

801 Boston Post Road
(203) 245-7365
scrantonlibrary.org



Looking Forward and Looking Back
Volume 4, Issue 9
January/February 2025

LOOKING FORWARD AND LOOKING BACK

By Allison Murphy, Library Director

This past year has been a year of many firsts for the library. We were excited to launch our first mobile app, which enables you to search for titles, preview upcoming events, print remotely, and even check out books. To download the app to your phone, search for Capira in the App Store or on Google Play, then look for Scranton Library. Through the help of Jesse, our Adult Programming Librarian, we joined the Library Speaker's Consortium. Now you can watch over 80 virtual interviews with bestselling authors. In the fall we inaugurated Ed Lent as Madison's first Poet Laureate. Ed is a talented poet and artist and he will be hosting an Open Mic Night on the first Thursday of the month. Last but not least, we were very excited to host our first Summer @ Scranton Block Party to kick off our summer reading program with over 500 attendees. Plans are underway for an even better celebration this summer!

2025 marks a monumental anniversary for the library - 125 years young! We will be hosting events to celebrate throughout the next few months, and we're very excited to lead Madison's Fourth of July parade.

We can't wait to see you at the library!

NEW CHILDREN'S EXHIBIT: NATURE CAT

Grand Opening: Saturday, February 8 at 10:00

The Children's Room is excited to host the popular Nature Cat exhibit through May. Stop by to see this interactive exhibit that's based on the PBS TV series. The exhibit was created by the Kohl's Children's Museum and is funded by a generous grant from the Schumann Foundation.

THE HEART OF MADISON RAFFLE



Our raffle is back again, but this time the drawing will be on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th!

Tickets will be available online, at the library, and at the outdoor raffle table. You could be one of our lucky winners!



MEET THE NEW FRIENDS BOARD MEMBERS

The Scranton Library Friends are happy to welcome three new Board members! Charles Reese will be taking over as President. Allison Schroeder is the Friends new Treasurer and Barbara Cook is Secretary.

All are welcome to join the Friends to help with book sales, mini golf, or bi-annual fundraising mailings. Do you have a bit of time to help with social media or website updates? The Friends could use your help! Please contact the library or email the Friends at friends@scrantonlibrary.org.



Allison Schroeder and
Charles Reese



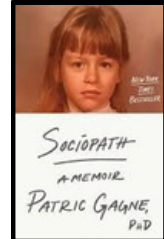
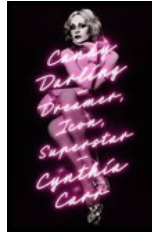
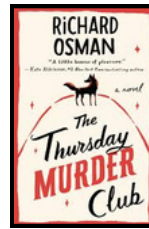
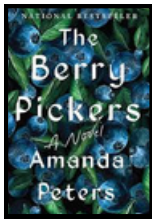
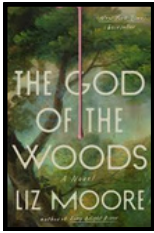
Barbara Cook



Make new friends by joining the Friends!



FAVORITE STAFF PICKS FOR 2024



CELEBRATING OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY



In 1900, Mary Eliza Scranton visualized the need for a library in Madison and started the EC Scranton Memorial Library. The space grew as the population of Madison increased. If you look at the front facade of the library, you will see the original structure that was designed by architect Henry Bacon. Do you think it looks a bit like the Lincoln Memorial? That's because Henry Bacon designed that structure as well.

Mary Eliza would be very proud and impressed by how the library has grown and evolved over the last 125 years. We now have increased our space to 34,000 square feet and have over 116,000 items in our collection. We are pleased to have welcomed over 100,000 visitors last year!

We will be celebrating the library throughout the year and hope to include many facets of the community. If your library card expires, stop by to pick up your commemorative 125th anniversary card. We look forward to waving to you as the lead of the Fourth of July parade!



WAYS TO DONATE:

- Click the **DONATE** button on the website
- Donate online: scrantonlibrary.org/support-the-library
- Send a check: 801 Boston Post Road, Madison, CT 06443
- Make a gift via **PayPal**: bit.ly/scrantonpaypal or **Venmo** @scrantonmemoriallibraryct
- Scan this QR code to donate online:



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:30am - 8pm

Friday & Saturday
9:30am - 5pm

“

A trained librarian
is a
powerful
search engine
with a heart.

*Sarah McIntyre,
children's book writer
and illustrator*

Did you know?



Mary Scranton Evarts was the first librarian for our library. At the time she started, the library had 1,100 books. The reading room and circulation department were open from 9:00am - 9:00pm.

JANUARY FEATURED EVENTS

This is just a small sampling of the free events offered by the Scranton Library each month. Go to our website to see more, read the full details, and register now: scrantonlibrary.org/events

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY STORY TIMES & MORE!

Story time is now in session! You and your little ones can enjoy all your favorites - Walkers & Wigglers, Toddler Tango, and Tots & Tales. Registration opens one week before each program.

Plus, check our Events Calendar online or stop by the Children's Library today to find out about other special events. Please note that the Children's Room will be closed from Thursday, January 30 - Saturday, February 1 for the museum installation.

PARACHUTE DANCE PARTY

Friday, January 10th at 10:00am

Have a blast in this music and movement class with lots of parachute songs and rhymes.

For ages 1 - 5. [Registration encouraged.](#)

MAKE YOUR OWN PIZZA

Wednesday, January 22 at 4:30pm

Everything you wanted to know about making your own pizza in just two hours! Join Mr. Matt as we explore the world's favorite food and make some fabulous pies for ourselves.

For ages 5 - 10. [Registration required.](#)

LIVE AUTHOR TALK WATCH PARTY WITH T.J. KLUNE

Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00pm

Join us as we stream this live virtual author talk with NY Times bestselling author of *The House in the Cerulean Sea*. There will be a "chat station" set up to ask the author questions.

Open to grades 6 - 12 and adults. [Registration encouraged.](#)

AFTER HOURS TEEN NIGHT: OVERCOOKED & CUPCAKE DECORATING

Friday, January 31st at 6:00pm

Join us for the first After Hours Teen Night of 2025! There will be food, fun, video games, and more.

Open to grades 6 - 12. [Registration encouraged.](#)

Adults

MASTER GARDENER CLINIC: BEE SEMINAR

Saturday, January 18th at 3:00pm

Join us as the Master Gardener Clinic teams up with the Back Yard Beekeepers Association for a presentation on bees.

For adults of all ages. [Registration required.](#)

CHAIR YOGA

Tuesday, January 28th at 6:30pm

Chair yoga allows you to perform yoga poses while seated or using a chair for balance. Chair-based yoga offers the same benefits as traditional yoga, like boosting strength, flexibility, and mental well-being.

For adults of all ages. [Registration required.](#)

FEBRUARY FEATURED EVENTS

This is just a small sampling of the free events offered by the Scranton Library each month. Go to our website to see more, read the full details, and register now: scrantonlibrary.org/events

CAN'T MISS PROGRAMMING FOR ADULTS

In addition to the special events featured here, we also host a variety of regularly scheduled weekly and monthly programming. Check out our online Events Calendar for full details. We have something for everyone!

FREE MONTHLY OR WEEKLY PROGRAMS: Acoustics Club, Ukulele and Guitar Clubs, Fiber Arts Club, Craft of the Month, Saturday Sleuth's Book Club, Scranton Writer's Group, Friday Movie Matinee, Open Mic Night, and Mindfulness Meditation. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who make these free programs possible!

FAMILY KINDNESS CARD CREATIONS

Tuesday, February 11th at 3:30pm

Join us in the Children's Program Room to celebrate Kindness Week! We'll have all the supplies you need to create your own kindness cards. This is an intergenerational program for kids and their families to spend time together and get creative!

All ages. Registration required.

GROVE SCHOOL THEATER TROUPE PRESENTS: THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT

Wednesday, February 19th at 4:30pm

You've read the book, now watch the crayons come to life in this short, 15-20 minute live theater performance!

For kids and teens of all ages. Registration encouraged.

MAD POSSIBILITIES: YOUTH SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAM EXPO

Tuesday, February 18th at 5:30-7:00pm

Be the FIRST to sign up for youth/children's programs and camps happening in and around Madison this summer or find the perfect volunteer opportunity for your teen!

All ages. No registration required.

TEEN GAME CLUB

Every Thursday from 3:00-5:00pm

Hang out with your friends and get to play against other teens at Teen Game Club! Everything from our card games (Uno, Sushi Go!) to our video games (Switch, PS4 & Xbox One) will be available to play. Feel free to also bring your own games!

For kids in grades 7 - 12. No registration required.

Adults

CONCERT WITH THE GRACEFUL TENOR: VITTORIO DI CARLO

Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30pm

This evening of beautiful music is sponsored by an anonymous donation in honor of parents Domenico Pellicano and Melina (Savino) Pellicano.

For adults. Registration required.

THE WALDORF ESTATE OF FEAR: AN PARANORMAL JOURNEY WITH LAURISSA REX

Wednesday, February 26th at 6:30pm

This lecture will be given by TV show co-creator/producer Laurissa Rex about the "Hell House." She will describe the paranormal activity known as the Waldorf Effect and take us on a behind-the-scenes tour of her new show "24 Hours in Hell."

For adults. Registration required.