian Ganger, in memory of Patricia Heald
- An anonymous donor
- Friends of the Library, in memory of Matt Hogan
- Board of Library Trustees, in honor of Joan Barry's service to the Board
- Board of Library Trustees, in honor of Nancy Gilbert's service to the Board
- Olive I. and Anthony A. Borgatti, Jr., Donor-Advised Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- Dora M. Capite-Tkal, in remembrance of Oleh Tkal



FOUNDATION DONATIONS

We are grateful to our many donors

Albert J. Gifford Charitable Trust
Amica Companies
Michael and Elizabeth Bafaro
Barbara Bertelli
Pamela and Maurice Boisvert
James and Paula Buonomo
Ann and Matt Cairns
Brian Chee
Maureen Coghlin
John Collins
Carol Cormier
Marsha and Michael Cramer
Robert and Diana Cullen
Mike and Margaret Curran
Ann Dagle
Joyce Danielson
Deb and David Del Dotto
John Duquette
Michelle Farber
Jean and Henry Fitzgerald
Emily Gerber
Nancy and Ken Gilbert
Vanessa and Mike Hale
Don and Peg Harbert

Lauren and Joseph Hewes
Lorraine Jones
Hannah and James Kane
Jaimie Kane
James and Elizabeth Kavanagh
Thomas and Dana Kennedy
Lamoureux and Pagano Associates
Deborah and John Lebeaux
Joseph Mancuso
Chris and Jane Mehne
Lira Mishra
Bradley and Phyllis Nutting
Clare and Brian O'Connor
Kyle Osborn
Michael Pagano
Ann and Mike Refolo
Ragoo Rahunathan
Richard and Alison Ricker
Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union
Martha Strom
Michael and Kathleen Thompson
Unibank
Martin and Terry Young



Foundation Board members, from L to R: Don Harbert, Richard Ricker, Moe Boisvert, Deb Del Dotto, Jean Campaniello, Jean Fitzgerald, Louise Garone, Mike Pagano, Mike Hale, and Nancy Gilbert



*give online
to the foundation!*

FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP FEES



give online
as a friend of the library!

Kerry Adams	Beth Casavant	Kristine Gustafson	Charles Mayo	Louise Russell
Melissa Adams	Erin Cathcart	Louise Hale	Lisa McCarthy	John Saenz
Mark Adler	Karla Ramos Chao	Vanessa Hale	Kevin McKenna	Krishna Sagiraju
Kathryn Alexander	Andrew Cherniack	Donald Harbert	Sandra McManus	Jane Salerno
Don Alger	Colleen Corbett	Stephen Hartline	Carol McWilliams	Monika Salvan
Nancy Allen	Arathi Cowlagi	Carrie Hendricks	Shashi Menon	Thomas Sardella
Carolyn Amsbaugh	Sybil Crawford	Melisa Hollenback	Moira Miller	Marilyn Sarnie
Jana Anastas	Marykate Crowley	Amelia Houghton	Miriam A. Mitchell	Xuejun Shen
Marcia Arnold	Ann Dagle	Jeanette Howard	Soumya Mitra	Ruth Skala
Eileen Aubuchon	Mary Daly	Alyson Hyzak	Nancy Monahan	Gail Skiff
Jill Audette	Joyce Danielson	Madeline Iacobucci	Heidi Moran	Gail Sokolowski
Patricia Avis	Janet Dearden	Jean Inge	Luanne Morgado	Maria Spitaels
Marsha Baron-Berg	Deb DelDotto	Peggy Isaacson	Diane Mosakowski	Nikki Stoia
Joan T. Barry	Virginia Deranian	Sarah Jacobson	Kevin Mulcahy	Patrick Stratton
Daryl Beffie	Leah Devine	Thomas Josie	Beth Anne Murray	Martha Strom
Michael Bellows	Robert DiCicco	Hannah Kane	Katherine Musiak	Armen Suri
Lori Bergman	Ellen Dolan	Judith Karlin	Stephanie Muzzy	Julianne Tamasy
Florence Bergquist	Joanna Dufresne	Cheryl Kasof	Donna Naumiec	Joyce Tamer
Jason Bikofsky	Mary Duhamel	Sree Katika	Barbara Neilly	Karen J. Taraska
Jeffrey Billingham	Nancy Dumart	Sally Kazarian	Karen Nelson	Abhay Thakur
Betsy Binstock	Suzanne Duncan	Mary Ellen Killelea	Nancy Lee Nelson	Kathleen Thompson
Annemarie Bird	Stephen Erban	Thomas F. King III	Eleanor M. O'Connor	Tram Trang
Moe Boisvert	Errol Ethier	Leslie Kingsley	Kevin O'Day	Katie Treiber
Cheryl Bortnick	Jane W. Farina	Pooja Kini	Kathleen Obbagy	Susan Tremblay
Susan Bourget	Irmine Farmerie	Herbert Kohler	Jenn Owen	Janet Trippi
Kim Brenner	Anne Firmes	Cheryl Koki	Andrea Park	Margaret Trombley
Katherine Brill	Corinna Foley	Michelle Kosinski	Holly Pavlak	Barbara Trudel
George Brown	Maureen Fujimori	Deborah Lebeaux	Lucy Pelland	Sara Truog
Art Brunell	Jacqueline Gedacht	Brian Li	Michelle Pendell	Elizabeth Van Atten
Lisa Bruschi	Nancy Gilbert	Patricia Link	Rita Perri	Mary Lou Vinnes
Nancy Burnett	Mary J. Gill	Jane Lochrie	Lisa Powers	Bruce Wagner
Laura Burns	Wolf Goethert	Nancy B. MacKenzie	April Prince	Stephanie Wallace
Kathleen Buzzell	Kathleen Goodman	Dale Magee	Judy Pugliese	Na Wang
Ann Cairns	Virginia Grasso	Lon Maletta	Nandini Rajagopalan	Sadanand Warriar
Jerry Callaghan	Christopher Griffith	Taruna Mangal	Kathleen Rocheleau	Dorice Willingham
Barbara Caparso	W. Whitney Griffith	Charlene Martin	Alonzo Ross	Vasilisa Zlatov
Kelly Carey	Lisa Grosskopf	Rena Mayberry	Stephanie Ruggiere	
Cynthia Carlson	Victoria Gruzynski			

We're sorry if we missed any of our valued donors' names. Please let us know if we missed your name and we'll be sure to include it in next year's report.

THE LEGACY FUND

We are very grateful to the following individuals who have pledged a donation as part of their estate planning:

Donald and Peg Harbert
Richard and Alison Ricker

Pamela and Maurice Boisvert
Robert "Chief Joseph" Terkanian



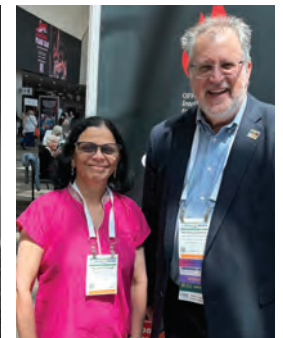
Foundation Board Members with Laurie Hogan. From L to R: Mindy McEnzie, Sunita Jandyam, Jean Campaniello, Deb Del Dotto, Laurie Hogan, Jean Fitzgerald, Library Director Priya Rathnam, Moe Boisvert, and Nancy Gilbert

EDWIN GOLRICK MEMORIAL FUND

Michael Golrick and his seven siblings decided to create a fund in memory of their father, Edwin Keily Golrick, a long-time resident of Shrewsbury who had served on the Shrewsbury Board of Health from 1964-1972. He had also served as a town meeting member. They wanted to do it in "the town we grew up in, and to do it at the Shrewsbury Public Library – a place we all had fond memories of, and where two of us worked. We decided to create a fund to support continuing education for library staff (both full and part-time). The strong preference is to support those who are support staff (i.e. those without the Master's Degree in Library Science) with a further preference to support those who are taking courses in the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program and actively working on earning the designation of Certified Library Support Staff (CLSS) by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association."



Edwin Golrick



Library Director Priya Rathnam with Michael Golrick

We are grateful to the Golrick family for their generosity.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND CAN BE SENT TO

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION,
Attn: Priya Rathnam, Library Director, 609 Main Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545**

This report was produced by the SPL Foundation Board.

Shrewsbury
Public Library

609 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PRODUCED BY THE SPL FOUNDATION BOARD

508-841-8609

ShrewsburyPublicLibrary.org