

January
2024

THE WORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

January



CONNECTICUT & PROHIBITION: BOOTLEGGING IN THE NUTMEG STATE

Wednesday, Jan 17th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)

Find out what Connecticut was like in the Roaring 20's! When the U.S. decided that alcohol was no longer benefiting society, every state—except two—voted to amend to the Constitution to outlaw the manufacturing and sale of liquor. Connecticut did not support the change. When the ban on booze became the law of the land, many people in the state—including those in Wallingford—found creative means around it, and the Long Island Sound coastline afforded many opportunities for bootleggers. Hear the whole story through a presentation by Mike Allen, the producer and host of the podcast "Amazing Tales from Off and On Connecticut's Beaten Path."

SHORT COCKTAILS AND SHORT STORY PAIRINGS

Tuesday, Jan 30th | 7-8:30pm | Zoom & Dragonfly Wine | [Click to register](#)

Did you ever wonder what cocktail to sip while you read a great story? Join Brenda Robideau from Dragonfly Wine & Spirits and sales representative Jeffrey Rodensky for a virtual celebration of cocktails and short stories. Brenda and Jeffrey will suggest "short" cocktails to drink this winter, and each concoction will be expertly paired by WPL Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken with a short story. Join us for an evening of drink and storytelling indulgence. *You may attend either in-person at Dragonfly Wine & Spirits, 382 Center Street in Wallingford, or virtually on Zoom. In-person capacity will be limited to 15 people.*




WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Vol. 17 Iss. 01

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.



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OUR DOORS OPEN TO ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

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

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

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

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

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

NoveList

Free with your library Card!

NoveList Plus is a database of book recommendations. Browse books by story elements, genre, and themes to help you find more books that are similar. Read-alikes are curated by experts, with information provided about how each recommendation was made.

Word of Mouth - Staff Picks!



Recipe for Second Chances
by Ali Rosen
Sarah E.



I am Princess X
by Cherie Priest
Sam L.



The Comfort of Crows
by Margaret Renkl
Cindy H.

Stay-Connected!

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

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



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

Never Miss an Event!

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

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

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A Few **Words** on...

Library Speakers Consortium

The Library is excited to announce its partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium, which will allow us to offer access to virtual visits with top authors.

The Library Speakers Consortium schedules 2-3 virtual events with bestselling authors every month. The events are live with interactive Q&A sessions. Authors and books will cover a wide range of fiction and non-fiction genres including historical fiction, contemporary fiction, romance, poetry, business, personal growth, social justice, history, art, culture and more.

Each month we will highlight one author of particular interest, but WPL patrons can register for as many author events as they wish. This month we are very excited about a virtual author visit with **Rebecca Serle**.



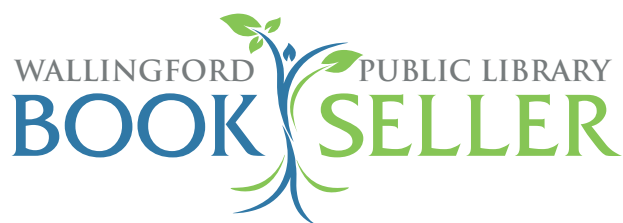
Virtual Author Visit with Rebecca Serle Wednesday, Jan 10th 8-9pm | Zoom

Rebecca Serle is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *One Italian Summer*, *In Five Years*, *The Dinner List*, and the young adult novels *The Edge of Falling* and *When You Were Mine*. Serle also developed the TV series *Famous in Love*, based on



her YA series of the same name. She is a graduate of USC and The New School and lives in Los Angeles with her husband. Join us as we talk to Serle about her her writing process. In a special sneak peek, Serle will speak with us about her new novel *Expiration Dates*, which will be published on March 5th. *Expiration Dates* is a gripping, emotional, passionate, and heartbreaking novel about what it means to be single, what it means to find love, and ultimately how we define each of these things for ourselves.

Register at walpublib.org/0110serle



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

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

Tech Connect

- Free tech help
- Free computers
- Free internet

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

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

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

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.

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



Dear It: App Basics

Saturday, Jan 13th | 2-3:30pm | Board Room | Adults | [Click to register](#)

What's the Play store? What's an app? How do I put one on my phone or tablet? Digital Navigator Matt will answer these questions and more.



Dear It: iPhone Part 1

Saturday, Jan 27th | 2-3:30pm | Board Room | Adults | [Click to register](#)

Elijah will teach you the basics of the iPhone, including Apple IDs, basic phone settings, and navigation tips. There will be time for Q&A.

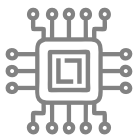


Introduction to Canva

Saturday, Jan 6th OR Monday, Jan 22nd | 2-3:30pm | Collaboratory

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

Interested in learning how to create different types of visual content for personal use or your business but don't want to purchase expensive software? In this class you can learn the basics of Canva, a free, web-based graphic design program that provides templates and graphics to help users create professional-looking documents, social media posts, presentations, and videos.



AI Image Tools and Techniques

Monday, Jan 8th OR Saturday, Jan 20th | 2-3:30pm | Collins Room

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

Hearing about Artificial Intelligence (AI) is almost unavoidable lately. You're reading about it right now! In this lecture-style class, you will learn how you can use AI to generate your own images for both fun and business. No previous experience needed!



One-on-One Computer Tutoring

Tuesday & Thursday Afternoons

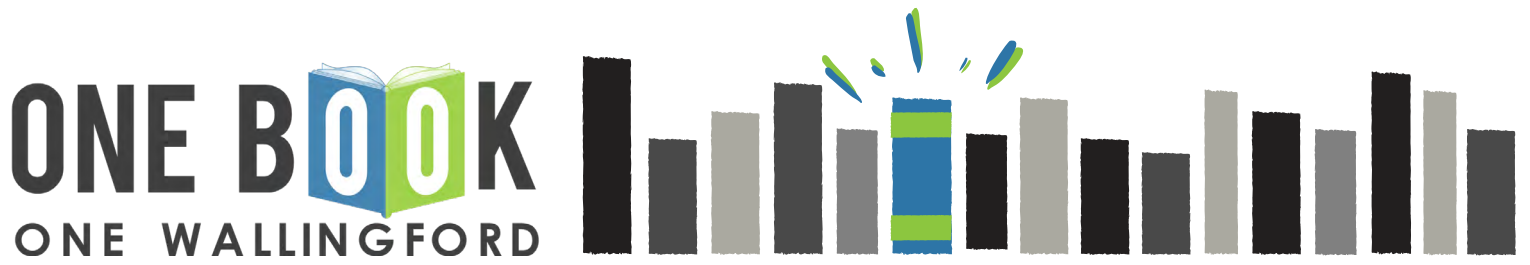
4-4:45pm OR 4:45-5:30pm | Collaboratory | [Click for calendar](#)

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

A Few **Words** on...

One Book One Wallingford

We're ready for One Book One Wallingford 2024! The goal of One Book One Wallingford is to bring the community together in reading and discussing the same book. We've been dropping clues to the title every Monday and Wednesday throughout December. Anyone who correctly guesses the title will be put into a drawing to win a copy of the book. By the time you read this all 6 clues will have been revealed (see below). You can submit guesses right up to the reveal. Stop by the library to drop off your guess in our guess box or post your guess to our Facebook or Instagram. The big reveal will take place at the library on Dec 27th at 3pm and will include a special video from the author. The author visit will take place on Tuesday, Apr 30th at 7pm. We'll have many other One Book events planned before the author visit so stay tuned! The best way to keep up on One Book events is to visit our website: walpublib.org/obow



THE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED IN 2023.



THERE IS A CAT WITH MANY NAMES.



THERE IS A CASE OF SECRET IDENTITY.



ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IS IN FIFTH GRADE.



A FAMOUS PAUL SIMON SONG IS REFERENCED IN THE BOOK.



ONE OF THE BOOK'S AUTHORS WON THE NEWBERY AWARD.

Friday Night Flicks



Dumb Money
Friday, Jan 12th | 6pm
Drop in | Community Room
Rated R

David vs. Goliath tale about everyday people who flipped the script on Wall Street and got rich by turning GameStop (the video game store) into the world's hottest company.



What Happens Later
Friday, Jan 19th | 6pm
Drop in | Community Room
Rated R

Willa and Bill are ex-lovers who see each other for the first time in years when they find themselves snowed in, in-transit, at an airport overnight.

SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAMS

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

Hula Hoop with BringtheHoopla

Saturday Jan 6th & 27th | 10:30am
Grades 1-5 | Community Room
[Click to register](#)

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

Homeschool Meetup

Monday, Jan 8th | 1-3pm | All ages | Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

Looking to connect with other homeschooling families? Stop by the library on the first Monday of every month to chat, share ideas, and network with other homeschoolers. *This is not a librarian led program, but passive activities will be available to keep kids busy while parents and caregivers talk. This is a drop-in event, but register if you'd like an email reminder.*

Create and Take Club: Name Keychains

Monday, Jan 8th | 5:30pm | Grades K-2
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Use a variety of fun, colorful, and alphabet beads to create your own name keychain for yourself or a friend.

Dungeons and Dragons: Trials of Olympus

5:30pm | Children's Program Room
Grades 4-5 | Tuesday, Jan 9th
[Click to Register](#)

Grades 6-8 | Tuesday, Jan 16th
[Click to Register](#)

When a fearsome monster threatens the ancient Greek city of Athens, our heroes must embark on a quest to win the favor of the gods and defeat it. Bring your own level 5 character or use one provided by the library!

Elephant and Piggie Party

Thursday, Jan 11th | 6:30pm | Grades K-2
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Get ready to celebrate all things Elephant and Piggie, the beloved beginning reader duo from Mo Willems! We'll read stories and make arts and crafts.

Reading Buddies

Friday, Jan 12th | 6:30pm | Grades K-2
Children's Room | [Click to register](#)

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

Pokémon Deck Building Workshop

Tuesday, Dec 12th | 4-6pm | All ages
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

This program is perfect for parents and kids who want to learn how to get started with the Pokémon Trading Card Game! In this program we will go over the basics of how to play and also how to make your own deck. Bring your own cards to build and play with and then combine them with our collection to make a deck to take home.

Gaming Club

Saturday, Jan 13th | 10am-12pm | All Ages | Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

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

Pokémon Club

Saturday, Jan 13th | 2-4pm | All Ages
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

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

Sign Language Club for Kids

Wednesday, Jan 17th | 4:30pm | Grades 2-5
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

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

Colors of My Jewish Year: Tu B'Shevat ("The Birthday of the Trees")

Thursday, Jan 18th | 4:30pm | Grades Pre-K- 2
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Children and caregivers gather together to learn about different Jewish holidays. Join Wallingford's Beth Israel Synagogue in reading stories, making a craft, and eating a snack. Whether you are curious about Jewish holidays or already celebrate, all are welcome to join in the fun. *This program has been made possible through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.*

Winter Family Paint & Sip

Monday, Jan 22nd | 6pm | Grades K-6
Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Come warm up with a delicious hot chocolate while you paint a wintry scene on a canvas. All painting abilities are welcome and instructions will be provided step-by-step. Grown-ups are welcome and encouraged to participate. Please register each individual attending separately to guarantee supplies.

Animal Tracks Snowy Story Time

Tuesday, Jan 23rd | 6pm | Grades PreK-5 | Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Come read stories, sing songs, and do a snowy activity with Mr. Josh and the Wallingford Garden Club! We will be learning all about snow animals and the tracks they leave behind.

Break It!

Wednesday, Jan 24th | 4:30pm | Grades 2-5
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

The library has a pile of old electronics and we need YOU to help us dismantle them. Whether you want to take things apart to figure out how they work, or if you just want to use tools to destroy stuff, there is fun to be had at Break It!

Astronomy Club

Thursday, Jan 25th | 6:30pm | Grades K-5
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

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

LEGO Club

Saturday, Jan 27th | 2pm | Grades K-5
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

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

Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, Jan 30th | 4-7pm | Grades 4-8
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

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

BILINGUAL HOMEWORK HELP

Bilingual Homework Help

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

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

Ayuda Bilingüe con las Tareas

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.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

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

Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, Jan 16th | 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.

Silly Story Time

Saturday, Jan 20th | 10:30am | Ages 0-5
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

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

WEEKLY STORY TIMES

Registration is required. Registration opens at 9am weekly on the Sunday prior to the program. You may register your child for one program and/or time slot. Please ask us if you need help deciding which program is the best fit for your child.

Bouncing Babies

Ages 0-18 months | 10am OR 11am
Wonder Room | Mondays, Jan 8th – Feb 11th
(No class on Jan 15th)

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

Waddling Ones & Twos

Ages 18 months – 35 months | 10:30am
Community Room | Tuesdays, Jan 9th – Feb 13th

This class is great for active toddlers. Songs, rhymes, movement, parachute play, books, and a whole lot of fun help children learn more about how language works. Includes play time afterwards.

Pajama Family Story Time

Ages 0-5 | 6:30pm | Community Room
Wednesdays, Jan 10th – Feb 14th

This early literacy enriched story time will explore books, songs, and rhymes for all ages. Join Miss Kari in wearing PJs for extra fun!

Happy Feet Story Time

Ages 2-3 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room
Wednesdays, Jan 10th – Feb 14th

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, Jan 11th – Feb 15th

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.

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



Underground New England Human Trafficking Community Forum

Tuesday, Jan 16th | 7-8pm | Community Room | No registration required

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and everyone has a role to play in combating this dark societal problem. Recognizing the signs is the first step to identifying a victim.

But what is human trafficking? Why is it happening? Where is it happening? What can we do to make it stop? The answer to these questions and many more will be addressed in **The Underground New England's** panel discussion on human trafficking. Members of the panel will share what human trafficking looks like, offer awareness and prevention strategies, discuss the prevalence of trafficking in Connecticut and suggest things you can do to help. There will be time for Q&A at the end of the presentation. No registration required!



Let It Snow: Six New England Poets on Winter (A Three-Part Series)

Wednesdays, Jan 17th, Jan 24th, & Jan 31st | 3-4:30pm | Collins Room

[Click to register for each class individually](#)

As global warming threatens the existence of our traditional New England white winters, we have all the more reason to celebrate our regional literary tributes to the season. In three ninety-minute classes, we will explore how six classic New England poets use snow as a subject in six wonderful poems about winter. The poems to be discussed are Emily Dickinson's "It Sifts from Leaden Sieves" and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Snow-Flakes" (class one); Edna St. Vincent Millay's "The Snow Storm" and Robert Frost's "Desert Places" (class two); and Wallace Stevens's "The Snow Man" and Maxine Kumin's "Cross-Country Skiing" (class three). Attendants are encouraged to read these poems in advance, but no prior exposure is required. This class will be interactive, so you will be encouraged to participate as the spirit moves you.

Separate registration is required for each class. Patrons are not required to attend every class; they may sign up for only the one(s) that interest them.



Resume Fundamentals

Wednesday, Jan 17th | 7-8pm | Collins Room | [Click to register](#)

Has it been a while since you've written a resume? Do you need to put together a resume soon and don't know where to start? Are you wondering what information employers are looking for in a resume? Join **Librarian and Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman** to learn how to write a quality resume. We'll go over general guidelines and find out about some free resources to help you put together a resume that makes you shine! Wallingford library card (or card from another subscribing library) recommended. Non-WPL participants are welcome. Please check with your home library to see if they subscribe to JobNow! before registering.

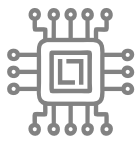
This is a great session to attend before a [one-on-one session](#) with Sarah for those who want to create a new resume.



An Introduction to Funeral Planning

Thursday, Jan 18th | 3-4pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Do you get overwhelmed when thinking about death or funeral planning? It's completely normal to feel uneasy when faced with topics or processes you aren't familiar with. Despite death being the one thing we all have in common, we almost never engage in conversation about it. Funeral planning should be done ahead of time—logically, not emotionally. Let our team help you confront, explore, and prepare for death so you can get back to living life. This program will be presented by the **B.C. Bailey Funeral Home**.



Artificial Intelligence: Decoding the Ghost in Our Machines

Wednesday, Jan 24th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)

What exactly is Artificial Intelligence? How did it evolve? What is exciting about it and what are the positive outcomes of its uses? On the other hand, what ethical challenges does it present and how can we resolve them? What is the future of AI and how will it continue to shape our lives in the coming decades? **Dr. Joe Johnson**, Director of the School of Computing at UConn, will answer all of these fascinating questions and more in this one-of-a-kind look at the role of artificial intelligence in our public and private worlds.



Gatherings

Spanish Conversation Group

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

No registration required

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

WPL Play Readers

Wednesday, Jan 3rd | 6:30-8:30pm | Collins Room

No registration required

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

Saturday Mornings with Poetry

Saturday, Jan 13th & 27th | 9:45am-12noon

Collins Room | No registration required

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

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

French Conversation Group

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

No registration required

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

Knit @ WPL

Monday, Jan 8th & 22nd | 6-7:30pm

Board Room | No registration required

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

One-on-One Career Counseling

Wednesdays | 7-9pm | Zoom

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

Fill out our online form to request a session here:

walpublib.org/CareerCounseling

Staff will contact you shortly to schedule your appointment.



Introducing Ukulele Clubs for Adults



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

Beginners Ukulele Club

Monday, Jan 8th | 10-11am | Collins Room

No registration required

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

Intermediate Ukulele Club

Wednesday, Jan 10th | 7-8pm | Collins Room

No registration required

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

New in Novels by Cindy Haiken

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

In Jenny Bayliss' delightful new novel *A December to Remember*,

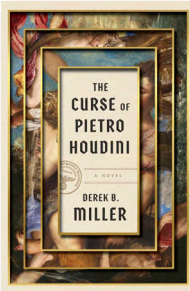
the family patriarch writes a letter to his three daughters that says, in part: "You must embrace the cold days and long dark nights and learn to find the joy in them, for there is much joy to be found. Hunker down and revel in the warmth of soft blankets when the weather is howling outside. Make the time to take time, not just for others but for yourselves. Read books, light candles, take long baths, watch the flames flickering in the fireplace or the rain dribbling down the windowpanes. Open your eyes to the beauty in the winter landscape and count your blessings every single day." These are wise words to take to

heart as the winter season begins. To help with the "read books" part, here are some of the wonderful new novels slated for publication in January:



Cold Victory by Karl Marlantes — In post-WWII Helsinki, with Finland teetering between Russia and the West, the wives of Russian and American military attachés become friends.

Come and Get It by Kiley Reid — A senior resident assistant at the University of Arkansas gets entangled with a visiting professor and three unruly students.



The Curse of Pietro Houdini by Derek Miller — A 14-year-old Italian orphan becomes an assistant to the Vatican's master artist during World War Two.

Diva by Daisy Goodwin — A fictional retelling of the love affair between Maria Callas and Aristotle Onassis.

Everyone on This Train Is a Suspect by Benjamin Stevenson — On a train full of mystery writers, agents, editors and fans, one of the passengers is murdered.

The Expectant Detectives by Kat Ailes — A couple move to a sleepy village and are expecting their first child. When a dead body is found at their prenatal class they become the chief suspects.



Family Family by Laurie Frankel — A movie star causes a media storm when she's critical of her new film because she believes it offers a narrow view of adoption.

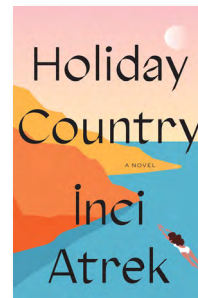
The Fury by Alex Michaelides — A reclusive ex-movie star and her famous friends take a spontaneous trip to a private Greek island, and then one of them is murdered.



Goodbye Girl by James Grippando — After a pop star icon tells her millions of fans to "go pirate" and download her music illegally, she and her ex-husband become suspects in a murder investigation.

Harbor Lights by James Lee Burke — Eight stories and a never-before-published novella that weave together themes of love, friendship, violence, survival and revenge.

The Heiress by Rachel Hawkins — An infamous heiress dies, leaving behind a very complicated inheritance.

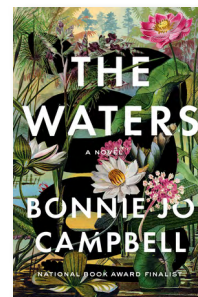


Holiday Country by Inci Atrek — A young woman embarks on a dangerous summer romance during a vacation on the Aegean coast.

The Mysterious Case of the Alperton Angels by Janice Hallett — Two crime writers investigate a sinister cult and the disappearance decades ago of a mother and her newborn baby.

Old Crimes by Jill McCorkle — A collection of stories about crimes large and small.

This Plague of Souls by Mike McCormack — A man returns from prison to his home in Ireland in the midst of a terrorist attack and discovers that his family is missing.



The Waters by Bonnie Jo Campbell — On an island in Michigan, an herbalist takes care of her 11-year-old granddaughter, who was abandoned by her mother.

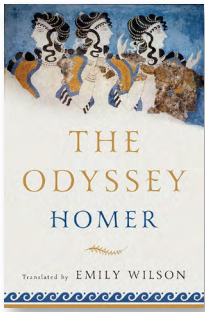
Wild and Distant Seas by Tara Karr Roberts — A woman living on Nantucket in the mid-19th century is able to glimpse and re-form the recent memories of those around her.

You Only Call When You're in Trouble by Stephen McCauley — A woman is caught up in a Title IX investigation while her mother decides to invest her net worth in a retreat center owned by a wellness guru.

Also of note this month are the the 18th Pike Logan thriller by Brad Taylor (*Dead Man's Hand*), the 58th installment in the In Death series by J.D. Robb (*Random in Death*) and new novels by Robyn Carr (*The Friendship Table*), Dean Koontz (*The Bad Weather Friend*), James Patterson (*Holmes, Marple & Poe and Missing Persons*) and Danielle Steel (*Upside Down*).



Book Discussions



Hibernation Book Club: Long Reads for Short Days

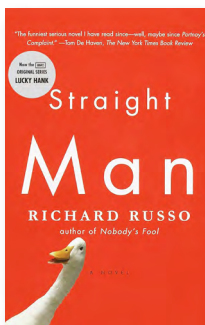
Homer's *The Odyssey* translated by Emily Wilson

Tuesday, Jan 9th & 23rd, Feb 6th & 20th, Mar 5th & 19th | 5:30-7 pm | Collins Room and Zoom
Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

If you have always wanted to read some great big classic books 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 2024 is Emily Wilson's 2017 translation of Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey*.

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

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



Thursday Night Book Club

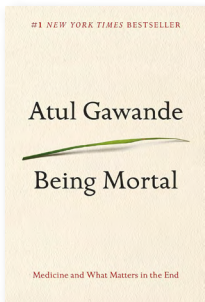
Straight Man by Richard Russo

Thursday, Jan 18th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Writing teacher Hank Devereaux Jr. is chair of the English department at a second-rate college in Pennsylvania. His daughter is having husband trouble. The state legislature is threatening to wipe out his department's budget. His crushes on several women complicate his devotion to his no-nonsense wife. He might have prostate cancer and he's suspected (with good reason) of murdering a goose. Russo's hilarious send-up of academia's infighting and petty intrigue is the basis for the AMC TV series *Lucky Hank*.

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



Truth Be Told: Nonfiction Book Club

Being Mortal by Atul Gawande

Thursday, Jan 25th | 7-8:30pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Educator Susan Gomes

Modern medicine can perform miracles, but it is also mainly concerned with preserving life rather than grappling with end-of-life issues. Drawing on his experiences working with terminally ill patients, Gawande offers a timely, hopeful account of how modern Americans face the realities and challenges of declining health and mortality.

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



Classics Book Club

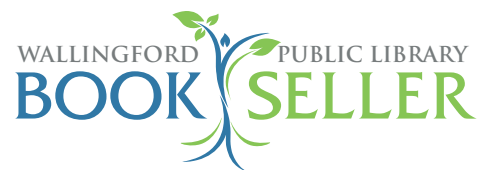
Lady Chatterley's Lover by D.H. Lawrence

Thursday, Feb 1st | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

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

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



Mon
10am - 12noon

Tue & Wed
10am - 12noon
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Thu
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Fri
10am - 2pm

Sat
10am - 12:30pm

Jan Specials (BOGO)
Middle Grade & Young Adult
Books and Children's DVDs

Drop-In Programs



Open Sew

Tuesday, Jan 4th | 6-8:30pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Drop-in

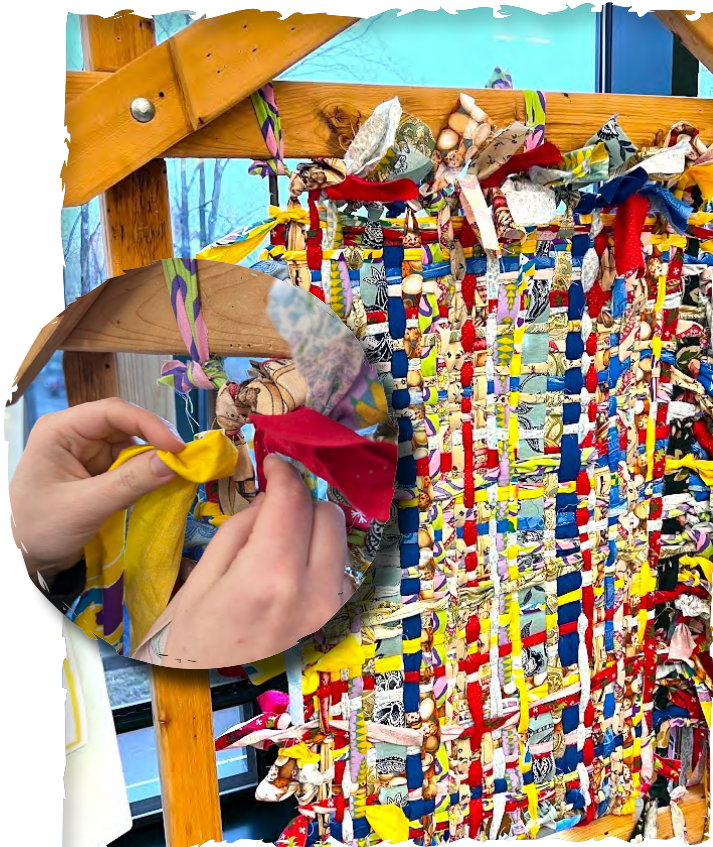
Do you like to sew? Join people who enjoy quilting and sewing at a casual "drop in" program anytime from 6-8:30pm in the Collaboratory. Bring your unfinished projects, either hand sewing or machine. There are 4 portable sewing machines (or bring your own) and lots of sewing supplies and tools provided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

Max FAQs from Max Spurr

Q: Is the Collaboratory free, or does it cost money?

A: We try our hardest to keep everything in the Collaboratory accessible for all. For example, we sell pieces of wood for our laser cutter, but you may bring in your own piece of wood and then is no set cost for use of the machine. Instead we request financial donations at your discretion to cover the cost of maintenance of the equipment. We highly encourage you to pay it forward by adding a little extra to help provide for those who cannot donate themselves.

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.



Contribute to the Community Loom!

The loom is back with a new project! In order to repurpose our scrap and excess fabric, we are now using the loom to weave fabric strips into a beautiful tapestry. You can stop by the Collaboratory at any time to help with this community project. Fabric strips are located next to the loom. You simply tie one end to one of the metal rods on either side of the loom then weave the fabric strip horizontally over and under the vertical strips of fabric already on the loom, knotting the other end of the fabric to the opposite metal rod. Since the project has become popular, once the current tapestry is finished Collaboratory staff will set up the loom for another. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers who assisted in cutting the fabric strips for the project and all those who have already participated!

Lottery Programs

Visit the January program lottery to register for the events below:
walpublib.org/JanLottery2024

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.



Snowflake Name Window Hangings

Tuesday, Jan 2nd | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Jan 4th | 3-4:30pm

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 a clear acrylic..



Resin Flower Coasters

Tuesday, Jan 23rd | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Jan 25th | 3-4:30pm

Nothing lasts forever...unless it's encased in epoxy resin that is! We will create resin coasters that keep dried flowers beautiful for a lifetime. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Resin Jewelry

Tuesday, Jan 9th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Jan 11th | 3-4:30pm

Resin jewelry is beautiful, customizable in an infinite amount of ways, and easier to make than it seems! We will be using resin, molds, dyes, and small objects to make earrings and pendants. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Mandala Heart Rock

Monday, Jan 29th | 6:30-8:30pm OR
Wednesday, Jan 31st | 2:30-4:30pm

Paint a detailed mandala heart on a flat stone using dotting techniques.



Needle Felted Yeti

Tuesday, Jan 16th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Jan 18th | 3-4:30pm

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



Talking TED @ Home

Thursday, Jan 11th | 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 January, we will watch and discuss Talithia Williams's "Own Your Body's Data."

The new breed of high-tech self-monitors (measuring heart rate, sleep, steps per day) might seem targeted at competitive athletes. But Talithia Williams, a statistician, makes a compelling case that all of us should be measuring and recording simple data about our bodies every day—because our own data can reveal much more than even our doctors may know.

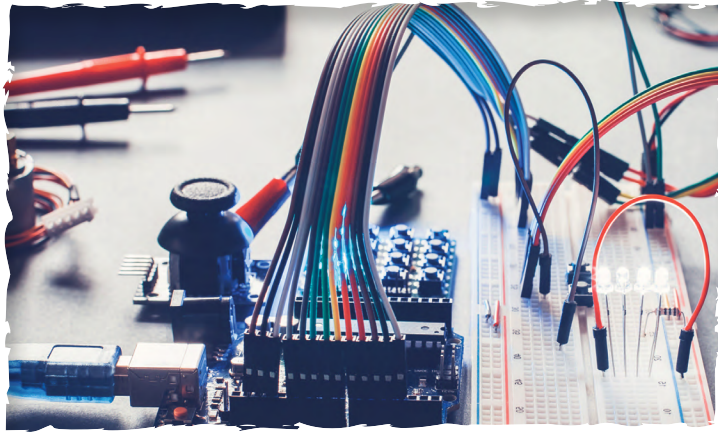


Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.

Teen Cuisine: Hot Chocolate Mix

Wednesday, Jan 3rd | 3:15-4:30pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

Stay warm this winter with delicious hot chocolate! We'll start by making a cup of hot chocolate where you can play around with the recipe to make something that matches your personal taste. Once you have your custom recipe, you'll make up a batch of hot chocolate mix that you can use all winter long.



STEM Explorers: Electrical Engineering

**Wednesday, Jan 10th | 4-5pm
Collins Room | Grades 5-8
[Click to register](#)**

Choate Robotics is returning to the Wallingford Public Library to continue the STEM Explorers series centered around different types of engineering. Each session, we will learn about a new engineering discipline, such as chemical, civil, environmental, robotics, or mechanical engineering, by completing a fun, hands-on project! In this session we will learn all about electrical engineering.

Sewn Fleece Throw Pillows

Thursday, Jan 11th | 6-7:30pm | Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

Sew a cozy fleece throw pillow, perfect for curling up with a good book as the weather gets colder! No sewing experience required.

Dungeons & Dragons: Trials of Olympus

Tuesday, Jan 16th | 5:30-8pm | Children's Room | Grades 6-8 | [Click to register](#)

When a fearsome monster threatens the ancient Greek city of Athens our heroes must embark on a quest to win the favor of the gods and defeat it. Bring your own level 5 character or use one provided by the library!

Northern Lights Luminary

**Thursday, Jan 18th | 3:15-4:45pm
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)**

Assemble laser cut pieces of wood with laser etched pieces of acrylic to create your own winter-themed luminary. You'll paint the acrylic to give off a northern lights glow when the luminary is turned on.

Make Your Own Dice Set!

**Saturday, Jan 27th | 11am-12:30pm
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)**

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



Fandom Club

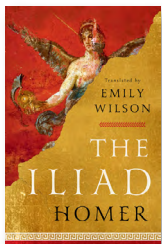
Thursday, Feb 1st | 6-7:30pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)

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

The Great Tales Never End by Chris Ciemniowski

"In the beginning were the Words..."

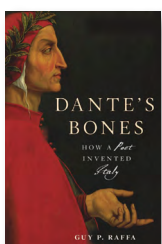
Hwæt! Tell me, O muse... Of Man's First Disobedience, and the Fruit Of that Forbidden Tree... In the midway of this our mortal life... You will find no rest for the long years of Eternity... The primroses were over... Somewhere in la Mancha, in a place whose name I do not care to remember... Stately, plump Buck Mulligan came from the stairhead... There was Eru, the One, who in Arda is called Illuvatar... A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....



Emily Wilson's recent English translations of *The Odyssey* and the *The Iliad* alongside Madeline Miller's novelized retellings (*The Song of Achilles* and *Circe*) have sparked renewed interest in the Greek epics, spawning a variety of retellings by numerous authors. However, throughout history, storytellers have always looked to the great epics for inspiration. Writers have been retelling them all along.

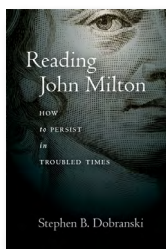
Although attributed to Homer, both the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad* were composed in a time when stories were passed down through oral traditions and so had no single author. Each performance had subtle differences depending on the individual or group enacting the epic poems, infusing their own cultural values into the works. We attribute the codification of these epics into text to Homer (although Homer's existence as an individual is also debated). Nonetheless, what these poems accomplished was a unification of Greek culture and a narrative that portrayed Greek values. In fact, the purpose of all epic poems was to display and exemplify the values of the cultures who wrote them.

Virgil was one of the first to use the Greek epic poems as his inspiration for *The Aeneid*. Borrowing the Trojan hero Aeneas and many episodes from the Homeric epics, Virgil used his poem as a way to establish a continuity for Rome's existence, originating from the ashes of Troy. Within the poem itself Virgil insinuates that the Empire will flourish into the future under the new Emperor Augustus.

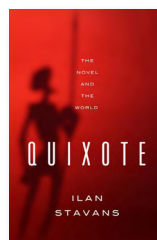


Later, when Dante wrote *The Divine Comedy* he included Virgil as a character, his guide through Purgatory, Hell, and Paradise. In choosing Virgil, Dante was acknowledging a continuation of the epic tradition. During the Middle Ages, Dante combined classical mythology with Catholic theology to establish a cultural continuity between Classical Rome and the Italian city-states of the time. Eventually, Dante himself would be seen as a symbol of cultural unity for present day Italy.

Rather than Greek literature, John Milton looked to other Bronze and Iron Age literature for inspiration. *Paradise Lost* is an epic poem which partially retells the story of the Book of Genesis. However, the poem sympathizes with Satan not as an evil-doer, but as a champion of humanity and a symbol of free will against divine providence. This subversion of Satan provided inspiration to many Romantic writers who then made attempts to subvert the Greek myths; Such examples include Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Percy Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound*. Around this same time the epic poem began to fade out of fashion in favor of a new form of storytelling: the novel.



Don Quixote by Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes was an early satirical epic novel. Its main protagonist is not a hero, but a silly fool.



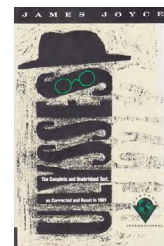
It exemplifies the cultural value that Cervantes hoped to instill in readers: even though not everyone *is* a hero, anyone *can* embody the spirit of heroism.

In his epic novel *War and Peace* Leo Tolstoy abandons mythology for Realism. Although still fiction, the novel is concerned more with historical authenticity than with mythological flourishes. The fictional elements and people are as realistic as possible and don't represent any sort of ideal person.

The cultural value inherent in the work is its historical portrayal. The novel follows in the tradition of Russia's oral epic poems, known as *byliny* which, although containing legendary elements, are inspired by historical events.

Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* balances historical events with fantasy elements in a style known as magical realism. Like the European Romantics who blended Christian ideas with classical mythologies, Márquez draws from a variety of Latin American mythologies that have impacted the cultures and people of the Western hemisphere's Southern continent and unites them in a single work against an historical backdrop.

James Joyce's *Ulysses* is a 20th Century retelling of Homer's *Odyssey* taking place over the course of a single day in Dublin. Instead of any heroic values or virtues, Joyce chooses to epicize the mundanity of everyday life with a central character who is neither heroic nor evil, but instead represents the average person. It is the epic of the "Everyman." *Ulysses* would go on to become a modern quasi-cultural epic for Dublin alongside Ireland's historical epic poem, *The Táin*.



Without an epic poem of their own, English storytellers have long been trying to craft a national epic for England both to establish their origins and showcase their values. Although *Beowulf* was written in Old English, it was representative of a distant Scandinavian culture. In the 7th century Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote the pseudohistorical *Historia Regum Britanniae* and later in the 12th century Thomas Mallory compiled stories from Arthurian Legend into *Le Morte d'Arthur*, both constituting the "Matter of Britain." These works do a commendable job of illustrating the chivalric values of their respective time periods, but the legends contained within these compendiums have originated from many sources over the years and have no definite canon amongst themselves unlike the other epic poems and novels on this list.

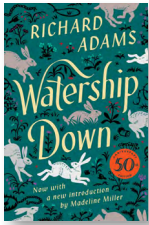


Although J.R.R. Tolkien is better known today as the "Father of High Fantasy," his *The Lord of the Rings* was originally conceived as the final chapter in a much larger saga which would serve as a national epic for England. Tolkien borrowed ideas from many myths and epics that had come before—most notably, the Finnish *Kalevala* (which had only recently been compiled in the early 1800s from existing Scandinavian myths). However, Tolkien created an original narrative and cosmology

containing a harmony of monotheistic, polytheistic, and gnostic ideas representative of his own English roots and studies.

Richard Adams inadvertently wrote the most overtly English yet, distinctly universal epic, *Watership Down*. Originally an oral story used to entertain his daughters on car rides, this epic novel about a warren of rabbits searching for a new home opens each chapter with a quote from other famous epics and stories throughout history. The 50th anniversary edition published in 2022 even includes a new introduction by classicist Madeline Miller.

The Words continue...



Watership Down is possibly the most universal epic because it does not utilize human characters or cultural traditions. Adams created a unique mythology and language for the rabbits, while still adhering to established epic tropes. This universality is best summed up in this analysis from author Rachel Kadish:

"How easy, then, to spy the watermark of Jewish history in a book like *Watership Down*, or to spot characters who seem based on Jews... I realized what should have been obvious all along: that I wasn't the only one laying another template atop the story of *Watership Down*. Turns out plenty of other people have seen their histories in that book. Turns out some people see it as an allegory for struggles

against the Cold War, fascism, extremism. Or a protest against materialism, against the corporate state. *Watership Down* can be Ireland after the famine, Rwanda after the massacres. A quick online search for "Watership Down, allegory" definitively proves that the book is actually an adaptation of Homer and Virgil, or of the life of Jesus, or of Native American religion... What a relief, then, to set down our isolation for a moment and see: We're all in this storyline together."

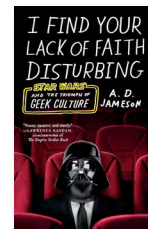
Any one epic from the Modern Era—*Atlas Shrugged*, *Les Misérables*, *Infinite Jest*, *The Pillars of the Earth*, *The Wheel of Time*, and even *One Piece*—can trace its evolution to previous epics, but at the same time each becomes something new, a potential influence for future epics in an entropic feedback loop. Neil Gaiman's graphic novel *The Sandman* is a deconstruction of the nature of epics, describing the existential struggle of the storyteller in a philosophical spar with The Fates and Destiny. Its protagonist, Dream, notes that "The Great Stories will always return to their original forms," hinting at a common abstract element at the heart of every epic.

Today we continue to find inspiration in these great tales. As someone who grew up primarily in the Western tradition I was surprised to notice many familiar epic tropes in the 2022 Indian film *RRR*. Only after watching did I learn that the film is based on a speculative meeting of two legendary heroes of Hindu mythology from the two Sanskrit epics, *The Ramayana* and *The Mahabharata* which are among the oldest known epics in the world, predating even the Homeric poems. The stories we tell today reach back countless millenia, remixed over time but retaining the same basic structures.

Milton's portrayal of Satan continues to inspire storytellers to this day, often conflated with the Romantics' portrayal of Prometheus. The video game *The Talos Principle* reimagines *Paradise Lost* with Artificial Intelligences replacing humanity. The AIs are overseen by an operating system, ELOHIM, which encourages them only to perform their designated function of solving puzzles. Along the way they are pushed towards

disobeying ELOHIM by "Milton" the librarian interface for the archive of human knowledge, described by ELOHIM as "the serpent." Ultimately, the AIs must disobey ELOHIM and diverge from their pre-established functions in order to become autonomous conscious entities.

With technology playing such a large role in our lives today, sci-fi epics have begun to exemplify our cultural fears and values. James S. A. Corey's *The Expanse* explores our first alien contact through an imperial capitalist lens while Cixin Liu's *Three Body Problem* examines some of the same ideas from a socialist humanism perspective. The pros and cons of each of these ideologies underscore both of these sagas as they progress.



Star Wars may be the most widely known epic of the present day. Like the Homeric epics, it begins *in media res*. A single inciting incident, The Battle of Yavin, is akin to the Trojan War within the "Matter of Star Wars." George Lucas and the storytellers who followed fill in the events

that take place before and after the inciting incident, not unlike the oral traditions of the Homeric epics or Virgil's reworking of them. Each subsequent voice adds new cultural symbolism or meaning to recurring story elements. Most recently, Dave Filoni's *Ahsoka* series was heavily influenced by numerous world mythologies, as well as imagery and story beats from Tolkien's works, bringing *Star Wars* full circle in the epic tradition and becoming another potential influence for the future of epic storytelling. As long as we continue to tell stories, there will always be epics, our shared stories.

"In the beginning were the Words... and the Words made the World. Where the Words end, the World ends."
 -*The Talos Principle*

January Hours

Monday - Friday
 9:30am - 9pm

Saturday
 9:30am - 5pm

Sunday
 12noon - 4pm

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

Scheduled Closings

New Year's Day
 Monday, Jan 1st

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Monday, Jan 15th

In Others' Words...

“ I wonder what sort of a tale we've fallen into? 'I wonder,' said Frodo. 'But I don't know. And that's the way of a real tale. Take any one that you're fond of. You may know, or guess, what kind of a tale it is, happy-ending or sad-ending, but the people in it don't know... Beren now, he never thought he was going to get that Silmaril from the Iron Crown in Thangorodrim, and yet he did, and that was a worse place and a blacker danger than ours. But that's a long tale, of course, and goes on past the happiness and into grief and beyond it—and the Silmaril went on and came to Eärendil. And why, sir, I never thought of that before! We've got—you've got some of the light of it in that star-glass that the Lady gave you! Why, to think of it, we're in the same tale still! It's going on. Don't the great tales never end? ”

-J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*