

THAYER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
798 WASHINGTON ST.  
BRAINTREE, MA 02184



[www.ThayerPublicLibrary.org](http://www.ThayerPublicLibrary.org)

brref@ocln.org  
781-848-0405

The Library is located  
directly across from  
Town Hall.

#### Winter Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday and Saturday

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The Library will be  
closed  
Monday, January 19th  
for

Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day



# Library Connections

## The Newsletter of Thayer Public Library

JANUARY 2026

## The Great Courses Online



Do you love the Great Courses, but sometimes get frustrated when pieces are missing or damaged? Or do you sometimes have to place holds and wait for the subject you want? We've got you covered -- *The Great Courses* are available for streaming through Kanopy and Hoopla! **We will be phasing out our physical copies and offering The Great Courses in digital format only starting in February.**

*The Great Courses* have been a popular item on library shelves for years. There are hundreds of courses on a broad range of subjects, it's hard not to find something of interest. You'll find courses on history, science, economics, religion, or philosophy. Learn a new language, improve your health, become more mindful, or learn all about Mediterranean cooking. The Great Courses have engaging professors and experts who lead the trainings so the experience is always rewarding and enjoyable. You can stream on your phone, tablet, computer, or hook in to your SmartTV and enjoy learning from the comfort of your living room!

Join us for a quick training on how to access *The Great Courses* on both Kanopy and Hoopla. We will also show you ways to narrow your searches so you get right to the information you want.

Trainings will be offered on **Saturday, January 31st from 10:00 am to 11:00 am in Logan Auditorium**. A second session will be held on **Tuesday, February 17th at 2:30 pm in Logan Auditorium**. Choose the session that is best for you.

Registration is not required, but is appreciated. Register online, in person at the Reference Desk or over the phone at 781-848-0405, ext. 4417.

## Massachusetts Center for the Book 2026 Reading Challenge

Are you looking for a fun, unique reading challenge to take on in 2026? We have you covered with the Massachusetts Center for the Book 2026 Reading Challenge!

There is no sign-up form this year. Your first monthly entry will sign you up for the challenge. Simply choose a book that fits the monthly challenge. After you read the book, fill out the online form to tell us about it. Using the submission manager, you will be able to log in and access the entries you've logged throughout the year.

Dedicated readers will be invited to a year-end celebration hosted by Mass Center for the Book. We will be drawing two names on the last day of each month to win a free book! So, make sure you get those entries in before the end of the month. If you read a book in each of the 12 months, you will be entered in a drawing to win one of two totes filled with books. Be sure to look for displays in the library to help you find books that fit the monthly challenge!



# Fun and Games for Adults

## Mah Jongg Open Play

Join us and play Mah Jongg on Monday mornings! We will meet in the **Reading Room on the Main Level** starting at **10:00 am to 12:30 pm**. **January meetings will be held on the 5th, 12th and 26th.**



## Board Game Night for Adults

Do you enjoy playing board games? Then make plans to join us at our Monthly Board Game Nights for Adults! Stop in solo or bring a friend and join us for 2026's first board game night on **Monday, January 5th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Reading Room**.

Christina (our Circulation Librarian) will be there to say hello and show you the competitive and collaborative board games and card games we have. No registration required -- this is a drop-in program.



**Scrabble** Like to play Scrabble? Join us every Thursday night for open Scrabble play. Come alone or bring a friend. All players are welcome! Meets **January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Play starts promptly at 6:30 pm.**

## Knitting Group

Join the Thayer Public Library's informal knitting group!

Bring your project and enjoy the company of other knitters every third Tuesday of the month. This month the group will meet on **Tuesday, January 20th in the Reading Room from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**. Basic knitting skills are required; help may be available from other knitters.



Beginners to experts are welcome. No registration is necessary, walk-ins are welcome!

# Genealogy Club



Join us on **Saturday, January 17th at 10:00 am in Logan Auditorium, or remotely on Zoom**, for "Making the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center Your Research Assistant."

Learn about the Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library from Curt B. Witcher, Director of Special Collections and Manager of the library's Genealogy Center.

*Family Tree Magazine* says of the Allen County Public Library:

"The Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center has garnered a national reputation and attracts more than 100,000 researchers from across the country each year. This Fort Wayne, Ind., library's claim to fame is the *Periodical Source Index*, which catalogs thousands of genealogical and historical periodicals published since 1800. Staff have collected more than 10,000 titles."

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is an index of articles on genealogy and local history, chiefly in the English language covering the United States and Canada, but including an increasing number of English and French sources from Britain, Ireland and Australia. Containing more than 2.5 million citations from thousands of periodical titles, PERSI provides in- depth coverage to over two centuries of research in North America and the British Isles.

*Curt Witcher also serves as the curator of the library's Fine Book Collection. Curt is a former president of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, and the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society.*

# Shaping the Future of Learning in Braintree

## Braintree Public Schools Master Facilities Planning

Braintree is kicking off work to build a community-informed plan that ensures our schools and learning environments meet the needs of students and educators – now and in the future.

To do this, we must look closely at the conditions of our schools, how the spaces are organized and used, and what we can do differently so they better serve our community going forward. For more information or to get involved, scan the QR code or visit: [bpsfacilitiesplan.com](http://bpsfacilitiesplan.com).

