

TIDINGS

NEWS & PROGRAMS IN YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Programs for Adults

In-person (Limit of two barcodes per registrant):
Begins on Tuesday,
January 7, at 5:30 pm

Debit card, credit card, cash or check are accepted for in-person registration

Online: Begins on Tuesday, January 7, at 5:45 pm

Phone: Begins on Wednesday, January 8, at 9:30 am

Programs for Children and Teens

In-person and online: Begins on Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30 pm

Phone: Begins on Wednesday, January 8, at 10:00 am

In-person programs, museum passes, Library of Things, and discount tickets are for Islip Library cardholders only.

For children's programs please enter your child's name, age or grade (if school-age) in the note field when registering online.

PROGRAM SYMBOL



Food will be served that may contain allergens.

what's inside

adult programs

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PAGE 10-1 teen programs PAGE 12 from the helm

ADULT PROGRAMS

PLEASE NOTE: Payment for programs with fees is due upon registration.

JANUARY PROGRAMS

Senior Advocate

Monday, January 13 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

An advocate from the Suffolk County Office of the Aging will be available to answer your questions regarding senior programs, services, applications, referrals and more. Anyone with questions regarding services to seniors is welcome. No registration is necessary for this one-onone, walk-in service, but please call ahead to confirm that there are no changes in the Senior Advocate's schedule.

Thai Lettuce Wraps and Glazed Shrimp Wednesday, January 15

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Join Chef Rob Scott for a demonstration and tasting of delicious Thai lettuce wraps made with ground beef, ginger, carrots and scallions. Also on the

menu are glazed shrimp with a Chinese plum sauce.



Sabrina (2001): January 17 Manhattan (1979): January 24 Something's Gotta Give (2003): January 31

Love Actually (2003): February 7 Valentine's Day (2010): February 14



Vegan Chili

Saturday, January 18 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Savor the rich, aromatic, and hearty flavors of this meatless chili. Chef Robert Dell'Amore will conduct a demonstration and tasting.

Ceramic Winter Gnomes

Tuesday, January 21 6:30 – 8:00 pm Fee: \$16

Join instructor Teresa Grant and paint this 6 x 6 inch ceramic gnome couple in red and pink for Valentine's Day. Other paint colors will also be available.



Friday, January 24 10:00 - 11:00 am

Join Librarian Dan Coster to discuss The God of the Woods, by Liz Moore, a riveting mystery about the disappearance of a 13-year-old girl at a summer camp in 1975. Books will be available upon registration.



Puzzle Swap

Saturday, January 25 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Calling all puzzle enthusiasts! Stop by the Library for our

first community puzzle swap. Bring a puzzle and take a puzzle! See you then!

Defensive Driving

Saturday, January 25 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday, February 20 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Fee: \$25 check or money order payable directly to New York Safety Training Associates (NYSTA) on the day of the program.

Chicken Biryani with Geetu Makin Monday, January 27

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Come enjoy aromatic one-pot chicken biryani made with chicken, basmati rice, spices and herbs.



Wednesday Night Yoga Series

Wednesdays: January 29; February 5, 12, 19

6:30 - 7:30 pm Fee: \$25

Join yoga instructor Brittany for a combination of chair and mat yoga. This class is designed for all levels of yoga. Exercises can be done on the floor or on a chair.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Microsoft Office Tips and Tricks

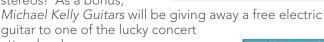
Saturday, February 1 10:00 - 11:30 am

An instructor from Sharper Training Solutions will teach the most popular functions in Microsoft Office including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Prerequisite: basic computer knowledge.

Radio Flashback

Sunday, February 2 1:30 - 2:45 pm

Rewind time and rock out to 70s and 80s hits that were heard on boomboxes and car stereos! As a bonus,



guitar to one of the lucky concert attendees!

Valentine's Day Paint Night

Monday, February 3 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Fee: \$12

Join Kathy Reccardi and create this Valentine's Day painting using acrylic paints on a 16 x 20 inch canvas.



Vision Board Workshop Tuesday, February 4 Fee: \$7

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Are you ready to make 2025 your best year yet? Join Life Coach Linda Mazza for an interactive, fun-filled vision board workshop. A vision board is a useful tool that can inspire and motivate you to achieve your goals.

Your Home's Exterior Saturday, February 8

Join Brian Schnee, Owner and Managing Operator of KL Home Inspection Services, as he discusses the following

topics: proper installation of your home's foundation; effects of the frost line;

10:30 am - 12:00 pm



framing connectors; issues with termites; load-bearing vs. non-load-bearing walls; signs of a weathering roof; proper roof flashing techniques and installations; roof drainage; and roofing materials. There will also be a "show-and-tell" of the materials discussed.

Book Discussion: The Lies We Leave Behind

Tuesday, February 11 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join Librarian Laurie Aitken for a discussion of Noelle Salazar's latest book, The Lies We Leave Behind, which delves into the unspoken truths of one young woman's life during World War II, weaving a heart-wrenching tale of love



and loss. Following our discussion, the author will talk with the group via Zoom. Books will be available upon registration.

Cricut Crafting

Thursdays: February 13, 20, 27 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Did you receive a Cricut for the holidays or own a Cricut machine and need some instruction? Join Cricut expert Laurie Janowitz for this 3-week class as she helps you learn how to navigate the Cricut using Cricut Design Space.

Week 1: Cricut 101 – Thursday, February 13 Learn how to set up your Cricut, create a login and more.

Week 2: Cricut 102 - Thursday, February 20 Learn how the layers panel works and how to use special features such as weld, slice, contour and attach.

Week 3: Cricut 103 – Thursday, February 27 Participants will be introduced to advanced Cricut techniques and will make a project to take home.

Get to Know Universal Class

Saturday, February 22 10:00 - 11:00 am

Looking to develop a new skill or searching for a new hobby for the new year? Join us for this hands-on workshop with Librarian Laurie Aitken and learn about Universal Class, an online learning database available for free with your Islip Library card. Discover hundreds of courses including business and finance, pet and animal care, self-help, crafts and hobbies, and much more! Bring your own laptop to this program for a more personalized experience, or use one of the Library's laptops.

Cooking Demonstration with Chef Nick from Islip's Harp & Hound

Saturday, February 22

2:00 - 3:00 pm

We welcome Chef Nick back to the Library for a demonstration and tasting of a variety of Harp & Hound's most popular dishes.

Whirling Chakras Meditation

Tuesday, February 25 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Join the Zen Den for a meditation to align your chakras. By combining the philosophies of mindful meditation,

Kundalini yoga and the Turkish meditation practice of the Whirling Dervishes, chakras will balance, and the present moment will remain.

MARCH PROGRAMS

Tech Buddies

Wednesday, March 5

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Did you get a new device for the holidays? Do you need to learn how to use it? Let a teen help you! Stop by the Library anytime from 3:00 to 4:00 pm for assistance.

Nina Romano presents Maybelle Carter: **American Musical Legend**

Saturday, March 8

2:00 - 3:00 pm

In honor of Women's History Month and International Women's Day, join acoustic quitarist/vocalist Nina Romano accompanied by a melodic bass guitarist. They will pay tribute to Maybelle



Carter, a member of the original Carter Family, a beloved country band that formed in 1927. Maybelle, who played autoharp and banjo as well as being the group's guitarist, created a unique sound with her innovative 'scratch' style of quitar playing.

Job Fair

Tuesday, March 11

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us for a job fair presented by the Suffolk County One Stop Employment Center. Representatives from public and private Long Island businesses and organizations will be in the Islip Public Library's Community Room to meet with you about potential employment. No registration is necessary for the Job Fair. All job seekers are welcome!

Books and Bagels: What Have You Done?

Saturday, March 15 10:00 – 11:00 am

Join Librarian Kelly Harvey to discuss Shari Lapena's What Have You Done?, where a dark, chilling twist awaits at every corner! Bagels and juice will be served. Books will be available for checkout starting Monday, February 10.



2025 Philadelphia Flower Show: The Gardens of Tomorrow

Saturday, March 1, 2024

Fee: \$105

Bus departs Islip Library: 7:30 am

Registration begins: Tuesday, January 7, at 5:30 pm Registration ends: Wednesday, February 5, at 9:00 pm Please note: No refunds will be issued after Wednesday, February 5, unless your seat can be filled by someone else



Itinerary

- Lunch will be on your own at the Flower Show, or at the Reading Terminal Market located directly across
 the street. The Liberty Bell, Constitution Center, and the Betsy Ross House are also nearby.
- We will spend approximately 5 ½ to 6 hours at the Flower Show.
- Cost for the trip includes transportation via Hampton Jitney motor coach and admission. Please note: Lunch and bus driver gratuity are not included in the cost.
- Approximate return time: 8:00 pm



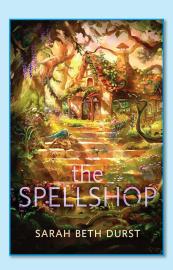


BOOK TALK STAFF PICKS

Miss Morgan's Book Brigade, by Janet Skeslien Charles

"Historical fiction told in alternating chapters about the lives of two librarians in two different years; 1918 and 1987. Based on the little-known history of the women who received the Croix de Guerre medal for courage under fire. This book transports you into that era with extraordinary characters."

~ Laurie Aitken









The Spellshop, by Sarah Beth Durst

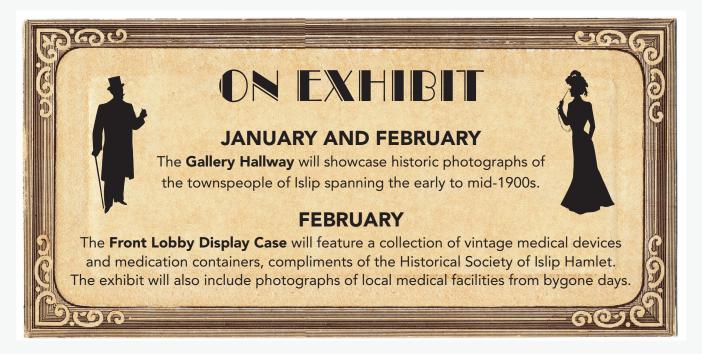
"This enchanting romantasy features a librarian who saves as many spellbooks as she can from the burning library of her tyrannical empire. Join Kiela as she flees to her cozy hometown and creates businesses out of jam and secret spells!"

~ Allison Franzese

LIBRARY NEWS

WINTER EDITION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025



MUSEUM PASSES

The Islip Public Library has museum passes that grant you admission for free.

Winter is a great time to explore new destinations!

Fire Island Lighthouse • Long Island Children's Museum Children's Museum of the East End • Raynham Hall Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum Complex Cradle of Aviation • Old Westbury Gardens

Nassau County Firefighters Museum

9/11 Memorial and Museum

Scan the QR code or go to our website at www.isliplibrary.org to make reservations. Passes may also be reserved in person. Prior to your visit, contact the location for hours of operation.

BEYOND THE BOOKS

DOWNLOAD & STREAM





Streaming movies, music, ebooks and TV shows.

Flipster

Hundreds of digital magazines to choose from.



Offers over 30,000 ad-free movies, documentaries, and educational videos.

DISCOUNT TICKETS

• Half-price ticket vouchers to the **Gateway Performing Arts Center of Suffolk County.**



• Long Island Aquarium \$39.00 adult tickets \$28.00 children's tickets



• Long Island Science Center \$10 per ticket



PREMIER DATABASES











Ancestry: Genealogy research in-house Islip High School Yearbooks online: Genealogy

Brainfuse: Tutoring Brainfuse/JobNow: Job search **Consumer Reports:** Product reviews Universal Class: Enrichment learning

LIBRARY OF THINGS

Scan the QR code or go to www.isliplibrary.org to see our entire Library of Things collection.



Check out these things for winter activities.



Sewing Machine



Coin Counter



Ukulele



Mickey Mouse Cake Pan



Karaoke Machine



Giant 4 in a Row

Children's Department

Enjoy these items and more in the Children's Room.



Magna-Tiles



Legos



Cash Register



Toolbox



Dashboard Steering Wheel



Magnetic Drawing Board



RUNNING LATE TO YOUR PROGRAM? CALL AHEAD TO SAVE YOUR SPOT!

1000 Books Before Kindergarten or 1KB4K Club!

Reading to your children, from birth through five years, is an important step in helping them acquire the skills they need to be ready to read. The library is available to create a love of reading. Register to participate at the Children's Desk.

Dog Man and Friends Scavenger Hunt

Join our scavenger hunt throughout January to find Dav Pilkey's famous characters including *Captain Underpants*, *Dog Man* and *Petey*. Find all 12 characters and win a special prize!





JANUARY PROGRAMS

If you do not want us to use a photo or video of your child, please notify a librarian.

Fingerpaint Fun

Friday, January 10, 10:30 – 11:00 am OR Wednesday, February 19, 3:00 – 3:30 pm Recommended for ages infant – 5 years with caregiver Please register for one session

Join us as we paint away the time using our fingers, stencils, rollers and more. *Veggie Baby* fingerpaints are available for our youngest guests. Dress for a mess.

Zany Obstacle Courses

Saturday, January 11 10:30 – 11:15 am Recommended for ages 36 months – 5 years with caregiver

Learn, play, and grow with Lil' Athletes! Balance, jump, hop, and hurdle in three different obstacle courses that

are focused on fitness and sports skills. Wear comfortable clothes.



Ultimate Playdate

Mondays: January 13, 27 (Library closed January 20); February 3, February 10 10:00 – 10:45 am OR 11:00 – 11:45 am

OR 5:45 - 7:00 pm

Recommended for ages infant – 5 years with caregiver Please register for one time slot. This registers you for all four dates.

Ultimate Playdate is fun for all! Children will connect with other children while enjoying our fun toys in unstructured play.

Play-Doh Playtime

Tuesday, January 14 11:00 – 11:30 am Recommended for ages 24 months – 5 years with caregiver

Let's have fun making Play-Doh creations!

Musical Mother Goose

Wednesday, January 15 10:00 – 10:30 am Recommended for ages infant – 24 months with caregiver

Have fun with songs, fingerplays, rhymes and more using puppets and props.

Paintbrush Palooza

Thursday, January 16, 6:30 – 7:15 pm, Polar Bear Snow Angel OR Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 – 7:15 pm, Hooray for Groundhog Day Grades K – 5





Polar Bear Ho Snow Angel Grou

Hooray for Groundhog Day

Please register for one session

Let's grab a brush and paint as Kathy Reccardi guides you each step of the way.

Crazy Clay Creations

Saturday, January 18 Grades 2 – 4 10:30 - 11:15 am

Create a variety of air-dry clay crafts and decorate them with mosaic tiles, beads and more!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Purple Chair Storytime

Tuesday, January 21 10:30 - 10:50 am

No registration is required

Recommended for ages infant – 5 years with caregiver Gather around the purple chair in the Children's Room for a super storytime, songs and a craft.

Book Buddies

Thursday, January 23 6:00 - 6:30 pm Grades K - 2

Teen volunteers will be on hand while kids practice their new reading skills. Share some special reading time with a big kid!

Year of the Snake

Wednesday, January 29 3:00 - 3:45 pm Grades K – 2

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a story and craft all about the Chinese zodiac. focusing on the clever and tenacious animal of the year - the snake!



A Time for Kids

Thursday, January 30, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, 5 Little Snowmen Saturday, March 1, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Shamrock Silliness Recommended for ages 18 months – 5 years with caregiver

Please register for one session

Join A Time for Kids in this family-friendly preschool program. Activities include music, movement, fine and gross motor development and storytelling. Create a themed craft.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 1 9:00 am - 5:00 pm No registration is required

Recommended for ages infant – grade 5 with caregiver Stop in and share what you love about the Library with

our librarians and fill out a paper heart for the Library to display. Participate in a challenging scavenger hunt and

receive a fun prize!

Twist a Story

Saturday, February 1 11:00 - 11:45 am Recommended for ages infant - grade 5 with caregiver

Mr. PoppinTwist is a balloon-based entertainer who brings a lifetime of experience, style and talent to a unique

entertainment event dubbed Twist a Story, a 100% impromptu storytelling adventure with balloons! Bring your imagination and your sense of whimsy, he will bring everything else. There's no telling where the story will go!

Penguin Pandemonium

Wednesday, February 5 10:00 - 10:30 am Recommended for ages infant - 5 years with caregiver It may be chilly outside, but it is never too cold for penguins! Join us for activities inspired by our frozen friends.

Gummy Bear Party

Thursday, February 6

6:30 - 7:15 pm

Grades 3 – 5

Join us for a gummy bear party! Make keychains, listen to music, and enjoy gummy bear treats!

Scrumptious Chocolate Treats Tuesday, February 11

Grades 3 - 5

6:00 - 6:30 pm

Join us as we create and decorate a Valentine's Day treat using heart-shaped chocolate molds. We will also design a snack using Oreo cookies.

Once Upon a STEM Challenge

Wednesday, February 12 Grades K - 2

6:00 - 6:45 pm

Join us for classic fairy tales with a STEM twist! Help Little Red Riding Hood save her grandma by building a super loud musical instrument to scare off the wolf.

World Record Challenge

Saturday, February 15

11:00 - 11:45 am

Grades 3 – 5

Make history in 2025! Put your skills to the test as we try to break various Guinness World Records for kids.

Family Craft-A-Thon: **No-Sew Pizza Pillows**

Tuesday, February 18 2:30 - 3:00 pm OR 3:00 - 3:30 pm OR 3:30 - 4:00 pm

Recommended for grades 1 - 5 with caregiver

Please register for one session

Create a no-sew pizza pillow with a caregiver in honor of National Pizza Day. Snacks will be served.

Bagels and Books: A Graphic Novel Breakfast Bash

Wednesday, February 19 10:30 - 11:15 am

Grades 3 - 5

Let's get together and talk about the graphic novel, Allergic by Megan Wagner Lloyd. We will have bagels while we chat and make a craft too! Copies of the book will be available for checkout at the Children's Desk.



Sensory Storytime

Saturday, February 22 10:30 - 11:15 am Recommended for ages 36 months - grade 3 with caregiver

Come join A Time for Kids for this multi-sensory experience at the Library! A Time for Kids will provide a safe and non-judgmental environment where children are encouraged to actively participate in songs, stories, and play with sensory bins as they move about the room and meet other children from their library community.

Family Hygge Night! (Pronounced hoo-gah)

Monday, February 24 6:30 – 7:30 pm Recommended for grades K – 5 with caregiver

Join us for a calm and relaxing evening of hygge, a Danish phenomenon where families enjoy activities in a cozy and peaceful environment together. We will have board games, desserts, candlelight, soft music, crafts, and a tranquil backdrop for photos.

Snow Globes

Wednesday, February 26 6:00 – 6:45 pm Grades 3 – 5

Capture the beauty of winter by making your own snow globe to display all year!

Chess Club

Thursday, February 27
Grades K – 5

6:30 – 7:30 pm

No registration

is required.

Stop in!

Learn key strategies from a chess master from NY Chess Academy in this introduction to chess.

Winter Break * Winter Fun!

Tuesday, February 18 – Friday, February 21 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Recommended for children ages infant – grade 5 with caregiver

Crazy for Coloring, Tuesday, February 18 So many things to color! We will supply everything!



Thingamajig Thursday, February 20 Make a thingamajig using every thingamajig we have!

Funky Frame Friday, February 21 Make a cool, wintry frame.

We will also have GIANT games: Chess, Scrabble, Connect Four, Drum Circle Kit, and Foam Dinosaur Bones.

Winter Reading Club

Tuesday, February 18 – Friday, February 21
Recommended for children ages infant – grade 5
Read books this winter and fill out up to three book
reviews (caregivers can fill out for little ones).

Book review forms can be picked up at the Children's Desk beginning **Saturday, February 1.**

Book reviews will be accepted during Winter Break – Winter Fun week. (Tuesday, February 18 – Friday, February 21).

Each book review serves as a raffle to win a prize.

Raffle winners will be contacted Saturday, February 22.





The Hero's
Guide to
Saving Your
Kingdom,
a chapter
book
by Christoph



by Christopher Healy Recommended for

Grades 4 – 6

"Laugh at this fractured fantasy as the anonymous princes of fairy tales go forth on an adventure!" ~ Mrs. G

Don't
Trust Cats
(Life Lessons
from Chip
the Dog),
a picture book
by Dev Petty





Recommended for ages Preschool – Grade 3

"Laugh out loud as you follow Chip the Dog's advice about life, including don't trust cats, nohow, no meow!"

~ Mrs. R

Kids' Book Talk

Rules
by
Cynthia Lord
"This book
is about a
12-year-old
girl named
Catherine.





She has a little brother named

David who has autism. Catherine's goal was for David to be a normal kid. She did this by making rules for him. I would recommend this book to people that don't understand others with disabilities!"

~ Bryce O'Reilly, Grade 5



TEENSHIP BOXES

The next set of Teenship boxes will be given out on Saturday, February 1. Registration for these boxes will begin on Thursday, January 2.

The theme for February is "Love is in the Air."



JANUARY PROGRAMS

Vision Board Day! Thursday, January 9 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Come set the tone for 2025 and make your own vision board using magazines, newspapers, and craft supplies.



Hot Chocolate Bar Thursday, January 30 6:00 – 7:00 pm Kick off National Hot Chocolate Day

Hot Chocolate Day with a make your own hot chocolate bar. Play games too!



Book Bingo

Tuesday, January 14

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Come in for a fun afternoon of bingo! All winners will get to select their choice of books. Snacks will also be served.

Left, Right, Center Game Night

Thursday, January 16

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us while we try out a new game - LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER. Winners will receive cool prizes! Snacks will also be served.

Craft & Chill

Wednesdays: January 22; February 26 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Come in and use our art supplies! Make a

masterpiece, or a hot mess. Either way, stop in for a fun afternoon with friends!



FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Wednesday, February 5 3:00 – 4:00 pm

World Nutella Day!

Dip fruit, pretzels and other snacks into everyone's favorite chocolate – Nutella!

Valentine's Day Cupcakes Thursday, February 13 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Come in and decorate Valentine's Day cupcakes. The best decorator will win a prize!



TEEN TECH WEEK

Sunday, March 2 – Saturday, March 8

Tech Buddies (Volunteer Credit)
Wodnesday March 5

Wednesday, March 5 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Help adult patrons navigate their latest devices: laptops, iPhones, Androids, etc. **Teens will earn one hour of community service credit.**



Virtual Reality Night! Thursday, March 6

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Enjoy a fun night with friends as we play virtual reality games!

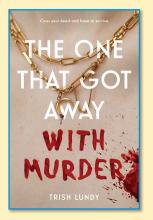


The One that Got Away with Murder, by Trish Lundy

"A drama-filled, fast-paced and compelling novel about a girl trying to escape her past. A definite page-turner!"

~ Kelly Harvey





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ultimate Playdate Buddies

Mondays: January 13, 27 (Library is closed January 20); February 3, 10 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Help us organize the playroom and

clean the toys. Teens will earn one hour of community service credit.



Book Buddies

Thursday, January 23 6:00 – 6:30 pm

Share some special reading time with kids as they practice their reading.

Teens will earn one hour of community service credit.



Teen Think Tank

Tuesday, February 11 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Get involved in the Library by joining our Teen Think Tank. Hear about our upcoming programs



and help us plan ahead for our spring programs! All ideas are welcome! **Teens will earn one hour of community service credit.**

Book Recommendations

Calling all teens! Are you interested in reading new teen books and writing a review for your peers? Teens can choose ANY book from our new book display. Guidelines are available at the Reference Desk. **Teens will earn two hours of community service credit for reading the book and giving a one-page review.**





71 Monell Avenue, Islip, NY 11751-3999 (631) 581.5933 • reference@isliplibrary.org

Library Hours

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am – 9:00 pm Friday & Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Sundays: 12:00 – 4:00 pm

*Hours are subject to change.

Board Meetings

2nd Thursday of the Month at 6:30 pm

Board of Trustees

Madeline Hanewinckel, *President*William D. Wexler, Esq., *Vice President*Nora Berlin • Christine Scibelli • Francis Flynn

Library Director

Mary Schubart

Newsletter Editor

Diane Darcy

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FROM THE HELM

Mary Schubart, Library Director

As we say goodbye to the Library's 100th anniversary and ring in a New Year, my mind is filled with plans and preparations for Library services in our 101st year. As I have mentioned before, librarians set programs months ahead of go-time. Particularly with the summer reading clubs, as soon as one summer winds down, the librarians are barely catching their collective breath before it's time to begin planning the next summer's extravaganza. So what lies ahead for 2025?

This month, the Library will unveil a new way for patrons to view the calendar of upcoming events. The goal is to make it easier for patrons to see the Library's roster of programs from wherever they are and to make registration more efficient, whether they are signing up at the Library or from home. Patrons may continue to receive email reminders about programs, and we will soon be enabling text reminders.

Behind the scenes, work will continue on the Library's roof and heating/cooling systems in 2025. The Library's original 1950s roof has lasted for nearly 70 years, but slates have deteriorated and leaks have sprung. It owes the Library nothing after seven decades. Plans for replacement for that and our aging HVAC are fully drafted but are legally required to go through a review process through the State.

We have been in a long queue for many months. Given the extended wait for State approval and the lead time for commercial HVAC equipment, we must accept that it will be virtually impossible to begin work in time for the summer season. Here's hoping for mild weather from May through September.

Very soon, the Library's new fish tank will be converted to a glass reef aquarium, which will be less susceptible to scratching. The reef ecosystem will also allow us to provide a healthier environment to support fish, invertebrates, and even living coral, which will be sustainably sourced by placing man-made materials near a natural reef and then harvesting it. After bacteria and micro-organisms cycle through the tank, the aquarium will come to life more colorfully than ever.

We are looking at ways to better outfit our Teen Department – to make it more enticing for older kids who will migrate over in the middle school years and to keep older students coming back. Additionally, the Children's Department is nearing its 25th birthday – the children who visited it when it newly opened are now parents themselves! It's time for a refresh, and we are making long-term plans to breathe new life into that Department.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and comments. This is, after all, YOUR Library, and it should reflect the community's needs, expectations, and aspirations. Happy New Year from the Board of Trustees and the entire staff.