Library Friends of Oak Bluffs, Inc. PO Box 1421, Oak Bluffs MA 02557-1421

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Winter 2019

Special Events

Intro to Computers, 4-part series: Wed Dec 5, 6, 12 & 13—9-10am. Pre-register

Art Party: Felted Ornaments: Thu Dec 6—5:30-6:30

Holiday Open House: Sat Dec 8—12-2 pm

Tweens YogaMotion, ages 8-12: Thu Dec 13—5:30-7:30pm Pre-register

Build a Gingerbread House, all ages: Thu Dec 15—11am-12pm or 12-1pm

Alejandro Carreño Art Opening Sat Dec 15 — 7-9pm

Freestyle Skiing from the Inside: Thu Dec 20—4:30-5:30pm

Art Party: Acrylic Pour: Thu Dec 20—6-7:30pm

Make-n-Take: Lasagna, all ages Sat Dec 22—10am-12pm. Pre-register

Dancing with Christina Montoya Sat Dec 22 & 29—11am-12:30pm

Inclusive Community Caroling, all ages Sat Dec 22, 24—3:30pm

Pajama Day, all ages Wed Dec 26 all day

Movie Matinee, Thu Dec 27—1-3pm

Open Mic Night Thu Dec 27—5:30-7:30pm

Adult Spelling Bee fundraiser @ The Barn: Wed Jan 9—10pm

Matt Pelikan’s Fancy Flies Sat Jan 12—10:30-11:30am

Dena Photography Workshop Tue Jan 15—3:30-5pm

Cooking with Carolina: Sous Vide Sat Jan 19—2-3:30pm

Black History Month Sat Feb 9—10am-1pm

Book Drive: Sat Feb 16—12:30-2:30pm

Volunteer Appreciation Day Sat Feb 23—12-2pm

Winter Wonderland Fun

If winter is coming, the annual holiday party at Oak Bluffs Public Library draws near. This year’s festivities arrive Sat., Dec 8 and the Library Friends of Oak Bluffs invites all kids, residents, library staff and Trustees to come and make merry from 12-2pm. You’ll find a buffet table full of good things to eat and craft activities. And of course Santa will be there with a sack full of presents for every child. Come take part in this annual celebration of the season for every library lover.

GOT CABIN FEVER? WE’VE GOT THE CURE

Sooner or later, every year-round islander gets asked “Whatever do you DO in the winter?” Apparently, it’s widely believed that every store and restaurant closes and the sidewalks are rolled up when the last tourist and summer resident leaves. If by chance, you sometimes feel the dark and cold closing in, the library has the cure for what ails you and it’s all free.

Sure, you know about the books, DVDs and CDs, but did you know you can check out games of every sort? That barely scrapes the surface of the fun to be had.

Every Monday night, the library partners with The Barn to offer a board game night. If Magic: The Gathering is more your style, that happens two Fridays a month. For creative types, The Modern Quilt Guild hosts fellow quilters, knitters and all other fiber artists monthly. Thanks to the Library Friends, there are even five sewing machines available to help you stitch away. Some other options include craft and art programs, dance workshops and performances, movie matinees and a weekly Tai Chi class.

Do you think there’s a book inside you just begging to break out? The OB Writer’s Group that meets every Thursday can help you get it out. An upcoming Open Mic Night might be just the ticket to demonstrate your talents as a musician, storyteller, poet, standup comic, magician, orator — the options are limitless.

Stretch your culinary horizons with cooking demonstrations and opportunities to make something yummy to bring home. You missed the stuffed mushrooms, but you can put together a luscious lasagna for pre-Christmas dining on Dec. 22. Stay tuned for January and February’s menu.

Sometimes technology can stymie even the smartest cookie. The library can come to your rescue with computer classes and tech help with those pesky devices.

The library welcomes our Brazilian neighbors with Portuguese books and materials, a weekly bilingual storytime for the youngsters and an informal adult conversation circle to strengthen English skills. Soon there will be both formal instruction in English and help in preparing for citizenship thanks to a grant program and help from the Library Friends.

Be sure to check the library calendar for more programs and events. Best of all, you’ll always find a warm welcome waiting for you.
It’s the same story at libraries around the country. Children from birth through age 8 fill the children’s room for story hours, craft projects and to borrow books. Then they begin to drift away. By the teen years, sports programs, music lessons, dance classes and other after-school activities supplant the library. Librarians have tried all sorts of things to lure them back: dedicated teen rooms, Manga collections, maker spaces and 3-D printers, and teen-friendly activities. And the tide is turning at Oak Bluffs.

It started to mushroom when the Children and Young Adult Librarian Caitlyn Clark approached the middle school about opportunities for tween and teen volunteers. The kids heard her call and responded. Now about 12-14 teens volunteer either regularly or when their time permits. They brought in their friends and classmates, and discovered a world of possibilities for creating a perfect teen hangout, too. “I told them, ‘It’s your space’ and let them run the programs,” Caitlyn said.

One tech-savvy teen volunteered to assist with a Virtual Reality program. Eli Friedman brought his own equipment along to make it possible for more kids to participate at the same time. Eli’s expertise made the program a hit. "I like helping other people and also meeting cool new people," he said. In the process, he’s discovered that the library has a lot to offer him. “When I'm looking for something technology-related, or really anything, the library always has it.”

These volunteers create bulletin boards, started a teen reading recommendations project, make displays, and help out at children’s programs.

Emma Burt started by making felt objects for an interactive storytime and was hooked. "I like doing projects; it gives me something to do," Emma said. “I really liked the first project I did and I wanted to do more after." Volunteering also reconnected her to her past. “I remember coming here when I was really little so being here brings back lots of those memories.”

Nathalie Ferriera said becoming a library volunteer was a welcoming experience, adding, “I like the space and the people here — and the children’s room.”

Heloisa de Freitas offered the ultimate explanation for why so many volunteers keep coming back: "This is the best place to help because there are so many people who come here and use the library."