This spring we’re launching a new quarterly program guide, Beyond the Shelves. This comprehensive booklet will include a complete list of all of our programming for kids, teens, and adults -- the first issue will cover March-May, 2019. We hope it will make it easier than ever to find out about all the great stuff we have going on at WRL. Look for it in our buildings beginning in mid-February.

Great Books, Great Movies

2/7 - Count of Monte Cristo
2/14 - Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
2/21 - Giant
2/28 - The Phantom of the Opera

All programs begin at 2 p.m. in the Williamsburg Library Theatre. Find complete film descriptions on our calendar at www.wrl.org/events/films.

The Golden Age of Mysteries

Between the two World Wars, authors in England and America created new rules for mystery writing that would forever change their genre. Join Neil Hollands and Barry Trot to learn more about the authors and books that made up the Golden Age of mysteries.

2/26, 2 p.m. at the Stryker Center

Looking for Romance this Valentine’s Day?

Stop by one of the Friends of WRL Foundation Book Nooks, where you will find not only romance, but mystery, thrill, fantasy, science fiction, and more. All at great prices. Funds from the the Book Nook sales support WRL’s collections and programs.

Find out more about joining the Friends of WRL Foundation or volunteering in the Book Nooks at www.wrl.org/give.

The Library Letter

February 2019
Williamsburg Regional Library

Celebrate Black History Month at WRL

Abinnet Berhanu & Hebre Musica Group
2/3, 3 p.m., Williamsburg Library Theatre

Berhanu, the founder of the group, is a drummer, composer, educator, and bandleader, and is currently pursuing a Masters at the College of William and Mary. Hebre Musica (Community Music) specializes in jazz and contemporary music infused with Ethiopian sounds and rhythms.

The Historic First Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir
2/10, 3 p.m., Williamsburg Library Theatre

Under the direction of Reginald Fox, this choir has gained an excellent reputation over the years for its ability to sing a variety of music from classical and arranged to contemporary and gospel. They enjoy sharing God’s gift of music with the community.

Whirlwind of Fire Mime and Dance Group with Justin Hall
2/17, 3 p.m., Williamsburg Library Theatre

Whirlwind of Fire, from First Baptist Church Morrison in Newport News, grew out of a desire to offer young people and children an interesting and fun way to praise God. They are joined by noted Christian singer and guitarist Justin Hall.

Steve Prince: Artist and Educator
2/24, 3 p.m., Williamsburg Library Theatre

Steve Prince, the Distinguished Artist in Residence at the College of William and Mary, is an internationally noted sculptor and print maker. He is passionate about his work and developing personal relationships with people through the arts.

This programming is presented in grateful collaboration with a variety of community organizations, including: Le Cercle Charmant, Williamsburg Men’s Club, NAACP ACT-50, Historic First Baptist Church, VSUAA Williamsburg Chapter, Union Baptist Church, Iota Phi Theta, New Zion Baptist Church, Delta Sigma Theta Williamsburg Alumnae, and the Greater Williamsburg Women’s Association.

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Featured Events for Kids

Knights and Princesses Storytime
2/23, 2 p.m., James City County Library
Young children’s imaginations will flourish as they learn balance, rhythm, movement, and coordination in this creative movement storytime. An instructor from Power House Dance will share a children’s book and then use music to explore the tale. For ages 2+. Check out all this month’s great kids events and more at www.wrl.org/kids.

Featured Events for Adults

Adult Coloring with Live Music
2/7, 2 p.m., James City County Library
Relax and listen to the soothing sounds of the cello, played by WRL’s own Hannah Pierce.

Dewey Decibel Concert Series
Various Dates, 7:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
International performer, multi-instrumentalist, and composer Victor Haskins takes the stage on 2/11. Next up, Virginia Opera presents “An Evening of Opera & Broadway” on 2/13. Finally, on 2/22 Occidental Gypsy will bring their dynamic, multi-genre mix of original vocal and instrumental pieces to our stage. Check www.wrl.org/dewey-decibel for ticket info.

Centuries of Art
Various Dates, 7:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
On 2/4, we’ll explore “Love in the Art of the Ancient Regime” — works exploring the complexities of love among the French aristocracy of the 18th century. Then on 2/11, comes learn all about artist Edward Beyer and the Jeffersonian Landscape. The season wraps up with a talk about music in art from an audio-visual perspective on 2/18.

Chair Yoga
2/11, 2 p.m., Stryker Center
Flex your muscles without impacting your joints. This fun and relaxing class is perfect for yoga beginners.

Emerging Scholars: Protons, an Enigmatic Particle
2/20, 2 p.m., Stryker Center
Little is known about protons, despite them being one of the fundamental building blocks of all matter in the universe. Join Professor Anashe Bandari as she explains what experiments with an electron accelerator can tell us about these interesting particles.

Celtic Film Series: Waking Ned Devine
2/21, 7 p.m., Williamsburg Library
When a lottery winner in a small Irish town drops dead from shock before claiming his prize, his neighbors must join together to convince the claim inspector that the dead man is still around so they can claim the money on his behalf.

Check out all this month’s great teen events and more at www.wrl.org/teens.

Year of Making: Technology Lab
2/13: Solar Circuits (registration required)
2/10: Breakspace — Appliances and Technology
2/17: Breakspace — Gears and Mechanics
2/24: Video Game Building with Bloxels (registration required)

Featured Events for Teens

Teens’ Night Out
2/15, 7-9 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Join our after-Hours, teens-only hangout including food, gaming prizes, and more, presented by the WRL teen volunteers.

Anime & Craft: Perler Keychains
2/18, 1 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Tweens and teens are invited to join us to watch anime and create 8-bit art keychains. Registration required at 757.259.4055; for ages 9-12.

Teen Writing Lounge
2/24, 2-3:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Beginning and experienced writers ages 11-18 are invited to join our relaxed group! No homework, all fun.

Check out all this month’s great teen events and more at www.wrl.org/teens.

AARP Tax-Aide is Back

AARP Tax-Aide is a partnership between WRL and the AARP Foundation in conjunction with the IRS, and it is offered free of charge here at Williamsburg Regional Library. The program’s mission is to provide high-quality, free income tax assistance and tax form preparation to low- and moderate-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Free filing is performed electronically.

Tax-Aide is being offered on an appointment and a walk-in basis at both the Williamsburg Library and the James City County Library February 1 through April 15. Federal tax forms are also available at both libraries, though state tax forms are not. Times vary by location and by day of the week — call 757.259.4072 to inquire about hours or to schedule an appointment.

Adult Ukulele Classes

Looking to learn a new hobby this year? Join music educator Wesley Stevenson for this series of classes each Friday in February to learn the ukulele. Each of these one hour classes will build on the last so that you should have a strong understanding of the fundamentals of the instrument by the end of the month. Please call 757.259.4050 to register.

Author Spotlight: Sharon Kay Penman

The winter months are a great time to dig into a grand historical adventure, and they don’t get any better than those written by Sharon Kay Penman, one of the grand dames of historical fiction. Penman is one of our favorite historical writers to recommend because her style has something to offer every reader. Penman’s stories are set in England, France, and Wales in the Middle Ages. She has ten historical novels and four medieval mysteries to her credit. An American, she earned a history degree from the University of Texas, a law degree from Rutgers, then became a lawyer, writing on the side until she could support herself in her preferred profession. She lives in New Jersey, but has a second home in the mountains of Wales, where she goes for inspiration.

Recommended starting points for Penman’s work include The Sunne in Splendour, a standalone novel about the life of Richard III; Here Be Dragons, the first of a trilogy about 13th- and 14th-century Welsh princes trying to hold their land against English expansion; and When Christ and His Saints Slept, the first of her trilogy about the tumultuous relationship between Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. In 2019, Penman will expand her canvas with The Land Beyond the Sea, which is about Jerusalem during the First Crusade, but the final release date for that novel has not yet been set. If you like Penman, you might try visiting her blog at http://sharonkaypenman.com/blog. There, she generously profiles and interviews other authors that she enjoys, such as Margaret George, Bernard Cornelw, and Priscilla Royal, as well as giving further insight into her own work.

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Many historical novelists write primarily from either men’s points of view or women’s, but Penman is equally adept with male and female characters. She balances romance and action, intrigue and adventure, period detail, and clever plotting. She combines meticulous research with a well-paced, engaging style. Her novels include a historical note where she explains her research and notes any minor liberties (usually very few) she took with known historical fact in telling her story.

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