December Calendar of Events for Adults

2021 is almost at an end, and that means our list of staff favorites will be out soon (look for that in an upcoming issue of our newsletter) which you might find helpful if you're doing any gift-shopping this holiday season. Either way, we know you're going to be busier than usual this month, but we still have some great programs planned, including an author event with Mark Oppenheimer (12/16). This month, you can get crafty with Jade Scarlett and make a one-of-a-kind holiday card, share or listen to some Slam Poetry (12/1), or join us for one of our five book discussions taking place in December. Find a full listing of programs below with details on attending.

You can reach us Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 914-422-1400, by texting WPPL to 66746, or by emailing us anytime.

Ideas for programs or activities? Send them my way.

Take care,
Brian Kenney
Library Director
bkenney@whiteplainslibrary.org

**Note:** Most newsletters will be clipped at the bottom when they reach your inbox. Please make sure you click on [Message clipped] View entire message at the bottom of your email for the full newsletter.
if attendance is open, visit the link for information on joining on the date the event occurs. Adult events are in orange, events for parents are in yellow, and events for assorted age groups are in blue. NOTE: To increase security in youth-focused programs, we are now requiring attendees to have a Zoom account to login to the event. Creating an account is easy and free.

We appreciate support from the White Plains Library Foundation for many of our programs. Events funded by the Foundation are noted with an *.

**Lunchtime Meditation @ the Library**
Wednesday, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
12:00–12:45 p.m.
Brief beginning instruction followed by meditation. No experience or special equipment needed. A variety of guest instructors will lead the program. For the Zoom link, click on the date(s) you wish to attend: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29.

**Author Visit with Mark Oppenheimer**
Thursday, December 16
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Please join us for a virtual author visit with Mark Oppenheimer. The topic is Oppenheimer's new book, *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood*. The *New York Times* said of the book: "How 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood' became the site of the most deadly antisemitic attack on American soil and what happened afterward unfold with the precision of the best suspense stories." Click here to register and
Virtual Tech Help
Wednesday, December 1 & Tuesday, December 7
2:00–3:00 p.m.
Need help with a general computer issue or have questions about a particular piece of technology? Ask Digital Media Specialist Austin Olney in this virtual assistance program. Whether a beginner or advanced user, all are welcome. Register in advance for the date(s) you wish to attend: 12/1, 12/7. Please be sure to provide your email address.

Poetry Slam & Open Mic
Wednesday, December 1
7:00–9:00 p.m.
Join Zork and Kristen for the First Wednesday Poetry Slam! Pre-registration is required to try and accommodate as many poets as possible. Register here to attend or perform. Please be sure to provide an active email address as we will contact you to confirm whether you will be performing or just attending. Adults & teens welcome!

Quick n Easy Holiday Card

you'll be sent a Zoom link unique to your email.
Thursday, December 2
7:00–8:00 p.m.

It’s the season to learn a new skill and bring your holiday-card game to a higher level. Join Jade Scarlett to learn basic techniques on how to turn your handwriting into beautiful calligraphy and create, with only a few materials, a one-of-a-kind card. Registration is limited and required. Those signed up will be notified when they can pick up their bag of program supplies from the Library. For information about the presenter, see jadescarlett.com. Click here to register. Adults and Teens welcome!

Future is Female Book Discussion
Monday, December 6
2:00–3:00 p.m.

Ellen O’Connell, White Plains resident and retired English teacher, will moderate a discussion of An Unorthodox Match, by bestselling author Naomi Ragen. This is a story of faith, love, and acceptance, in which a modern, secular, well-educated, and successful woman makes the surprising choice to bring deeper meaning to her life by embracing spirituality within the ultraconservative community of Boro Park, Brooklyn. Available from the Library in print. OverDrive/Libby has both the eBook and audiobook. Click here for the Zoom link.

Zoom Tips & Tricks
Wednesday, December 8
10:30–11:00 a.m.

Participants of this session will learn tips and tricks for attending (and hosting) Zoom events. Click here to register.
Short Story Book Discussion Series

Thursday, December 9
2:00–4:15 p.m.

Join Librarian Barbara Wenglin for our fall series using the anthology *100 Years of the Best American Short Stories* focusing on the theme of *couples*. For this session, read "Displacement" by David Wong Louie (p.436) in which a Chinese refugee couple navigate their fallen status as servants in an abusive, alien household. Anthology is available to borrow in print, also as an eBook in Hoopla and Libby/OverDrive. Program made possible with support of the Friends of the Library. Click here to register for full series and attend when you can.

English Conversation Group

Wednesday, December 8 & 22
2:00–3:00 p.m.

ESL speakers, come practice your English conversation skills in this fun, supportive virtual setting! Feel free to bring your own conversation topics. For the Zoom link, click on the date(s) you wish to attend: 12/8 12/22

Common Ground

Thursday, December 9
6:00–8:00 p.m.

Common Ground is a community conversation series where participants can express their viewpoints and listen to different perspectives in a civic environment.
Slow Reading
Book Discussion
Monday, December 13 & 20
2:00–4:00 p.m.
For the last two fall sessions, the group will revisit Elizabeth Strout's character Olive Kitteridge, discussing selected stories from Strout's 2019 collection, Olive, Again. The stories for 12/13 are “Pedicure” and “The Poet,” and the stories for 12/20 are “Heart” and “Friend.” Texts are available in the Library's physical collection and through OverDrive/Libby. Leading the group is Ellen Lambert, who has a Ph.D. from Yale in English and taught high-school English at The Dalton School for over 25 years.
Feel free to contact Ellen at ellenzlambert@gmail.com or 914-582-4050 with any questions. For the Zoom link click on the date(s) you wish to attend: 12/13, 12/20.

White Plains
Department of Planning
Presentation
Monday, December 13
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Join Mayor Thomas Roach and Commissioner of Planning Chris Gomez as they discuss current and future development in White Plains and the process to update the city's comprehensive plan. Click here for the Zoom link.
Digital Library Resources
Wednesday, December 15
10:30–11:15 a.m.
Join Digital Media Specialist Austin Olney and learn about popular online library resources. Beginners are encouraged, all are welcome.
For adults, parents.
Register in advance [here].

[*Book 'Em*]
Wednesday, December 15
2:30–3:30 p.m.
Library Director Brian Kenney will lead a discussion of Robyn Gigl's *By Way of Sorrow*. “Gigl is too astute and compassionate a writer to create cartoon villainy out of anti-trans attitudes...quietly groundbreaking.”—*The New York Times Book Review*. This title is available in print and as an eBook on hoopla. For information on joining, [click here].

[Forever Young]
Adult Book Club
Thursday, December 16
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Forever Young Adult is a group for YA fans who are a little less "Y" and a bit more "A." Whether you're a regular YA reader or you need a break from your usual "To Read" list, all are welcome! We will discuss *Miss Meteor* by Anna-Marie McLemore and Tehlor Kay Mejia at this session. This book is available in print and as an eBook and audiobook from OverDrive/Libby. This book club is made possible by a partnership between Yonkers Public Library and White Plains Public Library. For information on attending, click here.