



NEWPORT  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

300 Spring Street, Newport RI 02840  
newportlibraryri.org • 401-847-8720

Library Newsletter

Volume 63, May-Jun 2026

The Web They Wove:  
Women & Their Wardrobes During New England's Revolution



Come celebrate America's Semiquincentennial with historical interpreters Rebecca Bayreuther Donohue and Amanda Flynn Rumney of Dirty Blue Shirts

Thursday May 7  
6pm  
Friends Program Room



Register to Reserve Your Spot

Join Dirty Blue Shirts historical interpreters Rebecca Bayreuther Donohue and Amanda Flynn Rumney for a fascinating look at women's clothing during the American Revolution.

This program is presented by costumed historians and includes reproduction clothing pieces & fabric samples as well as a PowerPoint presentation with images of extant originals.

**Registration is required.**



Coming Soon: Summer Reading 2026!  
Jun 22 - Aug 14

## Director's Desk



Dear Library Friends,

It's hard not to notice the newly planted tulips now in bloom in Aquidneck Park, bright reminders that the season of renewal has arrived.

Here at the library, that spirit of renewal is guiding an important effort: the development of our next long-range plan. This plan will help shape the future of our services, programs, and spaces over the coming years, ensuring that we continue to meet the evolving needs of our community.

In the weeks ahead, we will be inviting you to participate in a community survey designed to gather your input. Your feedback is essential. Whether you visit us every week or haven't stopped by in a while, your perspective will help us better understand how we can serve you.

In the meantime, I hope you find time to visit the library and enjoy its broad selection of materials, as well as a wide range of programs for all ages. Please check [our calendar](#) for more information.

Please note that Sunday hours end on May 3. As a reminder, the library will be closed on the following days:

Monday, May 11 - Staff Development Day

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day

Friday, June 19 - Juneteenth

We look forward to a vibrant spring season!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Amaral".

Ann Amaral  
Library Director

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## Colonial Family Life Fair

Saturday, Jun 6

2:30 PM

All Ages

Aquidneck Park

Families with children of all ages are invited to our Colonial Family Life Fair. This Semiquincentennial program will introduce kids and caregivers alike to different aspects of daily life at the turn of the 19th century. Amazing local organizations will lead historical games, teach out toys, bring cool artifacts, perform a drum circle, and more! Partner organizations include Casey Farm, the Fort Adams Trust, the Ladies of the Greene, the Newport Historical Society, and the Aquidneck Indian Council.

No registration required.

## A is for Art

Tuesday, May 12

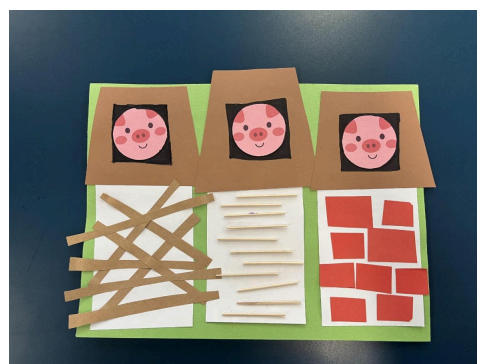
10:00 AM

Ages 2-5 Years Old

Friends Program Room

Children and a caregiver and invited to A is for Art. We'll huff and puff and create 3 cute little pig houses!

**Registration is required.**



## Drop in and Draw

Tuesday, May 5 & Jun 2

4:00 PM

6-12 Years Old

Children's Program Room

Children and a caregiver are invited to Drop in and Draw. We'll have crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper, coloring sheets and books on how to draw all waiting for your creative ideas.

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## Dried Flower Bookmarks

Tuesday, May 12

4:00 PM

6-12 Years Old

Children's Program Room

Children are invited to make a dried flower bookmark. Create a beautiful bookmark using dried flowers and greenery.



**Registration is required.**

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## Origami Lightsabers

Thursday, May 21

4:00 PM

7-12 Years Old

Children's Program Room

Children are invited to make a spring wreath. Help us clean out our closets! We'll be using yarn, felt, fabric, buttons, paper, and anything else we find to craft an adorable spring wreath.

**Registration is required.**

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## Imagine the USA in the Next 250 Years

Monday, May 18

4:00 PM

8-12 Years Old

Children's Program Room

Children are invited to imagine the USA in the next 250 years. During this Semiquincentennial program, kids will learn about past predictions of what the future would hold, brainstorm ideas for America's future, and create collages or descriptions of their vision for the USA in the year 2275!



**Registration is required.**

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## Saturday Family Fun

Saturday, May 23

2:30 PM

5-12 Years Old

Children's Program Room

Family Fun, for families with children ages 5 – 12 years old, returns for May! Kids will weave a large, colorful flower using yarn and a paper plate! Caregiver participation is required.

**Registration is required.**

## Maker Kids: Kaleidoscope

Thursday, May 28

4:00 PM

6-12 Years Old

Children's Program Room

Children are invited to learn about refraction and create a personalized kaleidoscope

**Registration is required.**



## Children's Storytimes

May - Jun 2026

### Preschool Storytime

Ages 0-5 Years

Wednesday at 10:00 AM

May 6 - May 27

Friends Program Room

No registration required.

### Baby Bookworms

Ages 0-24 Months

Thursdays at 9:30 AM

May 7 - May 28

Friends Program Room

No registration required.

### Saturday Stories

Ages 0-5 Years

Saturdays at 10:00 AM

May 2 - May 23

Friends Program Room

No registration required.



## Bilingual Spanish Storytime

Tuesday, May 5 & Jun 2

10:00 AM

0-5 Years Old

Friends Program Room

Children and a caregiver are invited to Bilingual Spanish Storytime. Learn basic Spanish through singing and dancing. Children and caregivers do not need to know Spanish to participate and have fun!

No registration is required.

# teen

## Teen Volunteer Hour

Monday, May 4 & May 18

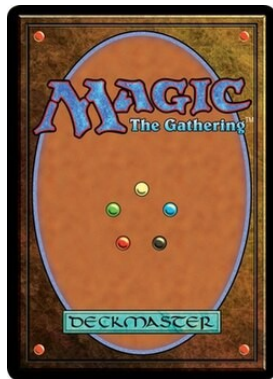
3:30 PM

Grades 7-12

YA Area

Teen volunteers will help to organize shelves, pull books for displays, prepare craft materials, etc. Volunteer hours available. Forms signed by a parent or guardian need to be completed beforehand. Drop-in volunteers will not be accepted. The volunteer form can be found by [clicking here](#).

Grades 7-12. Limited spots available.



## Teen Magic: the Gathering

Wednesday, May 20

3:30 PM

Grades 6-12

YA Area

Play Magic: The Gathering at the Newport Public Library! All skill levels are welcome. You are welcome to bring your own deck, or we have cards!

**Registration is required.**

## Teen Crafternoon

Wednesday, May 6

3:30 PM

Grades 6-12

YA Area

Craft with us at the library! Bring your own craft (no paint/messy crafts please!) or we will have yarn, origami, drawing materials, and bracelet thread.



**Registration is required.**



## Teen & Tween Gaming Lounge

Fridays

3:00 PM

Grades 6-12

YA Area

Come hang and play on the Nintendo Switch.

No registration required.

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## Teen Tuesday Events

Tuesdays

3:30 PM

Grades 6-12

YA Area

Come join us for a variety of teen events on Tuesdays!

Registration is required for each. Click on an event below to register.



**May 5: Lofi and Sticker Scenes**

**May 12: Jeopardy**

**May 19: Teeny Tiny Hot Glue Magnet Frames**

**May 26: Pride Pancake Party**

**Jun 30: Diamond Art**



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## Teen Wednesday Events

Wednesdays

3:30 PM

Grades 6-12

YA Area

Come join us for a variety of teen events on Wednesdays!

Registration is required for each. Click on an event below to register.

**May 13: Spill the Tea: A Boston Tea Party**

**May 27: Resume and Job Search Help**

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[Click here for all Teen Programs](#)

# Adult Events

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## Chess Club

Tuesday, May 5 & Jun 2

2:30 PM

Maker Lab



Open call for all chess players. For those just starting or the more advanced chess players. Looking forward to seeing you!  
Open to Ages 18+.

No registration required.

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## Spanish for Travelers

Friday, May 15

10:30 AM

Maker Lab

Join us for a Spanish language tutorial with Sole Sheibar!  
This series is designed for adult learners and focuses on practical speaking skills to help you communicate with confidence while traveling in Spanish-speaking countries. Perfect for beginners — no prior knowledge of Spanish is needed.

**Registration is required.**

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## Scrabble

2nd and 4th Tuesdays each Month

2:00 PM

Maker Lab



Come join us for a classic game of Scrabble! Ages 18 and up are welcome. Scrabble boards and other materials are provided.

No registration required.

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## Sound Meditation and Yoga

Wednesday, May 6

6:00 PM

Friends Program Room

Kick off Mental Health Awareness Month by joining Bryan and Kayla in a relaxing evening of sound meditation and yoga.

**Registration is required.**

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## We Were There Too - Quilting

Tuesday, May 12

6:00 PM

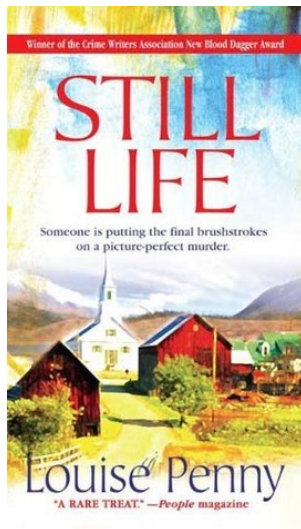
Online

Join Veronica Mays on Zoom to learn about quilting within its historical context with emphasis on African-American contributions to Rhode Island History.



This program will be held online. Please register to receive a Zoom link by email. A reminder will be sent two days before the event.

**Registration is required.**



### Mystery Book Club

Saturday, May 16 & Jun 13

2:00 PM

Rotary Room

This group discusses mystery novels one Saturday per month at 2:00 PM.

Please contact Allyson at [aneurohr@newportlibraryri.org](mailto:aneurohr@newportlibraryri.org) with any questions.

Registration is required. Click a session below to register.

**May 16: Still Life**

**Jun 13: The Witch Elm**

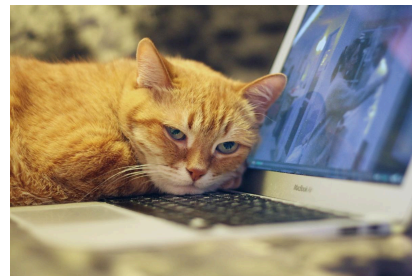
### Adult Computer Workshops

Thursday, May 7, May 21, Jun 11

2:30pm

Maker Lab

Come for a demonstration about basic computer topics. Each session will cover a different topic.

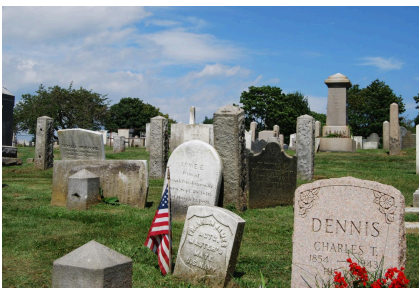


Registration is required. Click on a session below to register.

**May 7: Computer Basics**

**May 21: Internet Basics**

**Jun 11: Cut the Cable**



## Living with the Dead in Rhode Island: From Cemetery Destruction to Cemetery Preservation

Thursday, May 14

6:00pm

Friends Program Room

In honor of RI Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks, State Archaeologist Charlotte Taylor presents a talk on Rhode Island cemetery law.

Explore this dark history and today's era of stronger laws and more engaged advocacy for Rhode Islanders who can no longer speak for themselves. Charlotte will present both atrocities and stories of successful, respectful preservation, drawing on her experiences as one of the first people who is called when (old) skeletal remains are found.

**Registration is required.**

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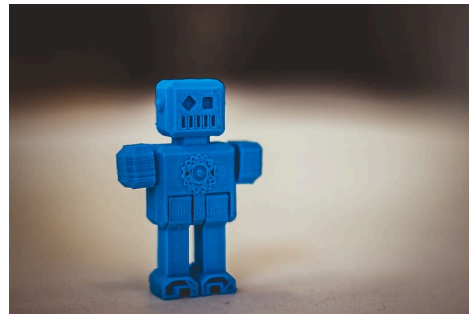
## Maker Lab Workshops

Thursday, Jun 4 & Jun 18

6:00 PM

Maker Lab

Join us each month for demonstrations and tutorials on how to utilize our Maker Lab equipment! Come design a project, which will be printed at a later date for pickup.



Some computer experience, including the ability to find and download files, is required. Open to Ages 18+.

Registration is required. Please select a session below to register.

**Jun 4: 3D Printing**

**Jun 18: Vinyl Stickers**



## "But I Haven't Changed A Thing!": A Woman's Guide to Hormones and Midlife Weight Gain

Monday, May 18

6:00 PM

Friends Program Room

In recognition of Women's Health Month enjoy this talk on women's health, hormones and weight!

Join Dr. Erin Kunkel, double-board certified in OBGYN and obesity medicine as well as a Menopause Society Certified Practitioner, in a

conversation about the intersection of women's hormonal changes and weight gain.

The views expressed by the speaker are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by the Newport Public Library.

**Registration is required.**

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## **Birding Tours and Conservation with Charles Clarkson**

**Wednesday, Jun 3**

**6:00 PM**

**Friends Program Room**



Learn about Birding Tours as a tool for conservation in the era of biodiversity loss.

Join us for a talk exploring the primary drivers of decline in birds, the threats they face as our climate changes and human-induced habitat loss continues and how individuals can make a difference in their own backyards and through ecotourism.

**Registration is required.**

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## **Digging up Stories - Researching Family History**

**Thursday, Jun 25**

**5:00 PM**

**Maker Lab**

Genealogist and Librarian Heather Kisilywicz will talk about how to get started with researching your family history.

Participants will have access to a laptop and go through the steps with Heather to learn how to search on Ancestry.com. This is part of a two series workshop. The second session is Tuesday July 7th at 5:00pm.

**Registration is required.**

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## Book Group: 250 Years of American Authors

Tuesday, May 12 & Jun 9

2:00 PM

Rotary Room

Join us for this special book group celebrating 250 years of American literature!

Registration is required. Click on a session below to register.

May 12: Passing

Jun 9: Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee



### Adult Crafts and Activities

Join us for a variety of craft and design activities!

Registration is required for each. Click on an even below to register.

Tuesday, May 18: The Zine Scene

Saturday, May 30: Diamond Painting

Saturday, Jun 27: Knit, Crochet, Cross Stitch and Chill

### Film Series

**FILM SERIES**

# 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN HISTORY



**FRIDAY CINEMA**

**Fridays at 2:00pm | Friends Program Room  
Light Refreshments Provided!**



<b>APR 3</b>	<b>1776</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>APR 17</b>	<b>LINCOLN</b>	<b>PG13</b>
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>LOVING</b>	<b>PG13</b>
<b>MAY 15</b>	<b>GREEN BOOK</b>	<b>PG13</b>
<b>MAY 29</b>	<b>SELMA</b>	<b>PG13</b>
<b>JUN 12</b>	<b>APOLLO 13</b>	<b>PG</b>
<b>JUN 26</b>	<b>SMOKE SIGNALS</b>	<b>PG13</b>

The Friday afternoon Film Series continues this season! Movies are held at 2:00 PM in the Friends Program Room. No registration required; just drop in!  
Light refreshments will be provided.

[Click here for all Adult Programs](#)



## Spring Greetings!



May is highlighted by our Friends Membership Drive! Becoming a Friend or renewing your Friendship contributes to our fundraising for our library. Membership envelopes can be found in the Library lobbies and in the Friends Bookstore. Pick one up today and become a member of the Friends!

This past year we gave our Library almost \$52,000 which helps to support the Children's Summer Reading Program, the Adult Music Programs, Museum passes, Hoopla, Libby, general operations and other services which the Library provides.

Special gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day can be found in the bookstore. Graduation gifts are another reason to browse in our store and perhaps find a book or puzzle to satisfy your interests such as gardening or a new recipe for a summer meal.

Thank you for becoming a Friend and also supporting our book sales and shopping in the Friends Bookstore. We are also very appreciative of all your donations which are vital to our fundraising efforts.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), check out our [eBay store](#), and remember you can always find a book to read in the lobby during Library hours! Payment can be made in the Honor Box for your convenience.



### Library Hours

**Monday** - 12:00PM - 8:30PM  
**Tuesday** - 9:00AM - 8:30PM  
**Wednesday** - 9:00AM - 8:30PM  
**Thursday** - 9:00AM - 8:30PM  
**Friday** - 9:00AM - 5:30PM  
**Saturday** - 9:00AM - 5:30PM  
**Sunday** - 1:00PM to 5:00PM\*  
\*Oct - May

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