

Charlton Public Library Newsletter



Special Hours

The Library will be closed on January 1 and 19

Friends of the Library

The next Friends meeting is Tuesday, January 13 at 3:30 pm in the Community Room at the Library.

The Friends wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year! We thank you for your continued support throughout 2025. We look forward to more exciting adventures in 2026!

The Giving Tree

We'd like to thank everyone who took a tag from the Giving Tree this year and helped brighten the holidays for children and seniors in our community! We made so many trips to the Senior Center and filled multiple car loads with toys for the Boys & Girls Club and they are all so grateful!

Where are the programs for kids and teens?

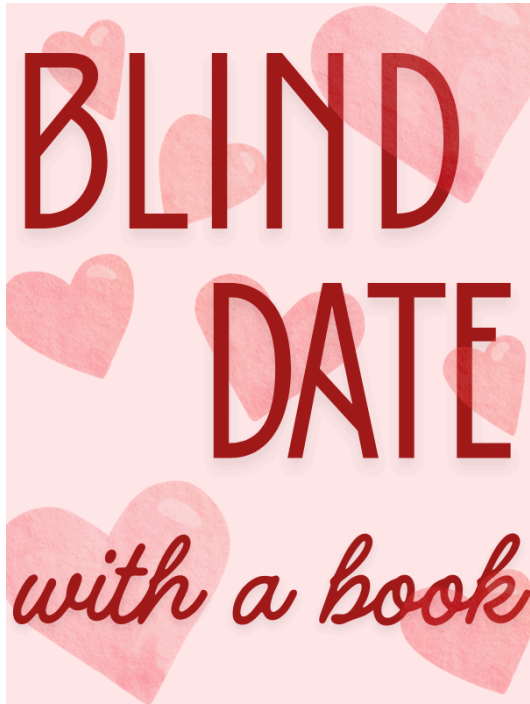
We have so much going on that we're sending out two newsletters: this one which covers our adult programs and another one which covers our youth programs. If you'd like to change which ones you receive send us an email at charltonlibrary@cwmar.org letting us know which ones you'd like to add or drop and we'll make sure that you're getting the news you want!

January Art Exhibits

This month the front lobby features cyanotypes by Lisa Shea and our Community Room art gallery features watercolors by Brandi Van Roo. Please make time to stop by and view this amazing art.

Interested in exhibiting in either our Front Lobby or our new Community Room Art Gallery? Get all the details on the library website here: <https://charltonlibrary.org/art-exhibits-at-the-charlton-library/>

Upcoming Programs for Adults



Blind Date With A Book

January 2 - February 7

We'd like to fix you up with a blind date! We've selected a variety of books and wrapped them all up so that you won't know the identity of your blind date till you get it home. Will it be funny, informative, a mystery, true-crime? Sure you might be disappointed; but then again ... you may end up having a great read with something you wouldn't have chosen for yourself. With each book is a 'Rate a Date' slip, simply say whatever you want about your date, no feelings will be hurt. Even if your date turns out to be a dud, all is not lost. With each slip you return, you can enter raffles for a variety of dates! Prizes are generously sponsored by the Friends of Charlton Library.

Puzzle Race

Saturday, January 3 at 10:30 am in Dexter Hall

Can your team complete a jigsaw puzzle faster than your friends and neighbors? Each team will receive the same 500 piece puzzle provided by the library. The team that finishes first or completes the most before time is called wins!

Adults, teens, and families with children aged 8+ are welcome to participate. Registration is required- only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to six members.

Don't have a team? Email Betsy at perryb@cwmars.org and we'll put together a team of interested folks!

[Register](#)

Play Games in the Community Meeting Room

Monday, January 5 from 12:30 - 2 pm

Today we'll play a variety of party games together! Come have fun with us!

Monday, January 12 from 12:30 - 2 pm

This afternoon we're playing cribbage! We've got a few boards and decks of cards and we can't wait to play with you! Beginner and experienced cribbage players are welcome.

Monday, January 26 from 12:30 - 2 pm

Join us for a fun afternoon playing Scrabble! We have boards (and dictionaries) ready and waiting for you to play with us!

Play Games is presented in partnership with the Golden Age Club of Charlton.
No registration is required for these programs.

Bullet Journaling 101
Tuesday, January 6 at 6 pm
Wednesday, January 7 at 11 am

It's 2026 and we are not going to wait for opportunities—we'll create them! Join us for Bullet Journaling 101 where we will spend the first half of the class learning about the methodology of Bullet Journaling. Then in the second half, we'll bring out plenty of materials for everyone to get started on setting up your own journal. Each participant is provided a journal for free! Each session is the same, please register for only one session. Registration is required. For adults and teens ages 13 and up.

[Register](#)



Needle Felted Snowman
Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30 pm

Learn to make a snowman out of wool! What is Needle Felting? Needle felting is a craft where you repeatedly poke loose wool fibers with a special barbed needle, causing the fibers to interlock and tangle, creating a firm, sculpted shape or design. It's like sculpting with wool, using the needle's barbs to mat the fibers together, allowing beginners to easily create 3D figures, add texture to fabrics, or make decorative art, with just wool, a felting needle, and a mat. Registration is required. For adults and teens ages 12 and up.

[Register](#)

Safari, Google, and ChatGPT
Wednesday, January 14 at 12:30 pm

This class covers Safari, the internet browser native to Apple products. We uncover the ways Safari can help with searching for information, including using Google and bookmarking important sites, and how AI applications like ChatGPT can assist with everyday tasks like writing emails, exploring different topics, and doing research. Registration is required.

[Register](#)

Rev. John Lucy on Christianity and Death
Thursday, January 15 at 6 pm

A basic primer on different Christian traditions on what happens after you die, including from theologians who don't believe in a heaven awaiting us. From early Christian scholars to John Wesley and Soren Kierkegaard, we'll briefly explore the wide range of orthodoxy on death.

Stay afterwards for our monthly Death Café discussion from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Gentle Flow Yoga **Saturday, January 17 at 10 am**

Breathe, stretch, and unwind in this relaxing 60-minute yoga class. Perfect for beginners and experienced yogis alike, this class will blend gentle, mindful movement with calming breathwork and end in a deeply restful savasana.

Bring a mat, water bottle and any props. (Some blocks and knee pads available). Led by Erin Anderson – RYT-200 yoga instructor and SEL facilitator.

Reduce stress • Improve flexibility • Feel your best physically and mentally!

Registration is required. This program is for adult and teens ages 13 and up.

[Register](#)

Drop In Needle Felting

Wednesday, January 21 at 10 am

Tuesday, January 27 at 6 pm

This time is just for you to drop-in and work on your projects! There will be needles, wool, and pads for use but no formal instruction or project planned. Feel free to bring a project you've already started or use our supplies to bring your ideas to life.

This program is for adults 18 and over due to the nature of the materials being used..

The Gardner Museum Art Theft **Thursday, January 22 at 6 pm**

Has anyone seen \$500 million in art lying around? An hour or so after the 1990 St. Patrick's Day ended, two men dressed as Boston police officers entered the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, stayed for about 90 minutes, and left with 13 pieces of art. None of the priceless items have ever been found. Numerous suspects have been named over the years but none have been arrested. Many are now dead. Bob Ainsworth, the author of DUPED, a fictional account of the robbery, will review the actual details of the theft, the suspects, and the motives behind the world's most valued art theft. He will also tell of his own brush with the infamous crime. Registration is appreciated.

[Register](#)

Winter Sowing **Saturday, January 24 at noon**

Join Lady Fern Farm for a native plant-winter sowing-workshop. This is a hands on, make and take event. Participants will learn the importance of growing native plants, what difference one yard can make, and create mini greenhouses from recycled milk and/or water jugs. Please bring 1 or 2 opaque milk or water jugs (soil and seeds will be provided). Get your gardening fix this winter! Registration is required. This program is for adult and teens ages 13 and up.

[Register](#)

Personalizing Your Device **Wednesday, January 28 at 10:30 am**

In this class, we learn about different ways to customize the iPhone and iPad to suit your preferences better. We'll cover reorganizing our Home Screens, creating folders, changing the appearance of our displays, and changing the image used for the wallpapers and Lock Screens. Registration is required.

[Register](#)

Back to Basics: An Intro to Smartphones and Tablets **Wednesday, January 28 at 12:30 pm**

This introductory class introduces new users to the basics of using the iPhone and iPad. It will cover the hardware of the iPhone and iPad, important areas of the devices, and accessing common tools like the flashlight, alarm, and camera. Registration is required.

[Register](#)

Quabbin Wildlife Stories **Saturday, January 31 at 10:30 am**

This presentation by photographer and longtime Quabbin staff member Dale Monette will include the bald eagle introduction program that took place during the 1980's that introduced the bald eagle back into Massachusetts as a nesting species. This program has since had great results and has grown to 100 bald eagle nests in MA last year as counted by MassWildlife. It will also include the ongoing Quabbin moose survey with short videos of moose, bobcats and deer that have been filmed on trail cameras set to film moose. Also included will be the Quabbin loon survey, the turkey reintroduction in the mid 1960's as well as other animal surveys that have been occurring on the Quabbin watershed since the 1970's. Registration is appreciated.

[Register](#)

Digital Skills Instruction

Drop-In Tech Help

No registration required

Saturday, Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31 from 10 am- noon

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 13, 20, & 27 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Do you have a few quick questions about technology? Would you like to learn how to use apps like Libby or Kanopy? Drop in and speak with Charlton Library's Digital Skill Instructor and get the dedicated support you need. If you will need more than 15 minutes of tech help, please make a one-on-one appointment in person at the library, online, or by calling 508-248-0452.

One-on-One Tech Help

Registration required

Thursday Jan. 8, 22, & 29 at 4:30, 5:30, or 6:30 pm

Do you have a more complicated question than we can cover during Drop-in Tech Help? Would you like to learn some basic email or internet skills? Make a one-on-one appointment with the Charlton Library's Digital Skills Instructor and get 60 minutes of dedicated support. Please make a one-on-one appointment in person at the library, online, or by calling 508-248-0452.

We cannot assist with:

- Setting up a new device
- Fixing/Restoring/Repairing a broken or infected device, app, or email account
- Entering sensitive information for you (e.g. credit card information, social security number, online banking, etc.)
- Keyboarding, typing, or proofreading documents
- Cannot provide medical, legal, and business advice or opinions

Introduction to Technology Series

Each course will be held twice for increased availability, the content is the same each time, please only register for one session of each course.

Intro to ChatGPT - Local History Room - Registration Required

Tuesday, January 6 from 6:00-7:00 pm OR Saturday, January 10 from 1:30-2:30 pm

Curious about ChatGPT and what it can do for you? Join us for a hands-on introduction to one of today's most popular AI tools! In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn what ChatGPT is, how it works, and how it can help with everyday tasks like writing, researching, organizing ideas, learning new skills, and more. No technical experience is required—just bring your curiosity and get ready to explore the world of artificial intelligence in a simple, practical way.

Tidying Up Your Gmail- Local History Room - Registration Required

Tuesday, January 13 from 6:00- 7:00 pm OR Saturday, January 17 from 1:30-2:30 pm

Is your inbox overflowing with unread messages, promotions, and clutter? Join us for this beginner-friendly workshop on tidying up your Gmail! You'll learn simple, practical tools to organize your inbox, delete unwanted emails in bulk, unsubscribe from mailing lists, create folders and filters, and take control of your email once and for all. Whether you're aiming for "Inbox Zero" or just want to find important messages faster, this session will help you feel more confident and organized online.

Intro to Qello Concerts & Classica- Local History Room - Registration Required
Tuesday, January 20 from 6:00- 7:00 pm OR Saturday, January 24 from 1:30-2:30 pm

Qello Concerts is a streaming service that brings the live concert experience to your screen. Featuring full-length concerts and music documentaries from legendary artists and today's top performers, Qello offers an extensive collection across every genre—from rock, pop, and jazz to classical and country. With high-quality recordings and exclusive behind-the-scenes footage, Qello Concerts lets music lovers relive iconic performances and discover new favorites anytime, anywhere.

Classica is a premium streaming service dedicated to the world of classical music, opera, and ballet. It offers audiences access to stunning performances from renowned concert halls, opera houses, and festivals around the globe. With expertly produced recordings, behind-the-scenes documentaries, and exclusive artist interviews, Classica provides an immersive experience for both lifelong classical music enthusiasts and newcomers alike. Whether you're enjoying a full-length symphony, an iconic opera, or a breathtaking ballet, Classica brings the beauty and emotion of the performing arts directly to your screen.

Intro to Universal Class - Local History Room - Registration Required

Tuesday, January 27 from 6:00-7:00 pm OR Saturday, January 31 from 1:30-2:30 pm

In this class, participants will learn how to set up a free account and navigate Universal Class learning platform. Please note: This platform is only free to Charlton residents with a Charlton Library card.

Universal Class is an online education experience offering over 540 courses in subjects like Entrepreneurship, Home and Garden Care, Computers and Technology, Health and Medicine, homeschooling, Job Assistance, Law, and many more. It offers a wide variety of step-by-step video classes taught by expert instructors. Whether you are looking to make a career change or pick up a new hobby, Universal Class can help, all from the comfort of your home.

This series was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

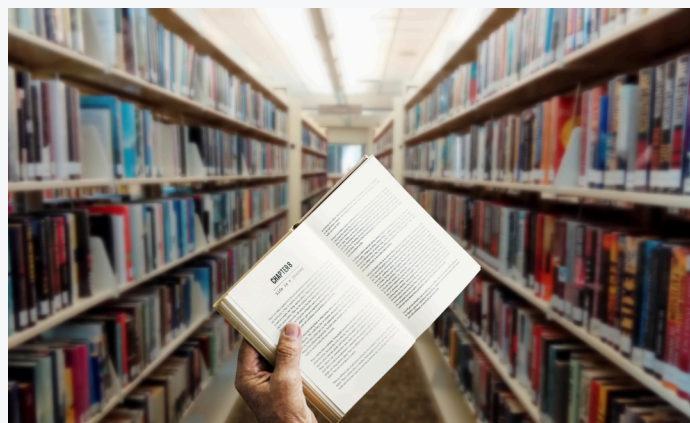
[Visit our calendar for dates, times, and registration.](#)

Library Book Groups



Better Read Than Dead Book Club

Blood in the Water
by Casey Sherman



CPL Book Group

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon
Thursday, January 8 from 6:00-7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 7 at 11 am
in the Local History Room

A True Crime monthly meetup!
Books available for checkout at the circulation
desk prior to discussion.

[Read More](#)

in the Community Room

Books are available for checkout at the adult
circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

[Read More](#)



Discussion Groups and Ongoing Programs

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group

Thursdays @ 1:00-3:00 PM | Community Meeting Room

Genealogy Group

Friday, January 9 at 6 PM | Community Meeting Room

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, January 15 @ 6:00-7:30 PM | Community Meeting Room

Death Café

Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 pm | Dexter Hall
Guest speaker this month at 6 pm, see description above

SARJ (Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam)

Saturday, January 17 @ noon-1:30 PM | Community Meeting Room

CULE (Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble)

Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 pm | Community Meeting Room

Critical Thinking Discussion Group

Friday, January 23 @ 1:00-2:00 PM | Community Meeting Room

Visit our [Event Calendar](#) for more information on all our Adult programs.



January Movie Matinees Tuesdays at 1 pm

January 6

Yes Man

New Year, New You! A perennial naysayer becomes a guy who just can't say "no" (and won't) after attending a self-help seminar that challenges him to say yes to everything for a year. 2008. Rated PG-13. 104 minutes. Starring: Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel, & Bradley Cooper.

January 13

Good Fortune

An angel named Gabriel tries to help a man who is struggling to make ends meet in Los Angeles, by swapping his life with a super wealthy man, Jeff in order to show him that wealth won't solve all his problems. However, all doesn't go according to plan when the former actually loves his new life. As punishment, Gabriel loses his wings and is sentenced to being a human, along with Jeff, who now lives without means as Arj had before. 2025. Rated R. 98 minutes. Featuring: Aziz Ansari, Keanu Reeves, Seth Rogen, Keke, & Sandra Oh.

January 20

Julie & Julia

This film is an adaption of Julie Powell's autobiographical book about an amateur chef who decides to try out every recipe in a cookbook by chef Julia Child and writes about it in a blog over the course of a year. Throughout the story, flashbacks show Child learning about French cuisine while living in Paris. 2009. Rated PG-13. 123 minutes. Cast: Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Chris Messina, Stanley Tucci, Linda Emond.

January 27

Roofman

Jeffrey Manchester, an inmate on the run, hides in a place no one would look for him — a toy store. When this paradise of fun becomes a prison of loneliness, he falls for the one thing that can stop him from getting away ... love. 2025. Rated R. 125 minutes. Starring: Channing Tatum, Kirsten Dunst, Peter Dinklage, Juno Temple, Uzo Aduba.

No registration required. Free freshly-popped popcorn!

Digital Resources



Sign up and never miss a book by your favorite author!



Get free weekly emails announcing our latest books, movies, music, and more!



NoveList Plus is the premiere database of reading recommendations.



Free access to over 500 classes with your Charlton Library card!



Free movie streaming with your Charlton Library card!



Over 1,400 instructional video classes; covering 20 different creative passions



Free access on a Charlton Library computer or using Library WiFi.



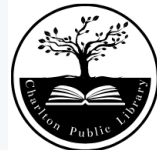
A streamlined App to download your favorite OverDrive books, audio books, magazines & more!



Watch beautiful classical music, operas, and ballets from around the world, anywhere, anytime.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Charlton Public Library
40 Main Street



Charlton, MA 01507
508-248-0452

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