beyond the shelves

Winter Reading

Escape the winter chill by getting cozy with some good books

plus
WRL film society, preschool dance party, and sweet treats
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WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY
757.741.3300  info@wrl.org

LIBRARY CLOSURES
Jan. 15 all day

Exhibits

Muscarelle Museum of Art Student Photography Contest
WRL Gallery at Stryker Center Jan. 24-Feb. 29, Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm
The Muscarelle Museum of Art is proud to present an exhibition of student photography submitted as part of a competition held in the fall semester of 2024. Juried by Cuban artist and photographer Adrián Fernández, this exhibition will feature photographic works by currently enrolled students at William & Mary from diverse disciplines. Among the works to be on view, Fernández will select first, second, and third place winners along with two honorable mentions.

Films

Throwback Thursday: MANuary (manly men doing manly things)
Thursdays at 2 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

Jan. 4: Dirty Harry (1971) R
Police inspector “Dirty” Harry Callahan (Clint Eastwood) is on the case when a crazed serial killer goes on a rampage in San Francisco. 1hr 42min

Jan. 11: The Maltese Falcon (1941) NR
PI Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) investigates the murder of his partner and encounters a femme fatale, shady characters, a weaselly gusel, and a mystery involving a jeweled bird called the Maltese Falcon. 1hr 40min

Jan. 18: Bullitt (1968) PG
Steve McQueen plays a way-cool, lone-wolf police lieutenant relentlessly pursuing the hoods who shot the witness he was protecting. This tough, taut action picture also features a renowned car chase sequence. 1hr 54min

It’s good vs. evil when incorruptible prohibition agent Eliot Ness (Kevin Costner) takes on ruthless gangster Al Capone (Robert De Niro) in bullet-splattered 1920s Chicago. 1hr 59min
**Art House Café**
Tuesdays at 2 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

**Jan. 2:** *The Miracle Club* (2023) PG-13
Rural Ireland, 1967. Four close friends, chafing at the restraints of their humdrum lives, miraculously win a trip to Lourdes, France. Will they find the freedom, happiness, and miracle that they so desperately want? 1 hr 30 min

**Jan. 9:** *The Booksellers* (2019) NR
Dealers in antiquarian books and passionate bibliophiles populate D.W. Young’s charming documentary, narrated by Parker Posey. This inside look at New York City’s rare book trade includes interviews with authors and appraisers from the *Antiques Roadshow* and *Pawn Stars*. 1 hr 39 min

**Jan. 16:** *A Bear Named Winnie* (2004) PG
During the First World War, a soldier with the Canadian Veterinary Corps adopts an orphaned bear cub that becomes the beloved mascot of his army regiment. But when they are deployed to France, what will become of Winnie the bear? 1 hr 30 min

**Jan. 30:** *Past Lives* (2023) PG-13
Na Young and Hae Sung were close childhood friends until Na Young moved away. Twenty years later, they meet again and ponder what might have been, how things are, and what the future might hold. This touching and heartfelt romantic tale, directed by Celine Song, stars Greta Lee and Teo Yoo. 1 hr 45 min

**Cinema @ Scotland Street**
6 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

**Jan. 22:** *The Lesson* (2023) R
An aspiring writer moves to a secluded country estate for a job tutoring the son of a famous author. But soon, mysteries emerge: Where is the missing older child, and what happened to all the previous tutors? Richard E. Grant and Julie Delpy star in this noirish drama directed by Alice Troughton. 1 hr 43 min

**WRL Film Society**
Jan. 7, 1-2:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Room B
Join a discussion group for movie lovers, with meetings on the first Sunday of each month. Come share your views on the films you have recently watched (no major spoilers!) and discuss a set of questions posed by the group leaders. This is a group for fans of films of all kinds—classic films, blockbusters, and even guilty pleasures. To get on our mailing list for the group, send a request through the Ask a Librarian form at wrl.org/ask-a-librarian.

**Jan. 11:** *Belfast* (2021) PG-13
A poingnant story of love, laughter, and loss in one boy’s childhood, amid the music and social tumult of the late 1960s. Written and directed by Kenneth Branagh. 1 hr 38 min
The Celtic Film Series is supported by the Cardinal John O’Connor Division of The Ancient Order of Hibernians.

**Celtic Film Series**
6 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

**Jan. 28:** *Exodus 91* (Israel, 2022)
Israeli diplomat, Asher Naim, a North African Jew, is sent to Ethiopia in 1991 to negotiate the escape of 15,000 Ethiopian Jews in a time of famine and civil war. Issues of politics, racism, cultural identity, immigration, and hardships that continue to the present, as well as Naim’s crisis of faith, are explored. 1 hr 30 min
Sponsored by Temple Beth El of Williamsburg, Virginia.

**23rd Anniversary of the Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival**
2 PM
Williamsburg Library Theatre

**Jan. 18:** *Real People, Real Stories*
Whodunnits
Jan. 2, 6:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

**Jan. 3:** *Bluebird, Bluebird* by Attica Locke
Fellowship in a Ring
Jan. 3, 6:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room

**Jan. 11:** *Power in the Panels*
Shuna’s Journey
Jan. 11, 7 pm
Stryker Center, Room 128

**Jan. 16:** *Turning Pages*
Whodunnits
Jan. 16, 6:45 pm
Williamsburg Library, Room B & virtual

**Jan. 17:** *Next Chapter Book Club*
Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe
Jan. 18, 2 pm
Stryker Center, Room 128

**Jan. 20:** *Whodunnits*
Jan. 1, 6:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Room B

**Jan. 25:** *Whodunnits*
Jan. 25, 4 pm
Williamsburg Library, Room B

**Jan. 27:** *Whodunnits*
Jan. 30, 4 pm
Williamsburg Library, Room B

**Whodunnits**
Jan. 6, 10:30 am
Williamsburg Library, Room B

**Introduction to PowerPoint**
Jan. 13, 10:30 am
Williamsburg Library, Room B

**Internet 101**
Jan. 17, 11 am
Williamsburg Library, Room B

**Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition**
Jan. 17, 2-3:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room

**Next Chapter Book Club**
Join a unique community-based book group for adolescents and adults with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. To find out more, please contact Linda at Lniedzwick@wrl.org.

**Jan. 20, 2-3 pm**
Williamsburg Library, Room B
The Genius of Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes as Science Fiction
Jan. 20, 2 pm
Stryker Center, Room 127
Join Bradley Harper, a retired Army pathologist and published author, for a one-hour presentation on the evolution of forensic science and how Sherlock Holmes inspired the use of objective evidence in the never-ending hunt to determine “whodunnit.”

Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Detective Who Never Was
Jan. 26, 2 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Was Sherlock Holmes real or a work of fiction? Come journey through the fog-filled streets of Victorian London as we attempt to solve the mystery behind the master detective’s fame. Ray Betzner has been reading the Sherlock Holmes stories since he was a child, and in 1987 was inducted into the international Sherlock Holmes literary society, The Baker Street Irregulars. He teaches a course on Sherlock Holmes for the College of William and Mary Osher Institute and helps lead the local Holmes group, The Dog Street Irregulars.

programs

Adult Winter Reading
January 1-February 29
Get warm and cozy with our Adult Winter Reading Challenge. Read and log any 4 books (using Beanstack or paper forms from either library or the bookmobiles), and you’ll win a small prize. Everyone who submits a log will be entered in a drawing for a book-themed mug. Perfect for curling up with a good book on a cold day!

Medicaid Webinar
Jan. 5, 11 am
Virtual
Join us for a presentation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on enrolling and re-enrolling for Medicaid, and what you need to know now that the open enrollment period is ending. See webcalendar to join.

English Conversation Café
Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 6:30 pm
Stryker Center
Join us for weekly relaxed conversation to practice and improve your English skills. Newcomers always welcome. For ages 16-adult.

Book Talk and Signing with Author
Janis Robinson Daly
Jan. 11, 10-11:30 am
Stryker Center, Room 127
Join historical fiction author Janis Robinson Daly as she reveals how the secrets of our past can surprise, delight, educate, and inspire the writing of a novel. While researching her family history, Daly learned that her great-great-grandfather had an active role in the founding of the Women’s Medical College in Philadelphia. Inspired by this discovery, Daly wrote her first novel, The Unlocked Path, which tells the story of the early graduates of that school.

Backgammon Club
Jan. 13, 10 am-12:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room
Players of all levels are invited to join a casual group to roll the dice in the popular game of strategy and luck. WRL will have a couple of boards on hand, but if you have one, bring your own backgammon board.

Beyond Basic Knitting
Jan. 20, 1 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
You know how to knit and purl; what’s next? On January 20 members of the Williamsburg Knitting Guild will advise you on adding stitches, cabling, doing short rows and yarn overs, and other techniques to take you to the next level. Bring your crochet questions as well! In addition, we can troubleshoot any projects you’re having difficulties with, and get you unstuck.

Writers’ Club
Jan. 21, 2 pm
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room
The Secret to Amazing Writing: Conquering Weasel Words. Can you identify the weak areas of your writing? Want to replace repetitive phrases with better words? In this practical workshop, you’ll discover how to purge “weasel words” and make your writing more engaging.

The Beekeeper’s Apprentice Book Discussion
Jan. 17, 2 pm
Stryker Center, Room 128
2024 marks the 30th year of the publication of The Beekeeper’s Apprentice, the first entry in Laurie King’s wildly popular series featuring Sherlock Holmes and his young mentee, Mary Russell, who became his staunchest and most indispensible ally in crime-fighting, joining him for 17 more adventures (and counting). Laurie King is celebrating this milestone with an author talk at 12 libraries across the country in 2024.

Laurie King
Jan. 27, 2 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Laurie R. King’s first Russell & Holmes novel, The Beekeeper’s Apprentice, celebrates its 30th anniversary in print! Because libraries have been a part of Laurie’s life since before she learned to read, she wants to bring some library love to the celebration. Join us for a virtual chat with this New York Times bestselling author.

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Medicare Made Clear
Jan. 27, 11:30 am-1 pm
Stryker Center, Room 127
Join Gina Bundy, formerly of UnitedHealthcare, to learn all about your Medicare choices. We’ll also share tools and resources to help you understand the coverage that may be right for you, including a free educational guide. To register, call 757.741.3300 and choose Option 2.

virtual author talks

Hear from some of your favorite big-name fiction and nonfiction authors! Register, see the full list, and view virtually at libraryc.org/wrl. Special thanks to Friends of WRL.

Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with Rebecca Serle
Jan. 10, 8 pm
Virtual
We kick off the New Year talking to Rebecca Serle about her journey writing epic love stories to span generations. Learning the love story formula with Serle, we’ll chat with the author about her New York Times bestselling novels; One Italian Summer, In Five Years, The Dinner List, and many more.

Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster? How to Avoid the Hidden Traps in Retirement Planning Advice
Jan. 23, 2 pm
Stryker Center, Room 128 and Virtual
Over his 20+ plus years of experience in United States elder law, Rajiv Nagaich has developed a step-by-step guide to retirement planning by connecting the various dots of the retirement planning process. In this enlightening and informative webinar, Rajiv explains why “retirement plan failure” happens and how you can keep it from happening to you.

The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine: An Author Talk with Dr. Robert Lustig
Jan. 30, 2 pm
Stryker Center, Room 128 and Virtual
Dr. Robert Lustig believes that improving our health is based on two novel criteria: protect the liver and feed the gut. He insists that if we do not change the way we eat, we will continue to court chronic disease, bankrupt healthcare, and threaten the planet. His book and this webinar explain what’s needed to fix all three.

makerspace

*Makerspace class spots are limited so call 757.741.3300, option 2 to register. Ages 13+. Special thanks to Friends of WRL.

3DND
Jan. 9, 6:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace
Make an awesome DND miniature and learn the basics of slicing a 3D file. Spots are limited so please call 757.741.3300 option 2 to register. For ages 13+.

Embroidery Machine 101
Jan. 16, 11 am
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace
Join us for this beginner’s class on how to use the Makerspace’s new embroidery machine! For ages 13+.

Glowforge 101
Jan. 18, 6:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace
Learn the basics of how the Glowforge works and designing items in the software! Ages 18+.

Serge a Reusable Snack Bag
Jan. 23, 11 am
Williamsburg Library, Makerspace
Ever wanted to learn how to use a serger? You’re in luck! We’re making some reusable snack bags and learning the basics of utilizing a serger for a perfect edge! Ages 13+.

Sit and Stitch
Jan. 28, 1 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Join us for this new program where beginners can meet up and learn the basics of knitting and people with projects are encouraged to stitch along with others. No registration required. Some basics are provided for those without a project.

programs

Make a Tutu
Jan. 6, 10 am
Williamsburg Library, YS Program Room
Getting ready for a preschool dance party? Come make your own tulle tutu before or after the party, while supplies last. Recommended for ages 2-7.

Preschool Dance Party
Jan. 6, 11 am
Stryker Center, Room 127
What do you get when you add balloons and bubbles to music? A fantastic preschool dance party! Put on your dancing shoes and join us for an exciting hour of songs, movement, rhymes, and just plain fun. Parents, you can share your best moves too.

Beanbag Book Club
Jan. 7, 1:30 pm
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room
Each month during the school year we celebrate emerging literacy by reading and participating in fun activities based on a different early reader book. There is no commitment to attend every meeting. Includes a copy of the book to keep. For ages 5 – 8. In January, we’re reading Roscoe Riley Rules: #1 Never Glue Your Friends to Chairs by Katherine Applegate. Space is limited; pick up a free ticket at the children’s desk beginning 30 minutes before the program begins.

Cena con Cuentos
Jan. 9 Grove Christian Outreach Center
Jan. 16 Stryker Center
5-6:30 pm
Cena con Cuentos es un programa de lectura en español para familias hispanohablantes con niños de 0 a 10 años de edad. Se ofrece dos veces por mes. Cada vez habrán actividades, leeremos cuentos, y disfrutarán de una deliciosa cena para toda la familia. La participación es gratuita. Para inscribirse por favor contáctese con Sara Meldrum, bibliotecaria de niños, por SMS al 571-310-0802 o por email a smeldrum@wrl.org.

Cena con Cuentos is a storyline program in Spanish for families that speak Spanish at home with children from ages 0 to 10. It is offered twice a month. Each program combines stories, songs, activities, and dinner for the whole family. Participation is free. To sign up please contact Sara Meldrum by text at 571-310-0802 or email at smeldrum@wrl.org.

Children ongoing programs & activities

Learn more about ongoing programs like 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, Story Trail, the Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio, and the Open Art Studio by visiting wrl.org/children.
Homeschool Enrichment: Engineering with Lego
Jan. 10, 2 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Library learners will discover something new from this series of enrichment programs for kids in grades K-5. Pick up a ticket at the children’s desk starting 30 minutes before the program to reserve your spot. This week, learn STEAM concepts, problem solving, and the engineering process while you build with Lego.

Beanstack Challenge: Tracks in the Snow
Jan. 1-31 Both libraries and online
Explore outdoors to find evidence of your animal neighbors and take a virtual tour of different animals and habitats across America. Log your reading to earn badges for the animals you meet. Complete the challenge to earn a snowy surprise! Learn more at wrl.beanstack.org.

Paws to Read with K-9 Connection
Jan. 14, 2:30 – 3:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Reading is even more fun when you can share it with a fluffy, four-legged friend, and it’s a great way for beginning readers to practice with a patient audience. Drop in to read a story to trained therapy dogs, no registration required.

Homeschool Enrichment: KEVA Plank Engineering Workshop
Jan. 24, 2 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Library learners will discover something new from this series of enrichment programs for kids in grades K-5. Pick up a ticket at the children’s desk starting 30 minutes before the program to reserve your spot. This month, educators from the Children’s Museum of Virginia will present two grade-level specific programs:
2 pm Learn about the life cycles of all kinds of organisms. For kids in grades K-2.
2:45 pm Students learn about the engineering and design process in this expanded workshop. For kids in grades 3-5.

Rainbow Puppets: The Search for Gold
Jan. 14, 2:30 - 4 pm
Williamsburg Library Theatre
Join Historic Area Religions Together (HART) and the Rainbow Puppets for an afternoon celebrating tolerance and kindness. Watch “The Search for Gold,” a show about a team of treasure hunters following a map that leads them to the greatest treasure of all. Then join HART for a reception to learn more about Stand Up for Yourself and Others!, a new library book collection with an anti-bullying theme.

3D Print an Articulated Model
Jan. 26, 2-3:30 pm
Stryker Center, Room 127
Learn to download and prepare a 3D model that bends and wiggles with print-in-place joints. Kids can select from a variety of animals and characters with moveable parts, and create them on one of the library’s 3D printers. Basic computer skills are required, so kids who need help using a mouse and keyboard may need a grownup to stay with them for the program. For ages 6-12; recommended for those who have already completed an introductory 3D printing class. To reserve a spot, pick up a ticket at the children’s desk starting 30 minutes before class time.

storytimes

Puppet Storytime
Jan. 27, 11 am
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Sing and dance with our puppets and enjoy books, flannel board stories, and other activities. Recommended for ages 3+.

Baby Lapsit Storytime
Mondays, 10 am
Williamsburg Library
Tuesdays, 10 am
James City County Library, YS Program Rooms
Stay after storytime or just come in for the playdate to chat with other caregivers while your baby has fun with our toy collection. On the first Monday and Tuesday of each month, experts from Child Development Resources will join us to answer your questions about your baby’s development.

Baby Stay and Play
Mondays, 10:15 am
Williamsburg Library
Wednesdays, 10 am
James City County Library, YS Program Rooms
Toddler Storytime is a storytime program designed for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years and their caregivers, featuring brief stories, rhymes, songs, fingerplays, and other activities.
Peer Game Day
Jan. 17, 5:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Drop in for board games and Nintendo Switch video games including Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8, and more. Ages 9-12.

Tween Craft Lounge
Jan. 21, 2-4 pm
Williamsburg Library, YS Program Room
Drop-in once a month for a snack, a craft, and time to hang out with friends. For ages 9-12.

Drop-in D&D
Jan. 25, 5:30-7:30 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Dungeons & Dragons players of all experience levels are invited to drop-in to play and learn this classic tabletop roleplaying game. For ages 9-18.

In BeTWEEN the Pages Tween Book Club
Jan. 30, 6 pm
Williamsburg Library, YS Program Room
Come meet some fellow readers and join the conversation. This book club is designed for ages 9-12 and is limited to 15 members. Call 757.741.3300, option 4 to register and receive a free copy of this month’s book.

Sweet Treats
Jan. 27, 2-3 pm
James City County Library, Kitzinger Room
Learn about the process of making chocolate bars, add some of your favorite fillings and take it home! For ages 9-18, no registration required.

Teen Night Out
Jan. 26, 6-8 pm
James City County Library, Teen Room
Celebrate the end of the month with friends, games, snacks, music and more! Enjoy all the Teen Room has to offer! For ages 13-18, no registration required.

Teen Advisory Group
Jan. 4, 6-7 pm
Williamsburg Library, Schell Room
WRL’s teen volunteer group meets the first Thursday of the month to share ideas for library services and work on various tasks. Ages 13-18. Application and orientation required.

Ceramic Owl Painting
Jan. 13, 2-3:30 pm
James City County Library, Teen Room
Decorate a ceramic owl in the Teen Room. For ages 9-12. No registration required.

Sewing Saturday: Cloth Napkins
Jan. 6, 9:45 am-12 pm
Abram Frink Jr. Community Center
With our focus on eco-friendly living, cloth napkins are making a comeback. Learn how to make mitered corners as you sew a cloth napkin. Supplies provided. Beginning sewers welcome! Bring your own machine (in good working order) or borrow one of the library’s machines. Space is limited. Reservations are required: 757.741.3324.

Bookmobile FunFest: Arctic Blast
Jan. 20, 10 am-1 pm
Abram Frink Jr. Community Center
Come join us to kick off the winter season with some fun science activities involving snowballs! We will build snowball structures and launchers, explore Newton’s Second Law of Motion, create catapults, and participate in a snowball stacking challenge! Finally, test your engineering skills by designing and building your own bobsled track and see if your bobsled can compete with the Olympians!
“The Dewey Decibel Concert Series helps greatly in providing artists a fantastic opportunity to showcase their music and talent on a class A stage. It also enables many, that otherwise couldn’t afford a higher ticket charge, a chance to come and hear the many versatile performers and groups that are featured throughout the year in the theater. It serves its purpose quite well in Williamsburg.”

~Jae Sinnett (Dewey Decibel musician)

The Friends allow the library to dream big and enable WRL to provide engaging programs like the Dewey Decibel Concert Series and so much more. Learn about becoming a Friend at wrl.org/give, or contact Dr. Benjamin Goldberg, Library Development Officer at 757.741.3390.