Look inside for a PREVIEW of programs celebrating our 100th anniversary all year long!
January 2, 2024 will mark 100 years since the Islip Public Library received its Provisional Charter from New York State. Smaller lending libraries existed in Islip prior to 1924: St. Mark’s Episcopal Church provided a library of sorts before 1900, and Islip community women formed an association library in 1898, which charged a $1 membership fee along with a 5-cent rental fee per week for each borrowed book. Both library endeavors never amounted to true library service, however. In 1923, the women behind the association library applied to the Regents of the State of New York to form a true public library. The State inspector who came noted an older “hit or miss collection,” but he also acknowledged the provision of $500 by the association for new purchases. The inspector also noted that there were “three or four able and earnest women” behind the library push who were “determined to make it a success and to have it operated along the most improved lines of library practice.” The final recommendation by the State was that a charter be granted. The issuance of a Provisional Charter in 1924 was significant because it established a legal standing for a public library in Islip, the appointment of five trustees and a mandate to seek out $1000 worth of property.

From its humble beginnings 100 years ago with no more than 80 “subscribers” and about 300 volumes, the Library has grown to nearly 12,000 cardholders and a collection of over 119,000 volumes. And that volume count does not include collections that could never have been envisioned in 1924 – DVDs, video games, databases, computers, music CDs, ebooks, audiobooks, blood pressure monitoring kits, museum passes, a Library of Things, online homework help, and full-blown services to children. Perhaps the greatest addition to public libraries – air conditioning – was itself transformative, preserving countless dollars of collections and turning the Library into a true destination.

To be sure, the commitment to books and the early objectives of supporting literacy, education, and democratic ideals remain. But public libraries of today go so much further than any 1920s shushing librarian could have ever foreseen. Today, the public library is a gathering place that strengthens community, a hub that supports civic and cultural events, a beloved resource that enhances quality of life and leisure time, and a connector of people to resources and to each other. For 100 years, public libraries have been reinventing themselves, and to remain relevant and to thrive, they must continue to reflect relentless technological change and simultaneously be havens from a technologically mediated world. I once heard it said that libraries are evolving so rapidly, that what will be offered in libraries in five years hasn’t even been invented yet. Nonetheless, I believe the one constant will be our treasured print books.

To honor its 100 years of serving the community, the Library will host a slew of events and special programs that give a nod to various aspects of the 1920s – its art, food, music, style, and history. A very special Centennial Social is scheduled for the spring. Sorry, in the spirit of Prohibition there won’t be alcohol, but check out the upcoming program to a NYC speakeasy if you are seeking some giggle water. This special edition newsletter was issued to build excitement for the year’s events and to highlight the history of an institution that has steadfastly served generations of the community for 100 years. The Board of Trustees and staff hope that in this year of celebration, you join in the festivities and be a part of the Library’s history.
Book Discussion: The Roaring Days of Zora Lily
Thursday, February 15
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Join Librarians Carol Curtis and Laurie Aitken for a discussion of Noelle Salazar’s newest book The Roaring Days of Zora Lily, a journey through the speakeasies of the jazz age to the glamour and darkness of Hollywood. Following our discussion, the author, Noelle Salazar will zoom in for a question & answer session and general discussion.

Classical Music of the Jazz Age
featuring Long Island Chamber Music Piano Trio
Sunday, February 25
1:30 – 2:45 pm
We begin our 100th anniversary concert series featuring classical music from the jazz age featuring violin, cello, and piano performed by the world-class professional musicians of Long Island Chamber Music. Enjoy music by composer George Gershwin and his compositional influences Nadia Boulanger and Maurice Ravel, as well as the lush music by jazz age composers of the Harlem Renaissance, William Grant Still and Margaret Bonds. Long Island Chamber Music (LICM) musicians are drawn from Carnegie Hall’s Ensemble Connect, the New York Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Astral Artists, and several other of the country’s most prominent musical institutions.

Maritime Smuggling on Long Island:
From Pirates to Rumrunners
Monday, February 12
7:00 – 8:00 pm
Join historian, author, and former Newsday reporter Bill Bleyer, for a PowerPoint presentation to learn why pirates like Captain Kidd were attracted to Long Island at the turn of the 18th century, and how a visit by Kidd to Gardiners Island led to him dying on the gallows in London. In addition, learn why Long Island was so attractive to bootleggers during Prohibition, that the Atlantic Ocean off the South Shore became known as Rum Row, and was frequented by bootleggers like William “The Real McCoy” McCoy who supplied gangsters like Al Capone and Dutch Schultz.
St. Patrick’s Day Jazz
Sunday, March 17  2:00 – 3:15 pm
Enjoy an afternoon of St. Patrick’s Day music with a twist of jazz, presented by composer/pianist Paul Joseph and his jazz trio. You will hear inspiring instrumental jazz renditions of Irish favorites such as Danny Boy, When Irish Eyes are Smiling, Red Is the Rose, The Minstrel Boy and many others. Paul Joseph has composed works that have received wide critical acclaim in performances by distinguished orchestras, ballet companies and choirs. His dynamic rhythm section consists of drummer Danny Borg and bassist Edgar Mills.

Buster Keaton Classic Hollywood Lecture and Film Showing
Tuesday, March 19  6:30 – 8:30 pm
Islip resident, Lawrence Wolff, will present an interactive PowerPoint presentation about iconic actor, comedian, and director Buster Keaton. We will view Sherlock Jr., a 1924 American silent comedy film directed by and starring Buster Keaton. Fun Fact – Buster Keaton was married on Long Island (Great Neck) and shot silent film scenes in New York City and Coney Island.

Solar Eclipse Event with “That Planetarium Guy”
Saturday, April 6
Please select appropriate age group:
11:00 – 11:50 am
(children grades 3 – 6 with caregiver)
1:00 – 1:50 pm (adults)
2:00 – 2:50 pm (teens)
Did you know that there were three solar eclipses and two lunar eclipses in 1924? How can the Moon, an object less than half the size of Earth, block out the Sun, the largest object in our solar system? Well, that’s exactly what is going to happen again on April 8, 2024! Join Tom Barry (“That Planetarium Guy“), as we explore the upcoming eclipse and learn how to view it, all from the safety of a portable planetarium. Enter the portable planetarium inside our Community Room for this unique experience!

1920s Party with DJ Nick
Tuesday, April 9  7:00 – 8:30 pm
Party like it is 1924! Join DJ Nick for a 1920s-themed night of music, dancing, games, refreshments, bingo and prizes!

MGM Through the Decades Film Festival
Join us on Friday afternoons at 2:00 pm
Specific dates: TBA
White Shadows in the South Seas (1928)
The Rogue Song (1930)
Mrs. Miniver (1942)
An American in Paris (1951)
Doctor Zhivago (1965)
The Godfather (1977)
Marlon Brando was born in 1924!
Rain Man (1988)
Stargate (1994)
Legally Blonde (2001)
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2011)
The Boys in the Boat (2023)
Rumrunning in Suffolk County: Tales from Liquor Island
Tuesday, April 16
7:00 – 8:00 pm
Nicknamed Liquor Island, Long Island was a rumrunner’s paradise during Prohibition. With its proximity to major markets and coastal communities for easy transit, Suffolk County was awash in illegal hooch! Smugglers bringing cases of booze from offshore, often secretly hid products in local garages and sheds, leaving a bottle as a thank you. Violence from criminal outfits disrupted previously quiet towns, as locals too often were swept up in dangerous, unintentional engagements with bootleggers. Join author Amy Kasuga Folk as she recounts stories from Suffolk County’s Prohibition era.

Light Iris Painting with Kathy Reccardi
Wednesday, May 29
6:30 – 8:00 pm
Celebrate the year 1924 when Alfred Stiegler and artist Georgia O’Keefe were married. Paint a flower similar to the Light Iris from 1924. Beginners welcome!

1920s Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre with “The Killing Kompany”
Friday, June 7
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Experience a night out of murder mystery theatre-in-the-round. Actors will interact with the audience while playing victims, suspects, criminals, police officers and other characters. The audience will try to deduce who committed a “crime.” Audience members will also enjoy dinner during this interactive theater experience.

Tenement Museum/The Back Room NYC Bus Trip
Thursday, June 27
Itinerary:
• Depart from the Islip Library by motorcoach to the Tenement Museum. We will take a tour of this apartment building which once provided shelter to nearly 7,000 immigrants.
• Enjoy time on your own at Hudson Eats, located inside Brookfield Place (across the street from the 9/11 Memorial) for dinner.
• From 8:00 – 10:00 pm we will be visiting The Back Room, one of only two speakeasies in New York City that operated during Prohibition and is still in existence today.
• To enter The Back Room, we will pass through a gate called The Lower East Side Toy Company, walk downstairs into an alleyway, and up a set of stairs to find a dimly lit den fitted with a gleaming bar. We will spend two hours in their VIP lounge, and enjoy two cocktails in a teacup (yes, in a teacup!), the way alcohol was served during Prohibition.
• We will enjoy hors d’oeuvres and listen to music performed by their house DJ, who begins playing at 9:00 pm.
• Cost for the trip includes transportation via Hampton Jitney motorcoach, apartment tour at the Tenement Museum and The Back Room.

Fire Island Sunset Cruise
July date TBA
See one of the most beautiful sunsets on the entire east coast onboard Running Wild, a 1920s-inspired commuter yacht. Enjoy a selection of designer cocktails and delicious gourmet light bites. This is a private Islip Public Library charter complete with a full bar, bartender and cushioned bench seating as well as outdoor seating.
Jazz in July with the Thomas Manuel Ensemble
Tuesday, July 16 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Thomas Manuel and his ensemble will present a mixed repertoire exploring The Great American Songbook as well as some new and original compositions. Jazz historian, music educator, and cornet player, Thomas Manuel holds the endowed Artist in Residence Chair within the Jazz Department at Stony Brook University. Mr. Manuel serves as a trustee to the Frank Melville Memorial Foundation, is the Artistic Director of the Loft School of Jazz, is a member of the Huntington Arts Council Decentralization Advisory Committee, and is the founder and President of The Jazz Loft in Stony Brook, N.Y.

Summer 2024:
Great Gatsby Boat Tour
Date and Time TBA
Cruise the bay that is the setting of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s classic American novel. The Great Gatsby was set on that “slender riotous island which extends itself due east of New York otherwise known as Long Island.” Join us for a two-hour boat tour on the Courtesey Bay, separating “the enormous eggs” which served as Fitzgerald’s setting. We’ll envision where Gatsby’s mansion might have stood gazing at the green light on Daisy’s dock, and exchange stories of the Roaring Twenties on Long Island, which was a microcosm of the United States pre-WWII revolution in manners and morals.

Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Tuesday, July 30 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Join A Mano Baking Co. and create this retro dessert, popular in the 1920s!

Bus Trip to Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty
August date TBA
Itinerary:
• Depart from Islip Library by motorcoach and then take a ferry ride from Battery Park to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty (which closed as an immigration port in 1924).
• You will have five hours to tour both Liberty Island and Ellis Island at your own pace. Self-guided audio tours will be available.
• Ferries depart every 20 minutes between Liberty Island and Ellis Island. You can ferry back and forth between these islands with your ticket.
• Lunch is on your own; there are concession stands at both islands as well as a café at Ellis Island.
• Your ticket does not allow access to the Pedestal or Crown (you would have to purchase those separately, on your own, in advance of the trip). You will have access to the Statue of Liberty Museum which opened in May, 2019.
• Security notice: All visitors must pass through airport-style security before boarding the ferry at Battery Park. All items considered inappropriate or prohibited will be confiscated and retained by the United States Park Police. Large bags are not allowed on Liberty Island or Ellis Island.
• Cost for the trip includes transportation via Hampton Jitney motorcoach and admission to both Liberty Island and Ellis Island.
• Please note: lunch and bus driver gratuity is not included in the cost. Approximate return time: 7:00 pm.

Summer Film Series: Movies Set During the 1920s
Join us on Friday afternoons at 2:00 pm
Specific dates TBA
Killers of the Flower Moon (2023)
The Great Gatsby (2013)
The Artist (2012)
Chicago (2002)
A River Runs Through it (1992)
The Sun Also Rises (1957)
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Great Gatsby Afternoon Tea
Friday, September 13  1:00 – 2:00 pm
The elegance of afternoon tea and the allure of The Great Gatsby, one of America’s most well-known jazz age novels, come together, deliciously, in this program from local author Margaret M. Johnson. Johnson weaves 1920s recipes into a formal three-course menu that includes sandwiches and savories, scones and tea breads, and decadent sweets. Please bring your favorite teacup and saucer. If you do not have one, we will supply a teacup for you.

At the Piano with Alex Wu: All Gershwin
Sunday, September 22  2:00 – 3:00 pm
Pianist and Yamaha Artist Alex Wu delves into the fascinating life and music career of one of America’s most original and celebrated figures. In the early days, George Gershwin started out as a song-plugger on Tin Pan Alley, but as he was continuing to have great success writing popular music for the stage and later Hollywood, he also began to lead a double life striving to make his mark as a serious composer. Alexander A. Wu’s performance brings to life a unique collection of the composer’s earlier piano works and hit songs from his musicals (Swanee, Somebody Loves Me, Fascinatin’ Rhythm, Embraceable You, The Man I Love, Someone to Watch over Me, and I Got Rhythm) to his large-scale compositions (Rhapsody in Blue, The Three Preludes, An American in Paris and Porgy and Bess).

Pie Bake Off
Saturday, October 12  10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Do you have what it takes to win our Pie Bake Off Contest? Bring your best homemade pie to our event for a chance to be crowned the Islip Library Pie Champion! Guests are invited to sign up for the event as either a baker, or a judge. Our 100th Anniversary Cookbook will also be revealed and available for sale!

Books and Tea Painting
Wednesday, October 16  7:00 – 8:00 pm
Artist Bonnie Schwartz will teach you how to paint using only water and tea to get beautiful sepia tones. No prior painting experience required!

Linda Ipanema Jazz Ensemble
Sunday, October 20  1:30 – 2:45 pm
Enjoy this entertaining jazz ensemble that includes vocals, piano, trumpet and drums.

Halloween Nights at Eastern State Penitentiary Bus Trip
Saturday, October 26
Itinerary:
• Depart from Islip Library by motorcoach to Philadelphia, PA. Enjoy an early dinner at Jack’s Firehouse Restaurant, a 19th century firehouse with many original features, providing a setting that is uniquely Philadelphian and full of old-world charm.
• After dinner, take a short walk for Halloween Nights at Eastern State Penitentiary, an immersive experience within the walls of an abandoned 10-acre prison.
• Included with our VIP ticket will be the Speakeasy inside Al Capone’s cell which includes a complimentary drink and entertainment.
• Additional details regarding this trip will be announced in our spring/summer 2024 newsletter.

Flapper Style Earrings
Tuesday, November 19  6:30 – 8:30 pm
Make a pair of Flapper Style Earrings with Donna Irvine. All materials will be supplied.
Spirit of Invention
Monday, March 25
6:00 – 7:00 pm
Grades K – 5
Famous inventions of the 1920s: Band-aid, television, vacuum cleaner and the blender. Learn about the special functions of historical inventions such as the telephone, toaster and hair dryer. The Long Island Children’s Museum will share information about the lives of famous inventors such as Thomas Edison and Marie Curie before we roll up our sleeves to create our own futuristic invention using an assortment of recycled materials.

Solar Eclipse
Saturday, April 6
Grades 3 – 6 with caregiver
11:00 – 11:50 am
Did you know that there were three solar eclipses and two lunar eclipses in 1924? How can the Moon, an object less than half the size of Earth, block out the Sun, the largest object in our solar system? Well, that’s exactly what is going to happen yet again on April 8, 2024! Join Tom Barry (“That Planetarium Guy”), as we explore the upcoming eclipse and learn how to view it, all from the safety of a portable planetarium. Families will receive solar eclipse glasses to take home for the April 8 eclipse.

Winnie the Pooh Party!
Saturday, January 27
11:00 – 11:45 am
Recommended for ages 2 – 5 years with caregiver
Join Mrs. Darcy for crafts, games, goody bags and more. Author A. A. Milne wrote a poem about a teddy bear that was published in Punch Magazine in 1924. He was then inspired to write a book about a teddy bear, and in 1926, Winnie-the-Pooh was published. Some of the characters, including Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Owl, Rabbit and Roo were based on stuffed animals that belonged to his son, Christopher Robin.

Anniversary of the First Winter Olympics, Islip Library Style
Tuesday, February 6
5:30 – 6:15 pm
Grades 2 – 4
In February of 1924, Chamonix, France, held the first ever winter Olympics! Compete in our very own Library Olympics!
Sweet Memories
Wednesday, May 15
Grades 2 – 4
Did you know that some of your favorite candies date back to the 1920s? Come celebrate the debuts of the Milky Way bar, Gummy Bears, and Pez with challenging games and trivia, and by creating a fun and delicious treat!

American Girl Doll Party
Thursday, June 6
6:30 – 7:30 pm
Grades 1 – 4
Join Ms. Emily with her special guests from the 1920s, American Girl Doll’s Claudie Wells and Kit Kittredge, for a celebration filled with tiaras, games, and ice cream. Any type of doll is welcome to come along!

Mixed Media Modern Art!
Wednesday, June 26
6:00 – 7:00 pm
Recommended for ages infant – 12 years with caregiver
Art Deco, Cubism, and Impressionism were some of the popular art forms of the 1920s. Work together to create beautiful artwork in these genres using paint, balloons, bubble wrap, stencils and more! Works will be displayed in the Library during the month of July.

Ice Cream Making
Wednesday, July 17
3:00 – 3:45 pm
Grades K – 6
Ice cream trivia: The first patent for an ice cream cone rolling machine dates back to January 2, 1923, and its inventor was Harry G. Tatosian of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Ice cream is more than a sweet indulgence – it has nutritional value and an interesting history. The Suffolk County Farm will demonstrate how to make ice cream the old-fashioned way – by hand cranking at the Library! Sample the tasty fruits of your labor.

All-Hands-On-Deck Scrimshaw Crafting
Tuesday, August 6
6:30 – 7:15 pm
Grades 3 – 6
Welcome aboard! The last whaling voyage was completed by the John R. Manta in 1925. Explore the stories of Long Island whalers who sailed around the world, and see nautical tools from the Whaling Museum collection that helped them find their way. Discover how sailors told their stories in scrimshaw, a folk art carved from whale teeth. Try your hand at carving scrimshaw art as you sketch, carve, and ink a scrimshaw-style keepsake box.

These Animals Live to be 100!
Tuesday, September 24
6:00 – 6:45 pm
Grades 2 – 4
Did you know Mr. Mac, a tortoise in Boise, Idaho, was born in the 1920s and just celebrated his 100th birthday? Listen to stories about animals that live to be 100 and create an amazing animal craft!

History of Teddy Bears
Tuesday, October 1
5:30 – 6:15 pm OR 6:30 – 7:15 pm
Grades 1 – 3
In 1903, Morris Michtom, a Brooklyn candy shop owner, decided to make Teddy's Bear in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt’s compassionate interaction with a bear cub. Teddy bears have been popular worldwide ever since that fateful day. Learn more about this iconic toy and create your own stuffed animal.

Happy Birthday Everyone!
Wednesday, November 13
10:00 – 10:45 am
Recommended for ages infant – 5 years with caregiver
Happy birthday to you! We are celebrating everyone’s special day, including the Library’s birthday, with crafts, songs, and a special surprise. Fun Fact – It was during the 1920s that birthday parties first became associated with gifts, guests and cake!

Tea for Two
Monday, December 2
6:30 – 7:15 pm
Grades K – 1
Two women from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Roberta C. Lawson and Mary Molaren, filed a patent for the first tea-leaf holder in 1901. By the 1920s, tea rooms had become such popular American eateries that they were a nationally recognized institution. Celebrate the Library’s 100th anniversary by going back in time to the 1920s and joining us for an elegant tea party! Bring a doll or stuffed animal of your choice, your fanciest clothes, and an appetite for finger sandwiches, pastries, and more!
Happy 100th Birthday
Thursday, January 18  6:00 – 7:00 pm
Join us for the Library’s 100th birthday with a day of birthday bingo and board games. Cupcakes and snacks will also be served!

1920s Party
Thursday, February 1  6:00 – 7:30 pm
Let’s go back to the 1920s! Join us for red velvet cupcakes, a 1920s mocktail and a photo op with lots of fun props. We will also play a trivia game!

Ultimate Classic Game Night!
Thursday, March 28  6:00 – 7:00 pm
Play games that were popular in the 1920s: Checkers, Dominoes, Parcheesi, and Jacks!

Escape the Room!
Thursday, April 11  6:00 – 7:15 pm
Do you have what it takes to figure out the clues and make it out of the room in under 60 minutes? Try your luck with our 1920s-themed Escape Room!

Taste the 1920s
Thursday, May 23  6:00 – 7:00 pm
Enjoy snacks that were popular during the 1920s: Kool-Aid, Cheez-its, Wise potato chips, Reese’s peanut butter cups, Milky Way, Twizzlers, 7 Up, and more!

Mini Golf
Thursday, June 13  6:00 – 9:00 pm
Did you know that mini golf was one of the most popular games in the 1920s? Join Ms. H for a round of minigolf at Sayville Falls Mini Golf! The best golfer gets a prize!
Stencil Art
Thursday, July 11  6:00 – 7:00 pm
Come make your own masterpiece using stencils and art materials. Best creative piece wins a prize! Fun Fact – Stenciling was extremely popular in the 1920s!

Wizard of Oz Movie Day!
Thursday, August 15  6:00 – 8:00 pm
Enjoy an afternoon watching this classic movie, along with popcorn and snacks! Fun Fact – Wizard of Oz star Judy Garland made her acting debut at the age of 2 ½, in 1924.

End of Summer Reading Club Party
Ice Cream Social
Thursday, August 29  6:00 – 7:30 pm
Join us for our end of summer reading club party and make your own ice cream sundaes at our ice cream social, which was super popular in the 1920s! Raffle basket winners will be chosen, along with some other special awards!

Fall Leaf with Crayon Shavings
Thursday, November 14  6:00 – 7:00 pm
Come in for a fun afternoon of crafting with Crayola Crayons! Fun Fact – Crayola Crayons were first introduced in the 1920s and were used to make wax paintings and more! Did you know that back then, Crayola Crayons only cost five cents?!

Holiday Bake Sale
Saturday, December 14  10:00 am – 2:00 pm
All proceeds will go to the American Heart Association, which was formed in 1924.
The Islip Public Library does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of service.

FROM THE HELM
Mary Schubart, Library Director

Saturday, April 13, 2024
11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Join us for a Great Gatsby-themed event celebrating the Islip Public Library’s 100th Anniversary. We will have food and music of the 1920s era, an Islip Public Library history exhibit, a photo booth, retro games, trivia and more!

Four seatings: 11:00 – 11:45 am; 12:00 – 12:45 pm; 1:00 – 1:45 pm; 2:00 – 2:45 pm.

Registration information will be available in the upcoming March/April newsletter.

HAPPY 100 YEARS!