

August
2024

W LIBRARY WORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE FEMALE GAZE: WOMEN ARTISTS & THE RECLINING NUDE

Tuesday, Aug 20th | 7-8pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Join art historian Bernadine Franco as she explores the reclining nude female figure in Western Art through the lens of classical male artists such as Titian and Manet, and the contemporary response from 19th- and 20th-century female artists. She will examine how women's expression of the female form differed from that of their male predecessors, and how they forged new ways of representing themselves through art. Celebrated painters include Henrietta Rae, Suzanne Valadon, Alice Neel, Mickalene Thomas, and the creators of female nude figures drawn from the New Britain Museum of Art collection. A free companion tour will be offered at 11am on Saturday, Aug 24th at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Patrons may sign up for the museum tour on the evening of the event.

FAKE NEWS! AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Learn some tips and tricks for evaluating the credibility of news sources in this lecture-based class. (Info on Page 4)



EERIE ENCOUNTERS CONTINUE INTO AUGUST!

Find the
ENCOUNTER
for you:



More info:

walpublib.org/
SummerAtTheLibrary




Vol. 17 Iss. 08



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. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we are also eligible to accept a bequest from your estate plan.

Become a member here: walpublib.org/BecomeAMember



Free with your library Card!

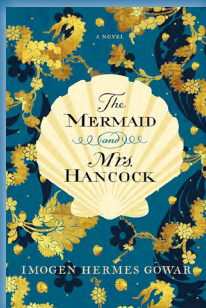
Niche Academy is a great way to discover all of the online resources you can access for free with your

library card including Kanopy, Libby, NoveList, Creativebug, Ancestry, and more! walpublib.org/NicheAcademy

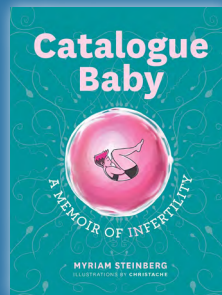
Word of Mouth - Staff Picks!



Wildfire by
Hannah Grace
Sarah E.



*The Mermaid and
Mrs. Hancock* by
Imogen Hermes Gowar
Rachel T.



Catalogue Baby by
Myriam Steinberg
Janet F.

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 on Facebook and @WalPubLib on Twitter and Instagram.

Words Contents

- 4 Tech Training
- 6 Children & Families
- 8 Adult Events
- 10 For Readers
- 12 In the Collaboratory
- 14 Just for Teens

Virtual Author Events

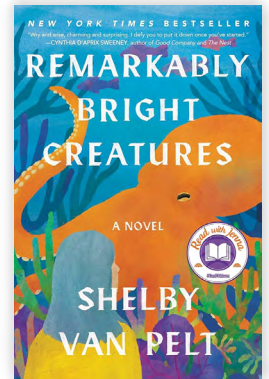
An Exploration of Friendship, Reckoning, and Hope with **Shelby Van Pelt**

Wednesday, Aug 21st | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)



Join us as we chat with the author **Shelby Van Pelt** about her bestselling debut novel *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. *Remarkably Bright Creatures* is a luminous book about a woman's unlikely friendship with a giant Pacific octopus reluctantly residing at the local aquarium and the truths she finally uncovers about her son's disappearance. After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her 18-year-old son Erik mysteriously vanished on a boat in the Puget Sound over 30 years ago. As she works, Tova gets to know curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine, but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight tentacles for his human captors—until

he forms an unlikely friendship with Tova. Van Pelt's novel is an exploration of friendship and hope and a reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible.



Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel *Remarkably Bright Creatures* was published in the spring of 2022 and was an instant *New York Times* bestseller. To date, it has sold a million and a half copies. Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, she's now missing the mountains in the Chicago area with her husband and two children.



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

EERIE ENCOUNTERS CONTINUE INTO AUGUST!

The following article was originally published in the July 2024 issue of *The Unusual Times* by Roz W. LeNess:



Summer is the busiest season for the Library, and this year the staff have something extra to contend with. As summer planning got underway, the librarians began to notice strange sightings and occurrences throughout the library. Staff have reported sightings of aliens, cryptids, bats, and even a headless horseman roaming the stacks, while pirate ghosts have been spotted plundering the children's room. Nobody has been able to find the root cause of these experiences.

As the busy season approaches, the librarians have decided to accept these encounters as part of their new normal and will put off finding a solution until the fall. They have gone so far as to theme their annual summer program "Eerie Encounters," highlighting some of the encounters they have had.



There are programs (and prizes!) for Adults, Teens, Kids, and Makers. Find the "encounter" for you: walpublib.org/SummerAtTheLibrary

Tech Training

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 low-cost 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 Navigator Elijah as he teaches beginner classes in computer topics and answers your most important questions.



Dear It: Facebook App

Wednesday, Aug 14th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Board Room | [Click to register](#)

Learn the fundamentals about using Facebook on your iPhone or Android device such as uploading photos, managing your security settings, and interacting with Facebook. Please bring your iPhone or Android device to class. *Demonstrations will be done on an iPhone to save time.*



Fake News & Information Literacy

Monday, Aug 12th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collins Room | [Click to register](#)

It can be hard to figure out what is true and what is not in today's world. Learn some tips and tricks for evaluating the credibility of news sources in this lecture-based class.



Python Basics

Monday, Aug 19th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collaboratory | [Click to register](#)

Learn the fundamentals of this popular, beginner-friendly programming language. This class will cover the syntax and structure of Python and some basic concepts such as variables, data types, and operators.

CRYPTIDS ON KANOPY! Stream for FREE with your Wlfd Library Card! 72 Hour streaming access! No Ads! Click the titles for more info!



walpublib.org/Kanopy

Cardholder Perks for Educators & Students!

From the
B.S.
Borrower Services
Department

School is starting up soon. Yay! Educators who teach in Wallingford are eligible for **Teacher Library Cards** that allow them to borrow Wallingford Library materials for the academic year (September – June). There are so many resources for teachers and their students here!

In the Children's Department: Teaching a unit about a particular theme for your elementary

level students? Borrow a **Red Bag** containing a variety of books about the topic, be it apples, feelings, colors, or other themes. For little readers, a large selection of **Beginning Reader** books are offered for those at different reading levels. Also available are kits called **Book Packs** which include books and an audiobook to listen to while you read along, **Reading Readiness** kits that emphasize pre-reading skills, and online literacy resources including **Bookflix** and **Playgarden Prep**. Once your young reader is ready for their first chapter book, we have numerous **early chapter book series** that are just right for their reading level. And don't forget the Wonder Room's **STEAM take-home kits**, learning tools and games that teach Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math skills. If your child is a reluctant reader, introducing them to **graphic novels** may be a good way to encourage them to read. We have a growing collection of graphic literature including many of the most popular series. And remember, you can always place holds yourself on any title by logging in to your online library account! (walpublib.org/children)

If you're teaching a child another language, the **World Languages** collection has books in many other languages. For online learning, navigate to the kid-friendly version of **Transparent Language** called **KidSpeak**. (walpuplib.org/TransparentLanguage)

In the Teen Department: There are numerous resources for older students as well, such as a dedicated Teen Area with computers, study areas, and a wide variety of books including graphic novels, manga, and Young Adult fiction and nonfiction. The library also offers online access to academic journals, magazines, and newspapers for a school projects through the **researchIT CT database** (researchitct.org) and more. For a school presentation that stands out, the **Collaboratory** has tons of software and equipment to design and make your very own project!

Those preparing for college entrance exams can borrow **test preparation books** or visit **Learning Express** online to take practice exams and review study guides. Study rooms can be reserved for your studying or tutoring needs. Be sure to reserve a room in advance. We also have **copiers, printers** (including **wireless printing**) and there's always free Wi-Fi — No password required! (walpublib.org/LearningExpress)



SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAMS

Registration is required unless otherwise noted. Registration opens at 9am, 3 weeks before the program date.

PokéParty

Friday, Aug 2nd | 12-4pm | Ages 3-14
Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Come join us for a Pokemon themed party! There will be trading cards, video games, coloring pages, a scavenger hunt, a tournament, and more! Collect special badges and meet other Pokemon trainers! This is a drop in event, but register if you would like an email reminder.

Jawsome Sharks

Thursday, Aug 8th | 6:30pm | Ages 5-7
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Sharks are both amazing and frightening! We'll explore these fin-tastic creatures with books, activities, and a craft.

Friday Flicks for Kids

2-4pm | Children's Program Room
Friday, Aug 9th: Finding Dory

[Click to register](#)

Friday, Aug 23rd: Raya and the Last Dragon

[Click to register](#)

Enjoy air conditioning and a fun family movie. Feel free to bring pillows to relax on. This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like an email reminder.

Day of Dungeons & Dragons

Monday, Aug 12th | 11am-3pm | Ages 9-14
Community Room | [Click to register](#)

A mysterious dragon egg was gifted to our adventurers long ago. Now, they must go on a quest to hatch it safely. All are welcome at this library D&D program from experienced gamers to first-timers. Come play Dungeons & Dragons at the library! *All participants should plan to arrive at 11am and stay for the full length of the program. Pizza will be provided, but you are welcome to bring additional nut-free snacks.*



Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, Aug 27th | 4-7pm | Grades 4-8
Wonder 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 at 9am, 3 weeks before the program date.

Maker Mornings

Wednesday, Aug 7th | 10:30-11:30am
Ages 3-5 | Children's Room

Put on your artist's hat and join us to make a different craft each week.

Pirate Party

Friday, Aug 9th | 10:30-11:30am | Ages 3-5
Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Arrgh you ready to have some fun? Join us for a pirate party where you will follow a treasure map to complete your quest. Along the way you will decorate your own pirate hat, play some pirate games, and dig up your very own treasure!

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.

Bouncing Babies

Ages 0-18 months | 10am or 11am
Wonder Room | Monday, Aug 5th

This class introduces babies, toddlers, and their grownups to the library and each other while learning how to support their growth and development through songs, puppets, rhymes, and books. Includes playtime afterwards.

Waddling Ones & Twos

Ages 18-35 months | 10am or 11am
Wonder Room | Tuesday, Aug 6th

A great program for active toddlers, now in the Wonder Room! In a smaller class size setting, children will learn more about how language works through songs, rhymes, books, and more. Playtime to follow.

Happy Feet Story Time

Ages 2-3 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room | Wednesday, Aug 7th

Full of music, movement, and stories, this program is perfect for children who are working on making the transition to Preschool Story Time.

Pajama Family Story Time

Ages 0-5 | 6:30pm | Community Room
Wednesday, August 7th

Join Miss Kari at this active, early literacy enriched story time where we will explore books, songs, and rhymes for all ages.

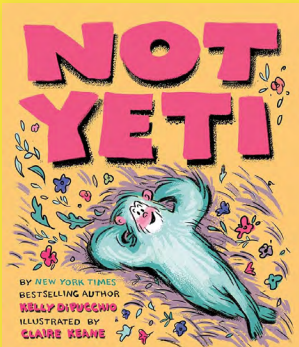
Preschool Story Time

Ages 3-5 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room | Thursdays, Aug 1st & 8th

Books, puppets, and songs will reinforce your child's pre-reading skills through repetition and rhyme. A craft is included that will help kids develop their fine motor skills.

CRYPTIDS FOR KIDS!

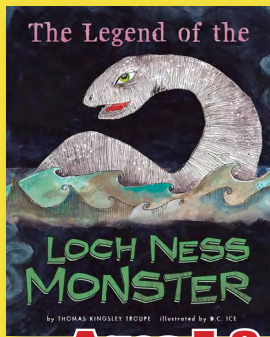
Curated by Children's Librarian Erin Lynch.
Click the titles for more info!



Ages 4-8



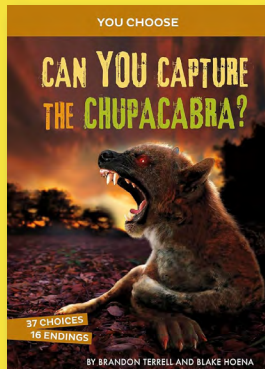
Ages 8-13



Ages 5-8



Ages 4-8



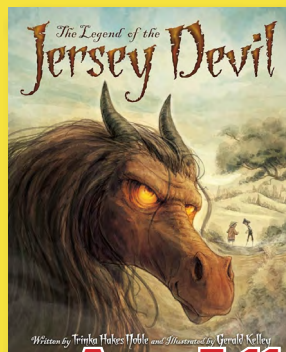
Ages 8-11



Ages 3-6



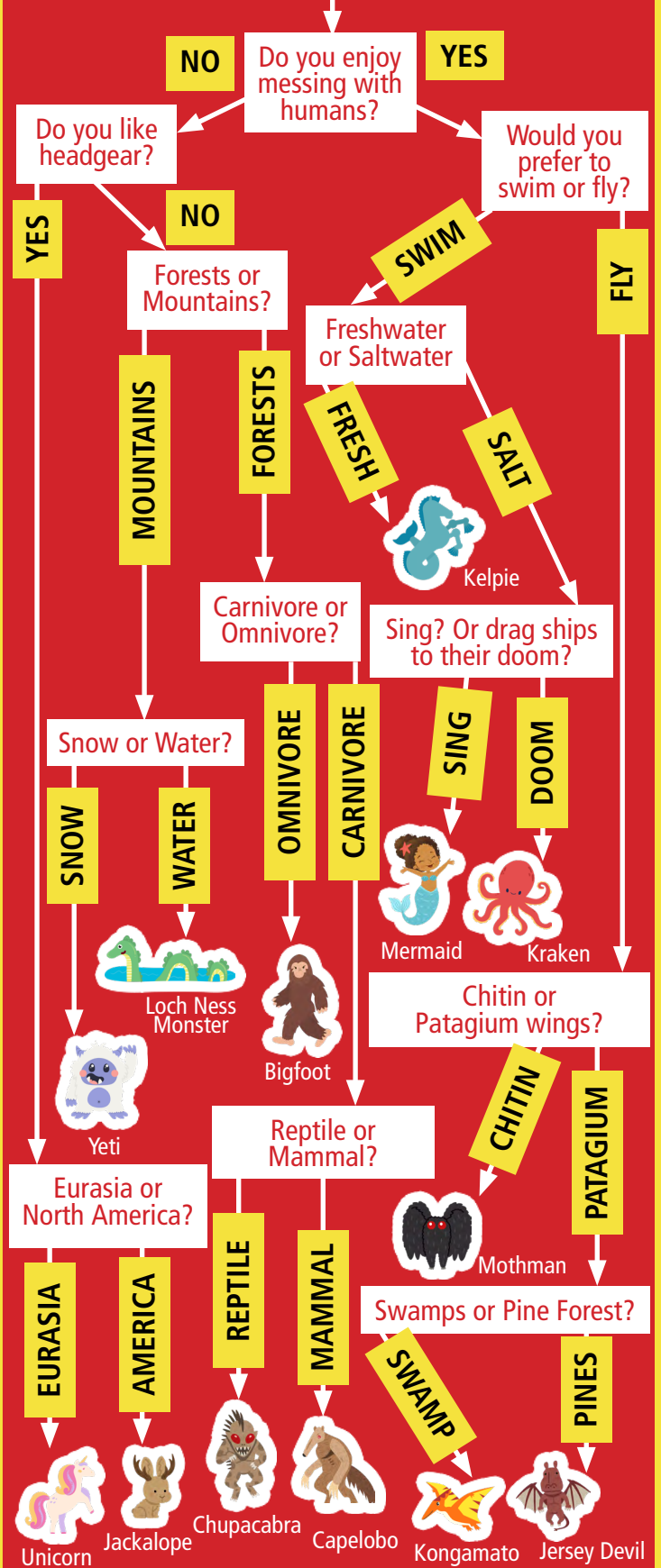
Ages 9-12



Ages 7-11

WHAT KIND OF CRYPTID ARE YOU?

Take this *definitive* quiz to find out!



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



The History of Grave Robbing

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

Join us for a unique presentation by the B.C. Bailey Funeral Home! This program delves into the intriguing history and underlying motivations behind the practice of grave robbing. Exploring the origins of grave robbery and its evolution over time, we will examine the various factors that drive individuals to plunder burial sites. From the pursuit of wealth and scientific exploration to macabre curiosities, this presentation sheds light on the complex reasons behind this controversial activity. We will unravel the captivating narrative of grave robbing, offering insights into its historical significance and the lasting impact it has had on society.



Avenues to Freedom:

A Walking Tour of Wallingford's Black History Trail

Wednesday, Aug 14th | 6:30-8pm | Meet in the Community Room | [Click to register](#)

In 2020, The Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust (WHPT) embarked on research into the Black enslaved population in Wallingford from 1790 to 1840. To share this important piece of our local history, Trust President Jerry Farrell, Jr. will lead an outdoor walking tour of eight Wallingford properties with ties to enslavement. Participants will meet Jerry in the library's Community Room and begin the tour from there.



Cover Letter Basics

Wednesday, Aug 21st | 7-8:30pm | Collins Room | [Click to register](#)

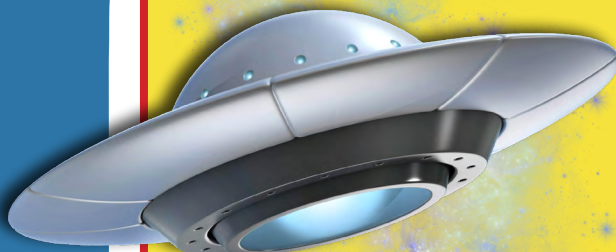
Are you applying for jobs and aren't sure about the best way to craft a cover letter? Do you want to learn what employers are looking for when they read cover letters? Join Librarian and Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman to learn how to craft a great cover letter and help move your career forward. You 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.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF UFOS

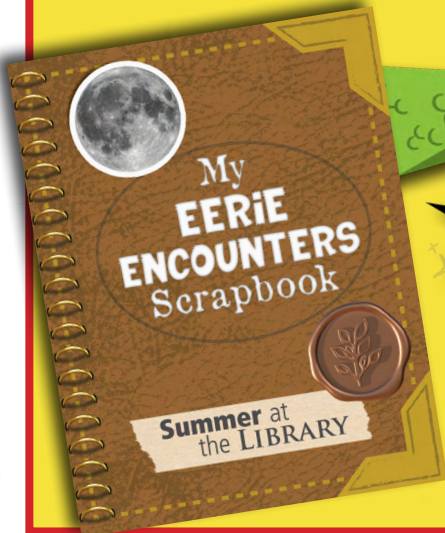
Tuesday, Aug 6th | 7-8pm

Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Have you ever gazed up at the stars and wondered if we are really alone here in the universe? Sean & Carrie McCabe, hosts of the "Ain't it Scary? with Sean & Carrie" podcast, will present a short history of UFOs from early historical sightings to big events and conspiracy theories like Roswell and Area 51 to phenomena spotted right in our own New England backyards. Feel free to bring your curiosity, questions, and an open mind!



EERIE ENCOUNTERS SCRAPBOOK FOR ADULTS 18+



This summer, WPL invites adults to embark on Eerie Encounters, a series of challenges designed to enliven the mind and feed the soul! Stop by the library to pick up your **Summer Scrapbook**, where you will keep track of your progress one task at a time. Log your reading and activities from **July 1st-August 17th**. There are five series of challenges: Events, Photos, Sustainability, Reading, and Enrichment. Each series includes a set of challenges worth ten points each. Every time you earn ten points, you will get a ticket towards our summer prize drawing. Every time you earn 50 points, you will receive one of our limited-edition Eerie Encounters bookmarks and postcards! Complete as many challenges as you want out of a total of 25. The four lucky winners of the summer prize drawing will each receive a **\$50 gift card to the local business of their choice!**

Gatherings

Most of these programs are drop-in and do not require registration unless otherwise noted.

French Conversation Group

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

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

Spanish Conversation Group

Resumes in September

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

Literacy Volunteers

Tuesdays | 12:30pm-2pm | Board Room

Join **Denise Codianne-Calabrese** from Literacy Volunteers, who will be available Tuesdays for literary assistance. If you are an adult who needs help reading, writing, speaking or understanding English—or know someone who does—drop by the Board Room during Denise's visiting hours for literacy support.

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: walpublib.org/CareerCounseling Staff will contact you shortly to schedule your appointment.

Knit @ WPL

Monday, Aug 5th & 19th | 6-7:30pm | Board Room

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.

WPL Play Readers

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

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, Aug 17th | 9:45am-12noon | Collins Room

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. To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Karen Ciosek at kjc73048@gmail.com.

Morning Ukulele Club

Monday, Aug 5th | 10-11:30am | Collins Room

Join our Morning Ukulele Club on the first Monday of each month at the Wallingford Public Library! The first hour of each session will be dedicated to more experienced players, while the last half-hour will be focused on beginners. Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus will teach and facilitate the club. Please bring your own instruments! *Please bring your own instruments.*

Evening Ukulele Club

Wednesday, Aug 14th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room

Join our Evening Ukulele Club on the second Wednesday of each month at the Wallingford Public Library! The first hour of each session will be dedicated to more experienced players, while the last half-hour will be focused on beginners. Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus will teach and facilitate the club. *Please bring your own instruments.*

Tap & Trivia

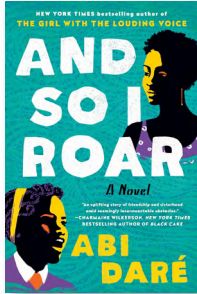
Tuesday, Aug 27th | 7:30-9pm | Tap & Vine

171 Quinnipiac Street | Registration preferred
Join us the last Tuesday of the month for our new trivia night at Tap & Vine! **Quizmaster Rich Steeves** will test your wits with five rounds of questions on a variety of topics, from General Knowledge to Science & Nature and a whole lot more. Your team of 2-6 players will compete with other teams for exciting prizes and, of course, bragging rights. So, if you like questions, answers, and the occasional corny joke, tell your friends, tell your enemies, tell everyone you know! **Registration is strongly preferred; please call Tap & Vine at (203) 774-0660 to sign up.**

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 classic novel *The Summer Book*, the Finnish author Tove Jansson writes: “Every year, the bright Scandinavian summer nights fade without anyone noticing. One evening in August you have an errand outdoors, and all of a sudden it’s pitch black. It is still summer, but the summer is no longer alive.” Luckily, here in New England, our summers linger longer, and so do the summer book releases. Here are some of the novels slated for publication in August that will be terrific company for the dog days of the month:



***And So I Roar* by Abi Daré** — A woman accidentally overhears a conversation between her mother and her aunt that sends her on a quest to unravel her mother’s decades-long secret.

***Black Butterflies* by Priscilla Morris** — An artist living in Sarajevo in 1992 sends her husband and elderly mother to safety in England. Shortlisted for the 2023 Women’s Prize for Fiction.

***Burn* by Peter Heller** — Two men who have been friends since childhood emerge from the woods of rural Maine to a dystopian country wracked by bewildering violence.



***Five-Star Stranger* by Kat Tang** — A top-rated man on the “Rental Stranger” app plays many roles for his clients but forms an unexpected attachment to a young girl whose father he is pretending to be.

***A Great Marriage* by Frances Mayes** — When a perfect wedding is called off just days before the big event, it sends two people—and their families—into a tailspin.

***The Hidden Book* by Kirsty Manning** — Prisoners of war during World War Two risk their lives to safeguard evidence of Nazi atrocities.



***House of Glass* by Sarah Pekkanen** — A nine-year-old girl who witnesses the possible murder of her nanny in the midst of her parent’s bitter divorce immediately stops speaking.

***Hum* by Helen Phillips** — After losing her job to AI, a wife and mother undergoes a procedure that renders her undetectable to surveillance.

***Interpretations of Love* by Jane Campbell** — During a wedding weekend, a group of people try to navigate the challenging aftershocks of war.

***I Need You to Read This* by Jessa Maxwell** — An advice columnist decides to investigate after her predecessor is murdered.

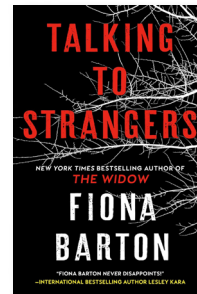


***The Perfect Son* by Frieda McFadden** — A mother must decide how far she’ll go to protect her son after a high school girl vanishes from her quiet suburban neighborhood and he was the last one to see her alive.

***Plays Well with Others* by Sophie Brickman** — A parenting advice columnist goes to incredible lengths to try to get her precocious son into one of NYC’s elite kindergarten classes.

***The Seventh Veil of Salome* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia** — In 1950s Hollywood, an unknown Mexican young woman lands a star-making role in a big-budget movie about the legendary Salome and becomes the object of envy.

***The Singer Sisters* by Sarah Seltzer** — The alt rocker daughter of a reclusive 1960s folk legend is touring and becoming famous while unintentionally uncovering some family secrets.



***Talking to Strangers* by Fiona Barton** — A detective’s investigation into a woman’s murder is derailed by a reporter who insists on doing her own sleuthing.

***There Are Rivers in the Sky* by Elif Shafak** — The lives of three people living on the banks of the River Thames and the River Tigris are curiously touched by the epic of Gilgamesh.



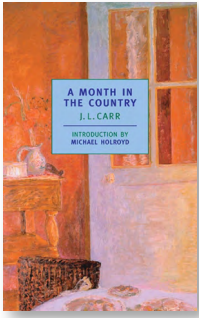
***The Unicorn Woman* by Gayl Jones** — After the end of World War Two, a Black army veteran returns home expecting accolades and finds a segregated community instead.

***Worst Case Scenario* by T.J. Newman** — A commercial airliner filled with passengers crashes into a nuclear power plant in the small town of Waketa, Minnesota after its pilot has a heart attack while flying the plane.

Also of note this month are the 5th Clay Edison thriller by Jonathan Kellerman (***The Lost Cause***), the 12th Will Trent thriller by Karin Slaughter (***This Is Why I Lied***), the 15th installment in the Chet and Bernie series by Spencer Quinn (***A Farewell to Arfs***), the 18th Sigma Force thriller by James Rollins (***Arkangel***), the 20th Cork O’Connor mystery by William Kent Krueger (***Spirit Crossing***), the 22nd Agent Predegast thriller by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (***Angel of Vengeance***), the 23rd installment in the Temperance Brennan series by Kathy Reichs (***Fire and Bones***) and new novels by Jodi Picoult (***By Any Other Name***) and Danielle Steel (***Joy***).



Book Discussions



Thursday Night Book Club

A Month in the Country by J.L. Carr

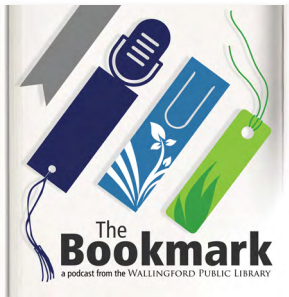
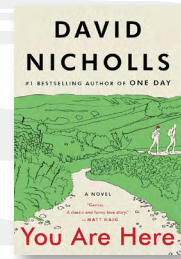
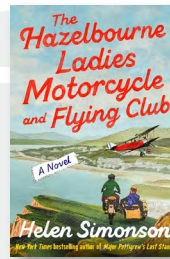
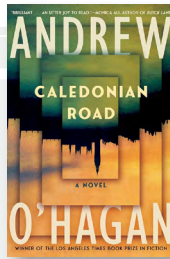
Thursday, Aug 15th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

In the summer of 1920 two men meet in the quiet English countryside. One is a war survivor, living in a church and trying to uncover and restore a historical wall-painting. The other is also a war survivor who is camping in the next field and searching for a lost grave. Out of their meeting comes a deeper connection both with the landscape and with history, along with a renewed belief in the future. Carr's 5th novel was longlisted for the 1980 Booker Prize for Fiction.

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

Cindy's Picks



The next episode of The Bookmark will air on Aug 1st!

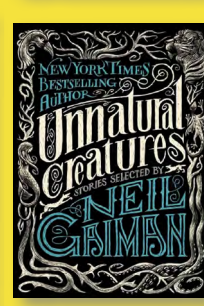
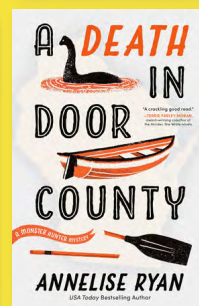
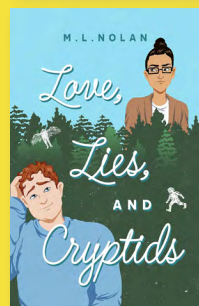
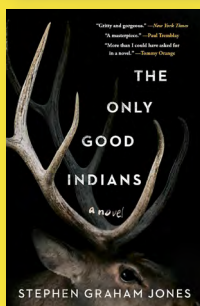
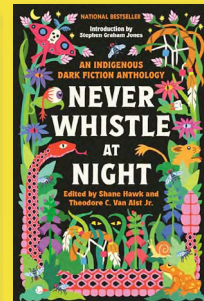
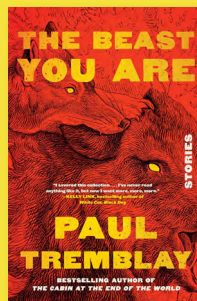
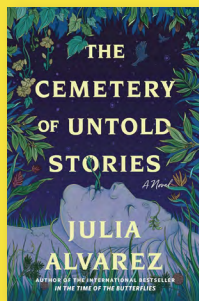
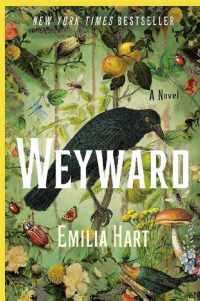
The Bookmark is the Wallingford Public Library's quarterly podcast. Join Library Director Sunnie Scarpa and Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken for conversations about books, authors, reading experiences, library happenings and what they love about their jobs and working together. This episode focuses on the books scheduled for publication this autumn that Sunnie and Cindy are really excited about.

Listen here: walpublib.org/TheBookmark

SOMETHING'S GOTTEN INTO THE STACKS!

Check out these novels featuring Cryptids—if you dare!

Suggestions from Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken—Click the titles for more info!



Drop-In Programs



Open Sew

Tuesday, Aug 6th | 6-8:30pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Drop-in | Collaboratory
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: School is starting up soon. Does the Collaboratory have supplies to help us prepare?

A: We do! Over the years I've seen great uses of the Collaboratory equipment for back-to-school needs. Heat transfer vinyl, cut with the **Cricut Maker**, can label gear like backpacks and lunch bags. Use our **laser cutter** to engrave a name on a metal tumbler, so it won't end up in the Lost and Found bin (unfortunately tumblers with handles don't work, so no Stanley cups). Are you a teacher with a stack of important paperwork? Use our **comb binding machine** to bind your lesson plans together! A fun way to welcome the school year is to make **custom buttons** for yourself and your friends. The possibilities are almost limitless!

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.



VOTE FOR THE WINNER OF THE SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED MAKER CONTEST

Voting for **Some Assembly Required** starts August 1st. Don't miss out on this chance to support local makers and help crown our champions! Your votes will determine the winners in each category, who will receive a custom laser-cut prize and a **\$25 gift card to a Wallingford business of their choice**. The overall champion gets a Collaboratory-made trophy and a \$100 local gift. The **voting period is August 1st-17th**. Voting can be done in person at the library or online through the Library's Facebook page by liking or reacting to an entry. We will calculate the votes and contact the winners on August 19th. Good luck to all who have entered, and may the best project win!

For more info: walpublib.org/SomeAssemblyRequired

Lottery Programs

Visit the August program lottery to register for the events below:
walpublib.org/AugLottery2024

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. Project photos can be found at walpublib.org/UpcomingCollaboratory



Found Object Beach Mosaic Frame

Thursday, Aug 1st | 6-8:30pm

Create a summer memory and one-of-a-kind work of art using a collection of beach-inspired treasures. Bring your own favorite natural finds to personalize your frame.



Kraken in a Cup

Tuesday, Aug 20th | 6-8:30pm

Use polymer clay in a teacup to sculpt a Kraken devouring a ship. Unique cups will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own standard size teacup or demitasse cup (although it will no longer be suitable for drinking).

Interdimensional Visitors Portal

Tuesday, Aug 6th | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, Aug 8th | 3-4:30pm

Do you ever get lonely while sitting at your desk? Invite a traveler from a different realm into your home! We will create infinity mirrors with cut-outs inside to make it appear that an interdimensional visitor has come through a portal.



TERRORIUM (Scary Terrarium)

Tuesday, Aug 27th | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, Aug 29th | 3-4:30pm

Bring the horrors of nature inside! We will be making a Scary Terrarium (a TERROR-IUM, if you will) using a glass jar, a soil mix, real live local plants, and fake plastic creepy crawlies. These terrariums will be sealed, self-sufficient ecosystems. If you have any tiny creepy items, bring them along to put inside!

Needle Felted Nessie

Tuesday, Aug 13th | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, Aug 15th | 3-4:30pm

Learn how to needle felt by hand and create a small, decorative Loch Ness Monster. Needle felting uses a barbed needle to mat fibers together, typically in wool.



TALKING TED @ HOME: THE HAUNTING TRUTH OF GHOST STORIES



Thursday, Aug 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 August, we will watch and discuss Coya Paz Brownrigg's "The Haunting Truth of Ghost Stories."

Ghost stories reveal much more than the ghouls and spirits that haunt them. Settle in for a spooky delight as theater educator Coya Paz Brownrigg lays out three types of bone-chilling tales and exhumes the grave truths they hold about longing, meaning and the cultural value of eerie encounters.

Registration Required

Resin Ghost Lights

Thursday, Aug 1st | 6-7pm
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)

Make a little ghostie out of resin! You'll get to decorate the resin with dyes and mica powders. Once the resin cures, you'll be able to put your ghost on a light stand and give them a glow.



Poképarty

Friday, Aug 2nd | 12-4pm | Community Room
Ages 3-14 | [Click to register](#)

Come join us for a Pokémon themed party! There will be trading cards, video games, coloring pages, a scavenger hunt, a tournament, and more! Collect special badges and meet other Pokémon trainers!

Resin Coated Pins

Saturday, Aug 3rd | 11am-12noon
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)

Learn how to make your own pins! We'll draw a design on shrink plastic, use heat to shrink it down, then add UV Resin to finish it off.

Galaxy Pendants

Tuesday, Aug 6th | 5:30-8pm
Collins Room | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)

Use translucent clays and other media mixed to create an otherworldly galaxy scene of your own design. Then, add a domed pendant to turn it into jewelry.



Learn to Crochet: Axolotl

Wednesday, Aug 7th | 2-4:30pm
Collins Room | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)

Learn to crochet with a kit from **The Woobles!** Woobles kits provide step-by-step video (and written) instructions to complete the project. You will get your own kit and you'll have access to a library laptop in order to view the instructional videos at your own pace. Kayleigh will also be on hand to provide any live guidance you may need. *All materials from the kit, including access to the video tutorial are yours to keep after the program.*

Day of Dungeons & Dragons

Monday, Aug 12th | 11am-3pm
Community Room | Ages 9-14
[Click to register](#)

A mysterious dragon egg was gifted to our adventurer's long ago. Now, they must go on a quest to hatch it safely. All are welcome at this library D&D program from experienced gamers to first-timers. Come play Dungeons & Dragons at the library! All participants should plan to arrive at 11am and stay for the full length of the program. Pizza will be provided, but you are welcome to bring additional nut-free snacks.

Teen Cuisine: Cups of Dirt

Wednesday, Aug 14th | 2-4pm
Community Room | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)

Learn how to make chocolate pudding from scratch to upgrade this classic dessert! We'll add the pudding to layers of oreos and top with gummy worms or other eerie toppings.

Make a Scrolling Painting

Friday, Aug 16th | 2-4pm | Collaboratory |
Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)

Paint a piece of art meant to be moved along—a sunrise/sunset, going underwater, a walk through the woods, anything you can think of! You could even paint text. Once your painting is done, you'll assemble a laser cut box that will hold your painting. You'll put the two together and have your own scrolling painting!

Drop-in Events

Trading Card Battle Club

Last Tuesday of the month | 4-7pm
Wonder Room | Grades 4-8
[Registration encouraged](#)

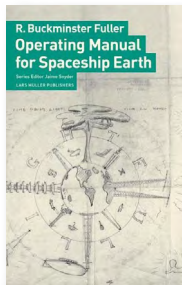
Calling all trading card sharks! If you have the urge to battle, come bring your Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, and Magic the Gathering cards down to the library to test your skills and compete for prizes. Premade decks can be provided by the library but bringing your own is encouraged.

LOST IN THE WORDS

Part III of III: The Forest from (out of) the Trees

by Chris Ciemniewski

Listening suggestion:
Babel by Rone



When it opened in 1982, EPCOT Center's centerpiece attraction Spaceship Earth posited that more than any other scientific field, communication was the cornerstone of civilization. Science-fiction author Ray Bradbury penned the [original concept for the attraction](#) which featured vignettes of notable historical advancements in record-keeping, dissemination of knowledge, and information accessing. Bradbury was heavily inspired by contemporary philosopher Buckminster Fuller, who first coined the term "Spaceship Earth" to describe Earth's closed system of resources, much like a giant spaceship on which all of humanity is part of the crew.

Fuller's **Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth** details ways humanity can use the tools of communication to build a better world for all in the same humbling spirit as Carl Sagan's [Pale Blue Dot](#) or Russell Schweickart's [No Frames, No Boundaries](#). In its 1994 iteration, the attraction narration warns of the dangers posed by the Internet's oncoming "flood of electronic babble" before concluding with a vibrant visions of futuristic communications bringing people closer together to create a more empathetic "global neighborhood." However, its 2007 iteration replaced this optimistic ending with a proto-AI generated video showcasing "YOUR Future" and how advancements in technology will affect "you" directly and individually.

In all of its iterations, Spaceship Earth acknowledges the early contributions of the Phoenicians to the development of a pan-cultural language. Often relegated to footnotes in Greco-Roman history, Classics professor Carolina Lopez-Ruiz finally places the Phoenicians at the center of their own story in her book **Phoenicians and the Making of the Mediterranean**. Rather than establishing colonies of conquest, the early Phoenicians sailed across the Mediterranean (with ships made from the Lebanese cedar forests) and settled among other native communities in order to trade goods and exchange traditions. (Denise Demetriou's **Phoenicians Among Others** details the importance of these early migrations in the ancient Mediterranean while drawing comparisons to the cultural benefits of immigration today.) In order to facilitate communication with the various Mediterranean communities the Phoenicians designed a common alphabet (technically an abjad) based on Egyptian hieroglyphs. These characters became the basis for the Greek, Latin, and (eventually) Arabic alphabets. Because of their vocation as merchants, the Phoenicians were also among the first to keep paper records. The Greeks named the Phoenicians' most prominent city "Byblos" which became the word *biblion* meaning "book," named after the city's extensive paper records—a city of books.

Italo Calvino's **If on a winter's night a traveler** is many books in one. The book begins with its unnamed protagonist reading the titular book, but upon finishing chapter two realizes the book has become another story entirely. The remaining chapters alternate between the main protagonist's search for the remainder of Calvino's book and the first chapters of other books the protagonist finds on the journey. Along the way the protagonist befriends a woman named Ludmilla, another soul in search of Calvino's book. In its post-modern way, *If on a winter's night a traveler* reveals by its last chapter that the entire purpose of a book is to bring people together, to share in a story and, in so doing, create one of their own.

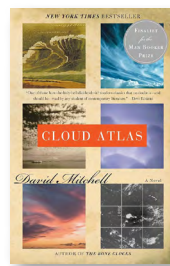


Helen Oyeyemi's 2024 novel **Parasol Against the Axe** reads like a spiritual successor to Calvino's *If on a winter's night a traveler*. The book's protagonist Hero Tojoso is visiting Prague for a bachelorette weekend when she realizes the book she has brought with her, *Paradoxical Undressing*, contains different text each time it is opened. All of the text within follows stories of people from throughout Prague's history, illuminating the places Hero visits while exploring the city. The book seems to be a manifestation of the memory of Prague itself and demonstrates that the "city of a hundred spires" is not just its brick and mortar, but is also the story of all who have

ever lived in and visited it. Just as you can't separate a forest from its trees, you can't separate a city from its inhabitants.

Amor Towles' **Table for Two** features a series of short stories all taking place in one of the largest urban forests, New York, the "city that never sleeps." Each

short story focuses on the meeting of two people and how certain meetings can alter the trajectory of our individual stories. Each one is also influenced in some way by the city itself—a place where stories meet, coalesce, merge, and diverge.



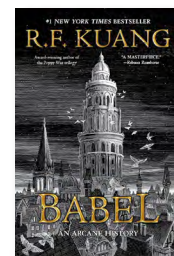
Every Day by David Levithan offers a window into the variety of stories that take place simultaneously each day across the planet. Protagonist A has a condition which causes them to inhabit different bodies at random forcing them to confront each person's story they find themselves in while simultaneously trying to tell their own story and construct their own identity. David Mitchell's **Cloud Atlas** makes a great counterpoint to *Every Day*. Instead of showing the multitude of stories which occur on any given day, *Cloud Atlas* examines how the same overarching stories repeat themselves across great lengths of time. The book contains six stories, all contained within each other like

Matryoshka Dolls, separated by hundreds of years from the past to the future.

Cixin Liu's **Three-Body Problem** series repeatedly reminds readers of how we are like bugs in the scale of the universe and how important communication and cooperation are if we are ever to survive within the galactic "dark forest." The series also reminds us that things might not always work best in threes, exemplified within the series by the Trisolaris system, but outwardly by the series' "fourth" book, **The Redemption of Time** by Baoshu. This short volume began as a fan-fiction before being canonized by Liu as the conclusion of the series. The book itself is divisive, with some readers condemning its existence and others comparing it to a glass of limoncello after a three course meal. However, it demonstrates that stories never really end. They go on living in the minds of all those who read them, and sometimes they manifest themselves into the world.

Peter Brooks' nonfiction book **Seduced By Story** analyzes the way people have become accustomed to communicating in the form of stories and the way we've begun to see our own lives as stories. However, he also cautions readers that stories can be abused and used to manipulate. He discusses tropes such as unreliable narrators, noting how and when unreliable narrators succeed in convincing readers that their stories are true.

Rebecca Kuang's **Babel** takes place in a fictional 1800s Oxford University where students use silver bars etched with words to manifest each word's meaning in the form of reality-altering magic. With the discovery of this power, Britain sets out to conquer other cultures in order to steal their languages and words and translate them into English for the magical powers they might possess, often without an understanding or appreciation of how those words were forged in their cultures of origin. The British Empire is challenged by the secret Hermes Society which seeks to free the captured languages.



One of the oldest American institutions, the United States Postal Service, was created to provide all citizens with the ability to communicate with each other. In **Neither Snow Nor Rain**, author Devin Leonard recounts the establishment of a communication network that sought to reach everyone, no matter where they were located. Similarly, the idea that libraries should be free and open to the public developed in America in the 1800s. In **Part of Our Lives** author Wayne A. Wiegand discusses how the American library transformed the way humanity thought about information and access to it. Today any story is free for the masses to discover and share with each other thanks to these forests of books—a place where stories meet, coalesce, merge, and diverge.



As we travel through life sometimes we get full pictures of other people's stories and other times we only get fleeting impressions. Olga Tokarczuk's **Flights** is a fragmentary novel that seeks to encapsulate this human experience. Chapters range from thirty pages to a single sentence following travelers from across history using all modes of transportation—some individuals are famous, but most are ordinary. From airports to train stations and from ancient Mediterranean merchants to present day ferry drivers, *Flights* imbues readers with the notion that our stories don't exist in isolation, that we are all part of a greater narrative that has been unfolding since time immemorial—a narrative

that we can never see completely, but can glimpse through the stories of others. Together, our words steer our miraculous spaceship, Earth.



August Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:30am - 9pm

Friday
9:30am - 6pm

Saturday
9:30am - 1pm

Scheduled Closings

Labor Day
Saturday, Aug 31st
Monday, Sept 2nd



Monday
10am - 12noon

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

Wednesday
10am - 12noon

Thursday
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Friday
10am - 2pm

Sat
10am - 12:30pm

August Specials
Children's & YA – BOGO

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FOR MORE SENSATIONAL CONTENT!

WORDS



CRYPTID SCAVENGER HUNT!



Calling all Cryptid Seekers! The Wallingford Public Library is looking for Cryptid Seekers to help identify all the cryptids that have shown up in the stacks this summer! Pick up a Cryptid Identification Card at the Check-Out Desk, then use the clues to go find cryptids in the stacks. Once you have found them all, bring your completed sheet back to the Check-Out Desk to receive a prize! Visit WPL's YouTube channel where Kaleb can show you how it's done: walpublib.org/CryptidScavengerHunt



To coincide with Eerie Encounters this summer at the library, each library department created a "Cryptid Cart." You may be able to catch one of these elusive carts in use by staff at the library this summer! Two of the carts (Freya the Slaya and Mothman) can be found on display in the lower vestibule. If you are visiting the Children's Room ask them for a demonstration of their cart's cannon! For close-up pics visit WPL's Instagram: walpublib.org/CryptidCarts

In Others' Words...

“ I feel the same way about people that I do about literature. There are so many books out there already, so many trees, so much that goes to waste. The most wasteful thing of all is all the stories and ideas that exist in just one language, that only a few people can read. ”

—Jennifer Croft
The Extinction of Irena Rey

