

Feb
2025

Words

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrating Black History Month!



SONGS OF LIBERATION AND LOVE:

A Musical Tribute by Rhonda Denet

Tuesday, Feb 4th | 7-8pm

Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

[Snow Date: Thursday, Feb 20th at 7pm]

Celebrate the African-American experience with Songs of Liberation and Love from the 1930s through the 1970s! This showcase by Jazz & Soul virtuoso Rhonda Denet highlights luminaries who used their talents to elevate, educate, and encourage others through music. Their contributions played an important role in the history of America and offered lasting cultural contributions to the world. This musical journey includes gospel, jazz, soul, and pop with songs recorded by Mahalia Jackson, Dinah Washington, Sam Cooke, Nina Simone, Curtis Mayfield, Aretha Franklin, Donny Hathaway, Stevie Wonder, and more.

Challenging the System: A Community Conversation on Youth Justice & Race

Wednesday, Feb 19th | 6:30-8pm

Spanish Community of Wallingford | [Register](#)

Join us for an engaging conversation at the Spanish Community of Wallingford to discuss the lived experiences of incarcerated teens & youth in the U.S. and how racial identity impacts this issue. This discussion is part of our ongoing series of open and empathetic conversations about race, community, and opportunities for change and healing. All are welcome!

Untold History: Prince Mortimer & the Legacy of New-Gate Prison

Wednesday, Feb 26th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)

John Mills, a local historian, genealogist, & founder of Alex Breanne Corporation, has done extensive research into the fascinating life of Connecticut's Prince Mortimer. In 1811, at the age of 87, Prince was falsely convicted of attempting to murder his enslaver and was sentenced to life in prison. He was sent to New-Gate Prison in East Granby, CT, one of the most notorious penitentiaries in the country. In 1834, he died in prison at over 100 years of age; his burial site remains unknown. In this compelling presentation, John Mills will discuss his own family history of enslavement, his research into Prince Mortimer and his incarceration, and how we present the narratives of the formerly enslaved today. Mills will also delve into other formerly incarcerated individuals of the 18th & 19th centuries.



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

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. View the current issue in color on our website: walpublib.org/newsletter. *Words* is edited by Publicity and Public Services Librarian Christopher Ciemniowski from contributions by library staff members.

Register for events online through our digital calendar of events: walpublib.org/events. Join our email list to receive personalized emails so you never miss the events that interest you the most: walpublib.org/email.

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: walpublib.org/BecomeAMember

Staff Picks



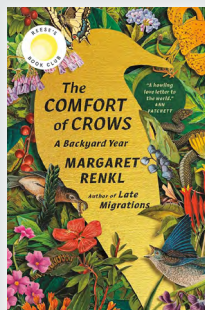
Chris C.

Strawberry Mansion
directed by Albert Birney
& Kentucker Audley



Janelle R.

Yellowjackets
created by Ashley Lyle
and Bart Nickerson



Barbara C.

The Comfort of Crows
by Margaret Renkl



Julie R.

That Librarian
by Amanda Jones



Sam L.

Horizon Zero Dawn
from Guerrilla Games



Josh L.

*Pokemon Mystery
Dungeon: Rescue
Team DX*

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View this newsletter online!

ONE BOOK

ONE WALLINGFORD

TWENTY TWENTY-FIVE

The goal of One Book One Wallingford is to bring the community together in reading and discussing the same book. After a series of book discussions and events related to the title, we will gather together for a visit with the author.

Throughout the month of January and the first week of February we will reveal clues about the 2025 One Book One Wallingford book selection. Clues will be posted in the library and on social media. Anyone who guesses the book title correctly before the reveal will be entered into a drawing to win a copy. You may guess as many times as you'd like, but only one correct guess per person will be included in the final drawing. Stay tuned for more information about the events planned for One Book One Wallingford 2025!

SAVE THE DATES!

BOOK REVEAL: Wednesday, Feb 5th | 7pm

AUTHOR VISIT & BOOK SIGNING:
Tuesday, April 29th | 7pm

As of the date of this newsletter's release, we have revealed three clues:

Clue #1 The book was published last year.

Clue #2 The author lives in the state where the book is set.

Clue #3 The book highlights the cognitive abilities of African-grey parrots.



Virtual Author Visits

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

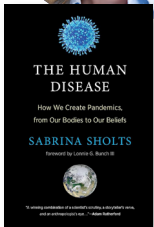
Sabrina Sholts

Tuesday, Feb 4th | 2-3pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



The COVID-19 pandemic won't be our last, because what makes us vulnerable to pandemics also makes us human. That is the uncomfortable message of *The Human Disease: How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs*, which travels through history and around the globe to examine how and why pandemics are a threat of our own making. Drawing on dozens of disciplines—from medicine, epidemiology, and microbiology to anthropology, sociology, ecology, and neuroscience—biological anthropologist Sabrina Sholts identifies the human traits and tendencies that double as pandemic liabilities, from the anatomy that defines us to the misperceptions that divide us. Weaving together a wealth of personal experiences, scientific findings, and historical stories, Sholts brings dramatic and much-needed clarity to one of the most profound challenges we face as a species.

Sabrina Sholts is a biological anthropologist and Curator of Biological Anthropology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. She received her PhD in Anthropology from UC Santa Barbara and was a postdoctoral researcher at both UC Berkeley and Stockholm University. She was the Lead Curator of the exhibition *Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World* at the Smithsonian.

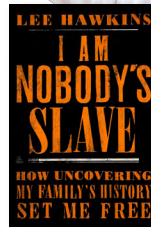


Lee Hawkins

Tuesday, Feb 18th | 2-3 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



To their suburban Minnesotan neighbors, the Hawkinses were an ideal American family, embodying strength and success. However, behind closed doors, they faced the legacy of enslavement and apartheid. Lee Hawkins, Sr. often exhibited rage, leaving his children anxious and curious about his protective view of the world. 30 years later, his son uncovered the reasons for his father's anxiety and occasional violence. In *I Am Nobody's Slave*, Hawkins explores the role of racism-triggered childhood trauma and chronic stress in shortening his ancestors' lives, using genetic testing, reporting and historical data to craft a moving family portrait.



Lee Hawkins was a 2022 Pulitzer Prize finalist as a *Wall Street Journal* reporter on a series about the Tulsa Massacre of 1921. He has received numerous fellowships and is the creator and host of the podcast "What Happened in Alabama?" He lives in the New York City area.



tech Training



Tech Connect



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. You may have even 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 as well as assistance in signing up for low-cost home Internet as well as a long-term loan of your very own computer. **Call us at (203) 626-4774 to meet with a digital navigator.**

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: Tech Jeopardy!

Saturday, Feb 1st | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collins Room | [Register](#)

Test your knowledge with a fun, engaging round of *Jeopardy!* with a tech twist. Ready to test your tech knowledge? Want to learn more about your smartphone, computer, and the digital world, all while having fun? Join Digital Navigator Elijah for a fun, interactive game where we'll explore basic tech topics through *Tech Jeopardy!* In this easy-to-follow session, we'll break down key tech topics with the help of videos that explain each concept in simple terms. Whether you're a beginner or just looking to brush up on your skills, this class will make tech fun and approachable. Here's how it works:

- **Interactive Videos:** We will watch short, easy-to-understand videos related to the questions Elijah will ask. These videos will help explain the concepts behind each question and give you the knowledge to play! So everyone has a fair chance to win!
- **Team Play or Free-for-All:** Depending on class size, we'll either play as two teams or as a free-for-all. Everyone can participate and learn, no matter your experience level!
- **Small Prize:** Everyone's a winner in Tech Jeopardy! There will be a small prize for the participants who score the highest—just a little extra fun to keep you motivated!

Dear IT: Taking Great Photos on iPhone

Saturday, Feb 15th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Community Room | [Register](#)

Join Connor for a class on how to capture amazing photos and videos using your iPhone. You'll also learn how to navigate the Photos app to organize, recall, and edit your media effortlessly. Topics covered in this class include:

- How to take a great picture or video on your iPhone
- Understanding Live Photos and how they can rescue blurry shots
- How to adjust camera settings for the best photo
- Navigating the Photos app and editing your existing photos

Please bring your fully charged iPhone to the class, and make sure the device has been updated to iOS 18 or later. If your device isn't updated to the latest software, you may not be able to access all of the features we will talk about, but you are still encouraged to participate!

Put It On My Card: Money-Saving Technology Options from the Wallingford Public Library

Saturday, Feb 8th OR Monday, Feb 24th | 2-3:30pm | Adults

Community Room (Saturday) & Collins Room (Monday)

[Register for Feb 8th](#) | [Register for Feb 24th](#)

Our library is an embarrassment of riches, all available free to you! Learn about how the library's technology options, including premium software, computer equipment, and maker hardware, will save you money and improve your life.

Photoshop Basics

Monday, Feb 10th OR Saturday, Feb 22nd | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collaboratory

[Register for Feb 10th](#) | [Register for Feb 22nd](#)

Learn the basics of Adobe Photoshop, such as editing and resizing photos, using layers, the difference between tools, and adjustments that can be made to images. *Note: This is a lecture style class only.*

From the
B.S.
Borrower Services
Department

Cardholder Perks for Gamers & Puzzlers

February may be the shortest month of the year, but the cold, dreary weather makes the month seem like it can stretch on forever, especially if you're stuck inside with nothing to do. If passing the time with a book isn't your thing, did you know that the library also offers a wide variety of board games, puzzles, and videogames to keep you entertained?

If you're thinking of planning a game night with family or friends, visit our Library of Things to check out our selection of board games! We offer games for all types of players, including classics like **Clue** and **Scrabble** and new favorites like **Catan**, **Cottage Garden**, and **Ticket to Ride**. The fun isn't just for adults, either. The Children's Room has a variety of child-friendly games, and our new Teen Library of Things includes laugh-out-loud games like **Zombie Kittens** and **You Laugh You're Out**. (walpublib.org/boardgames)

If the thought of playing a board game has you feeling a little, well... bored, we also have a growing collection of video games for all types of consoles including Nintendo Switch, Xbox, PlayStation, and Wii. You can browse our selection of videogames at the following links:

Nintendo Switch: walpublib.org/nintendo

PlayStation: walpublib.org/playstation

Xbox: walpublib.org/xbox

Need something to occupy your mind when you're on your own? For solitary players, **jigsaw puzzles** are an excellent way to increase your spatial intelligence while you pass a quiet evening at home. We offer puzzles for all skill levels, including 300, 500, and 1000-piece puzzles, as well as kid-friendly puzzles that have larger pieces for little hands. Want to bring your unfinished puzzle with you to work on whenever you have time? Borrow the library's **Puzzle Stow & Go** to conveniently roll up unfinished puzzles in a mat you can safely transport anywhere.

Here's how our B.S. Staff spent their rainy, gaming day:

walpublib.org/ForGamers



FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS



Conclave

Friday, Feb 7th | 6-8pm | Drop in | Community Room | PG

Conclave is about one of the world's most secretive and ancient events—selecting the new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake, secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church.

CHILDREN & Families

SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAMS

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.

Registration opens at 9am, 4 weeks before the program date.

Game On!

Saturday Feb 1st | 1:30-4pm | All Ages | Wonder Room

[Register](#)

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 Mario Kart! At this club, gamers of all ages can get their game on!

Dungeons and Dragons: Dragons and Dances

Monday, Feb 3rd | Grades 4-8 | Children's Program Room

Session 1: 3:30-5:30pm | [Register](#)

Session 2: 6-8pm | [Register](#)

Walfordius the dragon has been excited to attend DragonProm all year, but when his magical bow tie goes missing the day before the dance, it falls to our heroes to get it back and save DragonProm! This is a quest for level 5 characters.

Let's Make a Podcast!

Tuesdays, Feb 4th & 11th | 4:30-6:30pm | Grades 3-5

Children's Program Room | [Register](#)

Come help us make our first ever Wallingford Library Kidscast! This 30 minute podcast will be entirely planned and produced by kids (with some help from Mr. Josh)! This is a two-session program where participants are expected to attend both sessions. Session one will be brainstorming ideas and creating a plan and session two will be for recording all our content. The podcast will be released on the library's [YouTube](#) channel.

Colors of My Jewish Year: Shabbat

Thursday, Feb 13th | 4:30-5pm | Grades PreK-2

Children's Program Room | [Register](#)

This year we gather together to learn about Shabbat. Join Wallingford's Beth Israel Synagogue in reading stories, making a craft, and eating a snack while we focus on a different aspect of Shabbat. Whether you are curious about Jewish traditions or already take part, all are welcome to join the fun. Participants who attend all 4 programs will complete a Shabbat kit (but attendance at all 4 is not required). This program has been made possible through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Homeschool Meetup

Friday, Feb 14th | 10am-12noon | All ages

Wonder Room | [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.*

Paws for Reading

Saturday, Feb 15th | 11am-12noon | Grades K-5

Children's Program Room | [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. *Presented by the friends of the Wallingford Animal Shelter.*

Roller Coasters with the Connecticut Science Center

Tuesday, Feb 18th | 10:30-11am | Grades 3-5

Community Room | [Register](#)

Roll, twist, loop, and speed down the track as you design, create, and test your own rollercoaster! How does inertia affect an object's motion? Explore how various forces can influence motion as you try to get your passenger safely to the end! Program led by the Connecticut Science Center. *Please note, there is no school on February 18th for WPS students.*

American Sign Language Club for Kids

Wednesday, Feb 19th | 4:30-5pm | Grades 2-5

Wonder Room | [Register](#)

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

Reading Buddies

Friday, Feb 21st | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades K-2

Children's Room | [Register](#)

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

LEGO Club

Saturday, Feb 22nd | 2-3pm | Grades K-5 | Wonder

Room | [Register](#)

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

Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, Feb 25th | 4-7pm | Grades 4-8

Children's Room | [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, 4 weeks before the program date.

Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, Feb 18th | 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.

Baby Beach Party

Friday, Feb 28th | 10-11:30am | Ages 0-5

Community Room | [Register](#)

Baby, it's cold outside! Join us inside for pretend fun in the sun. We'll have water and sand play, crafts, and games.

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. [Register](#)

Bouncing Babies

Ages 0-18 months | 10am or 11am | Wonder Room

Mondays, Feb 3rd & 10th

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. This class is appropriate for infants, crawlers, and very early walkers.

Waddling Ones & Twos

Ages 15 mo-35 mo | 10am or 11am | Wonder Room

Tuesdays, Feb 4th & 11th

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 song, rhymes, books, and more. Playtime to follow. This class is appropriate for more confidently walking one year olds, and active two year olds.

BILINGUAL HOMEWORK

Bilingual Homework Help

Mondays & Wednesdays | 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 Miércoles | 4-8pm | Grados K-5

Área de los Niños | No necesita cita

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

Pajama Family Story Time

Ages 0-5 | 6:30pm | Community Room

Wednesdays, Feb 5th & 12th

Join Miss Kari at this active, early literacy enriched story time where we will explore books, songs, and rhymes for all ages. Make sure to wear your PJs for added fun!

Happy Feet

Ages 2-3 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room

Wednesdays, Feb 5th & 12th

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

Preschool Story Time

Ages 3-5 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room

Thursdays, Feb 6th & 13th

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.

Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, Feb 1st | 10am-12noon | Children's Room

[Register for Family Story Time](#)

Stop by the library to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day. We have tons of fun activities going on! Grab a free book, check out our face painting & tattoo stations in the wonder room, experiment with the Connecticut Science Center, register to attend a story time, and stop by our Early Childhood Education & Information Fair.

Early Childhood Education & Information Fair

Saturday, Feb 1st | 10am-12noon | Community Room & Collins Room

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



Adult Events

Happenings



Robert Frost: Peoples' Poet and Poets' Poet (A Four-Part Series)

Tuesdays, Feb 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th | 3-4:30pm | Collins Room | [Register](#)

Robert Frost was one of those rare American artists whose works are enjoyed by both common and literary audiences. A lover of plain spoken, Yankee vernacular, Frost wrote poems that have a directness that appeal to those who may find much poetry obscure, but they also contain depths and nuances that offer many pleasures for the reader who may feel more comfortable with the genre. Frost, then, is the perfect poet for both those who may feel intimidated by a lot of poetry and for those who admire great poetry. No matter where you fit along this spectrum, please join us as we explore Frost's world in four 90-minute class sessions. This poetry series will be led by **Cyrus Cook**, a Wallingford resident and retired English teacher at Choate Rosemary Hall. By signing up for one class, you will sign up for all of the classes in the series going forward.



Threading Stories: A Love Letter from a Gee's Bend Quilting Legacy

Tuesday, Feb 11th | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#) [Snow Date: Thursday, Feb 27th at 7pm]

Discover the vibrant history of Gee's Bend quilts in this fascinating talk by **Tangular Irby**, granddaughter of Gee's Bend quilters Pearlle Kennedy Pettway and Jense Lee Irby. You'll learn how these stunning works of art have preserved African American heritage, told family stories, and inspired generations for more than 100 years. Through personal tales and cultural insights, you will gain a deeper appreciation for the practice of passing down your family's legacy.



Highlights of the Night Sky: The 2025 Planetary Parade & More

Wednesday, Feb 12th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)

During the first two weeks of March, we will witness a "planetary parade," an astronomical phenomenon during which several of the planets in our solar system are aligned and visible at the same time. In this virtual presentation by NASA Solar System Ambassador **Geoffrey McLean**, you will learn what to expect from this unique event and how best to view it. Geoffrey will also discuss how our solar system formed and why there are some very strange aspects to our planetary neighbors' orbits and motions. He'll explore the strata of planetary bodies, including rocky and gas planets, asteroids, minor planets, Kuiper Belt, and Oort cloud objects, as well as how they contribute to the spectacle of a planetary parade. Additionally, he will discuss the upcoming lunar and partial solar eclipse, and highlight other exciting celestial phenomena occurring in the late winter and early spring of 2025.



Gatherings

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

French Conversation Group

Mondays | 4:30-5:30pm
Collaboratory Conference Table

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

Literacy Volunteers

Tuesdays | 12:30-2pm | Collaboratory Horseshoe Booth

Denise Codianne-Calabrese from Literacy Volunteers will be available Tuesdays for literacy 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.

Spanish Conversation Group

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

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

Coffee & Connections

Fridays | 11am-12noon | Collins Room

Come join us for a weekly program to forge new connections with folks you might otherwise never get to know! Stop by for a warm drink and some

conversation, hosted by **Linda Reilly-Blue (LRB)** a former radio host and producer, passionate birth doula, parent educator, and reiki practitioner. With degrees in Counseling, Psychology, and Human Service Administration, LRB's professional and personal experiences blend to create a holistic approach to supporting others. Come for the coffee, stay for the fun and engaging conversation facilitated by a professional people person!

Morning Ukulele Club

Monday, Feb 3rd | 10-11:30am | Collins Room

Morning Ukulele Club meets 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.*

WPL Play Readers

Wednesday, Feb 5th | 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

Saturdays, Feb 8th & 22nd

9:45am - 12noon | Community 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.

Knit @ WPL

Mondays, Feb 10th & 24th | 6-7:30pm

Collaboratory Diamond Desk (Gray)

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.

Evening Ukulele Club

Wednesday, Feb 12th & Monday, Feb 24th

6:30-8pm | Collins Room

Evening Ukulele Club meets 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*

ASL Conversation Group

Wednesday, Feb 19th | 7-8pm | Collins Room

Join us the third Wednesday of each month to improve your American Sign Language skills in a friendly and non-judgmental space! Robin Crispino, a professional sign language interpreter, will facilitate each session. Some knowledge of ASL is recommended; patrons with no previous experience should take a course through [Transparent Language Online](#), available through the library's website, before attending a meeting.

International Movie Night: A United Kingdom

Friday, Feb 14th | 6-8pm | Community Room | PG-13



Join us on the second Friday of each month to enjoy a fascinating film from another country! In celebration of Valentine's Day, our Feb 14th feature will be the 2016 British film *A United Kingdom*. This historical romance tells the inspiring true story of Seretse Khama, the King of Bechuanaland (modern Botswana), and Ruth Williams, the London office worker he married in 1948 in the face of fierce opposition from both the British and South

African governments. Seretse and Ruth defied family, Apartheid and empire to be together; in doing so, they transformed their nation and inspired the world.

WPL Presents:

Tap & Trivia

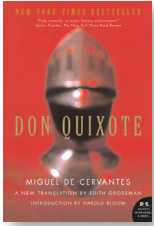
Tuesday, Feb 25th | 7:30-9pm | Tap & Vine

Registration preferred

Join us on the last Tuesday of each month for a local 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.**



For Readers



Hibernation Book Club: Long Reads for Short Days

Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes

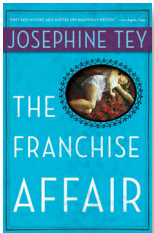
Tuesday, Jan 28th, Feb 11th & 25th, Mar 11th & 25th | 5:30-7pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

If you have always wanted to read big classic works of literature but have been daunted by their length and supposed complexity, we have a book club just for you! In the Hibernation Book Club, we will read one long classic novel every winter, dividing it up into shorter sections and meeting six times over the course of three months to work our way through it. Our title for the winter of 2025 is Edith Grossman's 2003 translation of *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes.

Told in two parts that were written ten years apart and widely regarded as the world's first modern novel and one of the funniest and most tragic books ever written, *Don Quixote* chronicles the famous (mis)adventures of an aging man named Alonso Quijano from La Mancha, Spain, who becomes so obsessed with chivalric novels that he believes himself to be a knight errant named Don Quixote and sets out on his old horse Rocinante on a series of absurd quests with his loyal squire Sancho Panza by his side. The novel highlights the clash between fantasy and reality while satirizing the conventions of traditional chivalry stories. It is one of the most-translated books in the world and one of the best-selling novels of all time. In 2002, 100 major writers from 54 countries rated *Don Quixote* the world's best work of fiction. In this six-part program, we will read *Don Quixote* in installments of approximately 160 pages each and meet every other week to discuss it.

For details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org



Mystery Book Club

The Franchise Affair by Josephine Tey

Wednesday, Feb 5th | 3-4:15 pm | Community Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

Marion Sharpe lives with her mother in a run-down country house called The Franchise. The two women are stunned to learn that they have been accused of brutally kidnapping an unassuming young woman named Betty Kane. Miss Kane's claims seem highly unlikely until she describes the room where she was held captive. Its cracked window, kitchen and old trunks sound just like the attic at The Franchise. Yet Marion Sharpe claims the Kane girl has never been there, let alone been held captive for a month.

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



Classics Book Club

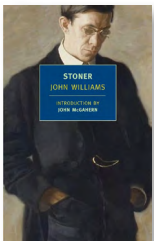
Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons

Thursday, Feb 6th | 6:30-8 pm | Collins Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Orphaned at 19, Flora, who possesses "every art and grace save that of earning her own living," prevails upon her distant relations, the Starkadders of Cold Comfort Farm, to take her in. Once there, she manages the family: beautiful Elfine; amorous Seth, territorial Reuben and the unforgettable Great-Aunt Ada, who once saw "something nasty in the woodshed." A parody of the doom-laden novels of rural life, Gibbons' 1932 novel is one of the funniest satirical novels of the last century.

For details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org



Thursday Night Book Club

Stoner by John Williams

Thursday, Feb 20th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

William Stoner was born on a cash-strapped Missouri farm to traditionalist parents at the start of the 20th century and grows up learning the disciplined ways of farm life. His parents plan to send him to the local college to learn agriculture. He is largely uninterested in soil chemistry but falls in love with literature, becomes a professor and lives a quietly rich and vibrant life. Williams' 1965 novel became a surprise bestseller in the 21st century.

For details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org



Novelty

What's new in novels
from Cindy Haiken

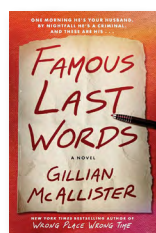


In her 1957 memoir *Raising Demons*, Shirley Jackson described February as a time “when the days of winter seem endless and no amount of wistful recollecting can bring back any air of summer.” I happen to be a fan of winter, but for those of you who long for warmer weather, the good news is that there are a lot of new books scheduled for publication this month to keep you company and help to pass the time when the cold and wintry weather keeps you indoors. Here is a sample:

Close Your Eyes and Count to 10 by Lisa Unger — Things spiral out of control after a charismatic daredevil and extreme adventurer invites people to an island for an extreme game of hide and seek.

The Dressmakers of London by Julia Kelly — During World War Two, estranged sisters inherit their late mother’s dress shop in London.

The Echoes by Evie Wyld — A reluctant ghost watches his girlfriend grapple with her grief and begins to realize how much of her life was invisible to him.



Famous Last Words by Gillian McAllister — A new mother’s world is upended when her husband commits a terrible crime and then disappears.

Fagin the Thief by Allison Epstein — A reimagining of the world of Charles Dickens as seen through the eyes of Jacob Fagin, the famous pickpocket and liar from *Oliver Twist*.

A Forty Year Kiss by Nickolas Butler — A small-town story about a couple’s second chance at love, 40 years after their divorce.



Gliff by Ali Smith — In an uncertain near future, two children grapple with the new boundaries that are drawn daily between people.

Last Twilight in Paris by Pam Jenoff — In London in 1953, a woman finds a necklace from a department store in France that is connected with the death of her friend during World War Two.

Life Hacks for a Little Alien by Alice Franklin — A lonely young girl becomes obsessed with an ancient manuscript written in an indecipherable language.

The Medici Return by Steve Berry — Cotton Malone heads to Tuscany to solve a 500-year-old mystery in this 19th installment in the series.



The Other March Sisters by Liz Parker, Ally Malinenko and Linda Epstein — With Jo away in New York, the three other March sisters (Meg, Beth and Amy) follow their own paths.

People of Means by Nancy Johnson — A mother and her daughter are reluctantly pulled into the struggle for equal rights and equitable justice.

The Queens of Crime by Marie Benedict — In London in 1930, the five greatest female crime writers form a club and decide to solve the murder of a young woman found strangled in a park in France.



Saints of the Narrows Street by William Boyle — After a woman kills her husband in a fit of rage, she asks her sister and brother-in-law to help her cover up the crime.

Show Don't Tell by Curtis Sittenfeld — A short-story collection that explores marriage, friendship, fame and artistic ambition.



This Is a Love Story by Jessica Soffer — A husband and wife who have been visiting Central Park for over fifty years face the reality that one of them is dying.

Three Days in June by Anne Tyler — A socially awkward mother of the bride tries to cope with the demands placed on her in the days both before and after her daughter’s wedding.

We All Live Here by Jojo Moyes — A woman with a lot on her plate tries to cope with the return to her life of the father she has barely seen in 35 years.

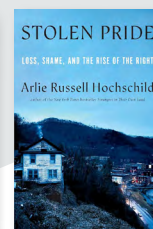


We Would Never by Tova Mirvis — When a woman becomes a suspect in her ex-husband murder, her tight-knit family must confront the lengths they will go to protect each other.

Also of note this month are the 10th Orphan X thriller by Gregg Hurwitz (*Nemesis*), the 13th Fargo Adventure by Robin Burcell (*Clive Cussler*

The Serpent's Eye), the 17th Michael Bennett thriller by James Patterson (*Paranoid*), the 25th Joe Pickett mystery by C.J. Box (*Battle Mountain*), the 40th Alex Delaware thriller by Jonathan Kellerman (*Open Season*), the 60th installment in the In Death series by J.D. Robb (*Bonded in Death*) and new novels by Elinor Lipman (*Every Tom, Dick & Harry*) and Jo Nesbo (*Blood Ties*).

Cindy's Picks





Collaboratory

Browse the Library of Things

Click the THINGS below to view them in the catalog.
View ALL THE THINGS here: walpublib.org/LibraryOfThings



Sewing Machine



Metal Detector



Ukulele



Yarn Ball Winder



Cricket Loom



Home Theater Projector

Crochet Kit



Telescope



Drop-In Programs

Open Sew

Tuesday, Feb 4th | 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

to make scarves and hats. If you want to learn how to do these textile arts, we have "How-To" kits you can take home with you. We also have mugs that can be customized using our sublimation printer, so you can have a nice cup of hot tea or cocoa out of a mug with all of your favorite things on it. You can even make a quilt here with our longarm quilting machine (note: longarm training is required).

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.

Q: What activities can I do in the Collaboratory during the winter?

A: Aside from just being in a warm spot to work on your projects, I have a few examples of ways you can use our equipment to have an extra cozy winter. If you knit or crochet, we have all the supplies you need here



Lottery Programs

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

walpublib.org/LotteryFeb25

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

Wooden Quilt Block

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

Thursday, Feb 6th | 3-4:30pm

Create a decorative wooden quilt block using laser cut pieces. There will be three classic quilt block patterns from which to choose. This is not a quilting program. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

DIY Succulent Wall Hanging

Saturday, Feb 8th | 11am-12:30pm

Create a succulent wall hanging using Cricut cut paper, which can live forever on your wall!

Love Bugs

Monday, Feb 10th | 6-8:30pm OR

Wednesday, Feb 12th | 2:30-4:30pm

Use mandala dotting paint techniques on a rock to create a cute bug. This is a great beginner project.



DIY Laser Etched Candles

Tuesday, Feb 11th | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, Feb 13th | 3-4:30pm

Design an image to be etched onto a candleholder, then make the candle that goes inside using wax, pigment, and fragrances!

Chain Pull Painting

Tuesday, Feb 25th | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, Feb 27th | 3-4:30pm

Chain pull painting is a fun non-traditional method of painting that gives gorgeous results, no brushes required! Be sure to wear clothes suitable for a messy paint activity.



Talking TED @ Home

Thursday, Feb 13th | 7-8pm | Adults | Registration required | Zoom
[Register](#) (after the lottery period)

Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event. In February, we will watch and discuss Esther Perel's "The Secret to Desire in a Long-Term Relationship."

In long-term relationships, we often expect our beloved to be both best friend and erotic partner. But as Esther Perel argues, good and committed sex draws on two conflicting needs: our need for security and our need for surprise. So how do you sustain desire? With wit and eloquence, Perel lets us in on the mystery of erotic intelligence.

Just for Teens

Registration Required

Yarn Wrapped Wire Art

Wednesday, Feb 5th | 3:15-4:45pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Combine yarn, wire, and some glue and turn it into a piece of art! You'll form the shape or letter form out of the wire and then wrap it with yarn to make it all your own.

Teen Cuisine: Brownie Batter Dip

Thursday, Feb 13th | 3-4pm | Community Room
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Learn how to make a simple, and sweet, dip! This dip tastes like safe-to-eat brownie batter and goes well with all sorts of snacks from pretzels to strawberries.

Laser Etched Canvas Art

Saturday, Feb 15th | 11am-1pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Make a sepia toned piece of art on the Collaboratory's laser cutter. You'll create your design on the computer and then we will etch it onto a black-coated canvas, which will burn away to reveal your design on the white canvas underneath. Due to the time the laser takes to run, you will need to return to pick up your completed project.

Make a Dice Box

Thursday, Feb 20th | 6-7pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

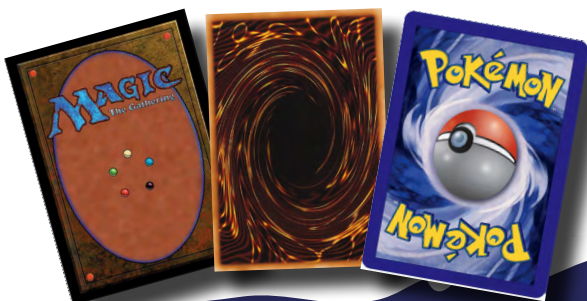
You've made your own resin dice, now make a resin box to store them in! The box will fit your resin dice set, along with others, but will not fit large dice sets. Due to the time resin needs to cure, you will need to return to pick up your dice box. Please do not register if you have attended previously.

Drop-in Events

Trading Card Battle Club

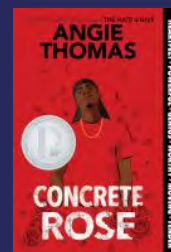
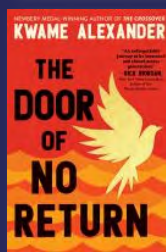
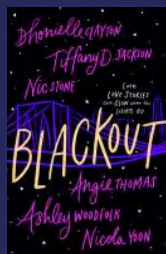
Last Tuesday of the month | 4-7pm
Wonder Room | Grades 4-8
[Registration encouraged](#)

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.

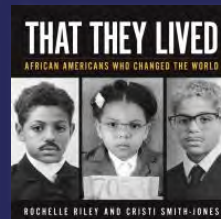
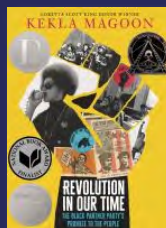


Black Stories Matter

Fiction



Nonfiction



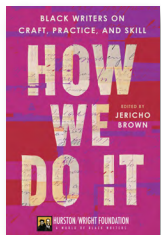
Last Words:

Black Writers on Black Stories from Chris Ciemniowski

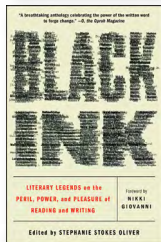
A great way to celebrate Black History Month is by reading the works of Black writers from throughout history. The library has many anthologies and collections to help you find the author or story for you!



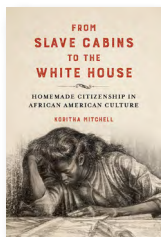
One of the best jumping off points into Black Literature is *Well-Read Black Girl*. In the book, Glory Edim provides an introduction that explains her early relationship with literature and her discovery of the stories that resonated with her. The rest of the book features short essays by popular Black women authors examining their own relationship with books and literature. Throughout the book Edim makes book suggestions in genres such as novels, plays, poetry, fantasy/sci-fi, and feminism.



If you are interested in reading about the craft of writing, editor Jericho Brown has assembled a collection of short essays from Black writers on their writing techniques in his book *How We Do It*. Not only do authors reveal their techniques for good storytelling, but they also discuss how they use storytelling to “find and reveal inherent truths” about Black life.



Black Ink is another collection of essays by Black authors. It is edited by Stephanie Stokes Oliver and features a foreword by the late Nikki Giovanni. This collection features 25 historical essays, letters, speeches, and other publications about writing and literature by prominent Black figures from across time. The book is neatly structured by time period: The first piece is a selection from Frederick Douglas describing the danger of owning a book and the final piece is an interview with Barack Obama from 2017 in which he describes what books mean to him.

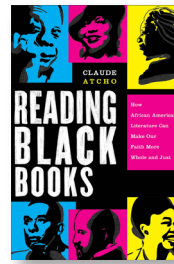


For a similar journey through time, Koritha Mitchell recounts the stories and struggles of Black women in America in her book *From Slave Cabins to the White House*. Looking at the writings of historical writers and figures such as Frances Harper, Lorraine Hansberry, Toni Morrison, and Michelle Obama, she analyzes the historical context of their works and the social issues they brought to light in their writing. As the title suggests, there is a through-line of Black American

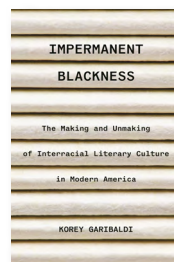
women and their developing relationship to “home” from caregivers to policy-makers.



In *Read Until You Understand* author Farah Jasmine Griffin imparts her own wisdom about Black Literature and storytelling from a lifetime of reading. She discusses the oratory power of Frederick Douglas, the lyrics of Marvin Gaye, the prose of Toni Morrison and more. By looking at each individual and their unique contributions to the art of language, she weaves together for readers a full tapestry of Black life and literature.

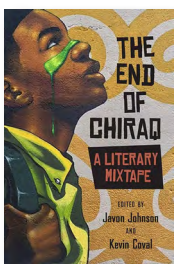


Reading Black Books by Claude Atcho takes a look at ten specific (and well-known) works by Black authors, devoting one chapter to each. Atcho examines the works of authors such as Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Nella Larsen, and Toni Morrison using the lens of faith and extrapolating themes of God, sin, salvation, justice, and racism.

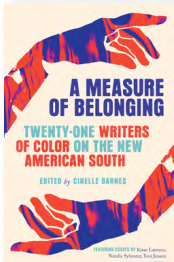


Join University of Notre Dame Professor Corey Garibaldi for a fascinating peek behind the curtain of the publishing world in his book *Impermanent Blackness*. Garibaldi shares stories of the publishing world from the 1910s through the 1960s, discussing the interracial partnerships that were formed in order to publish the works of many of the aforementioned historical authors. The book takes readers through the peak of the Harlem Renaissance, the emergence of multiracial children's literature, and the Civil Rights era, before delving into what Garibaldi describes as a time period of forgotten

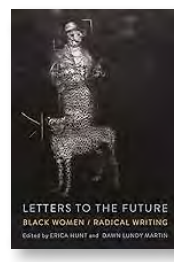
Black authors in the post-1960s. The book exposes the cultural tensions and successes of this time period and the publication of some of the most well-known and loved works of Black Literature.



In *The End of Chiraq*, Javon Johnson and Kevin Coval have put together a “literary mixtape” celebrating Black authors from Chicago. The collection includes works from nearly 50 individual authors which range from creative essays to prose to poetry with the intention that the volume as a whole demonstrates that “creativity is critical in imagining better possibilities.”



A Measure of Belonging is a collection of anecdotal essays from “Twenty-One Writers of Color on the New American South.” Edited by Cinelle Barnes, these essays cover topics that define the lives of Black communities living in the present-day Southern U.S. While many writers discuss the joys and difficulties that are inherently unique to the region, the topics range from music and sports to immigration and health. The book provides a window (especially for anyone from the North) to what Black life is like in the present day American South.



Lastly, *Letters to the Future: Black Women / Radical Writing* offers a window into the future of Black Literature. Like *The End of Chiraq*, this collection from various writers is similar to a mixtape, but includes media of even more varied forms than prose and poetry such as skits, photos, sheet music, postcards, fairytales, puzzles, miscellaneous facts, and other surprises. The work is meant to instill creativity in a new generation of Black voices and evokes language, text, and formats not restrained

by the present. Difficult to put into words by its very nature, this is one book you must pick up in order to experience it for yourself!



February Hours

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 9pm

Saturday
9:30am - 5pm

Sunday
12noon-4pm

Scheduled Closings

Presidents' Day
Sunday, Feb 16th
Monday, Feb 17th

Tax Season and Tax Assistance



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

Federal 1040 Income Tax Forms in both English and Spanish as well as 1040 Instruction Booklets typically arrive at the library in late January. You can also find the forms (and schedules) available online to download and print: rebrand.ly/IRSforms

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

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

If you earned less than \$67,000 in 2024, you may be eligible for free tax preparation services from IRS-certified tax preparer volunteers through HRA of New Britain. In-person appointments at the library will take place on most Saturdays from 10am to 2pm starting Jan 27th until Apr 13th. You may call to make an appointment at (860) 356-2000 or visit their website through this shortened link: walpublib.org/VITA

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

TELLING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD STORIES: THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE BAKER



Monday
10am - 12noon

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

Wednesday
10am - 2pm

Thursday
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Friday
10am - 2pm

Saturday
10am - 12:30pm

February Specials
Cookbooks
BOGO



On Display in the Front Lobby
during the month of February

American legal and civil rights trailblazer Constance Baker Motley was a federal judge, Manhattan Borough President, New York state senator, and a first generation New Havener. This inaugural exhibit by the **New Haven Preservation Trust** follows Judge Motley's history and connection to Connecticut through her scrapbooks & memorabilia.

IN OTHERS' Words...

Those high fences first went up in 1944, four decades before I was born, when the government spent years paving our wetlands to build an airport next to the village, while more and more hotels crept up on either side of us. Each new hotel they built was larger than the last, until the resorts resembled our still-standing colonial houses and plantations, many of which served as attractions and wedding destinations for tourists. This was the fantasy tourists wanted to inhabit, sunbathing at hotels along the coast named Royal Plantation or Grand Palladium, then getting married on the grounds where the enslaved had been tortured and killed. This was paradise—where neither our history nor our land belonged to us. Every year Black Jamaicans owned less and less of the coast that bejeweled our island to the outside world, all our beauty bought up by rich hoteliers, or sold off to foreigners by the descendants of white enslavers who earned their fortunes on our backs, and who still own enough of Jamaica today to continue to turn a profit.

— Safiya Sinclair, *How to Say Babylon*