

# SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



## The holiday season is drawing near...

... bringing with it many beloved holiday traditions! Here at the library, we love learning about traditions around the world, such as family cookouts in New Zealand and South Africa, Las Posadas in Mexico, or eating kuya and walking around town singing carols in Ukraine - but our favorite is probably Jolabokafloð: the Icelandic tradition of giving books for Christmas Eve, then staying up to read all night! But closer to home, there are plenty of holiday traditions to celebrate, too.

A newer tradition we love to participate in is part of the City's ***Celebrate in Saratoga*** event schedule - **Letters To Santa!**

Beginning November 28, children can drop off their letter for Santa at his special mailbox in the Library's front lobby during our open hours.

Letters left before December 16 will get a reply from Santa!

Along with that, another tradition we hold dear is making sure our staff have time with their families for the holidays. Please see page 5 for the days and times we are closed in the next couple of months.

Also, be sure to see the calendar of events on our website for days we are not holding programs.



### LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

Friday-Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM



### CONTACT US

801-766-6513 [saratogasprings-ut.gov/library](http://saratogasprings-ut.gov/library)

Instagram & Facebook: Saratoga Springs Public Library

# ask me anything!\*

\* LIBRARY RELATED

## Q: Do you accept donations?

A: Our space is very limited, and at the moment we do not have the ability to retain items that are not frequently used. We do accept some donations. Please be sure that what you are donating has been published in the last 5 years, is in like new condition, and if it is more than one box, that you have an appointment to drop them off. Please also be aware that not all donations will be added to the library and, once received, they become our property to distribute as we need to.

*Fun fact: A library serving a city of our size should spend a minimum of 6% of its budget on building its collections; we spend nearly 15% of our budget purchasing new items.*

Send questions to  
[library@saratogaspringscity.com](mailto:library@saratogaspringscity.com) to be  
 answered in a future newsletter.

## HOW-TO SECTION

### Place items in the cart and put them on hold

1. Visit [www.saratogaspringscity.com/library](http://www.saratogaspringscity.com/library).
2. Click on the 'Catalog & Log Into Your Account' link and log in.
  - a. Hint: if you don't remember your PIN, try the last four digits of your card number.
3. Browse and search for items any way you like. Searching can be done by ISBN, Title, Author, Subject and more.
4. Select the Check Box in front of the items you want, and at the top "With selected titles:" select the drop down and choose "Cart".
5. Your cart is available in the top tool bar when you are logged into your account.
  - a. Once your cart is full, or you've searched for the items you wish to place on hold, click on the cart in the toolbar to review your cart.
  - b. Select the items you would like to place on hold from this list and click "Place Hold".
6. This will open your confirmation in another screen where you need to click "Confirm Hold." The software will list for you the number of holds on that title and your place in the holds queue.

*~ Holds can sometimes take a couple hours to pull and might not always be available. You can check your hold status online, or wait for an email to arrive notifying you of your hold availability.*

*~ Library cards are limited to 30 holds at a time, so choose wisely; also remember, we can only hold books for 4 days once they're waiting for you, then they go to the next person in line!*

**CRAFTERNOONS**

JOIN US! WEDNESDAYS 4:00 - 6:30 PM

SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

## S.T.E.A.M. @ HOME

### SNOW PAINTING

*Learn about color theory - and experiment with how temperature affects your 'paint'!*

#### Supplies:

Several spray bottles	Water
Assorted food coloring	Snow

1. Add a few drops of desired food coloring to each bottle. Start with primary colors and have fun from there!
2. Fill the bottle with water, and shake until the color is all mixed with the water.
3. Take the spray bottles outside into the fresh snow & spray colored water onto the snow.

*Other than writing your name in the snow, what fun designs can you come up with?*

# MEET OUR STAFF: HAILEE



The books! I have always felt a sense of calm and safety with being around books. I love the smell of fresh crispy books but also the age worn musty scent of old books. If I were immortal I would spend my time reading any book I could get my hands on.

## Top 3 favorite books:

This is always a hard question! I feel like I am always reading my new favorite book. There are definitely some books / series that hold a special place in my heart, though: *Harry Potter*, *Hunger Games*, and *A Court of Thorns and Roses*.

## Recent reads:

*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, and *Wicca and Witchcraft* by Denise Zimmerman.

## How many pairs of shoes do you own?

Ummm... six? I'm the type of person who wears the same pair of sandals year-round.

## What is your favorite animal?

I've always loved dogs! But I also love to see the elephants and giraffes at the zoo.

## Do you love or hate roller coasters?

Love! But as I'm getting older I am realizing I cannot ride as many as I'd like to...

## What do you love most about working in the library?

The books! I have always felt a sense of calm and safety with being around books. I love the smell of fresh crispy books but also the age worn musty scent of old books. If I were immortal I would spend my time reading any book I could get my hands on.

# Books & Treats

Adults Only Book Club

Books available for checkout at the front desk.

The best American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Hemingway's frank portrayal of the love between Lieutenant Henry and Catherine Barkley, caught in the inexorable sweep of war, glows with an intensity unrivaled in modern literature, while his description of the German attack on Caporetto—of lines of tired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and demoralized—is one of the greatest moments in literary history. A story of love and pain, of loyalty and desertion, *A Farewell to Arms*, written when he was thirty years old, represents a new romanticism for Hemingway.

**Ernest Hemingway**

*A Farewell to Arms*

No meeting in November!



# Books & Treats

Adults Only Book Club

No meeting in December!

At her birth, Ella of Frell was the unfortunate recipient of a foolish fairy's gift—the "gift" of obedience. Ella must obey any order, whether it's hopping on one foot for a day and a half, or chopping off her own head! But strong-willed Ella does not tamely accept her fate. Against a bold backdrop of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella goes on a quest to break the curse—once and for all.

**GAIL CARSON LEVINE**  
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

**ELLA ENCHANTED**  
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Books available for checkout at the front desk.



We have requested a rapid growth waiver from the State Library due to not meeting minimum requirements for certification in 2022-2023. The numbers under the "recertification" column are ours, and the numbers under the "10th percentile" column are the minimum service level recommendations for a library serving a population of our city's size.

	2023 Recertification	2023 10th Percentile
Visitors	78,912	88,835
Circulation of Physical Materials	271,234	144,097
Circulation of Electronic Materials	78,635	57,826
Turnover Rate of Physical Materials	9.67	0.47
Turnover Rate of Electronic Materials	0.23	0.01
Internet Terminal Users	1,091	3,184
Wi-Fi Users	1,872	4,832
Attendance at Programs	5,830	7,703
Local Operating Expenditures	\$568,555	\$704,922
Percentage of Collections Budget	14.68%	6.00%
Staffing Levels	8.31	12.80
Number of Programs	444	268

### Why is this important?

Being certified allows us access to State and Federal grants and resources - which, in turn, enables us to better serve you. To certify, we are required to meet 7 out of the 12 metrics at the minimum level indicated.

Please note the categories we exceed the requirements (such as our circulation and turnover rates, or number of programs) and the categories in which we fall short of the minimum requirements for our population size (staff, budget).



# Early literacy at home

Literacy isn't just reading!



## What are narrative skills, and why are they important ?

Narrative skills are what we show when describing things and events, telling stories, knowing the order of events, and making predictions. When children can describe something or retell stories, it shows that they are comprehending what they are reading; this is crucial to helping them stay motivated to keep reading.



Remember: there is no app to replace your lap!

## What Can You Do to Help Build This Skill?

- ~ Ask open-ended questions that encourage conversations, rather than yes/no or right/wrong answers.
- ~ Talk about your day and its series of events.
  - ~ Mix up the events in a story; make it silly!
- ~ Guess what comes next - or come up with a different ending.
- ~ Read stories without words; they really help focus on this skill.
  - ~ Name objects, feelings, and events.

**SARATOGA SPRINGS  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE  
NOVEMBER 11**



**HAPPY VETERANS DAY**

**SARATOGA SPRINGS  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WILL BE CLOSED**

**November 22nd at 5:00 pm  
November 23rd all day  
November 24th all day  
November 25th all day**

**for the Thanksgiving holiday**



*Holiday* CLOSURES

**Saratoga Springs**

**Public Library**

**will be closed all day:**

**Monday, December 25th**

**Monday, January 1st**

