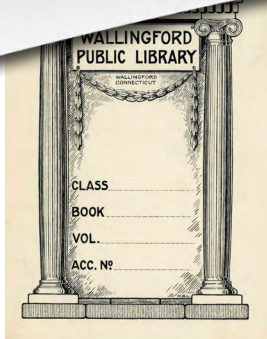




200 North Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492 | (203) 265-6754 | wallingfordlibrary.org

December

## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE HOLIDAY STROLL FRIDAY DEC 6<sup>TH</sup> | 5-9PM



This December the Wallingford Public Library is celebrating 125 Years Open to the Public! Visit the Library during the **Holiday Stroll** to see library memories, join us for celebratory cake, and receive a free commemorative sticker or ornamental token to mark this milestone occasion (while supplies last).

In 1899, under Board President, B.F. Harrison, the Library became a free public library when the Town approved the first appropriation of funds. The Town committed that funding would continue as long as the Library was maintained as a free public institution, and the Association stipulated that the Library would remain free as long as the Town continued its support. We remain ever thankful to the Town for continuing to support the Wallingford Public Library so that it remains free for all!

## ETSY ARTISAN & LOCAL AUTHOR HOLIDAY MARKET

SATURDAY, DEC 7<sup>TH</sup> | 10AM-2PM | DROP-IN | COMMUNITY & COLLINS ROOMS

The Wallingford Public Library is delighted to support local graduates of our Etsy Craft Entrepreneurship workshops and local published adult and children's book authors. Come to our annual holiday market to meet and talk with the artisans and writers and purchase some wonderful crafts or personally autographed books to give as gifts this holiday season. Hot beverages and sweet treats will be available in the lower lobby.  
[Snow Date: Dec 14<sup>th</sup>]

### LOCAL AUTHORS

Sean Crose  
Greg Dillon  
Matthew Duman  
Lisa Franco  
Tarn Granucci  
Kellie Kaminskas  
David LaBella  
Brian Weir

### ETSY ARTISANS

Claudia Dixon  
Gracia Hermans-Martin  
Valarie Lorenc  
Deborah Masse Haggett  
Bert Piedmont  
Clare Speyer



WALLINGFORD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR DOORS OPEN TO ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES  
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# WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR DOORS OPEN TO ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Wallingford Public Library  
200 North Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492  
(203) 265-6754 | [wallingfordlibrary.org](http://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 Ciemniewski 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](http://walpublib.org/BecomeAMember)

# AUGMENT YOUR REALITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

See how Wallingford Public Library is celebrating the holidays by using augmented reality! Throughout the month of December, the whiteboard across from the checkout desk will periodically be updated with new images that can be scanned with a smartphone to view an augmented reality experience. To prepare to view this display, download the Halo AR app and create a free account using your email address. Staff can assist those that do not own a smartphone but would still like to experience this display.



## 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](http://walpublib.org/newsletter)



Register for events online through our digital calendar of events:  
[walpublib.org/events](http://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](http://walpublib.org/email)

Follow us on social media for more news, events, and photos: @WallingfordLibrary on Facebook and @WalPubLib on Instagram.

## Words Contents

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



## SCOW School of Music Presents: FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**Tuesday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> | 6:30-8:30pm | Community Room**

**Registration preferred | [Click to register](#)**

Join the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) School of Music for a festive holiday concert! The SCOW Singers will present a program of traditional Christmas Carols in Spanish. The mission of SCOW is to respond to the needs of the Latino Community by assisting them to succeed in U.S. society and to enable Latinos to maintain and share their rich varied cultures with the broader community. Light refreshments will be served!



## Penguins, Polar Bears, Peaks, and Playas: A JOURNEY TO THE FOUR POLES

**Wednesday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Click to register](#)**

It has become fashionable in the last few years to scale the seven highest peaks on earth, or walk all the way across a continent, or visit every country in the world. In this vein, Dr. Richard Benfield, Professor Emeritus at CCSU, took a trip in 2023 to the four geographic poles: North Pole, South Pole, and the other two. (Other two? Where are they?) In this presentation, we will focus on the four poles and the people and animals who inhabit them: their landscapes, their livelihoods, and their flora and fauna. You will learn how you could visit each (though one of the poles is somewhat challenging), and catch a glimpse into remote geographical worlds where few venture.



## Wallingford Garden Club 36<sup>th</sup> Annual HOLIDAY TEA & DECORATION EXHIBIT

**Tuesday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> | 1-3pm | Community Room | No registration required**

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the spirit of the holiday season! Drop in and treat yourself to delicious homemade sandwiches and sweets while enjoying the creative display of holiday decorations designed by the Wallingford Garden Club. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to share the warmth of this holiday tradition. Garden Club members will be on hand to share information about this community organization and fresh holiday arrangements will be available for sale.

[Snow Date: Wednesday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>]



## GREEN GIFTING: A DIY Sustainable Wrapping Party

**Monday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> | 4-8pm | Community Room | No registration required**

Join us for our first-ever sustainable wrapping party! You are invited to drop by the Community Room with your holiday gifts in tow and enjoy snacks and music while wrapping presents in the company of your fellow crafters. We'll provide everything you need to create festive, eco-friendly packages for your loved ones to open. You are also welcome to bring your own sustainable wrapping supplies from home. This is an opportunity to save time, money, and the earth all at once.



## Celebrating Yule Traditions: A WINTER SOLSTICE WORKSHOP

**Tuesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)**

Join folk herbalist Rachel Koladis for a celebration of Yule, an old Nordic solstice holiday that has shaped many of our modern winter festivities! Through this unique program, Rachel will explore the history of this ancient practice and share stories about its present-day observances. We will sing pagan versions of popular holiday carols and make wishing pinecones, which can be added to a festive fire or serve as a seasonal ornament. Together, we'll turn the wheel of the old year and invite the light back for the new one!



## UKE-TIDE CAROLS: A Wallingford Ukulele Club Holiday Concert

**Wednesday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Click to register](#)**

Gather with our Wallingford Ukulele Club as they celebrate the Holiday Season! This delightful group of local uke-thusiasts will "Jingle-Bell Rock" you with holiday classics from "Blue Christmas" to "Light One Candle." Everyone will be invited to sing along! Curious about the Club? Come see what they're all about...



## Tech Help for the Holidays!

with **Tech  
Connect**

Are you planning to gift a technology device to a friend or family member this holiday season? Or maybe you have a tech device on your wish list that you are really hoping to receive as a gift! If you run into trouble learning how to use your new gadget, don't hesitate to give the library's digital navigators a call.

**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 low-cost home Internet

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 Connor as they teach beginner classes in computer topics and answer your most important questions.



### **Dear IT: Backing Up Your Computer**

**Saturday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Community Room | [Click to register](#)**

Connor will talk about the importance of backing up your most important files and documents on your computer, and then demonstrate how to back up this data on your Windows PC or a Mac.

Topics in this class will include:

- What is a backup
- What data should you back up
- How to choose the right external hard drive for your backups
- How to back up your data to an external hard drive
- How to manage your backups and move data to another computer

Please bring your fully charged Windows laptop or Macbook to the class and make sure the device has been updated to the latest software. Desktop owners may still attend the class as observers; however there will be no participatory component. You may also optionally bring an external hard drive to follow along the process for setting up your backup. You may choose to bring a USB flash drive, but please note you may run into compatibility issues on certain platforms.



### **Introduction to the Laser Cutter**

**Monday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> OR Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm**

**Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Collaboratory**

[Register for Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>](#) | [Register for Dec 14<sup>th</sup>](#)

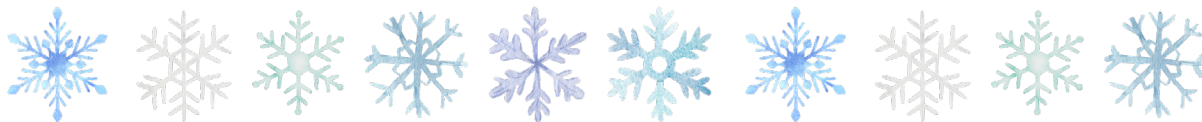
Learn all about our laser cutter, including what it can do and how to use it. You will also design a small project.



### **Introduction to Silhouette Studio**

**Monday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collaboratory | [Click to register](#)**

This class will go over how to use Silhouette Studio, the software used to create custom designs for the Silhouette vinyl cutting machines.



# Cardholder Perks for Designers & Crafters!

For that exercise-crazy relative during the gift-giving season, you've purchased a new insulated water bottle. What you'd really love to do is personalize it for them. But how do you do this? Ever heard of the library's maker space, The Collaboratory? All the tools, equipment, software, and librarians you could ever need are there at your disposal to transform your ideas into something tangible and awesome.

To start on your creative journey, your library card allows you to create an account with Creativebug ([walpublib.org/CreativeBug](http://walpublib.org/CreativeBug)) to download designs and artwork, and take classes for free. Once you find a design you like for your water bottle, you can cut it out on adhesive backed vinyl (available in the Collaboratory for a small fee) using the Cricut machine. Then apply it to your drinkware and *voila*, you have yourself an original gift with a personal touch.

Some other pieces of equipment in the Collaboratory that allow you to explore your creativity are the laser etcher, the sublimation printer, the 3D printer, embroidery machine, long-arm quilting machine, and more. (See everything the Collaboratory has to offer here: [walpublib.org/collabequipment](http://walpublib.org/collabequipment))

Wondering what other kinds of crafty things you can get up to? Browse the UniversalClass online course offerings, which are free to WPL patrons ([walpublib.org/UniversalClass](http://walpublib.org/UniversalClass)). There are classes on knitting, sewing, painting, and baking, as well as many other topics such as accounting, alternative medicine, finance, and history.

Don't forget to visit our huge section of craft books which can be found in the 700s of the Nonfiction section. Whether you're a novice or an experienced crafter, there are hundreds of books you can borrow with tons of ideas for projects, including crafting ideas for children too. ([walpublib.org/CraftBooks](http://walpublib.org/CraftBooks))

Remember, a handmade craft is one-of-a-kind, shows you put in time and effort to create it, is something you can tailor to the recipient's tastes, and offers you a fun way to flex your creative muscles.

*"When words fail, let the handmade gift speak."* — Unknown



A   
**Bookmark**  
ORIGINAL  
Holiday Short



**"MAKE THE SEASON RIGHT"**

**A HEARTWARMING HOLIDAY SHORT! WATCH NOW!**

[walpublib.org/MakeTheSeasonRight](http://walpublib.org/MakeTheSeasonRight)

## SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAMS

Registration is required unless otherwise noted. Registration opens at 9am, 4 weeks before the program date.



**Paper Circuit Greeting Cards**  
**Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> | 6:30pm**  
**Grades 2-5 Wonder Room**  
[Click to register](#)

Using supplies from the Connecticut Science Center, build a circuit to create a unique, light-up greeting card to share with friends and family. *This program has been made possible by a donation from Ulbrich.*

**Paws for Reading**  
**Saturday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> | 11am-12pm | Grades K-5**  
**Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)**  
 Learning to read can be intimidating, but reading to a cute animal can be comforting. Sign up for a time slot to read a book to a furry friend. Children will be in groups of three. *Sign up times include 11:00, 11:15, 11:30, and 11:45; please only sign up for one time slot. Presented by the Friends of the Wallingford Animal Shelter.*

**Game on!**  
**Saturday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> | 1:30-4pm | All ages**  
**Wonder Room | [Click for a reminder](#)**  
 Pokémon Club and Gaming Club have combined into one big gaming bonanza! Come trade, battle, and participate in various Pokémon themed activities, or play some board games or MarioKart! At this club gamers of all ages can get their game on! This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like an email reminder.

**Dungeons & Dragons: Fright of the Frost Dragon**  
**Monday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> | Grades 4-8**  
**Community Room**  
[Register for 3:30-5:30pm](#)  
[Register for 6-8pm](#)

"When a Frost Dragon moves in to the mountains above the kingdom, Walfordius, the kingdom's beloved pet dragon, disappears into the icy peaks. Was he kidnapped by the other dragons, or is something else at work? Either way, our heroes must set out into the mountains to rescue their friend. This is a quest for level 5 characters.

**Homeschool Meetup**  
**Friday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> | 10am-12noon | All Ages**  
**Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)**  
 Looking to connect with other homeschooling families? Stop by the library on the second Friday 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.

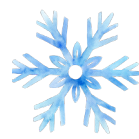


**Snowman Story Time with the Wallingford Garden Club**  
**Friday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> | 10:30am**  
**Ages 3-10 | Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)**

Join The Wallingford Garden Club as we sing songs and read stories about snow and snowmen! We will also be building our own snowmen at the end as an activity.

**Reading Buddies**  
**Friday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> | 6:30pm | Grades K-2**  
**Children's Room | [Click to register](#)**  
 Spend a Friday evening reading with a high school buddy! Choate 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.*

**Cookies & Coloring**  
**Monday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> | 4:30pm | Grades 3-5**  
**Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)**  
 Join us for a cozy coloring session! We will have cookies, calm music, and a variety of cozy and cute coloring books to choose from!



**Snowy Sing Along**  
**Thursday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> | 10:30am**  
**Ages 3-11 Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)**  
 Come sing some winter songs and read some winter stories in this special themed story time! Afterwards we will be making snowflakes to decorate the Nature Corner.



**Pajama Story Time: Cocoa Edition**  
**Thursday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> | 6:30pm**  
**Ages 0-11 | Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)**  
 Winter means it's time to get cozy! Wear your pajamas to story time and enjoy some cocoa, too! (Hot cocoa, chocolate milk, and apple cider will be options for drinks).



**Kwanzaa: Umoja (Unity) and a Festival of Lights**  
**Friday, Dec 27<sup>th</sup> | 10:30am**  
**All ages Community Room**  
[Click to register](#)

You are invited to share in the learning and celebration of Kwanzaa. Jolyn Walker will lead us through the history and traditions of this pan-African cultural holiday with a focus on Umoja, or unity, one of the seven principles of the festival. Music and dancing demonstrations are included, as well as opportunities for audience participation. There will also be a craft and light Kwanzaa refreshments. All are welcome.

**LEGO Club**  
**Saturday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup> | 2-3pm | 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-up will have a chance to show off their building skills with LEGO bricks provided by the library.



# PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Registration is required unless otherwise noted. Registration opens at 9am, 4 weeks before the program date.

## Toddler Yoga

Wednesdays, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am | Ages 2-4 | Wonder Room

[Click to register](#)

Marie Vitucci of Mindful Energy Yoga will introduce children to Yoga using movement, music, stories, and props in this 3-week series. One registration will sign you up for all 3 classes. *Please only register if you plan to be able to attend all three. Please bring a yoga mat if you already have one, but it is not required.*

## Silly Story Time

Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> | 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 an email reminder.

## Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> | 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.

# BILINGUAL HOMEWORK

## Bilingual Homework Help

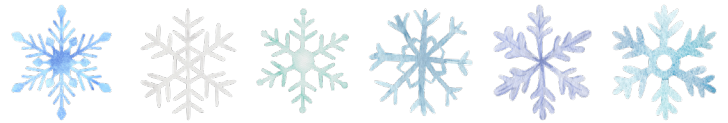
Mondays & Tuesdays | Grades K-5 | 4-8pm  
Children's Room | Drop-in

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.

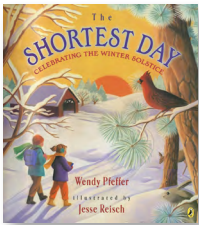
## Ayuda Bilingue con las Tareas

Lunes y Martes | 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.

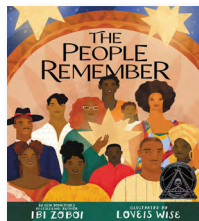


# HOLIDAY FAVORITES



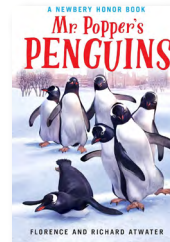
## The Shortest Day

by Wendy Pfeffer  
Ages 6-9



## The People Remember

by Ibi Aanu Zobi  
Ages 4-8



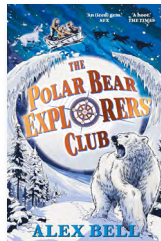
## Mr. Popper's Penguins

by Richard Atwater  
Ages 7-9



## Hanukkah Pajamakkahs

by Dara Henry  
Ages 4-7



## The Polar Bear Explorers Club

by Alex Bell  
Ages 8-12



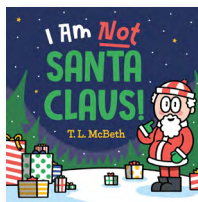
## The Tree That's Meant to Be

by Yuval Zommer  
Ages 3-7



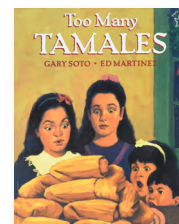
## The Mitten

by Jan Brett  
Ages 4-8



## I am Not a Santa Claus!

by T.L. McBeth  
Ages 4-8



## Too Many Tamales

by Gary Soto  
Ages 4-8

Spread the **Word!**

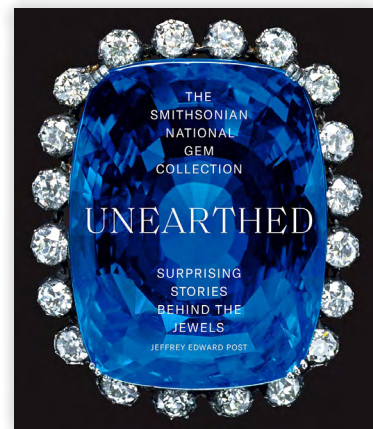
# Virtual Author Events



## Unearthed: Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection with Dr. Jeffrey Post

Wednesday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> | 2-3pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)

*The Smithsonian National Gem Collection Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels* explores the scandals, mysteries and human stories behind the world's greatest gems, brought to life by Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, curator of the Smithsonian's National Gem Collection for over 30 years. Dr. Post tells the stories of the Smithsonian's most famous gems, including the Hope Diamond, Star of Asia Sapphire, Carmen Lucia Ruby, Hooker Emerald and Blue Heart Diamond. He also shares details and fascinating facts surrounding rarely displayed gems from the Smithsonian vault, along with recent additions to the collection.



**About the Author:** Dr. Jeffrey Edward Post joined the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in 1984. He was Chairman of the Department of Mineral Sciences from 1989-1994 and again from 2014-2019, and served as Curator-in-Charge of the U.S. National Gem and Mineral Collection from 1991 to 2023. He was the lead Curator for the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals that opened in 1997 and was appointed research curator, emeritus in 2023.



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](http://walpublib.org/upcomingLSC)

## On Pulse-Pounding, Family Driven Mysteries: A Conversation with Laura Dave

Wednesday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> | 2-3pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)



Join us for a conversation with the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author **Laura Dave** as she chats online about her new book *The Night We Lost Him*. Liam Noone was many things to many people. To the public, he was a self-made hotel magnate. To his three ex-wives, he was a loving but distant family man who kept his families carefully separated. To Nora, he was a father who loved her from afar - notably a cottage perched on the California coast from which he fell to his death. The authorities rule the death accidental, but Nora and her estranged brother Sam think otherwise. As they form an uneasy alliance to unravel the mystery, they start putting together the pieces of their father's past—and uncover a family secret that changes everything.



**About the Author:** Laura Dave is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of several novels, including *The Last Thing He Told Me* and *Eight Hundred Grapes*. Her novels have been translated into 38 languages, and six of them, including *The Night We Lost Him*, have been optioned for film and television. She lives in Santa Monica, California.



# FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS



## White Bird

Friday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm

Drop in | Community Room | PG-13

The story of Julian's grandmother, Grandmère. Traveling back to her traumatic childhood, she recounts her time as a Jewish girl in Nazi-occupied France. Seeking shelter in a small village, she finds a family who takes her in and hides her away from the Nazi forces. What follows is a poignant tale about friendship and survival in the most difficult times. A sequel to the 2017 film *Wonder*.



## Beetlejuice Beetlejuice

Friday, Dec 27<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm

Drop in | Community Room | PG-13

After an unexpected family tragedy, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when her rebellious teenage daughter, Astrid, discovers the mysterious model of the town in the attic and the portal to the Afterlife is accidentally opened. With trouble brewing in both realms, it's only a matter of time until someone says Beetlejuice's name three times and the mischievous demon returns to unleash his very own brand of mayhem.

## 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  
(Collaboratory beginning Dec 16<sup>th</sup>)

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

### Spanish Conversation Group

Thursdays | 4:30-5:30pm | Board Room  
(Collins Room beginning Dec 19<sup>th</sup>)

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

### Literacy Volunteers

Tuesdays | 12:30-2pm | Board Room  
(Collins Room beginning Dec 17<sup>th</sup>)

Denise Codianne-Calabrese from Literacy Volunteers will be available on 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 library 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 Eisman! 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](http://walpublib.org/CareerCounseling) Staff will contact you shortly to schedule your appointment.

### Knit @ WPL

Monday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> | 6-7:30pm | Board Room  
Monday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> | 6-7:30pm | Collaboratory

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, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> | 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, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> | 9:45am-12noon | Board Room  
Saturday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup> | 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](mailto:kjc73048@gmail.com).

### Morning Ukulele Club

Monday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> | 10-11:30am | Collins Room

Join our Morning Ukulele Club on the first Monday of each month! 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.*

### Evening Ukulele Club

Wednesday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> & Monday, Dec 30<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-8pm | Collins Room

Join our Evening Ukulele Club on the second Wednesday and final Monday of each month! 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 HOLIDAY EDITION

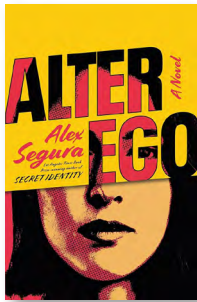
Tuesday, Nov 26<sup>th</sup> | 7:30-9pm | Tap & Vine | 171 Quinnipiac Street | Registration preferred

Join us at Tap & Vine for our last trivia night of 2024! Quizmaster Rich Steeves will test your wits with five rounds of questions about the upcoming holidays, including Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and 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 *Brother Cadfael's Penance*, the final installment in the wonderful mystery series by Ellis Peters, Brother Cadfael observes that "the colors of late autumn are the colors of the sunset: the farewell of the year and the farewell of the day." It's a lovely sentiment for a joyful and festive time of year. Publishers typically release relatively few new books in December, but normal rules don't seem to apply this year, as there are an unusually large number of novels scheduled for publication before the end of 2024. Here is a sample:



**Alter Ego** by Alex Segura — A comic book legend is given the chance to revive a beloved but forgotten character at a very steep price.

**The Champagne Letters** by Kate MacIntosh — In Reims, France in 1805, a widowed winemaker is determined to pursue her husband's dream of creating the premier champagne house in France.



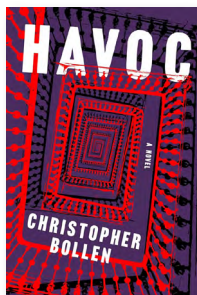
**The Close-Up** by Pip Drysdale — A struggling author discovers the dark side of fame when a stalker begins reenacting violent events from her most recent book.

**Deadbeat** by Adam Hamdy — A desperate single father searches for the anonymous employer who hired him as a hitman.

**Definitely Better Now** by Ava Robinson — A woman who has been sober for a year discovers that the biggest messes in her life are waiting right where she left them.

**Eddie Winston Is Looking for Love** by Marianne Cronin — A 90-year-old man who has never been kissed meets a 24-year-old woman who decides to help him find love.

**Gabriel's Moon** by William Boyd — After a travel writer returns from the Congo, he finds himself ensnared in the work of a shadowy organization.



**Havoc** by Christopher Bollen — An elderly guest at a decadent luxury hotel decides to interfere in the lives of a young mother and her eight-year-old son.

**I Made It Out of Clay** by Beth Kander — A Jewish woman creates a golem in a moment of desperation so that she has a date for her little sister's wedding.

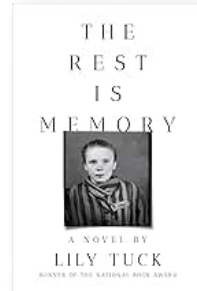
**Kingdom of No Tomorrow** by Fabienne Josaphat — In 1968, a woman falls in love with a defense captain of the Black Panthers and becomes devoted to the cause.

**Knife Skills for Beginners** by Orlando Murrin — A locked room culinary mystery set in a London cooking school by a MasterChef semi-finalist.



**Private Rites** by Julia Armfield — A modern retelling of *King Lear* that focuses on the reunion of a late architect's three estranged daughters.

**Rental House** by Weike Wang — A mixed-race couple invite their families on vacation with them, first on the Cape and then in the Catskills.



**The Rest is Memory** by Lily Tuck — A fictionalized account of the true story of a young Catholic girl who was sent to Auschwitz in 1942.

**The Rivals** by Jane Pek — A woman who runs a detective agency that looks for fraudulent dating profiles stumbles on a corporate conspiracy plaguing dating apps.

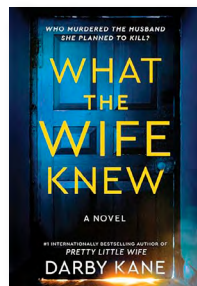
**Roland Rogers Isn't Dead Yet** by Samantha Allen — A ghostwriter's client, an A-list actor preparing to come out of the closet, turns out to be an actual ghost.



**The Shutouts** by Gabrielle Korn — In 2041, a woman tries to reunite with her daughter while wildfires blaze out of control across America.

**The Voyage Home** by Pat Barker — This final novel in a trilogy about the fates of the women of Troy after the end of the Trojan War focuses on Cassandra, the daughter of King Priam.

**What It's Like in Words** by Eliza Moss — A confident 30-year-old woman begins a toxic and obsessive relationship with an enigmatic writer.

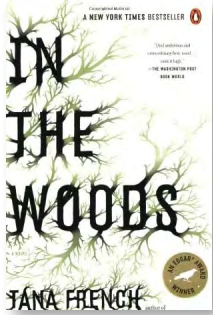


**What the Wife Knew** by Darby Kane — A woman had been planning to kill her husband, but someone beat her to it.

Also of note this month are the 7<sup>th</sup> Teddy Fay thriller by Brett Battles (*Stuart Woods' Golden Hour*), the 10<sup>th</sup> Department Q mystery by Jussi Adler-Olsen (*Locked In*), the 19<sup>th</sup> Sharpe novel by Bernard Cornwell (*Sharpe's Storm*), the 22<sup>nd</sup> (and final) Peter Diamond mystery by Peter Lovesey (*Against the Grain*), the 25<sup>th</sup> Jack Ryan thriller by Brian Andrews and Jeffrey Wilson (*Tom Clancy Defense Protocol*) and a new novel by Robin Cook (*Bellevue*).



# Book Discussions



## Mystery Book Club

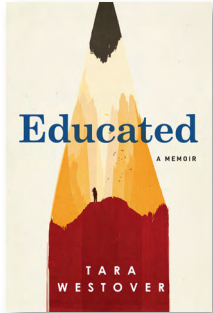
**In the Woods** by Tana French

Wednesday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> | 3:00-4:15pm | Community Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

When Katherine Devlin, a 12-year-old girl from a Dublin suburb, is found murdered at a local archeological dig, Detective Rob Ryan probes into the victim's troubled family history. To complicate matters, there are chilling similarities between the Devlin murder and the disappearance 20 years earlier of two children from the same neighborhood who were Ryan's best friends.

To participate, contact Carole at [cshmurak@gmail.com](mailto:cshmurak@gmail.com) and put "Wallingford Mystery Book Club" in the subject line.



## Truth Be Told Nonfiction Book Club

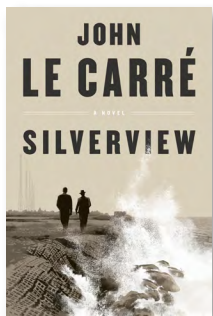
**Educated** by Tara Westover

Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> | 7:00-8:30pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Educator Susan Gomes

A memoir about the author's upbringing on an isolated Idaho farm dominated by her survivalist father, a devout Mormon, who kept his children out of school, denied them medical care, and stockpiled guns and supplies for end-times. Through her intelligence and determination, Westover pursued knowledge, went to college, and in 2014 was awarded a PhD from Cambridge University.

For details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at [chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org](mailto:chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org)



## Thursday Night Book Club

**Silverview** by John le Carré

Thursday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Community Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

After a London financier retires and opens a bookshop, he is delighted when a customer named Edward suggests that they open an annex to stock classic titles. But Edward is being investigated by the Head of Domestic Security, who's reviewing the work that Edward did during the Bosnian War and has been told of potential wrongdoings by Edward's dying wife, who used to be a top Mideast intelligence analyst. Le Carré's posthumous novel is a haunting and fitting finale to a remarkable career.

For details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at [chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org](mailto:chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org)



## Quiet Reading Party

Monday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> | 7-8:30pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Do you love to read and wish that you had more reading time in your busy schedule? Do you like the idea of sitting and reading in a quiet, comfortable and companionable space with others who love to read? Then come join us for a Quiet Reading Party. Bring a book that you are currently reading (in hardcover, paperback, ebook or audio) and settle in for two 30-minute sessions of quiet reading. After each session, you'll be able to pick an idea from what you've just read and share your thoughts with someone sitting near you. Hot beverages and dessert treats will be provided.



## Holiday Food, Wine, & Book Pairings

Wednesday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> | 7-8 pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)

Do you worry about what wine to pair with your family's favorite holiday dish? Are you looking for that perfect book to read while the ham is in the oven or while the potato pancakes ("latkes") are frying on the stove? Let's take the stress out of the holidays! Join Brenda Robideau from Dragonfly Wines & Spirits and Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken for a virtual celebration of holiday food, wine and books. Brenda will suggest wines to pair with all your traditional holiday dishes, and Cindy will recommend a book to accompany the food and the wine. Join us for a festive evening of food, drink and storytelling indulgence. This is a virtual event via Zoom. You will be sent the Zoom link after registering.

## Drop-In Programs



### Open Sew

**Tuesday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> | 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:** Can I use the Collaboratory's equipment to make custom jewelry?

**A:** Yes you can! We have cabinets filled with beading and DIY jewelry supplies. There is also a lot of customization that can be done here: our laser cutter can cut and engrave intricate designs on materials like acrylic and wood, while the 3D printer can create detailed charms and components. That means you can make completely unique jewelry!

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](mailto:mspurr@wallingfordlibrary.org).



## Holiday Gift Bags Now Available!



**\$2 gift bags**



**\$5 totes**

Let your friends and family know your gift was made in the Collaboratory by purchasing a holiday gift bag or tote. The plastic bags are the perfect size for a set of etched wine glasses!

# Lottery Programs

Visit the December program lottery to register for the events below:

[walpublib.org/LotteryDec2024](http://walpublib.org/LotteryDec2024)

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 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://walpublib.org/UpcomingCollaboratory)



## Laser Engraved Slate Coasters

Wednesday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm

Design a set of slate coasters with words and/or graphics engraved by the laser cutter. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



## Retro Santa

Monday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8:30pm OR

Tuesday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> | 2:30-4:30pm

Use decorative techniques to paint a retro-style Santa on a heart-shaped plaque.



## Custom Photo 3D Printed Ornament

Wednesday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm

Design a custom lithophane ornament using up to four images of your choice which will then be made on the 3D printer. Lithophanes are 3D reliefs of an image that are visible from behind through illumination. *Note: You must have access to your photos, preferably on a flash drive, for this class. Ornaments will be printed over the course of the following week.*



## Sublimation Holiday Ornaments

Wednesday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm

Use our sublimation printer to put your own images on a flat ceramic ornament. Be sure to bring your images on a flash drive or have access to them online.



## Talking TED @ Home

Thursday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> | 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 December, we will watch and discuss Carl Safina's "What Are Animals Thinking and Feeling?"

What's going on inside the brains of animals? Can we know what, or if, they're thinking and feeling? Carl Safina thinks we can. Using discoveries and anecdotes that span ecology, biology and behavioral science, he weaves together stories of whales, wolves, elephants and albatrosses to argue that just as we think, feel, use tools and express emotions, so too do the other creatures—and minds—that share the Earth with us.

## Registration Required

### Customize a Tote Bag

Thursday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> | 6-7:30pm | Collaboratory  
Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

Customize a plain tote bag with any design you come up with! We'll use the Collaboratory's sublimation printer which will allow you to create a full-color design.



### Crochet for a Cause

Monday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm  
Collins Room  
Grades 6-12

Registration required  
[Click to register](#)

Every holiday season the library collects purchased or handmade hats, gloves/mittens, or scarves for our Mitten Tree and all items are donated to **Master's Manna**. This is an opportunity for you to help us fill the tree! **Volunteer Coordinator Janelle** can provide the yarn and patterns; you can just come ready to craft! This will be an informal setting, where you can hang out and knit or crochet with others. Janelle can also provide community service hours to those who need them. *Note: this is not an instructional session, participants should be comfortable knitting or crocheting independently.* Can't make it on Dec 9th, but still need hours? Email Janelle at [jrosales@wallingfordlibrary.org](mailto:jrosales@wallingfordlibrary.org) for information on participating independently.

### Clay Krampus

Tuesday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> | 6-8:30pm | Collins Room  
Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

Deb Jaffe will lead you through the steps to create your very own Krampus from clay! Krampus is a European legend, a mythical creature that appears around the holidays.



### Laser Cut Winter Scene

Thursday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> | 2-4pm  
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12  
[Click to register](#)

Assemble and paint a winter-themed scene in a layered "snowglobe". All pieces will be pre-cut using the

Collaboratory's laser cutter. *Please note: December 12th is an early release day for WPS.*

### Snowflake Name Window Hangings

Wednesday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> | 3:15-4:45pm  
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

Use CorelDRAW to create your name as a snowflake pattern to hang on a window! The snowflake will be etched and cut out on the laser cutter using clear acrylic.

### Crochet Ornament

Saturday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> | 11am-2pm | Collins Room  
Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

Crochet a cover for a standard ball ornament! We'll crochet a flat piece that we'll wrap around the ornament and sew together to keep in place. We'll go over all 3 stitches required for the project via video and live instruction. Crochet experience isn't required, but it is helpful.

## 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.

## Teen Library of Things!

Last month the library expanded the Library of Things collection to include things just for teens! You can now find board games, STEM activity kits, and craft and entertainment materials next to the anime collection. All items can be checked out for 14 days, with no holds or renewals. See below for some of the items Kayleigh is most excited about, and stay tuned for the upcoming launch of a mini streaming kit for teens!

### Bike Repair Toolset



### Astronomy Binoculars



### Gravitrax Building Set



### Sentro Knitting Machine



# Beneath the Words by Chris Ciemniowski



Another year and another journey comes to an end. And before we begin our next one, I wanted to reflect on my journey this year writing for this newsletter. This year has been particularly epic for *Words*. In January 2024 to coincide with Hibernation Book Club's reading of the *Odyssey* I recapped some of the great cultural epics of literature. Next year's Hibernation Bok Club will similarly open with another great epic, *Don Quixote*. If you are interested in learning more about the heroic cycle or you want a fresh perspective on the Hero's Journey before *Don Quixote* I recommend a viewing of [Life is Not a Hero's Journey](#). Literature essayist Tom van der Linden analyses the origins of cultural epics before delving into how humanity continues to use narratives to give life meaning. The accompanying visuals include a wide range of iconic film clips and quotes from *The Lord of the Rings* to *It's a Wonderful Life*. It makes an inspiring end-of-year viewing!

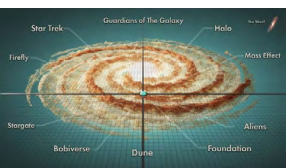
Our special musical edition of *Words* in April featured supplemental materials including a poem for your pocket, staff mix-tapes, guitar picks made in the Collaboratory, and a fictional concert program of video game music. Writing about video game music was a fun synthesis of my hobbyist knowledge of both music theory and video game design, but it was also supplemented by [A Brief History of Video Game Music](#) by Bryan Mosley and Gene Dreyband. This lecture was originally commissioned by the Library of Congress in 2012 in order to provide the historical context for Austin Winroy's Grammy-winning score for the video game *Journey*, the first video game to win a Grammy.



Things got weird as the weather warmed up and "Eerie Encounters" began occurring as part of *Summer at the Library*. Around the same time I had just finished reading *The Extinction of Irena Rey*, a comedically unnerving piece of metafiction by Jennifer Croft, which uses a primordial forest as a metaphor for language. I used the summer months to write an experimental three (or four) part series springboarding off of the idea that words are like woods. At the end of the summer, Curious Archive released a video essay titled [How A Forest Digests You](#), which features literature, pop culture media, and real life stories to examine humanity's trepidatious relationship with the world's forests. The essay provides a niche analysis of familiar works, but viewers may also discover some new haunting titles to pick up the next time they want to get lost in the woods.



Throughout the year there were even more video essays released that helped influence or supplement my reading and media consumption. Readers of contemporary fiction will likely enjoy watching or listening to Jack Edwards' [The problem with the "100 best books of the century" list](#). In this vlog, BookTuber Jack Edwards discusses what the process for contributing to the *New York Times*' "100 Best Books of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" list. He begins by discussing how it works, then expresses his opinions on the process, before listing some of the individual books on the list. After hearing his thoughts you'll never look at any book list the same again, but you're also guaranteed to walk away with a few new titles for your to-be-read list!



One of the longest books I read this year was Dan Simmons' *Hyperion Cantos*. While the planet Hyperion within the novel is entirely fictional, I was surprised to find out that some of the other systems mentioned throughout the novel, including Deneb, Barnard's Star, and Tau Ceti, exist in real life. This discovery led me to [The Real Stars and Scale of Sci-fi](#) from The Overview Effect. This video uses a 3D map to place nearly every real planet in our galaxy that is mentioned in a sci fi work. The highlights of the video are the visualizations which provide viewers with the immense size and scale of the galaxy, but there are also mini-astronomy lessons along the way, easter eggs such as interjections from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, and narrative tidbits to entice sci-fi enthusiasts to find their next piece of media.



The year 2024 is also turning out to be a big year for witches! For the October newsletter I researched some modern fiction that reframes what it means to be a witch, while my colleague Dune created a display in the front lobby that took a look back at witches in literature. It was a fun surprise when *Agatha All Along* premiered on Disney+ during the fall and served as a light homage to the cultural history of witches. And by the time you read this, the film adaptation of *Wicked* will have also premiered. Witches straddle the border between real history and fantasy literature. A video released as part of WIRED's Tech Support series [Historian Mikki Brock Answers Witchcraft Questions](#) is for both historians and for those who want to (re)discover the role witches play in literature and how they have developed over time. If you are a *Wicked* or an *Oz* fan who has never read the other 13 Oz books you may also be interested in Gabriela Diaz Ortiz's [An as brief as possible deep dive into all 14 original wizard of Oz books](#). Thought I've only read the first three L. Frank Baum books, I found it to be a lengthy but accurately hilarious recap of the idiosyncratic nature of the Oz canon. It was interesting to hear how much material Gregory Maguire borrowed from the later Oz books for *The Wicked Years* series. It might be the perfect listening for *Wicked* fans while wrapping presents this holiday season.



2024 also seems to be the year the video game community has overwhelmingly recognized a new video game genre that has been growing over the past few years! The majority of gamers are calling the genre "Metroidbrainia" (a tongue in cheek play on the existing "Metroidvania" genre). However the best video essay I've found that describes the genre, [The Greatest Videogame Genre You Didn't Know Existed](#) from Adam Millard refutes this term. The video dissects how games like *Lorelei* and *the Laser Eyes*, *Rain World*, *Tunic*, *Outer Wilds*, *The Witness*, *Animal Well*, *Heaven's Vault*, and *Antichamber* are better described as "Discovery Games" in which bits of knowledge gleaned from the gameplay experience itself help players to progress rather than in-game collectibles, skill trees, or questlines.



A personal favorite video released this year was Defunctland's [Journey to EPCOT Center: A Symphonic History](#). While the channel is already known for their well-researched documentaries on theme parks, this one is an experimental documentary which emphasizes sounds, visuals, and brief acted segments in lieu of formal narration or interviews in order to convey the history of EPCOT Center from its inception as a city to its opening as a theme park. Because I am a collector of Disney history books, it was satisfying to see the story of Epcot played out in the form of an animated syphony. But even for anyone new to the subject, it's worth a view for its unique artistic presentation.



The shortest video on this list is also the sweetest. [Human Nature, Hope & Ice Cream](#) from Pop Culture Detective uses a thought experiment from Noam Chomsky and a plethora of ice cream clips from across film and TV to illustrate that at the end of the day, humans are generally good. And at the end of

this year, it may be the scoop for the soul that some of us need.

When our new website launches before the end of the year you'll also be able to take look back at the archive of *Words* newsletters from the past year. I should admit that we are not sure how long this newsletter has been in publication. The volume and issue listed on the cover were based on the oldest known copy at the time I began editing, but in my eight years as editor multiple older copies have surfaced dating back to the late 70s. What is certain is that the look and contents may change, but the world keeps spinning and the Words remain.

