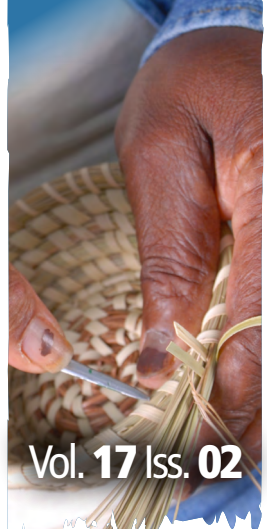


February
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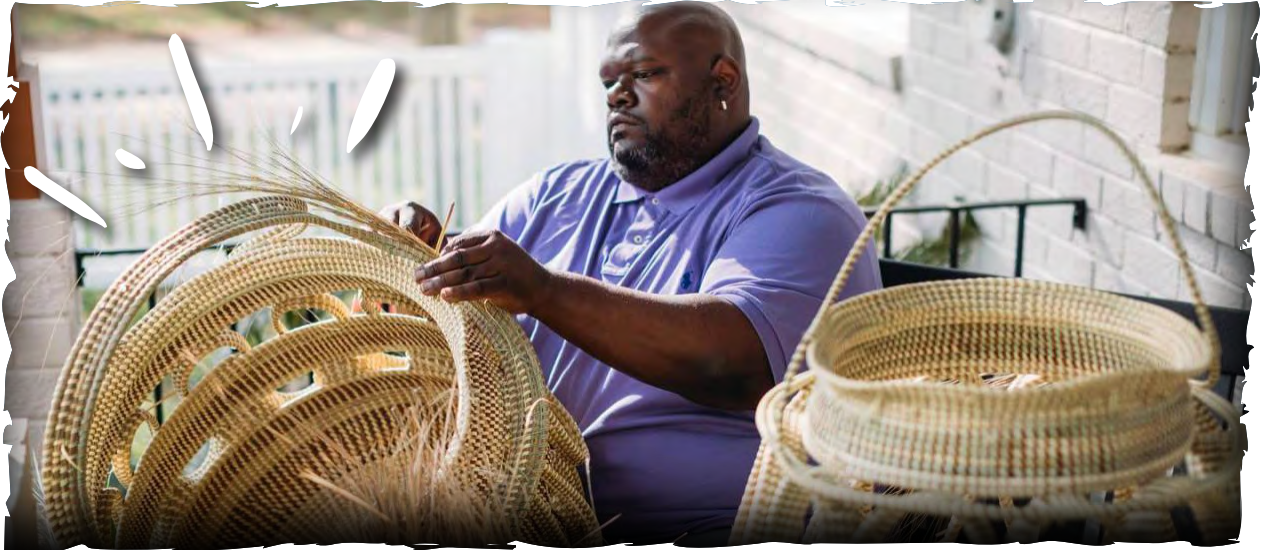
Words

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

February



Vol. 17 Iss. 02



Sweetgrass Baskets: A Gullah Geechee Tradition

Wednesday, Feb 7th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)

Join us to hear an amazing story about Sweetgrass Weaving, a staple of Gullah Geechee culture, and how this special art form has been kept alive and greatly improved over the decades. **Corey Alston**, a sixth-generation sweetgrass basket weaver, will create a beautiful basket while sharing the history of the craft with the audience. Alston is a gifted storyteller who has artfully crafted many baskets since he was a teenager. He puts the same amount of care and consideration into every piece, making sure each is just as eye-catching as the last. He will also talk about why the Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor in South Carolina is so unique.

Mary Ann Goodman: The "Goodwoman" of New Haven

Wednesday, Feb 21st | 7-8pm | Community Room

[Click to register](#)


Mary Goodman possessed a vision that transcended her time. In her final years, she became Yale's first donor of color despite her modest life as a former slave and a domestic worker. A Black American woman aware of the changing times, Goodman saw the need for strong leadership in her community. In 1871, one year before her death, Goodman bequeathed her entire estate of \$5,000 to establish a scholarship for African American divinity students, forgoing funds for her own burial. In honor of her passion, she was buried in Yale's section of the Grove Street Cemetery. Learn more about Goodman's legacy with **Joan Duffy**, Senior Archives Assistant in the Divinity Library at Yale.



WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR DOORS OPEN TO ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES
200 North Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492
(203) 265-6754 | wallingfordlibrary.org

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.



WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR DOORS OPEN TO ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Wallingford Public Library
200 North Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492
(203) 265-6754 | wallingfordlibrary.org
Library Director: Sunnie Scarpa

Words, a publication of the Wallingford Public Library, is sent electronically to members of the Wallingford Public Library Association. *Words* is edited by Publicity and Public Services Librarian Christopher Ciemniowski, from contributions by library staff members.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

The Wallingford Public Library relies on member contributions in addition to funding it receives from the Town of Wallingford. We hope you will support the Library by becoming a member of the Wallingford Public Library Association.

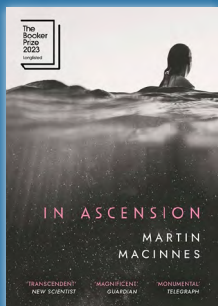
Your support helps ensure that the Library will continue to be a dynamic hub that serves and inspires individuals and families throughout our community. To join the Wallingford Public Library Association, visit our website or request a membership envelope at the Library. *Words*, a publication of the Wallingford Public Library, is sent electronically to members of the Wallingford Public Library Association. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we are also eligible to accept a bequest from your estate plan.



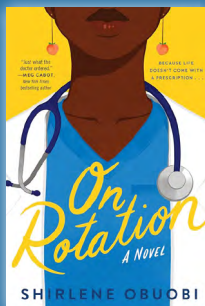
Free with your library Card!

Weiss Ratings gives you powerful tools to protect your savings, invest wisely, grow your wealth, and learn more about your finances.
walpublib.org/WeissFinancial

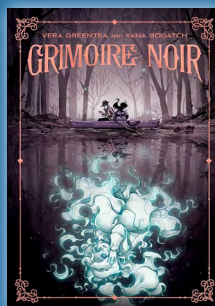
Word of Mouth - Staff Picks!



In Ascension
by Martin MacInnes
Chris C.



On Rotation
by Shirlene Obuobi
Sarah E.



Grimoire Noir
by Vera Greentea
and Yana Bishoch
Kayleigh S.

Stay-Connected!

Words is the Wallingford Public Library's monthly newsletter of events. Each month, the first 50 copies are printed in color followed by an unlimited printing in grayscale.

View the current issue in color on our website using this QR code or at the following link:
walpublib.org/newsletter



Register for events online through our digital calendar of events:
walpublib.org/events

Never Miss an Event!

Join our email list to receive personalized emails so you never miss the events that interest you the most: walpublib.org/email

Follow us on social media for more news, events, and photos: [@WallingfordLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/WallingfordLibrary) on Facebook and [@WalPubLib](https://twitter.com/WalPubLib) on Twitter and Instagram.

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- 8** Adult Events
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- 12** In the Collaboratory
- 14** Just for Teens

Virtual Author Events



Spice, Spirit, and Swoon—A Guaranteed Happily Ever After with Rom-Com Author Tessa Bailey

Thursday, Feb 8th | 8-9pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)

New York Times bestselling author Tessa Bailey aspires to three things: Writing hot and unforgettable character-driven romance, being a good mother and eventually sneaking onto the judging panel of a reality show baking competition. She lives on Long Island with her husband and daughter, writing all day and rewarding herself with a cheese plate and Netflix binges in the evening.

Join us as we talk to Bailey about the launch of her new book *Fangirl Down*, a sports rom-com novel about a bad boy professional athlete who falls for his biggest fan. Wells Whitaker

was once golf's hottest rising star, but lately all he has to show for his promising career is a killer hangover, a collection of broken clubs and one remaining super fan. No matter how bad he plays, this beautiful, sunny redhead is always on the sidelines cheering him on. When Wells shows up at her door with a wild proposal: be his new caddy, help him turn his game around, and split the prize money, she can't resist. As they travel together, spending days on the green and nights in neighboring hotel rooms, sparks fly. But an athlete falling for his fangirl would be ridiculous... right...? You'll have to register to find out!



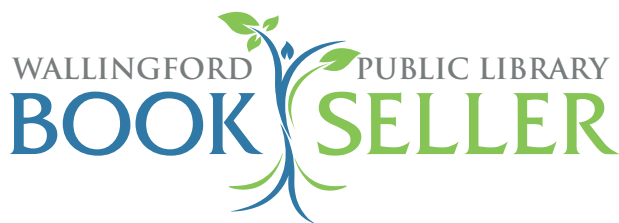
Exploring Identity, Love, and Being Black in America in Fiction Writing: A Conversation with Award-Winning Author Jason Mott

Tuesday, Feb 20th | 4-5pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)

Jason Mott is the author of two poetry collections and four novels. His first novel, *The Returned*, was adapted for television and aired on ABC as "Resurrection." His most recent novel, *Hell of a Book*, won the 2021 National Book Award for Fiction and the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction.

Join us as we talk to Mott about *Hell of a Book*. In the novel, a Black author sets out on a cross-country publicity tour to promote his bestselling book. Also along for the tour is The Kid, a

possibly imaginary child who appears to the author as he travels. Mott's novel is about family, the love of parents and children, art and money. It's also about our country's reckoning with a tragic police shooting that is shown over and over again on the news and with what it means to be Black in America.



Our partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium is funded by **The Book Seller**. Thank you for your continued support of our used book store!

See all upcoming virtual author events here: walpublib.org/upcomingLSC

Tech Connect

- Free tech help
- Free computers
- Free internet

Everything is going online—the bank, the pharmacy, the DMV. So you need to be online, but maybe you never had the chance to learn how to do that. You may even have tried to teach yourself, but that can be overwhelming and confusing.

The library can help! **Tech Connect** is a free service staffed by **digital navigators** who will teach you what YOU want to do on your devices. Our digital navigators will develop a customized plan to help you successfully connect to the online world. This includes one-on-one training, assistance in signing up for free or discounted home Internet and a long-term loan of your very own computer.

Call us today at **(203) 626-4774**
to meet with a digital navigator.

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.

Do you feel like technology has left you behind? Do you have a burning question but don't know who to ask? Come catch up with Digital Navigators Elijah and Matt, as they teach beginner classes in computer topics and answer your most important questions.



Dear It: Managing Photos

Saturday, Feb 10th | 2-3:30pm | Board Room | Adults | [Click to register](#)

Digital Navigator Matt will discuss options for storing digital photos, how to move printed photos onto the computer, and how to organize your photo collection. There will be time for Q&A.



Dear It: iPhone Part 2

Saturday, Feb 24th | 2-3:30pm | Board Room | Adults | [Click to register](#)

Expand your knowledge of your iPhone with Digital Navigator Elijah in this follow-up to January's class. There will be time for Q&A.



Introduction to 3D Printing

Saturday, Feb 3rd OR Monday, Feb 12th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collaboratory

[Register for Saturday](#) | [Register for Monday](#)

Learn the basics of Tinkercad, a beginner-friendly computer-aided design software, to make your own 3D models. We will also go over how to prepare these files for printing in Cura, a slicing software for 3D printers.



Introduction to the Laser Cutter

Saturday, Feb 17th OR Monday, Feb 26th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collaboratory

[Register for Saturday](#) | [Register for Monday](#)

Learn all about our new laser cutter, what it can do, and how to use it. You will also design a small project.



One-on-One Computer Tutoring

Tuesday & Thursday Afternoons

4-4:45pm OR 4:45-5:30pm | Collaboratory | [Click for calendar](#)

Register for a one-on-one computer tutoring session with volunteers. Learn about keyboard and mouse skills, word processing, Internet searching, online job applications, or social media. You can bring your own device or the library can supply a laptop for your tutoring session.

VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Tax filing season is here and the library is ready to help in partnership with the **Human Resources Agency of New Britain**.

By the time you read this the library should have received Federal 1040 Income Tax Forms in both English and Spanish as well as 1040 Instruction Booklets. You can pick them up on the shelves past the Information Desk across from the color copier. **You can also find the forms (and schedules) available online to download and print: walpublib.org/IRSforms**

The State of Connecticut encourages residents to file their income taxes electronically and no longer provides paper forms to Connecticut Libraries.

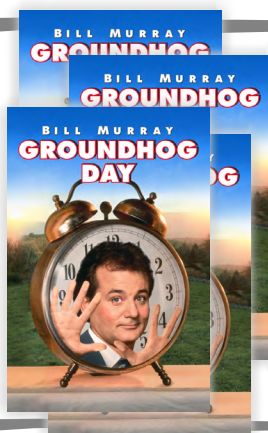
You can file your CT State Income Tax forms electronically here: walpublib.org/CTefile
Or you can download and print paper forms here: walpublib.org/CTtaxforms

If you earned less than \$65,000 in 2023, you may be eligible for free tax preparation services from IRS-certified tax preparer volunteers through **HRA of New Britain**.

In-person appointments at the library will take place on most Saturdays from 10am to 2pm from Jan 27th to Apr 13th. To make an in-person appointment or to file your return electronically, visit hranbct.org/vita. You may also call to make an appointment at **(860) 356-2000**.

Appointments fill up quickly so we encourage making an appointment as soon as possible! While librarians can help in finding the forms you need, the library staff is not involved in the tax preparation process. If you have questions about this tax preparation service, please contact **HRA of New Britain** at **(860) 225-8601**. We are proud to partner with VITA each year as one of their locations to provide this free, volunteer-run tax preparation service for Wallingford residents.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS



Groundhog Day (TimeLoop Showing)
Friday, Feb 2nd | 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm | Drop in
Collins Room | Rated PG
This 1993 cult classic is about an obnoxious weatherman doomed to relive the same day over and over again. We'll be showing it over and over again all day!



The Holdovers
Friday, Feb 16th | 6pm
Drop in
Community Room
Rated R

A cranky history teacher at a remote prep school is forced to remain on campus over the holidays with a troubled student who has no place to go.

SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAMS

Registration is required unless otherwise noted. Registration opens four weeks prior to the program date at 9am.

Homeschool Meetup

Monday, Feb 5th | 1-3pm | All ages
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

Looking to connect with other homeschooling families? Stop by the library on the first Monday of every month to chat, share ideas, and network with other homeschoolers. This is not a librarian led program, but passive activities will be available to keep kids busy while parents and caregivers talk.

Learn How to Play the Ukulele for Tweens

Thursday, Feb 8th | 3pm | Grades 4-8
Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join **Julie Stepanek** as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. You'll learn how to tune, strum and read chords. After a short lesson, you'll be able to play songs. No experience necessary. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one of hers. *Please note, Wallingford Public Schools have an early dismissal on Feb. 8th.*

Reading Buddies

Friday, Feb 9th | 6:30pm | Grades K-2
Children's Room | [Click to register](#)

Spend a Friday evening reading with a high school buddy! Choate student volunteers will join us to do some group read-alouds, small group reading practice, and other fun activities. This program is offered in conjunction with **Choate Rosemary Hall** and the **Wallingford Rotary Interact Club**. This is a drop-in event, but register if you'd like an email reminder.

Valentine Card Making

Saturday, Feb 10th | 10am-4pm | All ages
Wonder Room | Drop-In

Create a beautiful valentine for someone dear to you. Drop in to the Wonder Room anytime Saturday to make your card. This is a drop-in event, but register if you'd like an email reminder.

Create and Take Club: Nature Windows

Monday, Feb 12th | 5:30pm | Grades K-2
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Bring the outside in! Using dried flowers and plants and embroidery hoop, we will create our own nature window.

Dungeons and Dragons: Fantastic Mr. Fox

Tuesday, Feb 13th | 5:30-8pm | Grades 5-8
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Mr. Fox is trapped in his den by the vile farmers Boggis, Bunce, and Bean! He has asked our heroes for help in escaping his plight and finding some food for himself and the other animals trapped underground. Will our adventurers be able to rescue Mr. Fox and his family in time?

Astronomy Club

Thursday, Feb 15th | 6:30pm | Grades K-5
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

The night sky is vast and amazing. Each month we will focus on a constellation and a scientist.

Gaming Club

Saturday, Feb 17th | 10am-12pm | All Ages
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

Come connect with other gamers in our community! We will have plenty of games on hand to choose from, but feel free to bring your own board, tabletop, and card games from home. This is a drop-in event, but register if you'd like an email reminder.

Pokémon Club

Saturday, Feb 17th | 2-4pm | All Ages
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

Come hang out and play/talk Pokémon with Mr. Josh! Whether you're a new trainer who wants to learn to play or you're a champion looking for a challenge, there is fun to be had at the Pokémon Club! This is a drop-in event, but register if you'd like an email reminder.

Design Your Own Deck or Dice Box!

Tuesday, Feb 20th | 3:30-5:30pm | Grades 3-8
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

Come make the ultimate storage container for your deck or dice! We will be painting and customizing wooden deck boxes made using the library's laser cutter. Deck boxes are provided to registrants, but you can also bring stuff from home to customize as well! Register and then stop by anytime between 3:30pm and 5:30pm to make your box.

Sign Language Club for Kids

Wednesday, Feb 21st | 4:30pm | Grades 2-5
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

Come practice sign language with other kids! Each month will have a different theme and you will be able to reinforce what you learn through games and activities.

Hula Hoop with BringtheHoopla

Saturday, Feb 24th | 10:30am | Grades K-3
Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Grab a hoop and let's get moving this winter! **BringtheHoopla** brings the fun back into fitness with their high energy and unique program. Join in to build self-confidence, teamwork, and creativity. Hula Hoops will be provided to use during the program.

LEGO Club

Saturday, Feb 24th | 2pm | Grades K-5
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

Bring your imagination and join us for an hour of fun with LEGO bricks! At this program, kids and their grown-ups will have a chance to show off their building skills with LEGO bricks provided by the library.

Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, Feb 27th | 4-7pm | Grades 4-8
Children's Room | [Click to register](#)

Calling all trading card sharks! If you have the urge to battle, come bring your Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, and Magic the Gathering cards down to the library to test your skills and compete for prizes. Premade decks can be provided by the library, but bringing your own is encouraged.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.
Registration opens four weeks prior to the program date at 9am

Silly Story Time

Saturday, Feb 10th | 10:30am | Ages 0-5
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Saturdays are for being silly! In this family story time we will sing goofy songs and read funny books. This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like a reminder email.

Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, Feb 20th | 9:30am OR 1:30pm
Ages 3-5 | Marcus Cooke Park

[Register for 9:30am](#) | [Register for 1:30pm](#)

Take a walk through nature and listen to a story! Join retired kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Stowe, to find hidden pages from a book along a trail through the woods and learn about nature along the way. Meet under the pavilion at Marcus Cooke Park in Wallingford.

WEEKLY STORY TIMES

Registration is required. Registration opens at 9am weekly on the Sunday prior to the program. You may register your child for one program and/or time slot. Please ask us if you need help deciding which program is the best fit for your child. Visit the online calendar for more info and to register for our weekly story times:
walpublib.org/ChildrensPrograms

ONE BOOK TIE-IN EVENTS

Food Explorers: Al's Apple Recipes

Thursday, Feb 22nd | 6pm | Grades 2-5
Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Throughout *The Lost Library*, Al baked apple recipes that sounded delicious. Now it's your turn to bake some apple treats with Food Explorers! Learn how to bake apple pie cookies and mini apple cobblers. Recipes are nut free but will contain dairy, eggs, and gluten.

Weekly Read-a-Louds

Grades K-5 | Children's Program Room
Mondays, Feb 26th - Mar 25th | 6:30pm | [Register](#)
Wednesdays, Feb 28th - Mar 27th | 4:30pm | [Register](#)
Thursdays, Feb 29th - Mar 28th | 6:30pm | [Register](#)

This year's One Book, One Wallingford makes a great read-a-loud for families. Grab some popcorn and listen in as we read the book together each week. Each week we'll read a few chapters. Attend on the day and time that works best for you each week. This is a drop in event, but register if you'd like an email reminder.



Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Saturday, Feb 3rd | 10am | All ages
Children's Room | Drop-In

Stop by the library to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day. We have tons of fun activities going on! Grab a free book, check out our Face Painting & Tattoo stations in the Wonder Room, experiment with the Connecticut Science Center, [register here](#) to attend story time, and stop by the Early Childhood Education Fair in the Community and Charlotte Collins Meeting Rooms.

Early Childhood Education & Information Fair

Saturday, Feb 3rd 10am-12:00noon
Community Room & Collins Room | Drop-In

Looking for childcare in town? Wondering what services Wallingford has to offer families with young children? Stop by this event highlighting Wallingford's preschools, licensed childcare centers, and town services available for our town's youngest members. Meet representatives from local agencies and have all of your questions answered. This program is jointly sponsored by WECARE.

BILINGUAL HOMEWORK HELP

Bilingual Homework Help

Wednesdays | 4-8pm
Grades K-5 | Children's Room | Drop-in

The Wallingford Public Library offers FREE drop-in Homework Help! Homework Help is offered in English and Spanish and follows the public school calendar. The program is not offered on days that the public schools are closed.

Ayuda Bilingüe con las Tareas

Miércoles | 4-8pm | Grados K-5
Área de los Niños | No necesita cita

La Biblioteca Pública de Wallingford ofrece Ayuda GRATIS con las Tareas, pueden venir a cualquier hora entre las 4 y las 8! Ayuda con las Tareas en Español e Inglés y sigue el calendario escolar. El Programa no se ofrece los días que las escuela públicas están cerradas.

Happenings *Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.*



Avenues to Freedom: Exploring Wallingford's Black History Trail

Tuesday, Feb 6th | 7-8:30pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

In 2020, The Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust embarked on research into the Black enslaved population who lived locally and were an important part of the town's early history from 1790 to 1840. In this talk, representatives from the Trust will discuss the homes built by Wallingford's founding families and their slave-owning past. In addition, guest speaker **John Mills**, a Genealogist and President/Founder of the Alex Breanne Corporation, will share his research to include unknown stories of enslaved individuals into the landscape of our communities and his own family's history of slavery. WHPT President Jerry Farrell, Jr. notes, "Black Americans have done much to lift up our country—all those contributions need to be celebrated and made visible during Black History Month."



Learn How To Play the Ukulele for Teens and Adults

Thursday, Feb 8th | 6-7pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join **Julie Stepanek** as she demonstrates the fundamentals of ukulele playing. You'll learn how to tune, strum and read chords. After a short lesson, you'll be able to play songs. No experience necessary. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one of hers.



Jimmy Carter: A Presidential Retrospective

Tuesday, Feb 13th | 7-8pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, has led a remarkable post-presidential career as a human rights advocate. However, his 1977-1981 presidency remains controversial. **Marc Lendler**, a Wallingford resident & Professor of Political Science at Smith College, will re-evaluate Carter's legacy, looking back at key moments of his administration.



Cover Letter Basics

Wednesday, Feb 21st | 7-8pm | Collins Room | [Click to register](#)

Are you applying for jobs and aren't sure about the best way to craft a cover letter? Do you want to learn what employers are looking for when they read cover letters? Join **Librarian and Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman** to learn how to craft a great cover letter and help move your career forward. You will learn about what language to use and about some free library resources that can help you along the way. Wallingford library card (or card from another subscribing library) recommended. Non-WPL participants are welcome. Please check with your home library to see if they subscribe to JobNow! before registering. This is a great session to attend before a [one-on-one session](#) with Sarah for those who want to create a new resume.



The Sky's The Limit: Free Education for Seniors

Thursday, Feb 22nd | 10-11am | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

In Co...
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Due to extenuating circumstances this event has been cancelled.
We apologize for the inconvenience.

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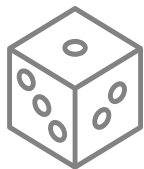


The Great American Solar Eclipse

Tuesday, Feb 27th | 7-8pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

On Monday, April 8th, 2024, a total solar eclipse will take place over the North American continent. But—what exactly is a solar eclipse? Why does it happen? Where can you see it in its totality? Will it be visible in Wallingford? How can you watch and photograph it safely? **Laurie Averill**, a NASA Solar System Ambassador and Outreach Volunteer for the Astronomical Society of New Haven, will answer all these questions and more in this exciting presentation. Afterwards, attendees will have the opportunity to handle the Society's meteorite collection while learning to identify different types of space rocks.

Gatherings



Adult Game Night

Tuesday, Feb 27th | 4-8pm | Collins Room | [Registration preferred](#)

Come play board games, video games, and trading card games at the library! We will have Super Smash Brothers, Magic the Gathering, and our collection of board games out for public use. Games from home are welcome as well. Bring some friends to game with or meet up with people at the library! The group meets the last Tuesday of the month. Please register to receive a reminder.

Spanish Conversation Group

Thursdays | 4:30-5:30pm | Board Room

No registration required

Improve your Spanish in a friendly and non-judgmental space! Some knowledge of Spanish recommended.

WPL Play Readers

Wednesday, Feb 7th | 6:30-8:30pm | Collins Room

No registration required

The Wallingford Public Library Play Readers bring and share poetry, prose, famous speeches and documents, monologues, and original material! Come check us out. All are welcome to read and/or listen.

Saturday Mornings with Poetry

Saturday, Feb 10th & 24th | 9:45am-12noon

Collins Room | No registration required

A meeting of people who love reading and writing poetry. SMwP provides poetic opportunities for anyone to share their poetry, discuss the literary works of poets known and unknown, and expand skills in writing and editing poems in the shared camaraderie of comfortable, supportive members.

No registration required. To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Karen Ciosek at kjc73048@gmail.com.

French Conversation Group

Mondays | 4:30-5:30pm | Board Room

No registration required

Improve your French in a friendly and non-judgmental space! Some knowledge of French recommended.

Knit @ WPL

Monday, Feb 12th & 26th | 6-7:30pm

(second and fourth Monday during the month of Feb)

Board Room | No registration required

Knit @ WPL is a place where knitters and crocheters can practice their work in the company of others. Newcomers are welcome to join, but knitting experience is required.

One-on-One Career Counseling

Wednesdays | 7-9pm | Zoom

Sign up today to schedule your appointment with our Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman! Get personalized help with crafting a resume or cover letter or preparing for your big interview. Appointment required. Sessions are scheduled individually and may not fall on this date.

Fill out our online form to request a session here:

walpublib.org/CareerCounseling

Staff will contact you shortly to schedule your appointment.



Ukulele Clubs for Adults



Our ukulele programs have been so popular, we've decided to make them a regular thing! Join Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus for one of two ukulele clubs each aimed at a different experience level. If you have any questions you can contact Steven at steven@lazarusmail.net

Beginners Ukulele Club

Monday, Feb 12th | 10-11am | Collins Room

No registration required

Join our new Beginners' Ukulele Club which will meet the second Monday of the month at the Wallingford Public Library! Adult patrons who have not played before or who are just starting out are welcome to attend. Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus will lead and facilitate the club. *Please bring your own instruments.*

Intermediate Ukulele Club

Wednesday, Feb 14th | 7-8pm | Collins Room

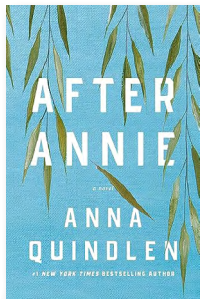
No registration required

Join our new Intermediate Ukulele Club which will meet the second Wednesday of the month at the Wallingford Public Library! Adult patrons with previous experience playing a ukulele are welcome to attend. Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus will lead and facilitate the club. *Please bring your own instruments.*

New in Novels by Cindy Haiken

If you are viewing this newsletter digitally, you can click any of the book covers below to view them in the catalog.

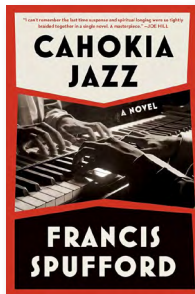
In her 2013 novel *Call Me Zelda*, Erika Robuck writes: "Though it was the end of February, the day was a lazy sort of cold. The sun slipped through the cloud in bursts, reminding the landscape that it was still there, prodding snow piles to relax into puddles and stirring sleeping seeds under the ground." Although we are getting more daylight every day, the winter of 2024 continues unabated and the weather makes indoor activities far preferable to spending too much time outdoors. In case it isn't obvious, reading is an excellent indoor activity, and publishers have obliged us with a wonderful crop of new novels to keep us company while we long for spring. Here is a selection:



***After Annie* by Anna Quindlen** — When a 37-year-old woman dies suddenly of an aneurysm, she leaves behind her husband, her four children and her best friend, all of whom struggle in her absence.

***The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder* by C.L. Miller** — A former antiques hunter investigates a suspicious death at an isolated English manor, bringing her back into the dangerous world of tracking stolen art.

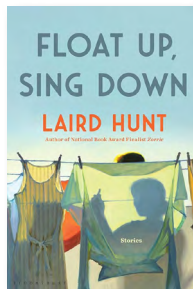
***Burma Sahib* by Paul Theroux** — A fictional account of George Orwell's years as an officer in colonial Burma overseeing local policeman and navigating social, racial and class politics.



***Cahokia Jazz* by Francis Spufford** — A retelling of American history in which the indigenous populations have survived and are thriving in a city on the Mississippi in the 1920s.

***Dixon, Descending* by Karen Outen** — A former Olympic-level runner working as a school psychologist abandons his family and students to join his brother on a quest to be the first black American to summit Mount Everest.

***End of Story* by A.J. Finn** — After she is invited by a reclusive mystery novelist to help draft his life story, a writer finds herself in a real whodunnit when she learns that the writer's first wife and son mysteriously vanished years earlier.



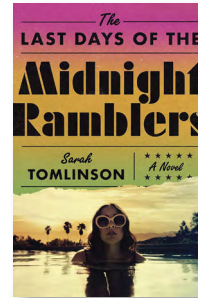
***Float Up, Sing Down* by Laird Hunt** — A collection of interwoven stories that take place on a single summer's day in Reagan-era Indiana.

***Fourteen Days* by Margaret Atwood et. al.** — During the COVID-19 pandemic, the residents of an apartment building on the Lower East Side of Manhattan gather every evening on the building's roof and tell each other stories.



***The Guest* by B.A. Paris** — A husband and wife return home from a vacation and discover that a close friend is living in their house and constantly overstepping their boundaries.

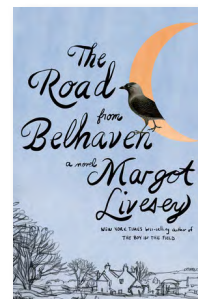
***In Ascension* by Martin MaInnes** — A young microbiologist investigates an unfathomable deep vent in the ocean floor. Longlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize for Fiction.



***The Last Days of the Midnight Ramblers* by Sarah Tomlinson** — A ghostwriter tries to unravel the competing and at times contradictory tell-all memoirs of two rock icons.

***Ordinary Human Failings* by Megan Nolan** — A family faces the truth about its past after a ten-year-old becomes a suspect in a violent crime.

***The Phoenix Crown* by Kate Quinn and Janie Chang** — The lives of two wronged women are intertwined in San Francisco in the chaotic aftermath of the 1906 earthquake.



***The Road from Belhaven* by Margot Livesey** — A young woman's gift of second sight complicates her coming of age in late 19th-century Scotland.

***The Summer Book Club* by Susan Mallery** — In the small town of Los Lobos, California, three women become life-long friends after they join a local independent bookstore's summer book club, which is devoted entirely to romance novels.

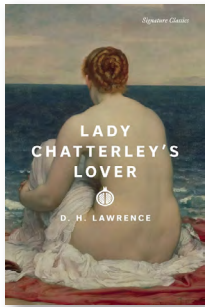
***Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange** — This follow-up to the bestselling *There There* traces the legacies of the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864 and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School through three generations of a single family.

***The Women* by Kristin Hannah** — In 1965, a nursing student impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows her brother to Vietnam, where she is overwhelmed by the destruction of war as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America.

Also of note this month are the 9th Orphan X thriller by Greg Hurwitz (*Lone Wolf*), the 13th Gray Man novel by Mark Greaney (*The Chaos Agent*), the 16th installment in the Michael Bennett series by James Patterson (*Crosshairs*), the 18th Cotton Malone thriller by Steve Berry (*The Atlas Maneuver*), the 24th Joe Pickett crime novel by C.J. Box (*Three-Inch Teeth*) and the 39th Alex Delaware thriller by Jonathan Kellerman (*The Ghost Orchid*).



Book Discussions

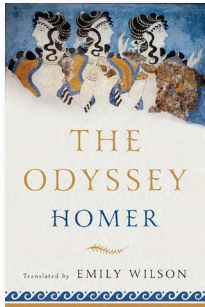


Classics Book Club

Lady Chatterley's Lover by D.H. Lawrence
Thursday, Feb 1st | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room & Zoom
Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Constance (Connie) Chatterley is married to a wealthy landowner who is paralyzed from the waist down and is absorbed in his books and his estate. After a disappointing affair with a playwright, Connie turns to the estate's gamekeeper, Oliver Mellors, who awakens her passions. D.H. Lawrence's last novel, which was the subject of a landmark obscenity trial in London, reflects his belief that men and women must overcome the restrictions of industrialized society and follow their natural instincts towards love.

To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org

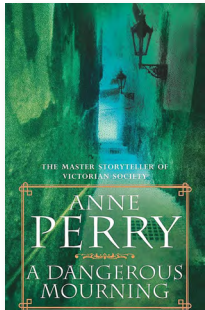


Hibernation Book Club: Long Reads for Short Days

Homer's The Odyssey translated by Emily Wilson
Tuesday, Jan 23rd, Feb 6th & 20th, Mar 5th & 19th | 5:30-7 pm | Collins Room and Zoom
Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

The epic poem *The Odyssey* is told in 24 books and shares the story of Odysseus, king of Ithaca, who spends a long ten years trying to get home after the end of the Trojan War. Odysseus' journey takes him via Africa and southern Europe as he battles mystical creatures and faces the wrath of the gods. Meanwhile, his wife Penelope and his son Telemachus stave off the suitors who are vying for Penelope's hand and Ithaca's throne and continue to hope for Odysseus' return. Emily Wilson's 2017 translation of the oldest great adventure story in the Western canon is the first by a woman. In this six-part program, we will read *The Odyssey* in installments of four books each and meet every other week to talk about the poem and the story.

To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org

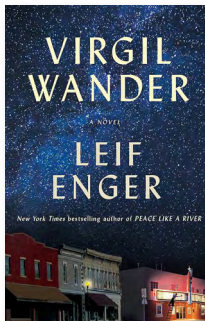


Mystery Book Club

A Dangerous Mourning by Anne Perry
Wednesday, Feb 7th | 3-4:15 pm | Community Room and Zoom
Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

Inspector William Monk investigates the bedroom stabbing death of Octavia Haslett, the widowed daughter of Sir Basil Moidore. After Monk proves that there could not have been an outside intruder, suspicion falls on the numerous servants and family members who reside in the house. This second installment in the bestselling William Monk series evokes Victorian England with twists and turns galore.

To participate, contact Carole at cshmurak@gmail.com and put "Wallingford Mystery Book Club" in the subject line.



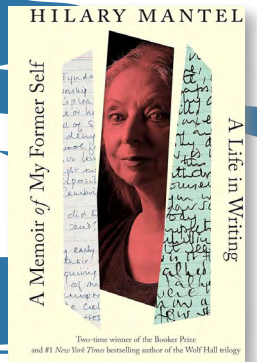
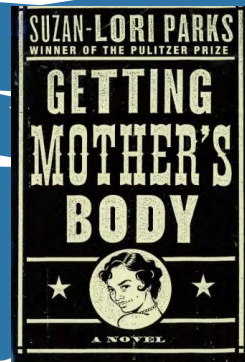
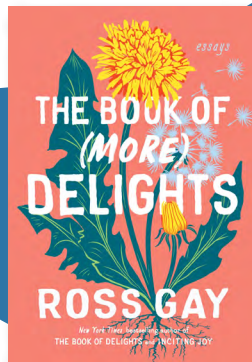
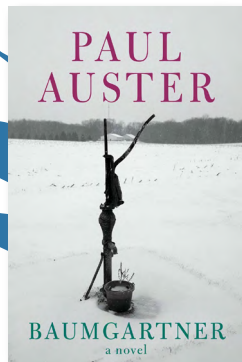
Thursday Night Book Club

Virgil Wanderer by Leif Enger
Thursday, Feb 15th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room and Zoom
Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

After he drives his car into icy Lake Superior, Virgil Wanderer, the middle-aged town clerk and owner of the decrepit local movie theater, decides to take his survival of this near-death experience as a sign of rebirth. He's aided in this by a mysterious, kite-flying Norwegian stranger who has just arrived in town in search of the son he never knew. Enger's 2018 novel gives magical realism a cozy Midwestern twist.

To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org

Cindy's February Picks:



Drop-In Programs



Open Sew

Tuesday, Feb 6th | 6-8:30pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Drop-in

Do you like to sew? Join people who enjoy quilting and sewing at a casual "drop in" program anytime from 6-8:30pm in the Collaboratory. Bring your unfinished projects, either hand sewing or machine. There are 4 portable sewing machines (or bring your own) and lots of sewing supplies and tools provided by the library for your use. Stop by for 10 minutes or for the full 2.5 hours for a fun evening of sharing and learning!

Max FAQs from Max Spurr

Q: I make videos for the Internet. Can I create special effects for my videos in the Collaboratory?

A: We do have some great resources to help you make special effects! One of the coolest things about making videos digitally is how easy it is to combine things from different programs. For example, you could film yourself in front of the green screen, use **Adobe Premiere Pro** to change the background to a picture of a fantasy world you drew in **Adobe Illustrator**, make an animation of a dragon using **Adobe Animate**, and then you can make it look like you are talking to the dragon in the fantasy world. **Adobe After Effects** allows you to create animated titles and text, like in a Hollywood movie! Video special effects are difficult to learn, but there are great tutorials online and built into the Adobe software. There is no better time to start learning than right now!

If you have a question for Max FAQs, let us know at the Information Desk or the Help Desk in the Collaboratory, or you can email it directly to me at mspurr@wallingfordlibrary.org.

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We've been doing a lot of painting in the Collaboratory lately! We created laser-cut and handpainted snow people and colorful geode paintings using a special combination of paint and rock salt.



Lottery Programs

Visit the February program lottery to register for the events below:
walpublib.org/FebLottery2024

Unless otherwise noted, registration is required and programs are open to adults and teens in grades 9+. You may enter the Collaboratory program registration lottery from the 20th to the 22nd of the month prior. Participants will be selected via random drawing on the following business day. All others will be placed on the waitlist. Due to high demand, we may limit individual participants to one program per month. If there are available seats after the lottery, registration will be directly through our online calendar.



Color Changing Vinyl Mugs

Tuesday, Feb 6th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Feb 8th | 3-4:30pm

Cut a design out of color changing vinyl using the Cricut Maker which will then be applied to a mug. Watch your design change color every time you drink your favorite hot beverage!



Secret Affirmation Bracelet

Wednesday, Feb 21st | 3-4:30pm

Make a simple stretch bracelet that uses Morse code to spell out a word or phrase. There will be several word/phrase options from which to choose. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Sublimation Decorated Hats

Tuesday, Feb 13th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Feb 15th | 3-4:30pm

Have you ever wanted to design your own hat? Now you can! We will use our sublimation printer to create cool artwork to iron onto a trucker-style baseball hat. If there are specific images you would like to use, be sure you are able to access them digitally.



Chain Pull Painting

Tuesday, Feb 27th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Feb 29th | 3-4:30pm

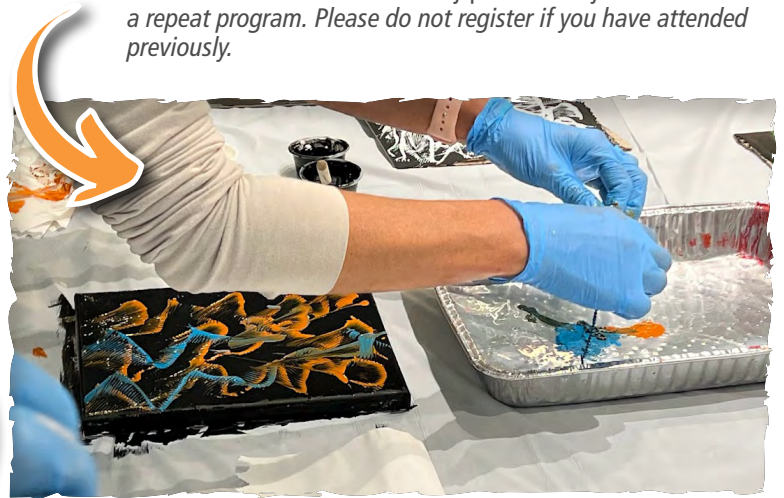
Chain pull painting is a fun non-traditional method of painting that gives gorgeous results, no brushes required! Be sure to wear clothes suitable for a messy paint activity. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Laser Cut Cork Trivets

Tuesday, Feb 20th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Feb 22nd | 3-4:30pm

Create a custom cork trivet using CorelDRAW to design and the laser cutter to etch.



Talking TED @ Home

Thursday, Feb 8th | 7-8pm | Adults | Registration required | Zoom
[Click to register](#) (after the lottery period)

Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event. In February, we will watch and discuss Mandy Len Catron's "Falling in Love Is the Easy Part."

Did you know you can fall in love with anyone just by asking them 36 questions? Mandy Len Catron tried this experiment, it worked, and she wrote a viral article about it (that your mom probably sent you). But ... is that real love? Did it last? And what's the difference between falling in love and staying in love?

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.

Fandom Club

Thursday, Feb 1st | 6-7:30pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | [Register for a reminder](#)

Come hang out, share your passion, and meet others who might have the same fandom. We'll also do some simple fandom crafts and maybe play a few rounds of Smash! This is a drop-in event, but register if you'd like an email reminder. Fandom Club will meet every other month.

Learn How to Play the Ukulele for Tweens

Thursday, Feb 8th | 3-4pm | Community Room | Grades 4-8 | [Click to register](#)

Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join Julie Stepanek as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. You'll learn how to tune, strum and read chords. After a short lesson, you'll be able to play songs. No experience necessary. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one of hers. *Please note: Wallingford Public Schools have an early dismissal on Feb 8th.*

Learn How to Play the Ukulele for Teens & Adults

Thursday, Feb 8th | 6-7pm | Community Room | Grades 9-12 & Adults | [Click to register](#)

Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join Julie Stepanek as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. You'll learn how to tune, strum and read chords. After a short lesson, you'll be able to play songs. No experience necessary. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one of hers. *Please note: Wallingford Public Schools have an early dismissal on Feb 8th.*

LEGO Challenge Club with Choate Robotics

Tuesday, Feb 13th | 4-5:30pm | Community Room | Grades 5-8 | [Click to register](#)

Join Choate Robotics to learn more about FIRST LEGO League Challenge—an exciting LEGO-based robotics competition. Using LEGO SPIKE Prime robots and scratch-based coding software, students will learn how to create autonomous code routines as well as build robot mechanisms to complete tasks.

Design Your Own Deck/Dice Box!

Tuesday, Feb 20th | 3:30-5:30pm

Wonder Room | Grades 3-8

[Click to register](#)

Come make the ultimate storage container for your deck or dice! We will be painting and customizing wooden deckboxes made using the library's laser cutter. Deckboxes are provided to registrants but you can also bring stuff from home to customize as well! Register and then stop by anytime between 3:30 and 5:30 to make your box.



Make Your Own Dice Set!

Saturday, Feb 24th | 11am-12:30pm | Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

Use resin to create your own dice set for Dungeons & Dragons and other tabletop games! Each participant will make a full set of custom dice. *Please note: due to the time resin needs to cure, you will need to pick up your dice the following week. This is a repeat program due to high demand. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

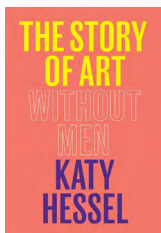
Unique Careers: An Exploration Event for Teen Girls

Thursday, Feb 29th | 6:15-8:30pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

Join us for a fast-paced, engaging, and interactive way to learn about careers you may not have considered before! Participants will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of different professions from women currently working in those professions. Presenters will include a plumber, athletic director, financial planner, and more! All participants will be entered into a prize drawing at the end of the event. *This event has been organized by the Wallingford Community Women.*

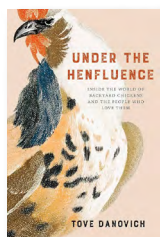
Everything Old is New Again by Chris Cierniewski

There are some topics that will never cease to be an endless source of inspiration for writers. We'll never run out of new books about history or art or animals or society, because new books on these topics are continuously being published. However, every so often a book comes along that takes those old topics and puts a new spin on them. As I was browsing the new nonfiction recently I discovered a handful of books that do just this.



The Story of Art without Men (700.82 HES) by Katy Hessel is the most overt example of taking a new look at a topic which has permeated culture since time immemorial. Just as the title suggests, the book is a comprehensive history of art from prehistory to the present day focusing only on women's contributions to art across all cultures. It is a response to many art history books' prioritization of men and exclusion of many women. More than just the story of art though, it is the story of women across time through their art.

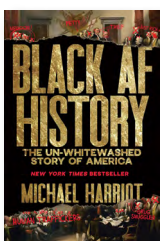
When most of us think about pets we likely think of cats, dogs, or a variety of other fur babies. In her book **Under the Henfluence** (636.5 DAN) Tove Danovich reminds us that pets can come with feathers too. *Under the Henfluence* is a love letter specifically to chickens and the people who love them. Danovich travels the country from Ohio to Washington in search of the barns and backyards belonging to the people who raise chickens. In the book she recounts their stories of why chickens are their chosen animal companions.



By around the turn of the last century cartographers had nearly completed mapping the world. And with the advent of Google Maps it now seems as if there is nothing new to be discovered on the planet. However even Google Maps is still struggling to map 70% of the planet's surface: the ocean floors. In her book **The Deepest Map** (551.468 TRE), Laura Trethewey details the competition between scientists, investors, and organizations to be the first to map the ocean floors. Each chapter of the book focuses on a specific location around the

globe and explains why maps of these areas are so sought after.

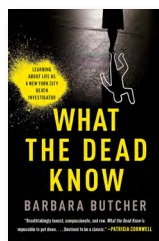
With new emphasis placed on racial equity in recent years, the number of books on the topic has become almost overwhelming as many people attempt to learn or overlearn how to be a better advocate for racial minorities. Many of these books focus on loud, extroverted approaches to activism. However, **Social Justice for the Sensitive Soul** (303.372 CHE) by Dorcas Cheng-Tozun focuses on quiet ways that introverts can contribute to social justice. Cheng-Tozun also reminds us that while not everyone is comfortable raising their voices and rallying in the streets, this does not mean that these "sensitive souls" lack empathy or thoughtfulness for how to create a better world for all.



Black AF History: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America (973.0496 HAR) by Michael Harriot offers a new look at American history, removing many of the mythologies that sugarcoat the country's historical narrative that favors white colonialists. The book sets out to undo the erasure of Black history in America by focusing solely on Black

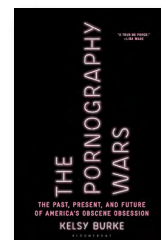
history in America. The book functions both as a readable nonfiction book and as a textbook. It can be read casually like the other books on this page, but supplemental chapters on greyed pages offer deeper dives for those who want a more formal case-study approach to the content. The book also offers potential discussion questions and related activities at the end of each chapter.

The Golden Screen (791.4365 YAN) by Jeff Yang takes a look at "the movies that made Asian America." This coffee table book is sure to delight both cinefiles as well as those with an interest in Asian American culture. The films are grouped by themes that underpin the Asian American experience such as a being a member of Asian diaspora or dealing with generational expectations. The films discussed have a wide and comprehensive range and include everything from classics like *Seven Samurai* and *The Karate Kid* to newer entries like *Shang Chi*, *Crazy Rich Asians*, and *Parasite*—along with everything inbetween. Each film is showcased with gorgeous page layouts and visuals. The book makes a great companion book both for those who already love Asian American cinema and for those who want to learn more about it.



The library has shelves and shelves of books on true-crime—in fact there is one whole aisle that is almost nothing but. Barbara Butcher takes a new approach to true-crime writing in her book **What the Dead Know** (614.1092 BUT). Butcher recounts her time as a Death Investigator for the Medical Examiner's Office in New York City where she was "the first to last more than three months." She describes how unusual it was to go a day without a new homicide victim, the many heartbreaking and gruesome causes of death, and what these patterns of death reveal about the city itself.

Pornography is one of society's oldest "taboo" subjects. Each generation's attitude toward porn, as well as the way it is created and consumed, changes based on cultural norms and emerging technologies. Sociologist Kelsy Burke's **The Pornography Wars** (306.771 BUR) gives us a generational update on the state of porn today. First she takes us back to the 1960s when modern research into sex psychology first began. She explores the many opponents and proponents of pornography as well as describing each subsequent generation's views about this explicit medium. In erudite analysis, she brings us up to the present, a time during which the pornography industry has proliferated in our digital world.



When we think of poetry we often think of rhyming structures or meters and forget about much less common prose poetry. One of the latest additions to the library's prose poetry collection is **The Book** (811.54 RUE) by Mary Ruefle. Ruefle writes about everyday topics in elegant but approachable language where every word is carefully chosen. Readers will get the feeling that Ruefle has the power to distill entire essays and complicated topics down to a few paragraphs filled with imagery. It's a great entry collection for anyone who wants to give prose poetry a try or for anyone who feels they just can't get into more traditional poetry.

When authors write about common and timeless topics, publishers often want to see a new take on the subject and that's what these books offer!



WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY

February Hours

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 9pm

Saturday
9:30am - 5pm

Sunday
12noon - 4pm

Thanks to the proceeds from your continued support of our used book store, The Book Seller, we are once again excited to offer Sunday hours through April 2024!

Scheduled Closings

Presidents' Day
Sunday, Feb 18th
Monday, Feb 19th



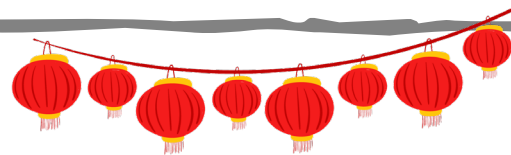
Monday
10am - 12noon

Tuesday & Wednesday
10am - 12noon
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Friday
10am - 2pm

Words



We recently welcomed the year 2024 during the Solar New Year, but the Lunar New Year begins on Feb 10th. The Lunar New Year is celebrated in China to welcome the spring and this year ushers in the Year of the Dragon! Visit the front lobby through the end of January to see a collection of historic Chinese New Year firework boxes and other memorabilia.

A picture is worth a thousand **Words**...



Thanks to everyone who came out to our One Book One Wallingford Reveal Party! We celebrated with apple cider and apple donuts while watching a special video message from one of the authors. You can watch the video and find out more about *One Book* here: walpublib.org/obow



Our former Volunteer Coordinator, Jesse Bernier recently began her new position as Adult Programming Librarian at the Scranton Library in Madison. But don't fret! Jesse will still be facilitating our popular Open Sew group on the first Tuesday of each month. More info on page 12.

In Others' **Words**...

“ Anything worthwhile takes time. Maybe that's what time is for: to give meaning to the things we do; to create a context in which we can linger in something until, finally, we have given it something invaluable, something that we can never get back: time. And once we've invested the most precious commodity that we will ever have, it suddenly has meaning and importance. So maybe time is just how we measure meaning. Maybe time is how we best measure love. ”

—Jason Mott, *Hell of a Book*