

May
2025

Words

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

**May This Be Your Monthly Guide;
Find Heritage, Health, and Hills inside.**

Dolls of East Asia: A Journey Through Time and Culture



Wednesday, May 21st | 7-8pm
Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

Join us for a unique celebration of **Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month**! Everyone has a culture, whether it's through recipes, traditions, costumes, or heirlooms passed from one generation to the next. **P.E.A.C.E. (Powerful Experiences for Art & Cultural Exchange, Inc.)** will lead an interactive presentation on Eastern cultures through its collection of authentic Asian dolls, which will be featured in the library's display cases throughout May. Each doll is from a different Asian nation and represents its unique history of dance, dress, food, and craft. They also serve as a window into women's lives and the roles they play in their respective societies. This talk will foster a deeper understanding of the rich tapestry of traditions that make up our world.

Screened Out

A Documentary & Discussion

Wednesday, May 7th | 6:30-8:15pm
Community Room | [Register](#)

Join us to watch & discuss the 2020 documentary ***Screened Out!*** In this timely feature, filmmaker Jon Hyatt explores all of the ways we are addicted to our screens and the impact this has on our lives. From smartphones, portable tablets and social media, the tech industry has designed these fun immersive technologies for global consumers, but are they good for us? Are we too dependent on our devices? What keeps us hooked? How is it impacting our children? Giselle Function, a clinical nurse and certified ScreenStrong Ambassador, will facilitate a post-screening discussion with the audience. The first 50 people to arrive will receive a free copy of the 2024 bestseller ***The Anxious Generation*** by Jonathan Haidt to take home with them!



**WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted

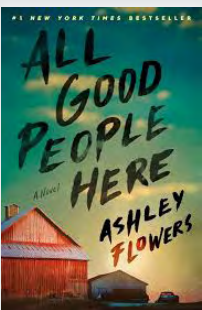
Words, a publication of the Wallingford Public Library, is sent electronically to members of the Wallingford Public Library Association. View the current issue in color on our website: walpublib.org/newsletter. **Words** is edited by Publicity and Public Services Librarian Christopher Ciemniewski from contributions by library staff members.

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

The Wallingford Public Library relies on member contributions in addition to funding it receives from the Town of Wallingford. We hope you will support the Library by becoming a member of the Wallingford Public Library Association. Your support helps ensure that the Library will continue to be a dynamic hub that serves and inspires individuals and families throughout our community. To join the Wallingford Public Library Association, visit our website or request a membership envelope at the Library. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we are also eligible to accept a bequest from your estate plan.

Become a member: walpublib.org/BecomeAMember

Staff Picks



Kayleigh
All Good People Here
by Ashley Flowers



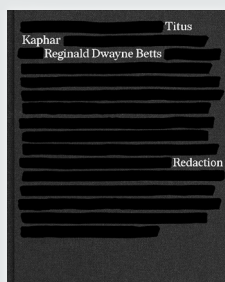
Janet
Sunrise on the Reaping
(audiobook)
by Suzanne Collins



Dune
Belly of the Beast
by Da'Shaun L. Harrison



Michelle
The One
by John Marrs



Chris
Redaction
by Titus Kaphar &
Reginald Dwayne Betts



Kari
Super Mario 3D World
from Nintendo

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View this newsletter online!

Support Wallingford **TABLE**

The Great Give is a 36-hour, online, community-wide giving event that begins at 8am on May 7th. **Advance donations can be made beginning on May 2nd at 8am.** All donations are eligible to be matched by NewAlliance Foundation.



This year the Wallingford Public Library is raising money for The Wallingford Table. The mission of The Wallingford Table is to foster intentional dialogue among the diverse communities of Wallingford through culinary experiences. For more information and to donate, visit walpublib.org/GreatGive.



Then... join us for our next Wallingford Table Event on May 17th: **A Dragon Boat Festival!** More information on Page 9.

Virtual Author Visits

Our partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium is funded by The Book Seller.

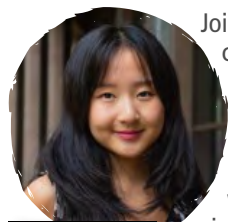
Thank you for your continued support of our used book store!

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

Liann Zhang

**On Writing a Brilliant, Dark
and Diabolical Thriller**

Wednesday, May 14th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



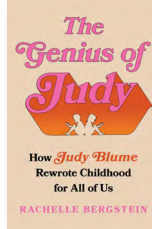
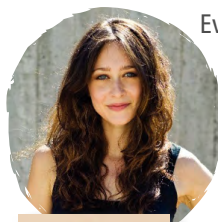
Join us for a conversation with **Liann Zhang** as she chats with us about her debut thriller *Julie Chan is Dead*. Julie Chan has nothing. Her twin sister has everything. Except a pulse. Julie Chan, a supermarket cashier with nothing to lose finds herself thrust into the glamorous yet perilous world of her late twin sister, Chloe, a popular influencer. Separated at a young age, the identical twins were polar opposites and rarely spoke, except for one viral video that Chloe initiated. When Julie discovers Chloe's lifeless body under mysterious circumstances, she seizes the chance to live the life she's always envied. But Julie soon realizes that Chloe's seemingly picture-perfect life was anything but perfect. As events spiral out of control, Julie uncovers the sinister forces that may have led to her sister's demise and realizes she might be the next target.

Liann Zhang is a second-generation Chinese Canadian who splits her time between Vancouver and Toronto. After a short stint as a skincare content creator, she graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in psychology and criminology. *Julie Chan Is Dead* is her first novel.

Rachelle Bergstein

**How Judy Blume Rewrote
Childhood for All of Us**

Wednesday, May 21st | 2-3 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



Everyone knows Judy Blume. Her books have sold tens of millions of copies over the decades. But why were people so drawn to them? And why are we still talking about them in the 21st century? In *The Genius of Judy*, Blume's story is revealed as never before, beginning when she was a young mother of two searching for purpose outside of her home in 1960s suburban New Jersey. The books she wrote featured regular children with genuine thoughts and problems. But behind those deceptively simple tales, Blume explored the pillars of the growing women's rights movement, in which girls and women were entitled to careers, bodily autonomy, fulfilling relationships and even sexual pleasure. Blume wasn't trying to be a revolutionary—she just wanted to tell honest stories—but in doing so, she created a culture-altering vision of modern adolescence. Blume's bravery provoked backlash, making her the country's most-banned author in the mid-1980s. This is the story of how a housewife became a groundbreaking artist, and how generations of empowered fans are her legacy.

Rachelle Bergstein is a lifestyle writer, author and editor whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*. She is the author of three books: *Women from the Ankle Down*, *Brilliance and Fire*, and *The Genius of Judy*. She lives with her husband and son in Brooklyn.

tech Training



Everything is going online—the bank, the pharmacy, the DMV. So you need to be online, but maybe you never had the chance to learn how. You may have even tried to teach yourself, but that can be overwhelming and confusing. The library can help! **Tech Connect** is a free service staffed by **digital navigators** who will teach you what YOU want to do on your devices. Our digital navigators will develop a customized plan to help you successfully connect to the online world. This includes one-on-one training as well as assistance in signing up for low-cost home Internet as well as a long-term loan of your very own computer. **Call us at (203) 626-4774 to meet with a digital navigator.**

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



Dear IT: Backing Up Your Computer

Saturday, May 10th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Board Room | [Register](#)

Connor will talk about the importance of backing up your most important files and documents on your computer, and then will demonstrate how to backup this data on your Windows PC or Mac. Topics in this class will include:

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

Please bring your fully charged Windows PC or Mac to the class and make sure the device has been updated to the latest software. You may also optionally bring an external hard drive to follow along the process for setting up your backup. Bringing an external hard drive is not required to participate in this class, but is encouraged in order to follow along. You may choose to bring a USB flash drive, but please note you may run into compatibility issues on certain platforms.



Dear IT: Tech Jeopardy

Thursday, May 22nd | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Board Room | [Register](#)

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

How It Works:

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

Introduction to Canva

**Monday, May 5th OR Saturday, May 17th | 2-3:30pm
Adults | Collaboratory | [Register Mon](#) | [Register Sat](#)**

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.

Podcasting and You!

**Saturday, May 10th OR Monday, May 19th | 2-3:30pm
Adults | Collins Room | [Register Sat](#) | [Register Mon](#)**

It seems like everyone has a podcast these days...why not you? Learn different techniques to record your own podcast and upload it online! We will discuss what equipment and software to use, what the Library offers to support podcasters, and how to host your podcast online.

From the
B.S.
Borrower Services
Department

Cardholder Perks for Crocheters



The other day, I saw the cutest little critter! (No, it wasn't the kind that you'd see scurrying through your backyard.) What I actually saw was a handmade, crocheted animal with a cute little face, and I just knew I had to try to make one for myself. I did wonder if I *could*, because the last afghan I attempted to crochet ended up in the shape of a triangle!

I gave away my crochet hooks and yarn a long time ago. Because I didn't want to purchase those items again, I borrowed the library's **Crochet Kit**, which contained 14 different sized crochet hooks and an instruction booklet. Plus, there was free yarn available in the **Collaboratory**! I was all set to try crocheting. Again. I had to remind myself, it usually takes more than one attempt to become proficient at something.

With my kit in hand, I asked one of the friendly librarians at the Information Desk where I could find books on how to crochet *amigurumi*, a Japanese word for a small crocheted doll. They pointed me to **746.434 in the Nonfiction** section. After browsing through a few books, I found the perfect pattern for my little creature.

Initially, what I saw in my borrowed book seemed a little too advanced for me, so I found some beginner books on crocheting which explained the basics. The library had plenty of books, but since I'm really a visual learner, I was pleased to learn that I could also view a **streaming** TV series called *Craftsy* (available on **Hoopla**) with an expert guide who demonstrated various crochet techniques. All of these resources helped me get ready to make my *amigurumi* animal.

I am still working on my amigurumi and am making great progress. When it's done, I can move on to all the other crocheting projects I've always wanted to do. I've gotten some great ideas from the library's collection of both printed **magazines** and **e-magazines** which I borrowed through my **Libby app**.

And who knows, I might even try knitting! There's a **starter kit** for that too, plus **books**, **DVDs** and **videos** on **UniversalClass**. I plan to check out the knitting group that meets at the library – I hear that it's a fun crowd!

Kaleb goes on a crocheting adventure and meets lots of cute critters along the way!

walpublib.org/forCrocheters



FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS



A Complete Unknown

Friday, May 2nd | 6-8:30pm | Adults Drop in | Community Room | Rated R

A young Bob Dylan shakes up the folk music scene when he plugs in his electric guitar at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965.



Children & Families

School-Aged Programs

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.

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

Homeschool Meetup

Friday, May 9th | 10am-12pm | All ages

Wonder Room | [Register](#)

Looking to connect with other homeschooling families? Stop by the library on the second Friday of every month to chat, share ideas, and network with other homeschoolers. This is not a librarian led program, but passive activities will be available to keep kids busy while parents and caregivers talk.

Music Fun with Terri Lachance

Saturday, May 10th | 10:30am-11am | Ages 2-8

Community Room | [Register](#)

Dance and sing along with musician **Terri Lachance**. A retired teacher, Terri sings original and traditional songs with a twist.

LEGO Club

Saturday, May 10th | 2-3pm | Grades K-5

Wonder Room | [Register](#)

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

Nature Walk at Fresh Meadows

Wednesday, May 14th | 4:30-6pm | Grades 1-5 | Fresh Meadows Trail | [Register](#)

Join us for another exciting nature walk at **The Wallingford Land Trust's Fresh Meadows Trail**! We will explore this amazing outdoor trail together and learn about some of the natural phenomena that can be found there. Bring hiking boots and clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty! An adult must attend the walk. Younger and older siblings are also welcome to attend.

Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, May 27th | 4-7pm | Grades 4-8

Wonder Room | [Register](#)

Calling all trading card sharks! If you have the urge to battle, come bring your Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, and Magic the Gathering cards down to the library to test your skills and compete for prizes. Premade decks can be provided by the library but bringing your own is encouraged. This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like an email reminder.



Preschool Programs

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.

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

Toddler Yoga

Friday, May 2nd | 11-11:30am | Ages 2-4

Wonder Room | [Register](#)

Marie Vitucci of Mindful Energy Yoga will introduce children to Yoga using movement, music, stories, and props. Please bring a yoga mat if you already have one, but it is not required.

Silly Story Time

Saturday, May 3rd | 10:30-11am | Ages 0-5

Children's Program Room | [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 program, but register if you would like an email reminder.

Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, May 20th | 9:30am OR 1:30pm

Ages 3-5 | Marcus Cooke Park

[Register for 9:30am](#) | [Register for 1:30pm](#)

Take a walk through nature and listen to a story! Join retired kindergarten teacher, **Mrs. Stowe**, to find hidden pages from a book along a trail through the woods and learn about nature along the way. Meet under the pavilion at Marcus Cooke Park in Wallingford.

Bilingual Homework Help

Bilingual Homework Help

Mondays & Wednesdays | Grades K-5 | 4-8pm

Children's Room | Drop-in

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

Ayuda Bilingue con las Tareas

Lunes y Miércoles | 4-8pm | Grados K-5

Área de los Niños | No necesita cita

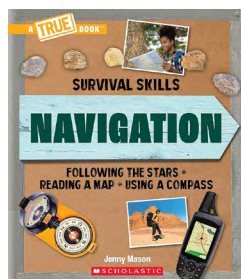
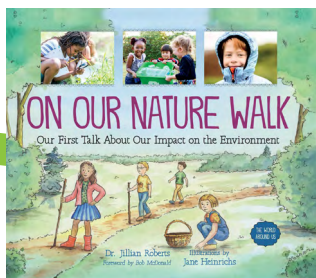
La Biblioteca Pública de Wallingford ofrece Ayuda GRATIS con las Tareas, pueden venir a cualquier hora entre las 4 y las 8! Ayuda con las Tareas en Español e Inglés y sigue el calendario escolar. El Programa no se ofrece los días que las escuela públicas están cerradas.

Hike The Children's Department!

Warm weather arrives soon! Start planning your outdoor adventures with these library books and services! Click on any of the images to find them in the catalog.



Hiking backpacks contain everything you'll need for a walk in the woods, from trail maps to field guides. They even have first aid kits, just in case! Check one out next time you plan on going on a hike.



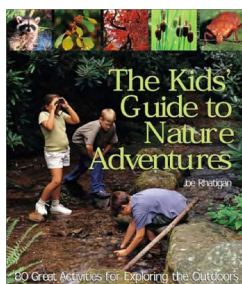
Hiking GPS is a durable device that uses satellite tracking to show your constant location, helping you create a fun hiking adventure without the worry of getting lost.



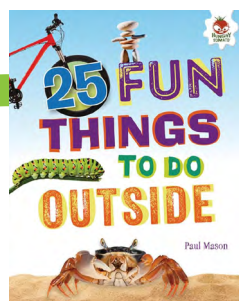
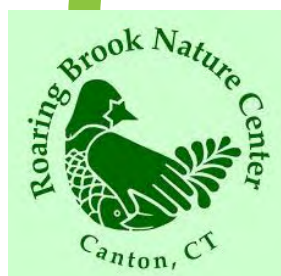
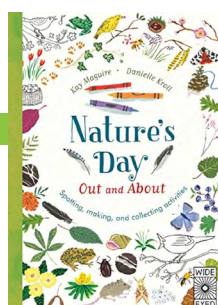
CT State Parks Discount Pass offers free admission to Dinosaur State Park, Gillette Castle, and Fort Trumbull for 2 adults and 4 children ages 12 and under.



Hungerford Nature Center has 22 acres of forested habitat with walking trails and is home to over 50 live domestic, native, exotic, and farm animals.



Visit The Nature Corner to see isopods, millipedes, and springtails in the bug tank or stop by in the summer when we raise tadpoles into frogs!



Roaring Brook Nature Center features indoor walk-through dioramas that highlight different landscapes and wildlife biomes as well as a collection of small wild animals, gardens, and five miles of trails.

Wallingford Land Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of natural habitats and areas of scenic beauty in Wallingford, Connecticut with 15 properties, covering over 275 acres for you to walk, hike, snowshoe, photograph, and connect with nature.



Adult Events

Happenings



Patriotism and Protest: Famous American Songs and Their Legacies

Tuesdays, May 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th | 3-4:30pm | Collins Room | [Register](#)

"I Hear American Singing, / the varied carols I hear" are the opening lines of Walt Whitman's 1860 version of his monumental poem "Leaves of Grass." In the poem, Whitman proceeds to catalogue the wonderfully various "voices" he hears in his native land. In this course, we will consider some of our canonical American voices and songs and their complex and often contradictory messages and legacies. Songs to be considered include: "Yankee Doodle," "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Dixie," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "John Henry," "Strange Fruit," "This Land is Your Land," and "Blowin' in the Wind." Attendants are encouraged to read/listen to these songs in advance, but no prior exposure to them is required. This poetry series will be led by **Cyrus Cook**, a Wallingford resident and retired English instructor at Choate Rosemary Hall. By signing up for the first class, you will sign up for all of the classes in the series, but you do not need to attend every class.



Writing for Wellness: Discovering your Story with Julia Nadolny

Tuesday, May 13th | 6:30-8pm | Community Room | [Register](#)

Discover the transformative power of your story in this immersive writing workshop led by wellness educator **Julia Nadolny**. Through guided exercises and thoughtful prompts, you'll explore your personal experiences, uncover new insights, and embark on a journey of self-discovery and healing. Together, you will create a supportive and inspiring space for meaningful reflection and creative expression. Whether you're a seasoned writer or completely new to writing, this workshop welcomes everyone ready to connect with their inner voice and find clarity. Come as you are—your story is waiting to be heard.



Sound Healing with Julia Nadolny

Tuesday, May 20th | 6:30-8pm | Community Room | [Register](#)

Join us for a session of relaxation and re-centering! Sound healing is an ancient practice that helps to relax your body and your mind. **Julia Nadolny**, a certified practitioner of sound healing and reiki, will play her quartz crystal singing bowls to help you realign and heal your energy systems. This program is a great relief from the day-to-day stress of modern life. Please be sure to bring a yoga mat or something to lay on for the program, as this will be the most comfortable way to enjoy it. You may also bring a blanket and pillow if you prefer.



The History of Sleeping Giant State Park

Wednesday, May 28th | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

In 2024, Sleeping Giant State Park turned 100 years old! Creating the park was not easy or quick. This is a dynamic story of early 20th-century conflicting priorities and hard-reached resolutions: destructive commercial interests, the public's passion for preservation, and thorny legal battles. The cast includes Mt. Carmel businessmen, Yale scholars, captains of industry, and the Park Association's founding members whose love for the Giant ultimately prevailed. This talk will follow twenty-five years of fascinating twists and turns that culminated in the beautiful park we love today. The presentation will be led by **Trina Learned**, Chair of the **City of New Haven's Historic District Commission** & Board Member of the **Sleeping Giant Park Association**.



Gatherings

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

French Conversation Group

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

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

Spanish Conversation Group

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

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

Coffee & Connections

Fridays | 11am-12noon | Collins Room

Stop by for a warm drink and some conversation, hosted by **Linda Reilly-Blue (LRB)** a former radio host and producer, passionate birth doula, parent educator, and reiki practitioner. With degrees in Counseling, Psychology, and Human Service Administration, LRB's professional and personal experiences blend to create a holistic approach to supporting others.

Wallingford Ukulele Club

Monday, May 5th | 10-11:30am

Wednesday, May 14th & Tuesday, May 27th

6:30-8pm | Collins Room

Join our Wallingford Ukulele Club to practice and play with other uke enthusiasts! Participants may bring their own ukuleles or borrow one at meetings. Every session starts with a few easy warm-ups for beginners, followed by songs at the intermediate level. You are welcome to attend any and all sessions to observe, sing along and strum as you are able!

Knit @ WPL

Mondays, May 5th & 19th | 6-7:30pm | Board Room

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

WPL Play Readers

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

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

Saturday Mornings with Poetry

Saturdays, May 10th & 31st | 9:45am - 12noon | Collins Room

SMWP provides poetic opportunities for anyone to share their poetry, discuss the literary works of poets known and unknown, and expand skills in writing and editing poems in the shared camaraderie of comfortable, supportive members. To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Karen Ciosek at kjc73048@gmail.com.

ASL Conversation Group

Wednesday, May 21st | 7-8pm | Collins Room

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

International Movie Night:

Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom

Friday, May 9th | 6-8pm | Community Room | PG
No registration required



Join us on the second Friday of each month to enjoy a fascinating film from another country! Our May 9th feature will be the 2021 Bhutanese comedy-drama **Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom**. This heartwarming tale follows a young teacher who, despite his dreams of becoming an Australian pop singer, is transferred to the most remote school in the world, cut off from modern life deep in the Himalayan glaciers. In a classroom with no electricity or even a blackboard, he finds himself with a yak for company and a song that echoes through the mountains. Slowly, he is transformed by both the struggles and the spiritual strength of the villagers and their children. The first Bhutanese Oscar nominee for Best International Feature, this simple story imparts universal truths about life & love.

Tap & Trivia

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

Registration preferred

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

Wallingford TABLE

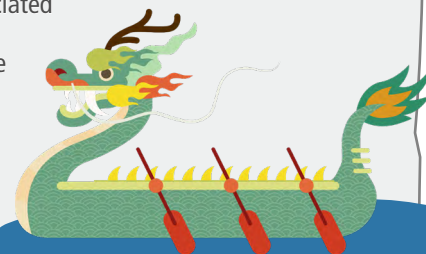


A Dragon Boat Festival!

Saturday, May 17th | 1-2pm

Community Room | [Register](#)

The Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional Chinese holiday held on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar. It occurs in late spring and is celebrated by holding dragon boat races and eating sticky rice dumplings, activities that grant participants relief from the seasonal heat and good luck for the coming year. At our next Wallingford Table event, the Chinese American Heritage Association (CAHA) of Fairfield County will lead a special presentation on this unique & lively festival while guests enjoy delicious refreshments associated with the holiday. After the presentation, a local Chinese dance troupe will lead a performance of traditional dances as part of the Dragon Boat ceremony!





For Readers

Book Clubs

Mystery Book Club

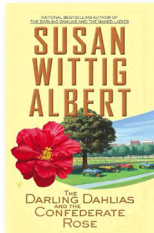
The Darling Dahlias and the Confederate Rose by Susan Wittig Albert

Wednesday, May 7th | 3-4:15 pm | Community Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

Set in 1931, Albert's third Darling Dahlias mystery finds the Darling Dahlias Garden Club planning a rose planting in honor of Confederate Day. After a member is accused of stealing from the county treasury, the club president tries to clear her name, while their resident historian helps the town librarian unravel the strange code stitched into the inside of a pillow passed down in her family.

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



Thursday Night Book Club

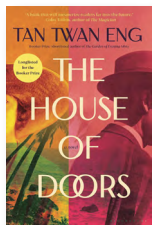
House of Doors by Tan Twan Eng

Thursday, May 15th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

In 1921, the writer W. Somerset Maugham spends six months in Penang, Malaysia, vacationing with his secretary and lover, Gerald Haxton. Maugham is the guest of the British lawyer Robert Hamlyn and his wife Lesley. Although she initially finds Maugham vulgar, Lesley slowly warms to him and shares a few of her secrets, which later make their way into his book *The Casuarina Tree*. Tan Twan Eng's atmospheric historical novel was longlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize for Fiction.

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



Truth be Told Nonfiction Book Club

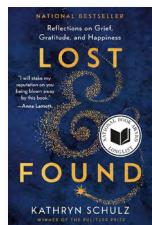
Lost & Found: Reflections on Grief, Gratitude and Happiness by Kathryn Schulz

Thursday May 29th | 7-8:30pm | Collins Room and Zoom

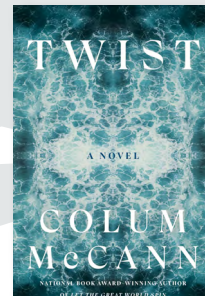
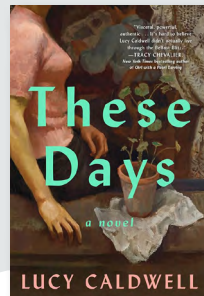
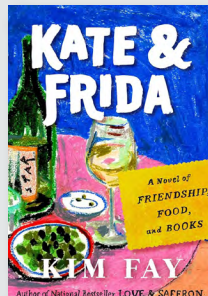
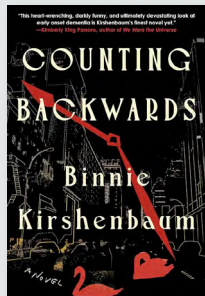
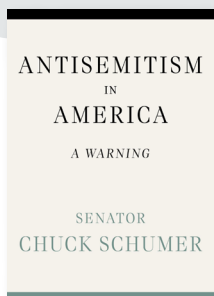
Discussion moderated by Educator Susan Gomes

Schulz, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, writes with eloquence, tenderness and honesty in a meditation on loss and grief that is also a celebration of joy, wonder and the miracle of love. Alison Bechdel said that the book is "an unfolding astonishment to read."

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



Cindy's Picks





Novelty

What's new in novels
from Cindy Haiken



In her great novel *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Brontë wrote "Spring drew on... and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which, freshening daily, suggested the thought that Hope traversed them at night, and left each morning brighter traces of her steps." After the April rains, it's lovely to see green grass and budding flowers, it's also wonderful to anticipate the slew of new novels heading our way throughout the month of May. Here are some of the great new fiction titles scheduled for publication this month:

***Austen at Sea* by Natalie Jenner** — Two American sisters and a pair of rare book dealers pay a visit to Jane Austen's last surviving sibling.

***Awake in a Floating City* by Susanna Kwan** — In a flooded future San Francisco, a woman works as a caretaker for an elderly neighbor in her apartment building.



***The Book of Records* by Madeleine Thien** — A woman and her father arrive at an enclave called The Sea, a staging post between migrations, where they meet a disparate group of people.

***The Boy from the Sea* by Garrett Carr** — In Ireland in 1973, a baby boy is found on the beach of a close-knit fishing village and grows into a strange but charismatic young man.

***The Dark Maestro* by Brendan Slocumb** — After their FBI agent/drug dealer father implicates his boss, the whole family enters the Witness Protection Program.

***The Devil Three Times* by Rickey Fayne** — Eight generations of a Black family in West Tennessee are repeatedly visited by the Devil.



***Fever Beach* by Carl Hiassen** — An incompetent right-wing extremist is on an errand that leads him into the depths of greed and corruption, which is complicated by a couple of feisty adversaries.

***The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong** — A 19-year-old boy who is contemplating suicide becomes a caregiver for an elderly woman struggling with dementia.

***Heart, Be at Peace* by Donal Ryan** — 21 different people living in a small town in rural Ireland explore the forces that both divide them and bring them together.

***It's a Love Story* by Annabel Monaghan** — A woman who is a former child TV star tries to be taken seriously as a Hollywood studio executive.



***Lloyd McNeil's Last Ride* by Will Leitch** — A man learns that he has months to live and decides to die in the line of duty in order to provide for his teenage son.

***The Love Haters* by Katherine Center** — A woman pretends to be the girlfriend of one brother to line up a career-making gig profiling the other.

***Marble Hall Murders* by Anthony Horowitz** — In this third installment in the bestselling series, editor Susan Ryeland has left her Greek island, her hotel and her Greek boyfriend in search of a new life back in England.



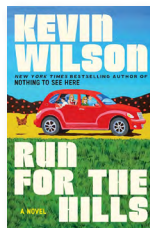
***The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club* by Martha Hall Kelly** — In 1942, the US Army arrives on Martha's Vineyard, and teenage sisters spot German U-boats lurking offshore.

***My Friends* by Fredrik Backman** — 25 years after an artist paints a picture of four teenage friends, a woman tries to find out the story behind the canvas.

***My Name Is Emilia del Valle* by Isabel Allende** — At the turn of the 20th century, a young writer travels to South America to uncover the truth about her father.

***Parents Weekend* by Alex Finlay** — Five students go missing during parent visiting weekend at a small college.

***The Retirement Plan* by Sue Hincenbergs** — Three best friends turn to murder to collect on their husbands' life insurance policies, but the husbands have a plan of their own.



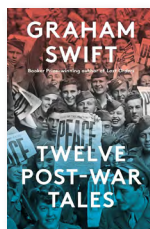
***Run for the Hills* by Kevin Wilson** — Half siblings go on a road trip in search of their father and any other relatives they can find along the way.

***Shopgirls* by Jessica Anya Blau** — In the 1980s, a young woman gets a job in San Francisco's most exclusive department store, I. Magnin.

***Sleep* by Honor Jones** — A newly-divorced young mother returns with her young children to the house where she was raised.

***Speak to Me of Home* by Jeanine Cummings** — A multigenerational story that traces the history of a Puerto Rican family that moves from the island to the Midwest and back again.

***The South* by Tash Aw** — A family inherits a farm suffering from drought and disrepair.



***Twelve Post-War Tales* by Graham Swift** — A short-story collection about lives that are shaped and haunted by war.

Also of note this month are the sequel to *Three Bags Full* by Leonie Swann (*Big Bad Wool*) and new novels by Michael Connelly (*Nightshade*), Jeffery Deaver (*South of Nowhere*), Craig Johnson (*Return to Sender*), Freida McFadden (*The Tenant*), Stephen King (*Never Flinch*), Dean Koontz (*Going Home in the Dark*), Mary Alice Monroe (*Where the Rivers Merge*), Nora Roberts (*Hidden Nature*) and Alison Weir (*The Cardinal*).



Collaboratory



Equipment Upgrades Coming Soon!



The Collaboratory will receive a new embroidery machine and a new longarm quilting machine in the coming months. Both machines (a **Babylock Array** and a **Bernina Q20**) should provide more options and easier usability. The embroidery machine will arrive in mid-April. There will be several weeks where the staff is learning how to use it and updating documentation. Once complete, we will offer training appointments for the public. A few weeks thereafter, we plan to open independent use. In late May, the longarm will arrive, and we will follow the same timeline as the embroidery machine for training and independent use. **Anyone who wishes to use the new equipment will need to attend a training session, regardless of how frequently they used our old machines. Please call us at (203) 265-6754 to schedule a training session.**

Drop-In Programs

Open Sew

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

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

Maker Office Hours

Thursdays, May 8th & 22nd | 6:30-8:30pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Drop-in | Collaboratory

Are you looking for in-depth guidance on your latest project idea? Our skilled volunteer, Andrew, will help you figure out how to use Collaboratory equipment to bring your idea to life. Stop by between 6:30-8:30pm on the 2nd or 4th Thursday of the month.



COOL Laboratory



This month in the Cool Laboratory, we demonstrate how to use our **Cricut Maker** machines and our inkjet printer to make custom stickers! The Cricut software lets you import your own images, so your stickers can be anything you want—art that you created, your business logo, etc. The stickers are water-resistant, as we have laminating sheets to protect them from the elements and even the dishwasher. It's not too tricky to set up. Check out the video and see for yourself! walpublib.org/CLCricut



Lottery Programs

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

walpublib.org/MayLottery2025

Unless otherwise noted, registration is required and programs are open to adults and teens in grades 9+. You may enter the Collaboratory program registration lottery from the 20th to the 22nd of the month prior. Participants will be selected via random drawing on the following business day. All others will be placed on the waitlist. Due to high demand, we may limit individual participants to one program per month. If there are available seats after the lottery, registration will be directly through our online calendar. Project photos can be found at walpublib.org/UpcomingCollaboratory

Hydrangea Polymer Clay Relief

Monday, May 5th | 6pm-8:30pm | Collins Room

Participants will make their own hydrangea flower relief, which can then be framed and given as a Mother's Day gift. This polymer clay workshop focuses on surface texture, form and color. Some sharp cutting tools are required.

Dungeons and Dragons Supplies

Wednesday, May 7th | 7-8:30pm OR

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

Make your own custom resin Dungeons and Dragons dice set AND a dice tower from laser cut parts.

Etched Vases

Wednesday, May 14th | 7-8:30pm OR

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

Create a design in CorelDRAW to etch onto a glass vase using the laser cutter.

Floral Tea Box

Monday, May 19th | 6:30-8:30pm OR

Tuesday, May 20th | 2:30-4:30pm

Paint a lilac sprig and butterfly on a wooden tea box. This is a great beginner project.

Sublimation Puzzle

Wednesday, May 28th | 7-8:30pm OR

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

Create your own beautiful full-color jigsaw puzzle. If there is a specific photo you want to use, please bring it on a flash drive. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

Celebrate Your Graduate with a custom Grad Banner!



HAPPY GRADUATION!

Graduate's name here
Congratulations on your graduation,
we're so proud of you!



HAPPY GRADUATION!

Graduate's name here
Congratulations on your graduation,
we're so proud of you!



The Collaboratory has partnered with the Music Parents Associations at Lyman Hall and Sheehan High Schools for a graduation banner fundraiser celebrating local students. A portion of the cost of each banner goes to the Music Parents Associations. Banners will be printed on the poster printer in the Collaboratory.

The fundraiser runs from Monday, April 7th through Saturday, May 24th. The Collaboratory will produce the banners in the order they are received. You will be contacted as soon as your banner is ready. You will pick up and pay for your banner at the library upon completion. We accept cash, checks, and credit/debit cards.

View full guidelines and place your order:

walpublib.org/GradBanner25



Talking TED @ Home

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

Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event. In May, we will watch and discuss "Why Friendship Can Be Just as Meaningful as Romantic Love" by Rhaina Cohen.

We tend to consider romantic partners and family ties to be our most important relationships, but deep friendships can be just as meaningful. In a perspective-shifting talk, author Rhaina Cohen introduces us to the people unsettling norms by choosing a friend as a life partner—and shows why we're all better off recognizing there's more than one kind of significant other.



Just for Teens

Registration Required

Needle Felted Ewok

Saturday, May 3rd | 11am-1pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Get ready for May the Fourth and felt a cute ewok or even a little droid! Needle felting is a craft that uses a barbed needle to mat together fibers, typically wool, allowing you to create a wide variety of 2D and 3D objects.

Embroidered 3D Printed Keychain

Thursday, May 8th | 3:30-4:30pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Use a 3D-printed pattern of serotonin or dopamine's chemical structure to learn some basic embroidery stitches. Once complete, you can turn it into a keychain or even a little fidget.

Teen Craft Club

Thursday, May 15th | 2:30-4:30pm | Collins Room
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Have a crafting hobby? Looking for a new one? Join us in a welcoming space to be creative and socialize at the same time! Feel free to bring along whatever project you're working on or use some of our available supplies. Register if you want a reminder and know that you can stay as long as you want- you don't have to stay the whole time.

Clay Dice Boxes

Tuesday, May 20th | 5:30-8:30pm | Collins Room
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Join clay artist Deb Jaffe to learn how to transform a metal mint tin into a customized clay-covered dice box!

Resin Stained Glass Suncatchers

Thursday, May 29th | 6-7pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Make a stained glass-style suncatcher using an acrylic template and resin! The templates will be made ahead of time on the Collaboratory's laser cutter. When you register, please choose either a butterfly or dragonfly design. Then during the program, you'll mix up resin to give them color and let sunlight shine through! Due to the time resin needs to cure, you will have to return to pick them up.



Dolls of East Asia:

A Journey Through Time and Culture

Wednesday, May 21st | 7-8pm

Community Room & Zoom | All ages | [Register](#)

Join us for a unique celebration of Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month! Everyone has a culture, whether it's through recipes, traditions, costumes, or heirlooms passed from one generation to the next. P.E.A.C.E. (Powerful Experiences for Art & Cultural Exchange, Inc.) will lead an interactive presentation on Eastern cultures through its collection of authentic Asian dolls, which will be featured in the library's display cases throughout May. Each doll is from a different Asian nation and represents its unique history of dance, dress, food, and craft. They also serve as a window into women's lives and the roles they play within their respective societies. This talk will foster a deeper understanding of the rich tapestry of traditions that make up our world.

Drop-in Events

Trading Card Battle Club

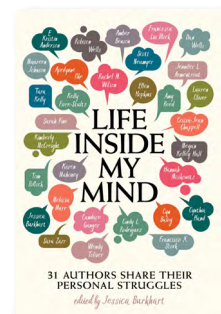
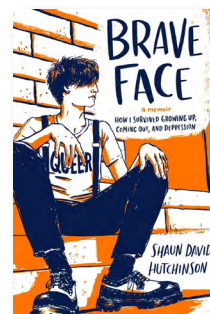
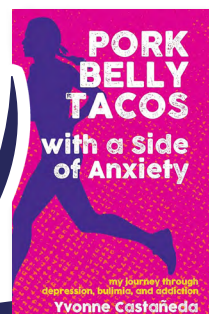
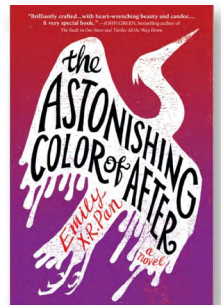
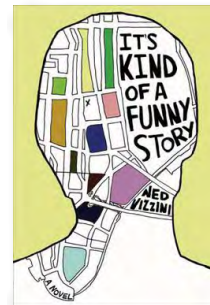
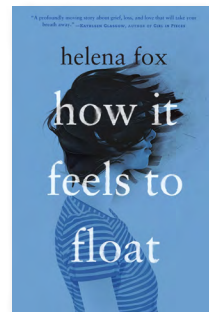
Last Tuesday of the month | 4-7pm

Wonder Room | Grades 4-8

[Registration encouraged](#)

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

YA Books About Mental Health Awareness



Last Words:

Celestial Parks from Chris Ciemniewski

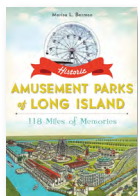
"BEYOND THIS GATE FIND GARDENS GREEN AND EPIC WORLDS TO FILL YOUR DREAMS."

This is the inscription over the entrance to Universal Orlando's Epic Universe, a brand new theme park opening on May 22nd. As a theme park enthusiast I've been following the media previews closely, and while the four lands based on intellectual properties (Nintendo, Harry Potter, How to Train Your Dragon, and Universal Classic Monsters) truly seem epic, it's the park's central hub, Celestial Park, that has been the most surprisingly interesting aspect for me to learn about as a lover of amusement park history.

After passing beneath the inscription and the park's entrance structure, the Chronos tower, guests find themselves in Celestial Park, the sprawling central spine of Epic Universe. It contains shops, restaurants, gardens, water features, a roller coaster, and a carousel, each incorporating an astrological theme. Within the park's lore, this space functions similarly to Narnia's "wood between the worlds" and features portals around its periphery, powered by the Chronos device, that can transport guests to other themed lands. The day of your visit happens to be the day when these worlds align and their portals open around Celestial Park. Celestial Park is the only themed area not based on an existing intellectual property, but it is instead inspired by the aesthetics of early amusement parks. Let's step through the Chronos and take a look at the parks of yesteryear that inspired the epic hub area of Universal's latest theme park.

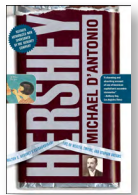
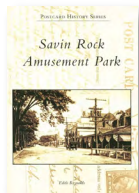


The earliest theme parks often began as picnic groves or recreational parks with grassy fields and gardens on the edge of a lake or beach. Connecticut's very own Lake Compounce had its origins as one such picnic grove, featuring swimming, boating, and lakeside concerts. Around the turn of the century the park added a carousel and a roller coaster, which today are staples of most amusement park attraction lineups. While still quaint by today's amusement park standards, Lake Compounce remains the oldest continuously operating amusement park in the United States.



Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, amusement parks like Lake Compounce could be found throughout the northeast United States. Two books in our collection **Amusement Parks of Long Island** and **A Century of Fun: A Pictorial History of New England Amusement Parks** take a look back at this time period of fledgling amusement parks, including Connecticut's only other park still in operation, Quassy Amusement Park. Coney Island's Luna Park

featured an impressively lit entry arch, dream-like architecture, and twinkling popcorn lights, encouraging guests to stay into the evening. Growing up in Connecticut, I would often hear my grandparents tell stories of their youth visiting Savin Rock Amusement Park in West Haven which had its own origin as a beachside pleasure pier before adding many roller coasters and other rides over the years.

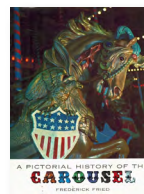


Hersheypark, another classic amusement park that has survived to the present day, had its beginnings as a recreational park for Hershey factory employees. Roller coasters and other attractions were added over time. Hershey, PA and Hersheypark have an intertwined history chronicled in **Hershey** by Michael D'Antonio. Although many people associate the Hershey name with chocolate, Milton Hershey was also influential in his establishment of schools, housing, charitable organizations, and funding of scientific research. Hersheypark was an extension of his belief in improving the well-being of the community.

Without mass media at the time, these fledgling amusement parks often lacked deep theming and instead incorporated widely known imagery and mythology into the aesthetics of the parks, naming their fastest wooden roller coasters after celestial bodies like "The Comet" or "The Big Dipper." Scott Rutherford's **Roller Coasters** highlights the origins and development of early wooden roller coasters from scenic railways into racing thrill rides. The book traces not only



the evolution of the roller coaster from wooden hills to tangled steel, but also the history of many famous and well-loved amusement parks. Similarly, **Ticket to Ride** by Patrick Hook is a comprehensive handbook of roller coasters, beginning with common models and then listing nearly every American roller coaster, year-by-year with stats, ride descriptions, and historical facts.

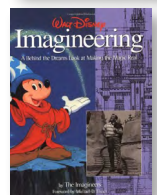


Like roller coasters, carousels became essential attractions at many early amusement parks whose origins they predate. While horses have always been the common animals for carousels, in **A Pictorial History of the Carousel** by Frederick Fried, it is noted that "every conceivable creature to be found on Noah's ark (and some not to be found there) were crafted by carousel carvers." He goes on to showcase in pictures the evolution and different styles of vintage carousels including their fairytale, folklore, and history-inspired painted panels.



With the opening of Disneyland in 1955, as chronicled in Richard Snow's **Disney's Land**, amusement parks began to transition to fully fledged theme parks in which immersion and adherence to specific themes replaced the light fairytale and mythological theming of the early amusement parks. At first these areas were similarly inspired by earlier works.

Jason Surrell's **Haunted Mansion** is a deep dive into the many inspirations behind the Haunted Mansion and **Imagineering** similarly describes how original concepts make it from idea to reality. However, with their now vast library of films both Disney and Universal have moved towards theming their lands after intellectual properties of their own. Celestial Park in contrast is meant to be a callback to classic amusement park design. But even with its quaint atmosphere, it incorporates modern twists. For instance, on Constellation Carousel guests do not sit on horses. Instead, they ride on a menagerie of colorful animals found within the constellations of the night sky. And instead of one rotation around the center, the animals appear to dance around on multiple rotating platforms. Celestial Park also features a comet-themed racing coaster, Stardust Racers. The track of the coaster is not illuminated at night, but instead the trains themselves are lit to look like fiery comets, giving the illusion that they are racing across the night sky.



And just as Celestial Park's attractions harken back to the earliest amusement park days, the celestial theme reminds visitors of some of our oldest stories. As described in **Tales of the Night Sky**, the stars were the inspiration for some of humanity's earliest storytelling devices in the form of the constellations and the movement of the planetary bodies. While storytelling has evolved over time into blockbuster entertainment like the highly immersive lands found through the portals, Celestial Park reminds us of all of storytelling's star-gazing origins.

Celestial Park is bookended by two statues of mythological figures at opposite ends of the park: Helios and Luna. During the day Helios shoots the sun on an arrow over the park, but after sunset, Luna floats the moon across the park's waterways and lights up the pathways, gardens, and attractions like twinkling stars, creating the feeling of a surreal amusement park that never was and always will be—an amusement park of our collective dreams.



May Hours

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 9pm

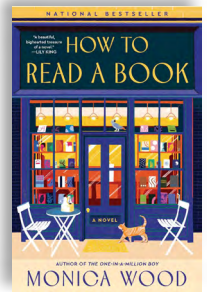
Saturday
9:30am - 5pm

Scheduled Closings

Memorial Day Weekend
Saturday, May 24th
Monday, May 26th



ONE BOOK ONE WALLINGFORD



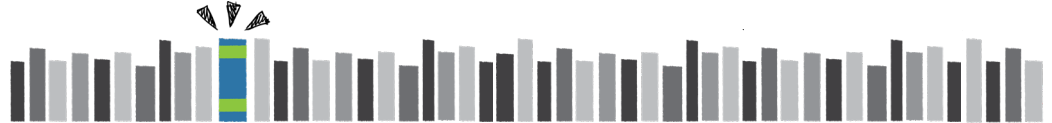
MEET AUTHOR MONICA WOOD

Tuesday, April 29th | 7pm
Dag Hammarskjöld Middle School & Zoom
106 Pond Hill Road | [Register](#)



This spring our community read for One Book One Wallingford is *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood! We have many copies of *How to Read a Book* available to borrow from the library. Copies of the book are also available to purchase at the Information Desk for \$20. Visit our website (walpublib.org/obow) for a list of programs we have planned, culminating in Monica Wood's visit to Wallingford on Tuesday, April 29th when she will

discuss the book and answer readers' questions. Afterwards she will sign copies of the book, which will be available to purchase at the event.



DISCOUNT PASSES TO MUSEUMS & OTHER ATTRACTIONS

May is the perfect time of year to start planning trips to local attractions! The library offers passes to a wide variety of local museums,

zoos, historical sites, state parks, and other experiences so you can save money on your trip. You can even print many of the passes from home. Wallingford residents may reserve passes up to 30 days in advance. Browse the complete listing of discount passes on our website (walpublib.org/DiscountPasses), or stop by the library to pick up a paper copy which also features a list of completely free attractions throughout the state!



Monday
10am - 12noon

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

Wednesday
10am - 2pm

Thursday
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Friday
10am - 2pm

Saturday
10am - 12:30pm

May Specials
DVDs & CDs
BOGO

If the Book Seller is closed, you can shop anytime at the Book Seller Annex upstairs across from the Children's Room.



IN OTHERS' Words...

Up above Mt. Carmel's towering crest, / We saw the autumn foliage and the pines, / And far away upon the Giant's breast, / We studied his form in curving lines. / A Sleeping Giant! lying there in state, / His head is pillowed on a running stream, / And laves his temples, while night's shadows wait, / But noon still finds him in his quiet dream. / His dream must be of trees and sun and water, / Which rest forever on his upturned face, / Or of the raincloud when its brilliant daughter / Curves her bright bow above his resting place... / The winter snows, the ice, and frost of ages, / Have lain above him in his calm repose, / While through the world's unlettered store of pages, / No written story of his history flows... Through all the wild scenes of his deep seclusion, / And changing shadows of his dim retreat, / My fancy, with a touch of strange delusion, / Would bring him quickly on his Giant feet.

— Charles Merriman, *The Legend of the Sleeping Giant*
[Full Text: walpublib.org/SleepingGiantPoem]