

June
2025

Words

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
Science Fiction / Double Feature



Rocky Horror Picture Show Shadow Cast!

Wednesday, June 18th | 6:30-8:30pm | Community Room

Registration preferred | [Register](#)

In anticipation of Rocky Horror's 50th anniversary you are invited to our very first *Rocky Horror Picture Show* shadow cast! In the 1975 cult classic, sweethearts Brad (Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon), stuck with a flat tire during a storm, discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), a mad scientist. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a cast of wild characters, including a rocking biker (Meat Loaf) and a creepy butler (Richard O'Brien), while watching Dr. Furter's devious master plan unfold. As the audience watches the film, live performers will act out each role in front of the screen and lead the audience in interactive

callbacks! Prop bags will be included, and costumes are welcomed and encouraged. (PLEASE NOTE: all attendees must adhere to the library's dress code as outlined in our official [Code of Conduct](#).) We invite everybody to do the Time Warp with us! Attendees must be 17 years or older.

Queer Icons of Rock N' Roll

Wednesday, June 4th | 7-8pm

Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

Join us for a talk on the great queer icons of the 1970s and 80s when Rock N' Roll was in its prime! Music historian Richard Killeaney will explore the impact they had on music, popular culture, and politics. He will discuss luminaries such as Elton John, Freddie Mercury, David Bowie, Joan Jett, Prince, k.d. lang, and Melissa Etheridge, as well as lesser-known artists whose work was every bit as powerful.



WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted

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

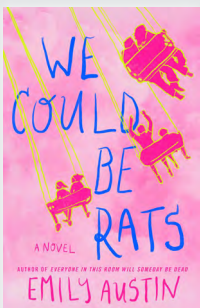
Words, a publication of the Wallingford Public Library, is sent electronically to members of the Wallingford Public Library Association. View the current issue in color on our website: walpublib.org/newsletter. *Words* is edited by Publicity and Public Services Librarian Christopher Ciemniowski from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

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

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

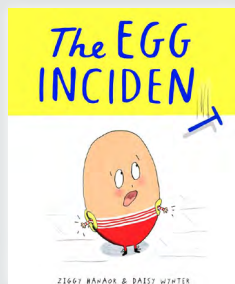
Become a member: walpublib.org/BecomeAMember

Staff Picks



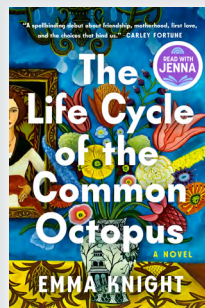
Katie

We Could Be Rats
by Emily Austin



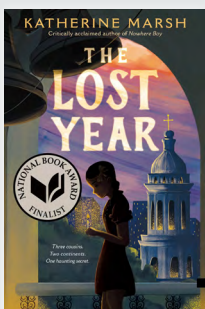
Rebecca F.

The Egg Incident
by Ziggy Hanaor & Daisy Wynter



Sunnie

The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus
by Emma Knight



Kim

The Lost Year
by Katherine Marsh



Chris

The War of the Rohirrim
directed by
Kenji Kamiyama



Kaleb

Fleishman is in Trouble
by Taffy Brodesser-Akner

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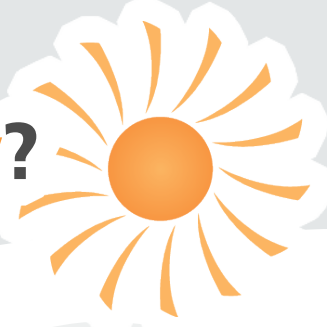
14 Just for Teens



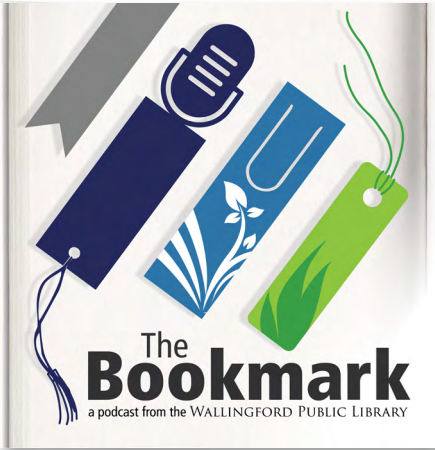
View this newsletter online!



What's going on this Summer at the Library?



Listen to our quarterly podcast for a sneak peek or look for the film reels throughout this issue of *Words* for summer happenings!



Join Library Director Sunnie Scarpa and Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken on The Bookmark Podcast for quarterly conversations about books, authors, reading experiences, library happenings and what they love about their jobs and working together. On the newest episode of the podcast, they are joined by our programming librarians to get a sneak preview of what's going on this Summer at the Library.

Listen here: walpublib.org/TheBookmark

Virtual Author Visits

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

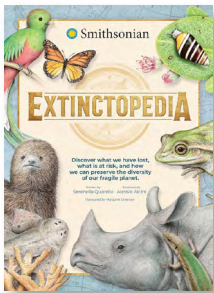
Thank you for your continued support of our used book store!

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

Extinctopedia

A Discovery of What We Have Lost, What is at Risk and What To Do About it with Smithsonian Scientists

Wednesday, June 4th | 2-3pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



Join us as Smithsonian scientists **Brian Gratwicke** and **Gina Della Togna** highlight information found in the Smithsonian's book, *Extinctopedia*. *Extinctopedia* tells the story of those who are extinct and those in greatest peril, with explanations of what threatens their survival. It is also a story of hope for animals that have been rediscovered, hope in the form of newly-discovered animals and hope that we might act to preserve the biodiversity of our fragile planet for future generations to come. *Extinctopedia*

provides a fascinating catalog of life on earth and encourages the reader to find ways of preserving the incredible diversity of species so we may all thrive and life itself can endure on our beautiful planet.

Brian Gratwicke is a conservation biologist who leads the amphibian conservation programs at the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. **Dr. Gina Della Togna** is a researcher and conservationist who serves as the Executive Director of the Amphibian Survival Alliance and as a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

Lisa Jewell

Unexpected Twists and Turns

Tuesday, June 10th | 2-3 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



Join us as *New York Times* bestselling author **Lisa Jewell** introduces readers to her new novel *Don't Let Him In*, which is scheduled to be published on June 24th. Martha is a florist living with her infant daughter and her devoted husband Alistair. But lately, Alistair has been traveling more and more frequently for work, disappearing for days at a time. When Martha questions him about his frequent absences, he always has a legitimate explanation. But Martha can't shake the feeling that something isn't right. Meanwhile, Nina has just met and fallen for Nick, a man with a smile that could melt the coldest heart and a knack for putting others at ease. But to Ash, Nina's adult daughter, Nick seems too slick, too polished, too good to be true. Without telling her mother, Ash begins digging into Nick's past. Now Nina, Martha and Ash are on a collision course with a shocking truth that is far darker than anyone could have imagined.

Lisa Jewell is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of 23 novels, including *None of This Is True*, *The Family Upstairs*, and *Then She Was Gone* as well as *Invisible Girl* and *Watching You*. Her novels have sold over ten million copies internationally, and her work has been translated into 29 languages.

tech Training



Tech 
Connect

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

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



Dear IT: Managing Passwords on iOS

Saturday, June 7th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collins Room | [Register](#)

Connor will talk about the importance of creating strong and unique passwords for all of your online accounts, and how to manage all of these different credentials in a password manager. Topics in this class will include:

- How to create strong passwords
- How to use iCloud Keychain to protect your online identity
- How to use the Passwords app
- How to check if your online credentials have been leaked in a data breach
- How to use Two Factor Authentication to protect your online identity

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



Dear IT: Windows 11 Maintenance

Saturday, June 21st | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collins Room | [Register](#)

Join us for a hands-on session focused on maintaining and optimizing your Windows 11 device for peak performance. Whether you're troubleshooting issues or looking for best practices to keep your system running efficiently, this class will cover essential maintenance tasks, including:

- **System Updates & Security:** Learn how to manage Windows updates, antivirus protection, and security settings to keep your device safe.
- **Storage & Cleanup:** Free up space by removing unnecessary files, managing storage settings, and using built-in cleanup tools.
- **Performance Optimization:** Adjust startup programs, manage background apps, and tweak settings to improve speed and efficiency.
- **Backup & Recovery Options:** Explore tools like System Restore, File History, and OneDrive to protect your important files.

Bring your Windows 11 laptop or device, and get ready to learn practical tips and tricks to keep your system running smoothly. Whether you're new to Windows maintenance or looking for advanced strategies, this session will help you take control of your PC's performance!

Introduction to 3D Printing

**Monday, June 2nd OR Saturday, June 14th | 2-3:30pm
Adults | Collaboratory | [Register Mon](#) | [Register Sat](#)**

Learn the basics of Tinkercad, a beginner-friendly computer-aided design software, to make your own 3D models. We will also go over how to prepare these files for printing in Bambu Studio, a slicing software for our new Bambu X1-C 3D printer.

Artificial Intelligence Update

**Monday, June 9th OR Saturday, June 28th | 2-3:30pm
Adults | Registration required | Collins Room**

[Register Sat](#) | [Register Mon](#)

Artificial Intelligence is developing rapidly! Learn about the current state of AI, what is coming down the pipeline, and how AI can be used in your daily life.

From the
B.S.
Borrower Services
Department

Cardholder Perks for DIY-ers

Now that summer is almost here, are you finally ready to get started on that home improvement project that you've been putting off all year? Whether you're planning to repaint your living room, refinish some old furniture, or build a new deck, your Wallingford Public Library card gives you access to an entire toolbox of resources that can help with your DIY projects!

If you need some inspiration to get started, check out our selection of **DIY books** as well as **magazines** like *HGTV Magazine*, *Family Handyman*, *Make*, *Old House Journal*, and *The Woodworker's Journal*. In addition, **CreativeBug** offers over 1,000 online classes on a variety of art, craft, and DIY projects taught by recognized design experts and artists. (walpublib.org/DIYbooks)

Don't want to spend big bucks on expensive tools you'll probably only use once or twice? Borrow them from the library instead! Our **Library of Things** offers tools including an auto-leveling laser and stud sensor, a bike repair kit, a dremel, an electric staple gun, a heat gun, a Kill a Watt Energy Meter, and a thermal leak detector. You may borrow two items from the Library of Things at a time for up to two weeks. (walpublib.org/LibraryofThings)

And don't forget to stop by the **Collaboratory** on your DIY adventure! Our 2,400 square foot makerspace offers a wide variety of specialized equipment and software that can enhance your DIY projects, including an Epilog Laser Cutter, a Carvey Desktop CNC Machine, a Cricut Maker, a Bambu X1 Carbon 3D printer, and much more! (walpublib.org/Collaboratory).

After a couple of setbacks, Kaleb manages
to put together his new coffee table
with help from the library!

walpublib.org/forDIYers



FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS



**Bridget Jones:
Mad About the Boy**
Friday, June 6th | 6-8pm | Adults
Drop in | Community Room | Rated R

Renée Zellweger returns to the role that established a romantic-comedy heroine for the ages, as Bridget, now a widowed single mother, must juggle work, parenthood and romance. With the help of her loyal friends, Bridget navigates encounters with a younger man and a series of awkward interactions with her son's science teacher as she strives to forge a new path toward life and love.



Children & Families

School-Aged Programs

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.

Registration opens at 9am, 3 weeks before the program date.

Nature Walk at Fresh Meadows

Wednesday, June 18th | 3-5pm | Ages 6-10 | Fresh Meadows Trail | [Register](#)

Come join us for a nature walk at the Fresh Meadows walking trails! We will be taking a stroll down one or more of the trails and learning about all the plants and animals we find along the way.

Virtual Author Talk: Living the Otter Life with Katherine Applegate

Tuesday, June 24th | 4pm | Grades 3-6 | Zoom | [Register](#)

Join us as award-winning author and summer reading champion Katherine Applegate talks to viewers about her enthusiastically heartwarming novel in verse, *Odder*.

Matt Matthews Magic Show

Thursday, June 26th | 6:30pm | Ages 4-11 Community Room | [Register](#)

Join us and be delighted and surprised as Wallingford's own Matt Matthews, dazzles us with his comedy magic show!

Preschool Programs

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.

Registration opens at 9am, 3 weeks before the program date.

Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

**Tuesday, June 17th | 9:30am OR 1:30pm
Ages 3-5 | Marcus Cooke Park
[Register for 9:30](#) | [Register for 1:30](#)**

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.

Maker Mornings

**Wednesdays, June 25th - Aug 13th | 10:30am-12pm
Ages 3-5 | Children's Room | Drop-in**

Put on your artist's hat and drop by to make a different craft each week.

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, June 23rd - July 28th**

This class introduces babies, toddlers, and their grownups to the library and each other while learning how to support their growth and development through songs, puppets, rhymes, and books. Includes playtime afterwards. This class is appropriate for infants, crawlers, and very early walkers.

Waddling Ones & Twos

**Ages 15 mo-35 mo | 10am or 11am | Wonder Room
Tuesdays, June 24th - July 29th**

A great program for active toddlers, now in the Wonder Room! In a smaller class size setting, children will learn more about how language works through song, rhymes, books, and more. Playtime to follow. This class is appropriate for more confidently walking one year olds, and active two year olds.

Happy Feet

**Ages 2-3 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room
Wednesdays, June 25th - July 30th**

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

Pajama Family Story Time

**Ages 0-5 | 6:30pm | Community Room
Wednesdays, June 25th - July 30th**

Join Miss Kari at this active, early literacy enriched story time where we will explore books, songs, and rhymes for all ages.

Preschool Story Time

**Ages 3-5 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room
Thursdays, June 26th - July 31st**

Books, puppets, and songs will reinforce your child's pre-reading skills through repetition and rhyme. A craft is included that will help kids develop their fine motor skills.



Lights, Camera, Read!

A Summer Reading Program for Babies through Grade 6

Become a star reader this summer as we roll out the red carpet here in Wallywood! Summer Reading registration will begin on May 28th. When registering, you will be asked to create a username and password to access your summer reading account. Please ask at the children's desk if you have any questions or have trouble setting up your account. You may begin logging books on June 13th. The last day to log your reading is August 16th.

For students entering grades K-6:

- This summer, we are inviting all of our VIPs, (Very Important Patrons) to step into the glamorous world of reading! After registering for the program on Beanstack, stop by the Production Office to collect your VIP All Access Card. Collect stamps by logging minutes you have read, completing missions, and dressing up for Fancy Fridays! When you have 8 stamps on your card, turn it in for a star to add to our "Wall of Fame."
- To complete the program and earn a FREE book from the Wallingford Public Library's Book Seller, you need to read 600 minutes this summer.
- Readers who keep going and log 1,200 minutes will be entered into our drawing for a chance to win one of our Grand Prizes. Along the way, you will also earn tokens for our prize machine and stamps for your VIP All Access Card.
- For added fun, beginning Monday, June 30th, there will be missions to complete here in the VIP section of the library. Complete all of the missions to get another token for the prize vending machine.

Family Read Together Program for Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers:

- Spend time reading as a family! For every 10 books your family reads together, you will earn a star to add to our Wallywood Night Sky, and once your family has read 60 books together, you will be entered into a drawing for a gift basket. You may read the same book more than once (we know that's how many preschoolers enjoy their favorite books!).
- For added fun, for every 10 books you read (up to 60 books), stop by the library for a special scavenger hunt. Search around the tree for hidden pictures and earn a sticker for finding them all!

NOTE: Children entering Kindergarten and First Grade can participate in either program.



WALLYWOOD

Adult Events



Happenings



The Long Road In: A Community Conversation on Immigration

Tuesday, June 3rd | 6:30-8pm | Community Room | [Register](#)

The topic of immigration can be complex. Join us for an informative and interactive conversation about the immigration processes in the United States, and learn the facts from the fiction. This discussion is part of our ongoing series of open and empathetic conversations about race, community, and opportunities for change and healing. All are welcome.



Say What?: Exploring LGBTQ+ Inclusive Language

Tuesday, June 10th | 6:30-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

The words we use to describe ourselves and others matter. They reveal cultural norms and hidden biases. Say What? explores the language surrounding LGBTQ+ culture through historical and linguistic lenses. **Clare McCarthy**, an educator, transgender advocate, author, and producer/host of Transqat the Podcast, will lead a presentation rooted in honesty, humor, research, and lived experience. All are welcome to attend!



George Washington's Stop in Wallingford

Wednesday, June 11th | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

On June 29th, 1775 George Washington and two military aides rode through Wallingford and stopped at the Carrington Inn on Center Street. Washington had just been named Commander of the Continental Army and was riding to Boston, where the army, a rag-tag group of farmers and other volunteers, was camped in the hills overlooking Boston Harbor. Washington's journey marked the real beginning of the American Revolution. This presentation will be led by **Sichan Siv**, former Deputy Assistant to the George H.W. Bush administration, and will commemorate Washington's visit to our town in the weeks leading up to the official anniversary celebration.



African Drumming in CT: A History & Demonstration

Tuesday, June 17th | 7-8pm

Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

Join us for a celebration of African-American music in honor of Juneteenth! In this one-of-a-kind program, percussionist **Inara Ramin** will explore the history of African drumming in Connecticut, beginning with the West African music scene in Hartford in the 1970s and continuing to the present day. He will intersperse spoken history with live performance, showcasing the many different styles of drumming that have taken on their own local flavor. Accompanied by **Brian "Jawara" Gray**, Mr. Ramin will take you on an unforgettable musical journey spanning over 50 years.

Ask Attorney Allinson

Wednesday, June 18th | 6:30-8pm

Collins Room | [Register](#)

Attorney Steven Allinson, a lawyer in Wallingford, will speak and answer your questions about probate, trusts, wills, estates, Medicaid, and other estate planning. At this forum, the Attorney cannot give specific legal advice; all his responses will be procedural in nature and contain a general overview of the law. Come with questions!



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, June 2nd | 10-11:30am

**Wednesday, June 11th & Monday, June 30th
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, June 2nd & 16th | 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, June 4th | 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, June 14th & 28th | 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.

International Movie Night: *The Blue Caftan*

Friday, June 13th | 6-8pm | Community Room

No registration required | NR



Join us on the second Friday of each month to enjoy a fascinating film from another country! Our June feature will be the 2022 Moroccan romantic drama *The Blue Caftan* (unrated). This acclaimed film follows Halim and Mina, who run a traditional caftan store in one of Morocco's oldest medinas. In order to keep up with the commands of the demanding customers, they hire Youssef. The talented apprentice shows an utmost dedication in learning the art of embroidery and tailoring

from Halim. Slowly Mina realizes how much her husband is moved by the presence of the young man.

Tap & Trivia

Tuesday, June 24th | 7:30-9pm | Tap & Vine

Registration preferred

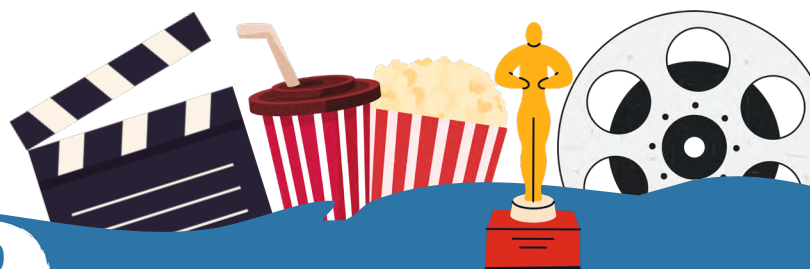
Join us on the last Tuesday of each month for a local trivia night at Tap & Vine! Quizmaster Rich Steeves will test your wits with five rounds of questions on a variety of topics, from General Knowledge to Science & Nature and a whole lot more. Your team of 2-6 players will compete with other teams for 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.

Welcome to WALLYWOOD

Summer Program for Adults ages 18+

This summer, embark on an adventure full of movies, monsters, and magic. You'll have the chance to win fabulous prizes by completing challenges in your summer scrapbook, where you will keep track of your progress one task at a time. Starting on June 30th, you can pick up a scrapbook from the library's main desk or download a copy from our website.

There are five series of challenges in this scrapbook. For each challenge you complete, you will earn a ticket for our summer prize drawing! Complete as many challenges as you want. The four lucky winners of the summer prize drawing will each receive a \$50 gift card to the local business of their choice! Return your scrapbook by Saturday, August 23rd. We will announce the results of the prize drawing on Friday, August 29th and the four winners will be contacted individually. Reach out to Rachel Taylor, Head of Adult Programming, at rtaylor@wallingfordlibrary.org with any questions. Lights, camera, action!





For Readers

Book Clubs



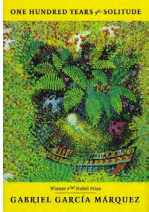
Mystery Book Club

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro

Wednesday, June 4th | 3-4:15pm | Community Room and Zoom
Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

25 years after an infamous art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, one of the stolen Degas paintings is delivered to a young artist who has entered into a Faustian bargain with a powerful gallery owner by agreeing to forge the painting in exchange for a one-woman show. But as she begins her work, she starts to suspect that this long-missing masterpiece may itself be a forgery.

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



Classics Book Club

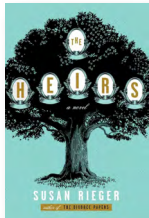
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Márquez

Thursday, June 5th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

The saga of the birth and death of the mythical Colombian town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, compelling, sad, alive with unforgettable characters and brimming with truth, compassion and a lyrical magical realism, Gabriel Garcia Marquez's classic novel, which has sold over 50 million copies in 25 languages, is one of the most impactful works of the 20th century.

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



Thursday Night Book Club

The Heirs by Susan Rieger

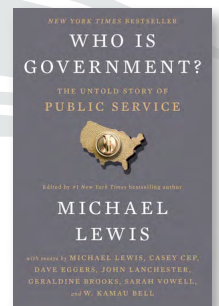
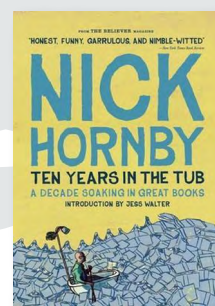
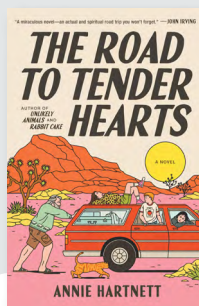
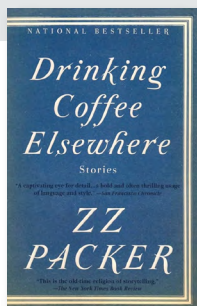
Thursday, June 26th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room and Zoom

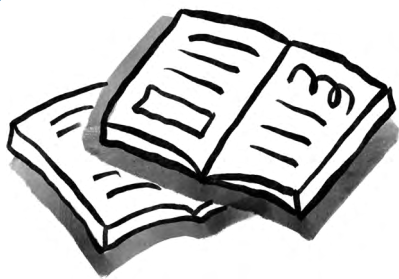
Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Rupert Falkes, left when he was a baby on the steps of a British church, is a self-made man who attended Yale Law School and married Eleanor Phipps, who comes from "that class of New Yorker whose bloodlines were traced in the manner of racehorses." The Falkeses have five sons: a lawyer, a Hollywood agent, a medical researcher, a genius musician and a federal prosecutor. After Rupert dies, a woman claims that her two grown sons are also Rupert's and are thus entitled to a share of his estate. Family chaos ensues.

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 poignant YA novel *I Heart You, You Haunt Me*, Lisa Schroeder writes: "Come with me...to the library. Books and summer go together." It's hard to disagree with that observation! And it's also hard to believe that the summer of 2025 is already here! Summer is the time of the year when the days are longer, the pace slows down and the weather heats up. In other words, summer is made for reading. Here are some of the new novels scheduled for release in June to help you welcome in a book-filled season:

The Accidental Favorite by Fran Littlewood — A group of siblings inadvertently discovers that one of them is their father's favorite.

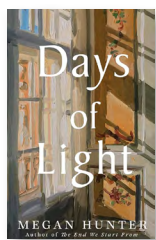


Among Friends by Hal Ebbott — At a dinner party, two interconnected families confront a betrayal that upends 30 years of friendship.

Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid — In 1980, a physics and astronomy professor joins NASA's Space Shuttle program and falls in love with one of the astronauts.

Blonde Dust by Tatiana de Rosnay — A chambermaid working at a hotel in Reno in 1960 befriends Marilyn Monroe, who is there to recover from the breakdown of her marriage to Arthur Miller.

A Case of Mice and Murder by Sally Smith — Reluctant sleuth Sir Gabriel Ward finds the body of the lord chief justice of England on his doorstep.



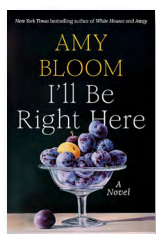
Days of Light by Megan Hunter — A chronicle of six pivotal days across six decades in the life of a large bohemian family.

The Four Engagement Rings of Sybil Rain by Hannah Brown — A woman uses hotel vouchers from her canceled honeymoon to book a resort vacation and finds herself juggling multiple ex-fiancés.

Fulfillment by Lee Cole — Two half-brothers grapple with the complexities of class and privilege in the American South.

The Girls who Grew Big by Leila Mottley — A fierce group of teenage mothers live together in a small town on the Florida panhandle.

The Homemade God by Rachel Joyce — During a summer heatwave, four siblings gather at the family lake house to confront their father, a famous artist, who is working on his long-awaited masterpiece.



I'll Be Right Here by Amy Bloom — A teenager immigrates to New York from Paris after WWII and makes lifelong friends.

King of Ashes by S.A. Cosby — A man returns home and discovers that his younger brother is in debt to dangerous criminals, who are demanding payment.

A Murder for Miss Hortense by Mel Pennant — A retired nurse immigrates from Jamaica to England and must solve a murder in order to save herself and the community she loves.

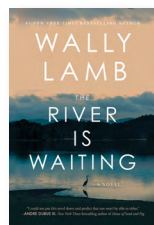


Murder Takes a Vacation by Laura Lippman — A middle-aged widow takes a river cruise and gets caught up with flirtatious men and stolen art.

The Other Side of Now by Paige Harbison — An unhappy woman travels to Ireland and discovers that she is leading an alternative life where her once best friend is still alive but no longer speaking to her.

Palm Meridian by Grace Flahive — A chronicle of the last day in the life of a long-term resident of a Florida retirement resort.

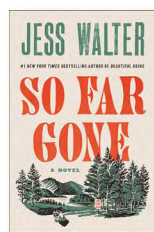
The Poppy Fields by Nikki Erlick — A new research center allows people suffering from loss to sleep through their pain and wake up healed, with some potential side effects.



The River Is Waiting by Wally Lamb — After he causes a tragedy, a young father is sentenced to prison, where he forms a connection with the prison librarian and others behind bars.

Room on the Sea by André Aciman — Three novellas about love, missed connections and enduring regret by the bestselling author of *Call Me by Your Name*.

Salty by Kate Myers — Two estranged sisters reunite to take down the luxury yacht owner who destroyed their childhood home.



So Far Gone by Jess Walter — A man goes off the grid after the 2016 election but reemerges to rescue his daughter and grandchildren from a dangerous militia.

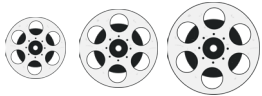
The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau by Kristin Harmel — Two jewel thieves work side by side in Paris to fund the Resistance during WWII.

Welcome to Murder Week by Karen Dukess — An American woman travels to Britain after she finds tickets her late mother had purchased for a murder mystery simulation in a small British town.

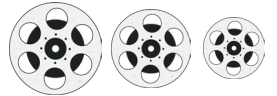
Also of note are the 3rd installment in the Shadow series by James Patterson (*The President's Shadow*), the 5th and final Electra McDonnell mystery by Ashley Weaver (*One Final Turn*), the 31st Eve Duncan thriller by Iris Johansen (*The Death Mask*), the 66th Stone Barrington thriller by Brett Battles (*Stuart Woods' Finders Keepers*) and new novels by Lisa Jackson (*It Happened on the Lake*), Lisa Jewell (*Don't Let Him In*), Brenda Novak (*The Summer that Changed Everything*), Joyce Carol Oates (*Fox*) and Danielle Steel (*A Mother's Love*).



Collaboratory



Some Assembly Required



Our summer maker contest Some Assembly Required is back for its 6th year—and this time, we’re rolling out the red carpet for Wallywood! Middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults are all invited to show off their creativity in the following categories: Art, DIY, Photography, Textile Arts, Upcycling, and Videography. Since 2025 is the Red Carpet Summer, we’re giving special attention to the Videography category—with an increased \$50 prize for the top video! Winners in all other categories will receive a \$25 gift card to the Wallingford business of your choice. The best overall entry will take home a \$100 gift card.



Submissions open: June 30th – July 26th
Voting runs: August 4th – August 16th
Winners announced: August 18th



Ready to create your masterpiece? Visit the Some Assembly Required page for full details. We can’t wait to see what you make!

walpublib.org/SomeAssemblyRequired

Drop-In Programs

Open Sew

Tuesday, June 3rd | 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 29th, June 12th & 26th | 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 learn how to use our **Silhouette Mint** machine to make customized stamps! We have a variety of different sized stamps for a set cost. The software allows you to take an image or logo and easily convert it into a stamp. You then ink the stamp in the color you want, and it lasts for about 50 uses, no ink pads required! Once you use up the ink, you can come back into the Collaboratory to re-ink them, free of charge. These stamps are perfect for thank you letters, small businesses, artistic use, or just for fun!

walpublib.org/CLMint



Lottery Programs

Visit the June program lottery to register for the events below:
walpublib.org/JuneLottery2025

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



3D Printed Embroidery Rainbow

Wednesday, June 4th | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, June 5th | 3-4:30pm

Use a 3D printed template to embroider a simple rainbow pattern.

Faux Stained Glass

Wednesday, June 11th | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, June 12th | 3-4:30pm

Use resin and an acrylic template cut on our laser cutter to make a stunning faux stained glass piece.

Bird's Nest Rock

Monday, June 16th | 6:30-8:30pm OR

Tuesday, June 17th | 2:30-4:30pm

Paint a bird's nest on a smooth rock. This is an intermediate project requiring detailed painting on a small surface. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Needle Felted Beach Scene

Wednesday, June 25th | 7-8:30pm OR

Thursday, June 26th | 3-4:30pm

Learn how to needle felt by hand and with the needle felting machine to create a 2D beachscape out of wool on a felt background. Needle felting uses a barbed needle to mat fibers together, typically in wool.

DIY Succulent Wall Hanging

Saturday, June 28th | 11am-12:30pm

Create a succulent wall hanging using Cricut cut paper, which can live forever on your wall! *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Talking TED @ Home

Thursday, June 12th | 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 "Where Joy Hides and How to Find It" by Ingrid Fetell Lee.

Cherry blossoms and rainbows, bubbles and googly eyes: Why do some things seem to create such universal joy? In this captivating talk, Ingrid Fetell Lee reveals the surprisingly tangible roots of joy and shows how we all can find—and create—more of it in the world around us.

Just for Teens

Registration Required

Needle Felted Rainbows

Wednesday, June 4th | 3:30-4:30pm

Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Felt a bright, beautiful rainbow! Needle felting is a craft that uses barbed needles to mat fibers, typically wool, together to form shapes and designs.

Laser Cut Stitched Paintings

Thursday, June 5th | 3:30-4:45pm

Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Celebrate Pride by stitching vibrant embroidery thread into laser-cut wooden designs shaped like hearts, flags, or affirming words. Create a unique piece that showcases your identity, allyship, or support for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Say What?:

Exploring LGBTQ+ Inclusive Language

Tuesday, June 10th | 6:30-8pm | Community Room

Teens & Adults | [Register](#)

The words we use to describe ourselves and others matter. They reveal cultural norms and hidden biases. Say What? explores the language surrounding LGBTQ+ culture through historical and linguistics lenses. Clare McCarthy, an educator, transgender advocate, author, and producer/host of Transpat the Podcast, will lead a presentation rooted in honesty, humor, research, and lived experience.

Teen Craft Club

Thursday, June 26th | 2-4pm | Collins Room

Grades 6-12 | [Register for a reminder](#) | [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.

Teen Library of Things

Looking to keep busy over summer break! Don't forget to check out the Teen Library of Things! We've got board games, art & craft supplies, astronomy binoculars, robots, and even tech devices for streaming! Stop by the teen area to see what's available or view the whole collection: walpublib.org/LibraryOfThings



Reel Reads

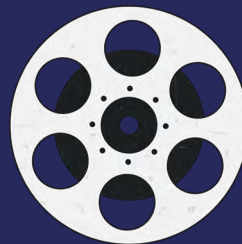
A summer program for all entering grades 6-12

The Reel Details:

- Log reading and complete challenges for a chance to earn prizes!
- To complete this program, you'll need to read 720 minutes this summer—just 15 minutes a day! For every 60 minutes you read, you'll earn one prize entry. Completing the program will give you a bonus entry giving you a total of 13 possible entries for reading. When you complete a book, you may also write a short review for a bonus entry.
- If you finish early, keep going! By reading 1,200 minutes before the program officially ends on August 16th, you will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing- a \$100 Barnes & Noble Gift Card. You will continue to accrue prize entries for each additional hour you read.
- You can read physical books, audiobooks, e-books, manga, graphic novels, and even fan fiction! It all counts.
- For added fun, there will be themed reading & creative activities to complete that will earn extra prize entries. And don't forget to check out the teen program calendar to check out all of the events we have planned for the summer!

Participation Guidelines:

- Reel Reads is open to all entering grades 6-12 in the fall
- Create a program account on Beanstack or download the Beanstack app
- Log your reading and activities using Beanstack from June 30th-August 16th



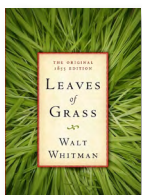
Last Words:

The Prism of Time from Chris Ciemniewski

Since its release in 1975 *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* has become one of the most well-known and endearing cult classic queer films and has helped to pave the way for more LGBTQ+ representation in media. And while *Rocky Horror* continues to stand the test of time, every generation has its own queer media. Here's a look at some films and books from across the decades that you might enjoy during Pride month this year!

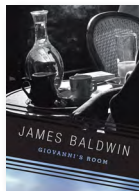


If you enjoy the campy thrills of *Rocky Horror*, you may like one of the first vampire novels, *Carmilla* by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu. Predating Bram Stoker's *Dracula* by 25 years, the story uses the concept of vampirism to explore lesbian themes. In the novel the protagonist Laura is pursued by the vampire Carmilla. However, in contrast to later vampire works which used vampires to represent foreign threats to society, Le Fanu portrays the relationship between the two women as one of a consensual and mutual love, challenging the Victorian norms of the time.



In the United States Walt Whitman was an early voice for the gay community, especially in his poetry collection and magnum opus, *Leaves of Grass*. Challenging conventional ideas of love, Whitman wrote his poetry in celebration of same-sex love, particularly between two men, and also of self love and learning to be comfortable with the person you are and how you love.

James Baldwin would tackle similar themes in his 1956 novel *Giovanni's Room*. David is left alone by his girlfriend in Paris while she considers whether to marry him. During his time in Paris he engages in an affair with a man named Giovanni forcing David to come to terms with what it means to be bisexual and what it says about his own masculinity and society's expectations for men.



Released only a year after *Rocky Horror*, Nicolas Roeg's *The Man Who Fell to Earth* is a film that can be seen as an expression of the complexities of navigating a binary world as a queer person. In the movie, the main character Thomas is an alien who arrives on Earth and over years is able to master the societal systems that humans have created. While the character isn't explicitly queer, the decision to cast David Bowie was done to emphasize the character's androgyny and asexuality, challenging the notion that there are only two genders.

1996's *The Birdcage* was another landmark film for gay representation. The comedy features actors Robin Williams and Nathan Lane as a healthy and happily married gay couple who must attempt to hide their queerness in an effort to appease the conservative parents of their son's fiancée. The film contrasts the gay couple's compassionate relationship with the dysfunction of the bride's parents' relationship, ultimately showing viewers that any relationship can be happy or toxic regardless of sexuality.

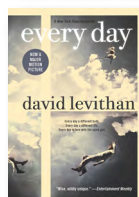


Released in the same year as *The Birdcage*, *The Watermelon Woman* is a movie for both queer people and film lovers. Noticing how Black women are not credited for their roles in old Hollywood films, the protagonist and lesbian Cheryl sets out on a mission to identify the actress from *Plantation Memories* who is credited only as "The Watermelon Woman." Unlike a

lot of queer media, the narrative does not revolve around a romance, but is instead motivated by a sense of justice. While still exploring how sexuality is important to identity, it shows how humans are multifaceted, often identifying as many things at once and that sexuality is only one aspect of anyone's personality.



Similarly the 2016 film *Moonlight* is a coming-of-age drama that explores the intersection of sexuality and race and the complexities of being both Black and gay. Taking place over three different stages in the main character's life, it also examines how we reconcile our identities in different ways at different ages.

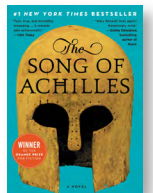


It can often be difficult to parse sexuality from gender identity, but two books that do an effective job are *Every Day* by David Levithan and *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin. These works of speculative fiction, written decades apart, help readers to understand what it must be like to identify as something other than male or female. In *Every Day*, the protagonist only known as A wakes up in a different body every day. Sometimes they inhabit a male body and other days a female body, but they lack any identity of their own and must come to terms with who they are as an individual if they aren't exclusively one or the other. Similarly in *The Left Hand of Darkness* the main character Genly is sent on a diplomatic mission to a planet whose inhabitants do not regularly have defined genders. This causes difficulties for the humans who are trying to understand the civilization's culture, while pointing out the flaws in our own culture, which is so rigidly informed by gender roles.

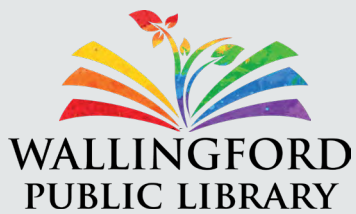


Many queer stories today have moved beyond the "struggle" of being queer in a predominantly straight society and have instead focused on representation, that is, telling a standard love story where the conflict does not arrive solely from the sexual identity of the characters, if at all. Stephen Chbosky's coming-of-age novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* features both straight and queer outcasts trying their best to figure out who they are and what their values are in a society that doesn't seem to value them. They find belonging with each other while bonding over *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Its a relatable story not only for queer people, but for anyone who felt like they didn't fit in growing up.

The Song of Achilles, a retelling of Homer's *Iliad*, has become a cult queer book in recent years even though Achilles' and Patroclus' sexuality is mentioned only a handful of times. When it is, what author Madeline Miller emphasizes is how *in love* they are and how they are willing to protect each other against destiny at all costs.



And finally, to end on a lighter note, *This is How You Lose the Time War* by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone is an epistolary novel and features two lesbian time agents (known only as Red and Blue) who alter timelines on behalf of their warring empires. They begin leaving taunting one-upper messages to each other which gradually evolve into flirtation and finally romance, proving that love, including queer love, is timeless and worth fighting for—across all timelines.



WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY

June Hours

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 9pm

Saturday
9:30am - 5pm

Scheduled Closings

Juneteenth
Thursday, June 19th

Staff Development Day
Friday, June 27th

Join us in welcoming our new **Head of Reference,** **Meghan Currey!**

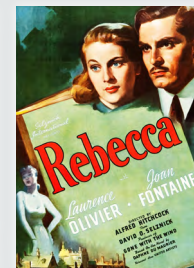
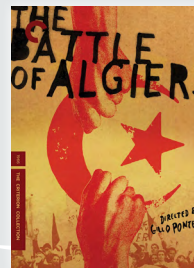
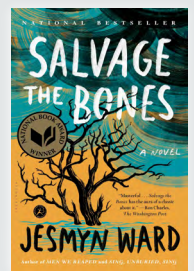
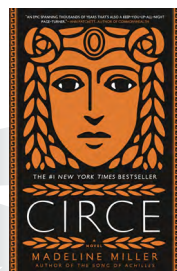


Greetings and salutations! My name is **Meghan Currey**, and I'm delighted to join the Wallingford Public Library as the new Head of Adult Reference Services. I come to Wallingford from the New Haven Free Public Library, where I served as the branch manager of the Wilson Library. During my time there, I focused on developing strong partnerships with local immigrant services organizations and creating a warm, inclusive environment for all members of the community.

I'm passionate about connecting people with resources they need and helping to build a more just and sustainable world, whether it's research support, technology help, or just a great recommendation. I'm especially excited to be a part of an incredible team that continuously excels at offering incredible customer service and programming at all levels of the library, and I look forward to supporting the vibrant learning and engagement already happening here at the WPL.

You can catch me outside of work, riding bikes, hiking and gardening with my husband and two dogs in tow, and of course, continuing to learn more about this beautiful community. Please don't hesitate to stop by and say hello! I look forward to meeting you.

Meghan's Recommendations:



Monday
10am - 2pm

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

Wednesday
10am - 2pm

Thursday
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Friday
10am - 2pm

Saturday
10am - 12:30pm

June Specials
Children & YA
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...**



Yes, I'm a middle-aged fag. But I know who I am, Val. It took me 20 years to get here, and I'm not gonna let some idiot senator destroy that.



— Robin Williams, *The Birdcage*

