

July
2024

THE

UNUSUAL



TIMES

AN ANOMALOUS PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

WALLINGFORD



Library Hours

Mon - Thu
9:30am - 9pm

Fri
9:30am - 6pm

Sat
9:30am - 1pm

Closed
Independence Day
Thursday, July 4th



Book Store Hours

Mon
10am - 12noon

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

Wed
10am - 12noon

Thu
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Fri
10am - 2pm

Sat
10am - 12:30pm

July Specials
DVDs and CDs
BOGO

The Book Seller is looking for volunteers! More info: walpublib.org/volunteer

Words
Vol. 17 Iss. 07

Word's out that Cryptids have been sighted at the Wallingford Public Library

by **Roz W. LeNess** ("Big Ness")

WALLINGFORD, CT — Summer is the busiest season for the Library, and this year the staff has something extra to contend with. As summer planning got underway, the librarians began to notice strange sightings and occurrences throughout the library. Staff have reported sightings of aliens, cryptids, bats, and even a headless horseman roaming the stacks, while pirate ghosts have been spotted plundering the children's room. Nobody has been unable to find the root cause of these experiences. When they tried to intervene, a vengeful spirit pulled all of the seeds out of the seed library, covered everything in slime, and then transformed into a shrieking banshee. Who you gonna call, Digital Navigators?

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

*Programs begin below the fold.
Registration is required unless otherwise noted.*



The Eerie Encounters summer program will consist of multiple programs that target each age group. All programs will run from July 1st-Aug 17th.

Find the ENCOUNTER for you:



More info: walpublib.org/SummerAtTheLibrary



Paranormal Tales with Joe Franke of the Warren Legacy Foundation

**TUESDAY, JULY 9TH | 6:30-8PM
COMMUNITY ROOM | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)**

— Joe Franke, a paranormal researcher & Wallingford resident, is an esteemed figure in the paranormal community, with over 38 years of experience in researching and investigating the unknown. He embarked on his journey in 1986 as an apprentice to the renowned psychic researchers Ed and Lorraine Warren. Since then, he has helped numerous families face their fears and overcome their paranormal afflictions. Through this presentation, Joe will share real-life cases of hauntings, poltergeist activity, and demonic infestations, both past and present, and educate the audience about the serious dangers associated with the paranormal realm.

Connecticut's Headless Horseman: The True Story of Sleepy Hollow

**TUESDAY, JULY 16TH | 7-8PM
COMMUNITY ROOM | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#) —**

Did you know that Connecticut has its own 'Headless Horseman' legend—a tale that pre-dates "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by 40 years? Emeritus Professor of English **Kara LaBella** will discuss Washington Irving's famous work in relation to our own Farmington Valley story, revealing the similarities and differences between the two. Did our state's little-known tale actually influence one of the most beloved American ghost stories of all time? Come and decide for yourself!



From 6-7pm on the same evening, The Wallingford Krampus will be making a special guest appearance at the library! Attendees are welcome to arrive early to take photos and pose with him.



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



THE UNUSUAL TIMES
INFINITUM INUSITATUM



WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR DOORS OPEN TO ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

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

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

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER ROLE THAT BENEFITS THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY?



The Wallingford Public Library Board of Managers is a diverse group of Wallingford residents that represents our library users. Bring your unique expertise and experiences to a caring, effective board. To learn more, please contact Sunnie Scarpa, Library Director, at sscarpa@wallingfordlibrary.org or (203) 284-6422. A member of the Board's Nominating Committee will follow up with you.

Cryptid CrossWords by Josh LeBlanc

A crossword puzzle grid with 11 numbered starting points. The grid is surrounded by illustrations of various cryptids and related items: a large pine tree, a smaller pine tree, a Sasquatch, a UFO, a snake, a lighthouse, and two bats.

Experiencing Cryptids in Your Library? Here's How to Get Rid of Them! by Martha Tua Flame ("Madame Mothra")

GRAVITY FALLS, OR — If your library has infrared cameras to track their movements, become the latest haunt for cryptids, fear not— Each cryptid has its own unique abilities, much like the Ghostbusters.

Cardholder Perks for Lovers of the Outdoors! From the Borrower Services Department

Summer is the time of year when it's finally warm enough in New England to really take advantage of being outdoors. Don't have all the gear you need for your next outdoor excursion? Grab what you have and supplement what's lacking by borrowing some of the Wallingford Library's very useful tech equipment. Then head out well-prepared on your adventure!

For hikers, backpackers, and campers, the library offers many devices that can enhance your outdoor experience. If your cell phone camera doesn't quite have the resolution to capture the beauty of the great outdoors, our Library of Things has a **digital camera** for you to borrow! If mountain biking is more your speed, you can also borrow the **GoPro** which allows you to become a part of the adventure and to capture photos and videos in ways that traditional cameras or smartphones can't.

If you're heading off the beaten path, our **Hiking GPS** is a valuable tool for hikers, cyclists, and backpackers that lets you know where you are even when you're way out in the middle of nowhere.

Also useful when camping, hiking, fishing, or beach-going is the **solar power bank** that allows you to charge a device that's in the red zone.

Additionally, we have numerous **outdoor activity guides** (wallingfordlibrary.org) (wallingfordlibrary.org/OutdoorActivities) as well as several **magazines** devoted to outdoor recreation like *RV Life*, *Outside*, *Connecticut Woodlands*, *Golf Digest*, *Sports Illustrated*, or *Sports Illustrated for Kids*. For outdoor play in the backyard, we also have a number of **Lawn Games** available for checkout. The Children's Department has a **Nature Corner** devoted to children's books about plants, animals, and ecosystems found in nature. You can also borrow a **backpack** for your next family hike!



Happy Hiking!



See Our Hiking Adventure Here:
wallingfordlibrary.org/ForHikers

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:
wallingfordlibrary.org/newsletter



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

Join our email list to receive personalized emails so you never miss the events that interest you the most:
wallingfordlibrary.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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Cryptid CrossWords Clues

Down

- 1. This cryptid has a taste for human blood. It can be warded off using garlic and killed by a wooden stake to the heart.
- 2. This deadly serpent has a gaze that can turn its prey into stone. It is deathly afraid of weasels.
- 6. This massive serpent is sometimes said to have multiple heads. It is unimaginably large and is rumored to have impenetrable scales.
- 11. People often report being abducted into these strange flying machines. What their pilots could want from us is currently unknown.

Across

- 3. This massive octopus-like creature is infamous for dragging sailors to their doom. The librarians of the children's department fell victim to such a beast recently.
- 4. This famously elusive creature from Scotland is hardly ever seen despite being the focus of many tourists and monster hunters.
- 5. First sighted by explorers in 1609, this beast was supposedly heard by scientists as recently as 2003 when they recorded sounds from a Vermont lake.
- 7. This monster is said to pass as a regular human most of the time, but when the full moon arises it transforms into a wolf and goes on a bloody rampage.
- 8. This creature was first discovered by the Algonquin people. It is said to corrupt humans into fits of violence.
- 9. This elusive beast from the forests of North America was the star of a 1967 film that some still claim to be a hoax even today.
- 10. This cryptid from Central America is said to drink the blood of goats, sheep, and other livestock.

Tech Training

Introduction to the Laser Cutter

MONDAY, JULY 1ST | 2-3:30PM
ADULTS | REGISTRATION REQUIRED | COLLABORATORY
[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Learn all about our laser cutter, what it can do, and how to use it. The first half will be lecture-based. In the second half, you will set up a small project for the laser cutter.

Fun With AI

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH OR
MONDAY, JULY 22ND | 2-3:30PM
ADULTS | REGISTRATION REQUIRED | COLLINS ROOM
[REGISTER FOR SATURDAY](#)
[REGISTER FOR MONDAY](#) — This class will go over three Artificial Intelligence applications: Animated Drawings and AudioCraft, both by Meta, and Visme. Learn how to use these programs and have fun creating animations, visuals, and music with AI. **Access to an email is required for this class.**

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.

Max FAQs from Max Spurr

Q: What summer activities can I do in the Collaboratory?

A: We have tons of great options for summer here in the Collaboratory! If you are going on a fun vacation, make matching shirts and hats for your whole crew with our sublimation printer or heat transfer vinyl cut on a **Cricut Maker**. Having a party? Use our **poster printer** to make a festive banner or custom engrave glasses just for the occasion on our **laser cutter**! If it's a hot day, you also can beat the heat in our air conditioning and play a board game, work on a puzzle, or do your favorite arts and crafts project. Last but not least, you can participate in **Some Assembly Required**, our summer maker contest. **More info on Page 7.**

CALLING ALL CRYPTID SEEKERS!



The Wallingford Public Library is currently the epicenter of a Cryptid Invasion! **The Unusual Times** is in search of Kraken-eyed Cryptid Seekers to locate all the species that have taken up residence in the library. Stop by the Check-Out desk to **pick-up an identification card to help you ID the Cryptids you might find, then head into the Adult stacks and mark down which species you find.** Once you have located all the Cryptids in the library, return your ID card to the Check-Out Desk for a prize!

Staff reporters from **The Unusual Times** will also feature "Cryptid Curios" from their personal collections on display in the front lobby throughout the month of July. See molted Loch Ness Monster skin, Chupacabra footprint casts, Yeti fur, Mermaid tears, and more!



TAKE-HOME KITS FOR Children & Families

Kits are available in the Children's Room on a first come, first served basis. Kits may be reserved by calling (203) 284-6436, beginning on the first day the kit is available.

Wallingford Land Trust Hiking Passport

MONDAY, JULY 1ST | RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 5-11 — Grab a hiking passport and get it filled out by taking pictures at various Wallingford Land Trust landmarks and trailheads! Completing four of the hikes counts as a mission for Summer Reading and earns you a prize from our vending machine.

Beading Kit

MONDAY, JULY 8TH | RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 7-12 — Are you a brilliant beader? These kits are for you! The kits contain the supplies and instructions to make a beaded fish keychain and enough supplies for you to make something of your own design!

Magnet Maker Kit

MONDAY, JULY 22ND | RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 5-12 — Make custom magnets from old trading cards or things you have at home! This kit provides you with all the tools you need to make magnets with any design you can dream up. You've put your art work on the fridge before, but never like this!



Children & Families

Preschool Programs

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

Maker Mornings

WEDNESDAYS JULY 3RD- AUG 7TH

10:30-11:30AM | AGES 3-5 | CHILDREN'S ROOM — Put on your artist's hat and join us to make a different craft each week.

School Aged Programs

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

Spooky Campfire Stories

MONDAY, JULY 1ST | 7PM | AGES 8-12
COMMUNITY ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — This story time is not for the faint of heart! Gather around our library campfire, have a s'more, and see if you can handle these spooky stories! Participants are welcome to bring a comfy blanket to sit on for this program.

Virtual Author Talk: A Visit to Deckawoo Drive with Mercy Watson & Kate DiCamillo

TUESDAY, JULY 9TH | 2PM | GRADES
PREK-2 | ZOOM | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

— In partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium, we are excited to host a live, interactive, virtual talk with award-winning author, **Kate DiCamillo**! Join us for a visit to Deckawoo Drive with everyone's favorite adventure loving pig, **Mercy Watson**! Newbery Medal winning author, Kate DiCamillo will be sharing the stories behind the creation of her early chapter book series, the original *Mercy Watson*, and the follow up series, *Tales from Deckawoo Drive*. We will also be celebrating the publication of the final book in the *Mercy Watson* series!

Turtle Time!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ROOM
AGES 4-6 | 3-3:45PM

— [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

AGES 7-11 | 4-4:45PM

— [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Shannon Pierlioni from The Turtle Room will demonstrate the differences between turtles and tortoises, and share all about how to help with their conservation. You will have the opportunity to meet turtles and tortoises from around the world.

Soap Bar Boats

FRIDAY, JULY 12TH | 10:30AM | AGES 6-9
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Come race boats made from soap bars! We will be performing a science experiment where we race our boats through various challenges. We will make a hypothesis and try and find the fastest boats we can make!

Friday Flicks for Kids

2PM | AGES 3-11
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ROOM
FRIDAY, JULY 12TH: MOANA

— [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

FRIDAY, JULY 26TH: WATER HORSE:
LEGEND OF THE DEEP

— [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

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

Virtual Author Talk: Surviving the Summer with The Last Kids on Earth & Max Brallier

TUESDAY, JULY 16TH | 2PM
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-6
ZOOM — [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

In partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium, we are excited to host a live, interactive, virtual talk with *New York Times* bestselling author, **Max Brallier**! Would you survive a zombie apocalypse? Join us to talk with *New York Times* bestselling author Max Brallier about *The Last Kids on Earth*, both the book series and the animates series on Netflix. In this virtual event, Max will share how he came up with the different monsters and villains as well as the unique ways that Jack and his friends figure out how to defeat them.

Astronomy Club

THURSDAY, JULY 18TH | 6:30PM
AGES 5-11 | CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
ROOM [CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — The night sky

is vast and amazing. Each club meeting focuses on a constellation and a scientist.

Misadventures on the High Sea: Shipwrecks

FRIDAY, JULY 19TH | 4PM | AGES 5-7
COMMUNITY ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — The Mystic Seaport Museum presents on oceanic calamities. Humanity has been exploring the world's oceans for thousands of years, but not every voyage goes as planned! Why do ships wreck and what becomes of them when they do? Can we learn anything from sunken ships, and perhaps even use them to benefit our environment? We will also create our own underwater shipwreck collages.



JJK's Summah Readin' Roadtrip!

TUESDAY, JULY 23RD | 6:30-8PM
RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 7
AND UP | COMMUNITY ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Jarret J. Krosoczka, author of the *Lunch Lady* series, *Hey, Kiddo*, and many other children's books, is coming to Wallingford! He will talk about how he brings his stories to life, do a live drawing session, and answer questions. A book signing will follow.

The Poop Museum

THURSDAY, JULY 25TH | 6:30PM
AGES 3-12 | COMMUNITY ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Get ready to be amazed and disgusted, all while laughing. Susie Maguire from the Poop Museum will share her extensive knowledge of poop. By the end you will know who is the world's messiest pooper, the animal with poop attack powers, who uses poop as protection, and who is the rainbow pooper. This program will be poop, but in a good way.

Make Your Own Rain Stick

TUESDAY, JULY 30TH | 3PM | AGES
5-7 COMMUNITY ROOM | [CLICK TO](#)

[REGISTER](#) — Come join music educator, Ralene Goff, to make your own rain stick rhythm instrument. We will decorate the rain sticks and then learn a song to use them with.

Trading Card Battle Club

TUESDAY, JULY 30TH | 4-7PM
GRADES 4-8 | CHILDREN'S ROOM

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

Doodle + Comics for Kids

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST | 4PM
AGES 8-11 | COMMUNITY ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Time to let your imagination come to life! We'll start with a conversation about the unique mechanics of how comics can tell stories. Then we'll cover how to come up with a storyline and develop a character. Doodle exercises will help us to generate ideas and by the end of the program you will be quickly filling panels with narration and imagery.

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, JULY 1ST – AUG 5TH

WADDLING ONES & TWOS

AGES 18-35 MONTHS | 10:30AM
COMMUNITY ROOM

TUESDAYS, JULY 2ND – AUG 6TH

HAPPY FEET STORY TIME

AGES 2-3 | 10:30PM

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ROOM
WEDNESDAYS, JULY 3RD – AUG 7TH

PAJAMA FAMILY STORY TIME

AGES 0-5 | 6:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM
WEDNESDAYS, JULY 3RD – AUG 7TH

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

AGES 3-5 | 10:30AM

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ROOM
THURSDAYS, JULY 11TH – AUG 8TH

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR
TAKE-HOME KITS**

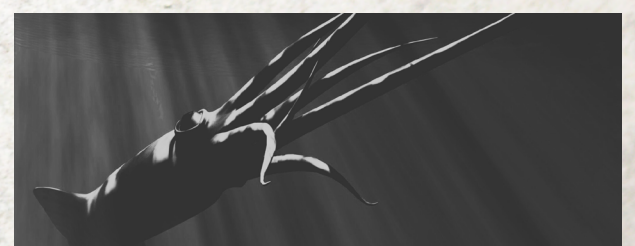
EERIE ENCOUNTERS

Summer at the LIBRARY
for Babies, Toddlers, Preschoolers,
& Kids Entering Grades K-6

Program Details:

A long time ago the pirate librarians were on a great quest when their ship was destroyed by a Kraken. Their ship wrecked and they have been haunting the waters ever since. Legend says, that if the children of Wallingford read over 375,000 minutes this summer, the ghost librarians will be set free!

Visit the library's READsquared page for info on how to register and log your hours:
walpublib.org/SummerLog





Adult Events



Ghostbusters Marathon!

MONDAY, JULY 8TH | 10:30AM-8:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM | ALL AGES NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED — To celebrate our “Eerie Encounters” summer reading theme, we’re showing the cult classic *Ghostbusters* [PG], starring Bill Murray and Sigourney Weaver, on repeat throughout the day! This 1984 supernatural comedy follows a team of scientists who, after losing their cushy positions at a university in New York City, become “ghostbusters” to wage a high-tech battle with the supernatural for money. Drop by the library on July 8th to catch the flick!

Interviewing Basics

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH | 7-8:30PM | COLLINS ROOM | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Are you looking for a job and confused on how to prepare for an interview? Do you want to learn why employers ask certain questions? Do you want to learn what’s different when you have a Zoom or phone interview? Join Librarian and Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman to answer some common interview questions, and learn how to plan answers for more challenging questions and how to prepare for different types of interviewing settings. We’ll also learn how to access some free library resources that can help you land the job! A Wallingford library card (or card from another subscribing library) is recommended. This is a great session to attend before a [one-on-one session with Sarah](#) for those who want to create a new resume. Non-WPL participants are welcome. Please check with your home library to see if they subscribe to JobNow! before registering.

WPL Presents: Tap & Trivia!

TUESDAY, JULY 30TH | 7:30-9PM | TAP & VINE, 171 QUINNIPIAC STREET REGISTRATION PREFERRED — Join us the last Tuesday of each month for our new trivia night at **Tap & Vine**! Quizmaster Rich Steeves will test your wits with five rounds of questions on a variety of topics, from General Knowledge to Science & Nature and a whole lot more. Your team of 2-6 players will compete with other groups 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.**

Program Details:

This summer, WPL invites adults to embark on **Eerie Encounters**, a series of challenges designed to enliven the mind and feed the soul! Stop by the library to pick up your **Summer Scrapbook**, where you will keep track of your progress one task at a time. Log your reading and activities from **July 1st-August 17th.**

There are five series of challenges: Events, Photos, Sustainability, Reading, and Enrichment. Each series includes four challenges worth ten points each. Every time you earn ten points, you will get a ticket for our summer prize drawing. Every time you earn 50 points, you will receive one of our limited-edition Eerie Encounters bookmarks or other spooky collectibles! Complete as many challenges as you want. You can earn a total of 25 tickets. The four lucky winners of the summer prize drawing will each receive a **\$50 gift card to the local business of their choice!**

EERIE ENCOUNTERS
Summer at the LIBRARY

for Adults Ages 18+

Gatherings No Registration Required

French Conversation Group
MONDAYS | 4:30-5:30PM | BOARD ROOM
— Improve your French in a friendly and non-judgmental space! Some knowledge of French recommended.

Literacy Volunteers
TUESDAYS | 11:30AM-1PM | BOARD ROOM
— Denise Codianne-Calabrese from Literacy Volunteers will be available Tuesdays for literary assistance. If you are an adult who needs help reading, writing, speaking or understanding English—or know someone who does—drop by the library during Denise’s visiting hours for literacy support.

Spanish Conversation Group
WEDNESDAYS [IN JULY] | 4:30-5:30PM | BOARD ROOM — Improve your Spanish in a friendly and non-judgmental space! Some knowledge of Spanish recommended.

Morning Ukulele Club
MONDAY, JULY 1ST | 10-11:30AM | COLLINS ROOM — Join our new morning Ukulele Club on the first Monday of each month at the Wallingford Public Library! The first hour of each session will be dedicated to more experienced players, while the last half-hour will be focused on beginners. Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus will teach and facilitate the club. Please bring your own instruments!

Knit @ WPL
MONDAY, JULY 1ST | 10-11:30AM | COLLINS ROOM — Knit @ WPL is a place where knitters and crocheters can practice their work in the company of others. Newcomers are welcome to join, but knitting experience is required.

WPL Play Readers
WEDNESDAY, JULY 3RD | 6:30-8:30PM COLLINS ROOM — The Wallingford Public Library Play Readers bring and share poetry, prose, famous speeches and documents, monologues, as well as original material! Come check us out. All are welcome to read and/or listen.

Evening Ukulele Club
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH | 6:30-8PM COLLINS ROOM — Join our new evening Ukulele Club on the second Wednesday of each month at the Wallingford Public Library! The first hour of each session will be dedicated to more experienced players, while the last half-hour will be focused on beginners. Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus will teach and facilitate the club. Please bring your own instruments!

Saturday Mornings with Poetry
SATURDAY, JULY 13TH & 27TH 9:45AM - 12NOON | COLLINS ROOM — A meeting of people who love reading and writing poetry. SMWP provides poetic opportunities for anyone to share their poetry, discuss the literary works of poets known and unknown, and expand skills in writing and editing poems in the shared camaraderie of comfortable, supportive members. No registration required. To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Karen Ciosek at kjc73048@gmail.com.



Just for Teens



Create Your Own Clay Bigfoot

TUESDAY, JULY 2ND | 5:30-8PM
COLLINS ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Create your own custom designed Bigfoot out of polymer clay. Deb Jaffe will lead you to create the basic design, but all of the details will be up to you!

Needle Felted Nessie

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3RD | 2-4PM
COLLABORATORY

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Let's felt a cute Nessie! Or whichever cryptid you prefer! Needle felting is a craft that uses a barbed needle to mat wool fibers together.



Animal Encounters with Furry Scaly Friends

TUESDAY, JULY 9TH | 3-4PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

GRADES 5-12 | [REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED](#) — Come and interact with a variety of furry and scaly animals! The animals will be out in play pens ready to be loved. Pens will contain facts about the animals. Animals may include: hedgehogs, bunnies, prairie dogs, chinchillas, snakes, a tortoise, gecko, maybe even an axolotl! Register to find out and experience these animals!

Screenprinted T-Shirts

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH | 2-4PM
COLLABORATORY

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Learn to screenprint your own shirt using simple materials. You'll get to create your own custom design which we'll turn into a stencil before inking your shirt! Some t-shirts will be available for use, but bringing your own shirt is encouraged!

Teen Paint Afternoon: Mystical Forest

MONDAY, JULY 15TH | 3-4:30PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Pam Halligan of Pam's Picassos will lead participants step-by-step to paint a mystical, colorful forest with a bright white tree as the focus.

Sew Your Own Bat Plush

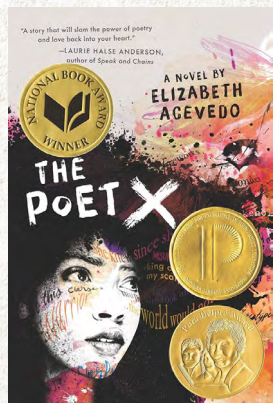
THURSDAY, JULY 18TH
5:30-7:30PM | COLLABORATORY

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Sew your own adorable, soft bat plush! We'll use "cut and sew" fabric that has the templates and cut lines marked for easier assembly and will go through the process step-by-step. Some experience with a sewing machine is preferred, but not required.

Scrimshaw Workshop with Mystic Seaport

FRIDAY, JULY 19TH | 2-3PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Learn about the sailor's art of scrimshaw in this hands-on program. Scrimshaw is an art form developed by 19th-century whalers as a pastime. These whalers would create decorative and elaborate carvings on materials they had readily available- whale bones and teeth. A Mystic Seaport Museum educator will showcase examples of scrimshaw and then you'll have the opportunity to try your hand at creating scrimshaw art.



Elizabeth Acevedo Author Visit

TUESDAY, JULY 23RD | 2-3PM

ZOOM | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#) —

You're invited to learn about the power of poetry with Elizabeth Acevedo! In this author

conversation and Q&A, Acevedo will provide a short reading from her National Book Award winning and New York Times bestselling novel-in-verse, *The Poet X* which will serve as the backdrop to this amazing chat!

EERIE ENCOUNTERS

Summer at the LIBRARY

for Teens Entering Grades 6-12

Participation Guidelines:

The teen program is open to all entering grades 6-12 in the fall. Create a program account here: walpublib.org/SummerLog or download the [ReadSquared](#) app. Log your reading and activities from July 1st-August 17th

Program Details:

This year, we're tracking minutes read. Completing the program requires you to read 720 minutes during the program. You will earn a prize entry for every 60 minutes read. Reading all 720 minutes will give you a bonus entry—for a total of 13 entries. Additionally, anyone who completes the program will get an Eerie Encounters keychain or bookmark made in the Collaboratory! You will also receive a coupon for a free small ice cream cone courtesy of Wallingford Dairy Queen.

If you finish early, keep going! By reading 1200 minutes before the program officially ends on August 17th, you will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing—a \$100 Amazon Gift Card. You will continue to accrue prize entries for each additional hour you read. Visit the website for more info and a list of prizes: walpublib.org/SummerAtTheLibrary

JJK's Summah Readin' Roadtrip

TUESDAY, JULY 23RD | 6:30-8PM
COMMUNITY ROOM | AGES 7 & UP | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#) —

Jarrett J. Krosoczka, author of the Lunch Lady series, *Hey, Kiddo* and many other children's books, is coming to Wallingford! He will talk about how he brings his stories to life, do a live drawing session, and answer questions. A book signing will follow.

Create Your Own Slime Creature

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH
3-4:30PM | COLLABORATORY

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#) — Make slime into your own creepy creature!

LED Embroidered Zodiac Constellation

FRIDAY, JULY 26TH | 2-4PM
COLLABORATORY | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#) —

Learn how to hand embroider your zodiac constellation then use LEDs and conductive thread to make it light up!

Doodle+ Comics

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST | 2-3:30PM
COMMUNITY ROOM | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#) —

Would you like an easy access point for making a comic? Do you want to incorporate simple imagery for storytelling? Are you interested in inventing characters? The Doodle + Comics Workshop will have you quickly filling panels with narration and imagery that will let your imagination come to life!



In the Collaboratory



Registration Required

Unless otherwise noted, registration is required and is 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 wait list. 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.

July Lottery Link: walpublib.org/JulyLottery2024

Mandala Rock
MONDAY, JULY 1ST | 6:30-8:30PM
OR TUESDAY, JULY 2ND | 2:30-4:30PM — Learn the art of mandala dotting on a smooth cut stone.

DIY Soaps
TUESDAY, JULY 9TH | 7-8:30PM OR
THURSDAY, JULY 11TH | 3-4:30PM
— Learn the basics of soap making to create either a lavender or vanilla oatmeal scented bar soap.



Laser Cut Jackalope Wall Hanging
TUESDAY, JULY 16TH | 7-8:30PM OR
THURSDAY, JULY 18TH | 3-4:30PM
— The majestic Jackalope roams the deserts of the American West. Bring this icon of the frontier into your own home with a layered wooden Jackalope laser cut wall hanging!

Mothman Plush
TUESDAY, JULY 23RD | 7-8:30PM OR
THURSDAY, JULY 25TH | 3-4:30PM
— Use one of the Collaboratory's sewing machines to sew a plush Mothman.

**Herbal Aperitifs:
A Summer Mocktail
Workshop**
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH | 6:30-8:30PM | ADULTS | REGISTRATION REQUIRED | COLLINS ROOM

— Join folk herbalist **Hilarie Elaine** for a delicious and refreshing evening of herbal beverages! You will learn to make your own herbal mocktails at home using special herbal tinctures. Herbal mocktails are a great alternative to alcoholic beverages for those who are looking to support their health and reduce their toxic burden overall. Attendees will be able to craft drinks to target their specific needs using delicious organic juices!



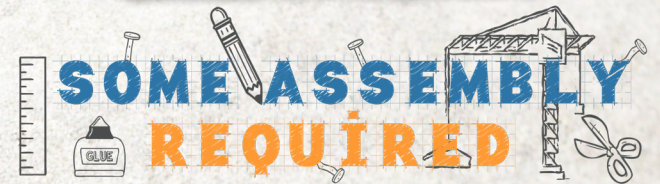
Pet Ghost
TUESDAY, JULY 30TH | 7-8:30PM OR
THURSDAY, AUG 1ST | 3-4:30PM
— If you think about it, ghosts make perfect pets. They take up no room, need no food, you don't have to clean up after them, and they are always around! The ghosts we will be making can float or stand on their own so they can haunt any space in your home.



EERIE ENCOUNTERS

Summer at the LIBRARY

for Makers
in Grades 6-12 & Adults



Program Details:

Are you creative? If so, Some Assembly Required is for you! Some Assembly Required is the Collaboratory's annual summer maker contest, with great prizes and cool categories for all sorts of artists, makers, and crafters. We are very excited to announce that the contest is now open to middle schoolers, as well as high schoolers and adults! Categories include: Art, Best Cryptid, Best Looking Food, B&W Photography, Color Photography, DIY, Textile Arts, Upcycling, and Videography. Submissions will be made by email and will be collected July 1st through July 27th. Voting will take place August 1st-17th, and winners will be announced on August 19th. The best of each category gets a \$25 gift card to the Wallingford business of their choice, and the best overall entry gets an additional \$100 gift card! For more info, check out the Some Assembly Required page in the Collaboratory section of the web site.



Open Sew
TUESDAY, JULY 2ND | 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 6:00pm to 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!

Talking TED
THURSDAY, JULY 11TH | 7-8PM
ADULTS | ZOOM | [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

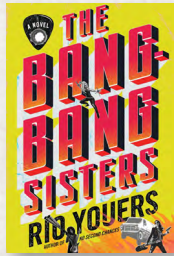
— Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event. In July, we will watch and discuss Kathryn Schulz's "On Being Wrong."

Most of us will do anything to avoid being wrong. But what if we're wrong about that? "Wrongologist" Kathryn Schulz makes a compelling case for not just admitting but embracing our fallibility.

New in Novels by Cindy Haiken

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

In her classic novel *The House of Mirth*, Edith Wharton conjures up a 4th of July fireworks celebration in lyrical prose: "Overhead hung a summer sky furrowed with the rush of rockets; and from the east a late moon, pushing up beyond the lofty bend of the coast, sent across the bay a shaft of brightness which paled to ashes in the red glitter of the illuminated boats." The Independence Day holiday seems always to signify the start of the core part of summer, as schools are out, summer camps (and library summer reading programs) have started and the hot weather has settled in to stay for a while. And publishing houses know this, as they save some of the best books of the summer reading season to release in July. Here is a sampling of upcoming fiction releases to bring to the beach or on vacation or to read on your porch or in front of your air-conditioner:

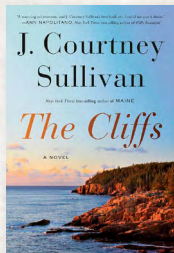


The Bang-Bang Sisters by Rio Youers — When they are off stage, the female members of a hit rock band are highly-skilled vigilantes.

Black Bird Oracle by Deborah Harkness — In this fifth novel in the bestselling *All Souls* series, the magic of Diana and Matthew's seven-year-old twins is tested.

The Briar Club by Kate Quinn — During the McCarthy era, the Briarwood House shelters an enigmatic widow who soon starts hosting a salon comprised of fellow boarders.

The Bright Sword by Lev Grossman — A gifted young knight arrives in Camelot to compete for a spot at the Round Table, only to discover that King Arthur has died and the only knights left are a band of misfits.



The Cliffs by J. Courtney Sullivan — The new owners of a seaside house hire its former resident to investigate whether the house is haunted.

The Days I Loved You Most by Amy Neff — When the wife of a couple who have been together for 60 years receives a terminal diagnosis, they decide to end their lives together at the beach house where they first met.

Evenings & Weekends by Oisín McKenna — During a heatwave in 2019 London, a whale is stuck in the Thames and four acquaintances cross paths at a life-changing party.

The God of the Woods by Liz Moore — A 13-year-old vanishes from the Adirondack summer camp that her family owns 14 years after her older brother disappeared from the same camp.

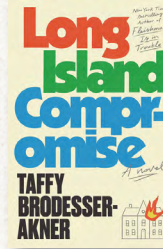


The Heart in Winter by Kevin Barry — After an immigrant Irish worker falls for the wrong woman in a Montana mining town, the young lovers run away together with a posse of gunmen in pursuit.

The Horse by Willy Vlautin — A man living on an isolated mining claim in Nevada is struggling with insomnia and anxiety when a horse appears.

Liars by Sara Manguso — An aspiring writer marries a filmmaker and becomes a wife and mother, but as her career thrives, the marriage falters.

Like Mother, Like Daughter by Kimberly McCreight — When an NYU undergrad arrives late for dinner at her childhood home in Brooklyn, she finds food burning in the oven and no sign of her mother.

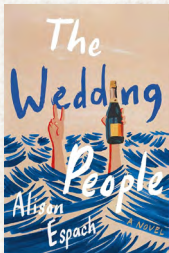


Long Island Compromise by Taffy Brodesser-Akner — 40 years after a wealthy businessman is held for ransom, no one in his family has yet to recover from the kidnapping.

My Favorite Mistake by Marian Keyes — A woman in the throes of a midlife crisis gives up on her seemingly happy life in NYC and returns to her hometown in Ireland to work in PR for a high-end coastal retreat.

A Novel Summer by Jamie Brenner — A woman writes a best seller that draws from real life and gets the cold shoulder from her friends and neighbors.

Slow Dance by Rainbow Rowell — Two best friends try to figure out what their relationship is, where it went wrong and how finally to make it right.



The Wedding People by Alison Espach — A woman arrives at a grand hotel in Newport to fulfill a dream trip and discovers that the inn has been taken over for a wedding.

Welcome to Glorious Tuga by Francesca Segal — A London veterinarian studying endangered tortoises on a remote island in the South Atlantic Ocean is asked to stay on as the local vet.

Also of note this month are the 2nd Jane Smith thriller by James Patterson (*Hard to Kill*), the 7th Sparks & Bainbridge mystery by Allison Montclair (*Murder at the White Palace*), the 15th Isabel Dalhousie novel by Alexander McCall Smith (*The Conditions of Unconditional Love*), the 16th Kate Burkholder thriller by Linda Castillo (*The Burning*), the 24th Gabriel Allon thriller by Daniel Silva (*A Death in Cornwall*), the 33rd installment in the Guido Brunetti series by Donna Leon (*A Refiner's Fire*) and new novels by Shari Lapena (*What Have You Done?*) and James Patterson (*Confessions of the Dead*).

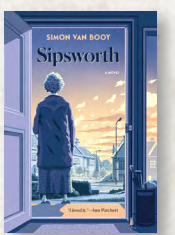
Thursday Night Book Club: Kitchens of the Great Midwest



by J. Ryan Stradal
THURSDAY, JULY 18TH | 6:30-8PM
COLLINS ROOM AND ZOOM
Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Eva Thorvald is a baby when her mother leaves and then her father dies. But despite never really knowing her chef father and sommelier mother, Eva discovers that cooking is in her blood. She navigates a tumultuous childhood to become one of the top chefs in the country, running an ultrahip pop-up supper club with a years-long waiting list. Telling Eva's story through the eyes of her father, her boyfriend, a rival, a cousin and many others, Stradal's debut novel intertwines food and family and includes recipes! For details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org.

Dear Cindy, I'm in desperate need of some great summer reads. HELP! —*Summer Readin', Had Me a Blast*
Dear Summer Readin', You're in luck! Here are three terrific reads, hot off the presses! —Cindy

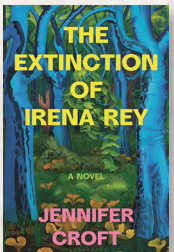


LOST IN THE WORDS by Chris Ciemniowski

Part II of III: Mycelium Mediators

Listening suggestion: **Through the Trees** by Phantom Planet

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



The Extinction of Irena Rey was written by Jennifer Croft partly in response to the time she spent translating Olga Tokarczuk's Polish language novel *Flights* into English. In *The Extinction of Irena Rey* a group of translators representing various languages and countries meet for a retreat with fictional Polish author Irena Rey on the border of primeval Białowieża Forest to translate the author's most recent work. (You can look up how to pronounce

the forest's name online. However Croft's opening "Note from the Translator" offers a more poetic breakdown of the word's phonetics than any online source or AI will be able to provide.) In a fashion similar to a comedic murder mystery like *Clue*, Rey goes missing, leaving the group of international translators to figure out where she might have gone and what they are supposed to do in the meantime. The work is highly metaphorical, equating the translators to the vast network of fungal mycelium beneath the forest which conveys information between trees, translating the language of one tree to another, and sharing resources among them all so that ultimately the forest as a whole is able to thrive. Białowieża is one of the oldest forests on the planet and has miraculously survived Poland's countless border changes and invasions. Despite these many border rearrangements and power grabs, the native peoples who occupy the area that is Poland have also been able to maintain their own cultural identity and language over the centuries even as other languages and cultures rose to monolithic proportions around them. According to Slavic mythology, Białowieża is the supposed home of primordial forest entities known as Leshy and also holds the largest population of the near-extinct European bison, like real-life cryptids that few will ever see. *The Extinction of Irena Rey* reveals the cryptids hidden within the words and grammar of languages, visible only to those who are most well-versed in them. In comparing languages to the forest, Croft demonstrates that the work of translating is not a technical process, but an organic and artistic one.

The Extinction of Irena Rey also provides allegorical insights into the way the publishing world treats translators—for instance what freedoms they are given in providing footnotes or introductions or even the credit they receive for translating a work. After reading *Irena Rey* I became interested in reading other translated works, paying attention to how much of an influence the translator had on the reader's experience of the work.

Last Summer in the City by Gianfranco Calligaris (translated by Howard Curtis) is a short novel for anyone who has ever fallen in love with the "Eternal City." As discussed in its foreword, the work itself is considered a rediscovered classic. It was originally written in 1971, but had a limited printing. It was circulated widely through literary circles for its beautiful imagery, and the



limited copies available were highly sought after before nearly being lost to obscurity. It wasn't until 2015, after its translation into English, that the book began to receive wider recognition. It is a simple but elegant story (the *bella figura* of books) of a 30-year-old man who leaves his home of Milan for the city of Rome in order to make his mark on the world. During his stay he falls in love for the first time with a woman (who seems to be the personification of the city itself) and then falls out of love with her, forcing him to contemplate the purpose of a life without either love or impact.

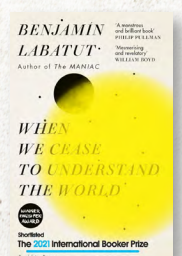


Similarly, Haruki Murakami's *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage* (translated by Philip Gabriel) tells the story of a man who had a falling out with his close group of friends during his youth and later goes on a locomotive odyssey to discover the reason why. Like many of Murakami's books, the protagonist discovers that life is not a story and that dwelling on the past or trying to anticipate the future is a fruitless effort which detracts from the present moment.



After having previously read three of Albert Camus' works (and despite things working best in threes) it was the fourth book of his that I read that was most difficult to extrapolate meaning from. *The Fall* (translated by Justin O'Brien) puts the reader into the story as the object of the subject's predication. In other words, the entire book is a conversation that the narrator is having with the reader within the story. Ultimately it is a postulation about how the rules of law (and the rules of grammar for that matter) are made by those in positions of authority. It

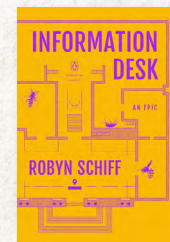
encourages readers to keep in mind the motives of those making the rules as well as our own motives for everything we think. It's a self-evaluation of all of the speaker's deeds and what wisdom he has gleaned from each. Ultimately he concludes that no life can be lived without moral flaws.



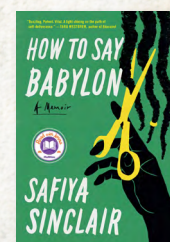
When We Cease to Understand the World by Chilean author Benjamin Labatut (translated by Adrian Nathan West) examines the lives and discoveries of prolific scientists as they reach the knowable terminus of their various fields of study. The book ponders what happens to brilliant minds when there is no way to progress further in their field due to the limitations of human observation and language. There are frequent mentions of Albert Einstein trying to make sense of black holes up until his death, but other scientists like Werner Heisenberg were not so lucky when standing on the precipice of the void. The book has a unique structure that reads like a collection of three short stories followed by a novella and a digestif. As one Goodreads reviewer remarks "it explores the scientific discoveries that make the world more explainable, but less comprehensible." When we reach the end of science we are only left with each other. No person is a forest.



The Employees by Olga Ravn (translated by Martin Aitken) is formatted as a series of employee "statements" for an oversight committee of a large corporation investigating the death of an employee. The statements are given from both human and "humanoid" employees, although it is never clear to the reader who is giving each statement. Like the AI companion in *I'm Your Man*, only a handful of statements can be inferred to be from the AI employees due to their interesting interpretations of human language. Otherwise, Ravn unnervingly blurs the line between human and AI thought processes; forcing readers to consider the common good over the individual. However, because of barriers in communication, the individual employees are not afforded the perspective of seeing the forest from the trees.



With *Information Desk*, Robyn Schiff has crafted a poem as *branching* as a tree. While not a translated work (it was written by Schiff in English) it is nevertheless written in a language of metaphor, demanding that the readers translate the work themselves. In this "epic" poem Schiff takes readers on a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art with attention to the often emotional and violent energies behind the creation of the various artwork on display. In three interludes she equates artists with different species of wasps, each of which demonstrates the repugnant instincts each uses to survive during the process of creation. Just like how *Irena Rey* proves that language is an organic and deliberate process, *Information Desk* exemplifies that only humans can make true art because art is emotion given form.



Sometimes there are words that are not translatable to cultures outside of their own wordsmiths. Safiya Sinclair's *How to Say Babylon* deals with how to translate the Rastafarian concept of *Babylon* which could refer to colonizers, empires, oppressors, enslavers, Western culture in general, or all of the above. The word is taken from the name of the Babylonian Empire which, according to numerous cultural narratives, built the Tower of Babel, the construction of which, according to tradition, led to the sundering of the world's languages. While grappling with the term *Babylon*, the memoir also serves as a way for the author to describe how she learned to define herself once she moved to the United States after escaping an oppressive patriarchal upbringing in Jamaica. Sometimes it takes an entire book to define a single word.

Language is a tool to help convey individual experiences. But differences in language can also be barriers to sharing those experiences. Language isn't a tower to be ascended, but a forest to get lost in—an *organic thing* that necessitates human mediators and connections to fulfill its promise of communication and collaboration.