

Sept  
2025

# Words

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

## One Card, Endless Possibilities



**Win by using your Library Card throughout September!**

**Win gift cards to local businesses by completing a Library Sign-Up Month BINGO card!**

(More info on page 5)

**Collect stamps from the Libraries of the Hartford Line**

(More info on on the back cover)

### **Career Resource Fair @ WPL!**

**Wednesday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> | 11am-2pm**

**Community Room & Collins Room | Register**

Join the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Wallingford Public Library at their career resource fair this fall! The CT Department of Labor works closely with participating employers, industries, and businesses to offer real jobs available now. We can help you network, prepare your resume and polish your interview skills so that you start on the right foot with confidence. Vendors will include **Masonicare**, **CT Transit**, the **American Job Center**, **Wallingford Adult Education**, and more. Registration is required; guests may either sign up at [CTHires.com](http://CTHires.com) or register in-person at the event.



**WALLINGFORD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

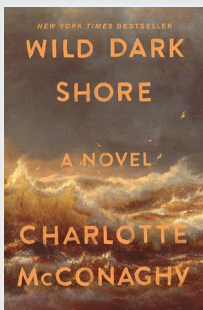
*Words*, a publication of the Wallingford Public Library, is sent electronically to members of the Wallingford Public Library Association. View the full color edition of the current issue on our website: [walpublib.org/newsletter](http://walpublib.org/newsletter). *Words* is edited by Publicity and Public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

Register for events online through our digital calendar of events: [walpublib.org/events](http://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](http://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](http://walpublib.org/BecomeAMember)

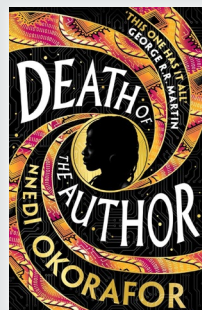
## Staff Picks



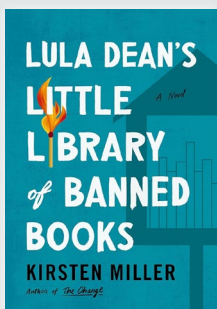
**Meghan**  
*Wild Dark Shore*  
by Charlotte McConaghy



**Cindy**  
*Dear Miss Lake*  
by AJ Pearce



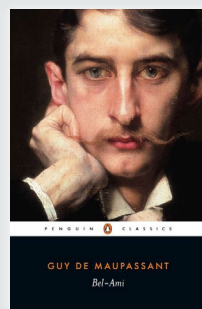
**Sunnie**  
*Death of the Author*  
by Nnedi Okorafor



**Sam**  
*Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books*  
by Kirsten Miller



**Chris**  
*Balatro*  
from LocalThunk



**Katherine**  
*Bel-Ami*  
by Guy de Maupassant

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View this newsletter online!





# BOOK BUZZ Fall 2025



Tuesday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> | The Library Wine Bar & Bistro  
60 North Main Street & Zoom  
10:30 am-12:00 pm (in-person ONLY) | [Register](#)  
3:30-5pm (in-person ONLY) | [Register](#)  
OR 6:30-8pm (in-person & virtual) | [Register](#)

Do you love to read? Are you always looking for your next great book? Sip some mimosas (for brunch) or wine or a soft drink (in the afternoon and evening) and snack on some delectable small bites and sweet treats while you join Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken at The Library Wine Bar to hear about the books coming out this fall and winter that are getting the most pre-publication buzz! *This program is made possible by generous donations from the Axtmayer family in memory of their mother Pat Axtmayer and from Lorraine and Marilyn Russo in memory of Joseph Russo.*

## Virtual Author Visits

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

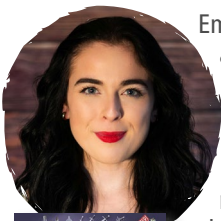
Thank you for your continued support of our used book store!

See all upcoming virtual author events here: [walpublib.org/upcomingLSC](http://walpublib.org/upcomingLSC)

### Hannah Nicole Maehrer

On Writing Darkly Charming Villainous Love

Wednesday, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



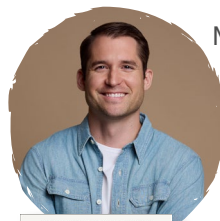
Embrace your dark side (and your best evil laugh) and join us in conversation with **Hannah Nicole Maehrer**, creator of the *New York Times* bestselling "Assistant to the Villain" series. Evie Sage didn't mean to become the right-hand woman to the kingdom's most terrifying villain. One minute, she was applying for an entry-level position that promised "light paperwork and occasional beheadings," and the next, she was knee-deep in magical mayhem, murder plots, and an entirely inappropriate crush on her brooding, sharp-jawed, walking disaster of a boss. Now Evie has to figure out how to survive her job without setting the kingdom on fire—or losing her dignity, which is hanging by a very sarcastic thread.

**Hannah Nicole Maehrer**—or as TikTok Knows her, [@hannahnicolemae](#)—is a fantasy romance author and BookToker with a propensity for villains. When she's not creating bookish comedy skits about Villains and Assistants, she's writing to Taylor Swift songs.

### Jefferson Fisher

Argue Less and Talk More

Wednesday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> | 2-3pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



No matter who you're talking to, *The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More* gives you immediately actionable strategies and phrases that will forever change how you communicate. **Jefferson Fisher**, a trial lawyer and one of the leading voices on real-world communication, offers a tried-and-true framework that will show you how to transform your life and your relationships by improving your next conversation. Now for the first time in his book *The Next Conversation*, Fisher has distilled his three-part communication system (Say it with control, Say it with confidence, Say it to connect) so that it can easily be applied to any situation.

**Jefferson Fisher** is a board-certified Texas trial lawyer. With his extensive trial experience, Jefferson understands the art of persuading and communicating effectively in high-conflict situations.

# 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 and 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 Your Digital Assets For Your Legacy

**Saturday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Board Room | [Register](#)**

Nobody lives forever—plan for peace of mind. Join Elijah to learn how to organize and document your digital accounts and passwords for your loved ones safely. Topics include:

- Identifying important online accounts like email, banking, social media, and anything else you'll want to pass on.
- Securing Your Information: Use trusted methods for recording and storing your passwords in a way that's safe yet accessible when needed.
- Creating a Digital Legacy Plan: Prepare a simple, practical guide your family can use to handle your digital affairs with less stress.

## Dear IT: Messaging on iOS

**Saturday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Board Room | [Register](#)**

Connor will talk about how you can use all of the features that the Messages app has to offer and then will demonstrate how to use these features effectively in a conversation. Topics in this class will include:

- How to send media like photos, videos, GIFs, stickers, and more
- How to use Tapbacks to send quick replies
- How to create and send your own Memoji
- How to download apps for iMessage
- Using iMessage among all of your Apple devices
- Sending RCS messages to non-Apple devices

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

## Photoshop Basics

**Monday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm OR**

**Saturday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm**

**Adults | Collaboratory | [Register Mon](#) | [Register Sat](#)**

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

## CNC With Carvera

**Saturday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm OR**

**Monday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> | 2-3:30pm**

**Adults | Collaboratory | [Register Sat](#) | [Register Mon](#)**

Learn about the most advanced machine offered in the Collaboratory, the Carvera CNC machine. Please note that successful completion of an online training course and in-person test is required to use the Carvera independently. This class will not certify you, but it will help you learn what you need to know to take the test. You also may study on your own and schedule a test without participating in the class.



From the  
**B.S.**  
Borrower Services  
Department

## Cardholder Perks for Library Card Sign-Up Month

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month! Throughout the month, we'll be celebrating the endless possibilities of your library card with a BINGO challenge, prize drawings, and fun activities for all ages!

If you don't have a library card, now is a great time to get one! During the month of September, Wallingford residents who sign up for a new library card will be entered into a prize drawing for a gift card to one of many local businesses. All you need to get a library card is a valid photo ID and proof of Wallingford residency.

And don't worry, those who already have their library card will have a chance to get in on the fun as well! Everyone is invited to participate in our BINGO challenge for a chance to win some gift cards! Pick up a BINGO card at the Checkout Desk and bring it to the desk to receive a stamp for each activity that you complete during September. Each time you score "BINGO," you will receive an entry into our prize drawing!

Prizes include gift cards to **Archie Moore's Bar & Restaurant**, **Banana's Ice Cream**, **The Bees Knees Bistro**, **Bowlero**, **Catalyst Art Studio**, **Dunkin' Donuts**, **Elizabeth's Artisan Bakery**, **Go Time**, **Malachy's Public House** (formerly Tap & Vine), **Napoli Pizza Restaurant**, **Neil's Donuts**, **Rock Spot Climbing**, **Six One Nine Supper Club**, **Sundae Afternoon**, **Sweet Creams Ice Cream**, and **Vinny's Deli**.



*Daniella sets off to achieve BINGO in as few check-outs as possible!*

[walpublib.org/BINGO2025](http://walpublib.org/BINGO2025)

## FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS



### **Sinners**

Friday, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm  
Drop-in | Community Room | R

Trying to leave their troubled lives behind, twin brothers return to their hometown to start again, only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back.



### **The Phoenician Scheme**

Friday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm  
Drop-in | Community Room | PG-13

Wealthy businessman Zsa-Zsa Korda appoints his only daughter, a nun, as sole heir to his estate. As Korda embarks on a new enterprise, he and his daughter soon become the target of scheming tycoons, foreign terrorists and determined assassins.



# Children & Families

## School-Aged Programs

*Registration is required unless otherwise noted.*

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

### **Homeschool Tour & Meetup**

**Friday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup> | 10:30-11:30am | Ages 3-11**  
**Children's Program Room | [Register](#)**

Join Miss Kari for a tour of the children's room and learn about helpful resources available through the library. After the tour, stick around to meet and talk with other area homeschooling families. The resources outlined during this program will be geared to kids ages 3-11, but all homeschooling families are welcome. This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like an email reminder.

### **Game On! Pokémon, Board Games, Video Games, and More!**

**Saturday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> | 1:30-4pm | Grades PreK-8**  
**Wonder Room | [Register](#)**

Come enjoy an assortment of board games and video games at this all ages event! There will be video games like Smash and Mario Kart, tabletop games like Chess and Scrabble, and an entire area dedicated to playing and trading Pokémon! Gamers of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Come get your game on!

### **Astronomy Club**

**Thursday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades K-5**  
**Children's Program Room | [Register](#)**

The night sky is vast and amazing! Come learn a little more about our stellar solar system and make a craft that's totally out of this world!

### **Paws for Reading**

**Saturday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup> | 10:30-11:30am | Grades K-5**  
**Children's Program Room | [Register](#)**

Learning to read can be intimidating, but reading to a cute animal can be comforting. Sign up for a time slot to read a book to a furry friend. Children will be in groups of three. Presented by the Friends of the Wallingford Animal Shelter.

### **Nature Walk at the Quinnipiac Linear Trail**

**Monday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> | 4:30-6pm | Grades K-5**  
**Quinnipiac Linear Trail | [Register](#)**

Come join us for a nature walk at the Quinnipiac Linear Trail! We will be taking a stroll down part of the main path, and branch off to explore some of the side trails along the way. Caregivers must attend the walk. Younger and older siblings are welcome.



### **Tabletop Adventures: Peter Pan**

**Tuesday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> | 5:30-7pm | Grades 4-8**  
**Children's Program Room | [Register](#)**

Take on the dastardly Captain Hook in this Dungeons and Dragons-esque adventure in the world of Neverland! In this quest, we will be playing through scenes inspired by J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*. We will be dodging giant crocodiles, meeting the Lost Boys, and clashing with pirates! This quest will be using a modified version of the Kids on Bikes tabletop RPG system, which is similar to Dungeons and Dragons. Players who read a version of the book ahead of time may have a distinct advantage.

### **LEGO Club**

**Saturday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup> | 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-up will have a chance to show off their building skills with LEGO bricks provided by the library.

### **Design Your Own Fantasy Map**

**Monday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup> | 6-7pm | Grades 4-6**  
**Children's Program Room | [Register](#)**

Learn how to make weathered paper and use special techniques to design a map of your own fantasy world.

### **Trading Card Battle Club**

**Tuesday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> | 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.



# Preschool Programs

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.  
Registration opens at 9am, 4 weeks before the program date.

## Music Together Demonstration Class

Wednesday, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> | 10am OR 11am

Ages 0-5 | Community Room | [Register](#)

Kick of the fall with music with your little ones. Music Together ® will be coming to the library to do a free singalong event where we'll have tons of fun singing, dancing, learning, and playing instruments!

## Toddler Yoga

Friday, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> | 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, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> | 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.

## Potty Story Time

Friday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup> | 10:30-11:30am | Ages 2-5

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

Learning to go on the potty is a major milestone! In this story time we'll read books about it, sing songs about it, and play games about it. Children in all stages of the process (almost ready to learn, have started to learn, have good days, have real potty days) are invited to join us.

# 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 10:30am | Wonder Room  
Mondays, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> - Nov 10<sup>th</sup>

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, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> - Nov 4<sup>th</sup>

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, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

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, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

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

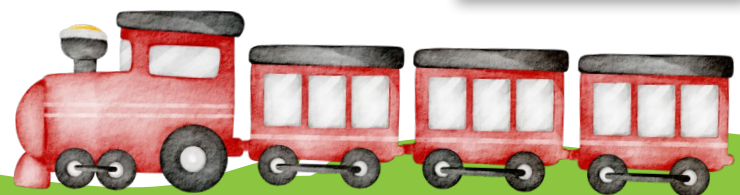
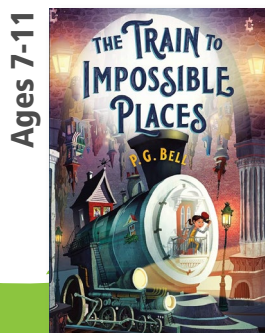
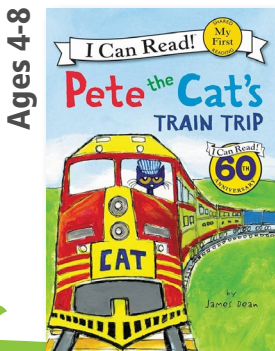
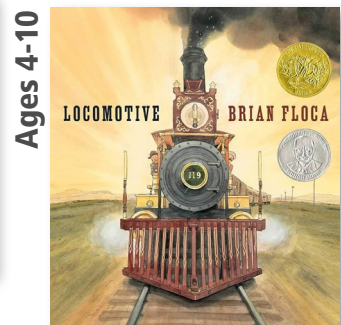
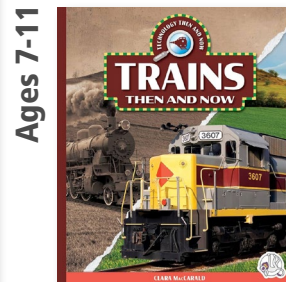
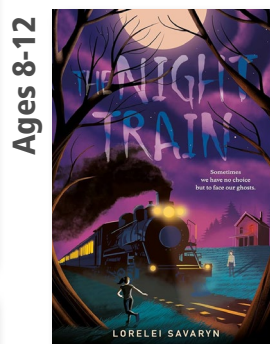
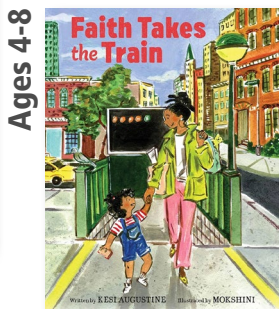
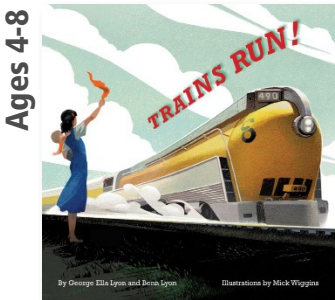
## Preschool Story Time

Ages 3-5 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room  
Thursdays, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - Nov 13<sup>th</sup>

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.

# I Think I Can! Books About Trains

Click the titles below to view them in the catalog.





# Adult Events



## Happenings



### **A Living Legacy: Honoring the WWII Generation**

**Tuesday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> | 7-8pm**

**Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)**

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. In memory of the fallen, this presentation will offer a thoughtful exploration of the WWII era, highlighting the contributions of both soldiers and civilians during the war. It will also provide an engaging overview of how the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. honors their legacy, with insights into the design, symbolism, and ongoing tribute to those who served. This program will be led by **Sahara Farrugio**, Officiant at the B.C. Bailey Funeral Home.



### **Medicare for Beginners**

**Monday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm**

**Community Room**

**No registration required**

Are you turning 65 and confused by Medicare or overwhelmed by all the insurance advertisements? Do you feel like you need to change your coverage but are overwhelmed? What do Initial, Annual, and Open Enrollment Periods each mean? Do you qualify for the Medicare Savings Program? Please join us for a relaxing evening to clear your confusion, answer all of your questions, get informed and get ready to get started.

**Joann Hummel**, Social Service Coordinator at the **Wallingford Senior Center**, will present this information session. As an In-Kind Professional Certified SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) CHOICES Counselor, she is unbiased about your enrollment choice and does not gain financially by the decisions you make. Her role is to inform you of all the options available from the Original Medicare plan A&B, The Medicare Supplement plans, the Advantage plans and everything in between.

### **Protecting Our Pollinators: How to Support Native Insects in Autumn**

**Tuesday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)**

Many of our native pollinators spend the winter hibernating right here in Connecticut. Their survival during the colder months is crucial to ensuring a healthy and abundant ecosystem for all. Come and learn a few of the simple things you can do in your yard this fall to foster a supportive environment for the fireflies, bees, moths, and butterflies that share our surroundings. **Nancy Tipping**, Ambassador for the **Xerces Society**, will lead this one-of-a-kind presentation on sustainable gardening.

### **An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe**

**Tuesday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)**

Join us for an evening with one of America's most legendary authors! Conjured back from the shadows by actor **Campbell Harmon** for a most extraordinary hour, Edgar Allan Poe will share with the audience his passions, his influences, his reflections on writing, and a performance of his most celebrated poem "The Raven." This evening of Gothic verse and haunting history is not to be missed.

### **Ask Attorney Allinson**

**Wednesday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room | [Register](#)**

**Steven Allinson**, a attorney 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**

Come join us for a weekly program to forge new connections with folks you might otherwise never get to know! Stop by for a warm drink and some conversation, hosted by Linda Reilly-Blue (LRB) a former radio host and producer, passionate birth doula, parent educator, and reiki practitioner. With degrees in Counseling, Psychology, and Human Service Administration, LRB's professional and personal experiences blend to create a holistic approach to supporting others.



## Wallingford Ukulele Club

**Monday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> | 10-11:30am**

**Wednesday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30-8pm | Collins Room**

**(Meets in the Community Room on the 29<sup>th</sup>)**

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!

## WPL Play Readers

**Wednesday, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> | 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, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> | 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](mailto:kjc73048@gmail.com).

# New Group!

## English Conversation Group

**Mondays starting Sept 15<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30-7:30pm | Board Room**

The WPL is pleased to introduce our new English Conversation Group! This is an informal gathering for people who wish to practice speaking English. There is no level of proficiency required to join. The group will be facilitated by library staff member Rebecca Paniagua, who is a native speaker of English. *Please note: this is not a formal English class. The purpose of these meetings is to give participants an opportunity to engage in discussions, participate in activities, and practice their English skills in a supportive environment.*

# Dolls of Latin America An Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibit

**On Display throughout September  
in the Lower Vestibule**

In the 1980s and 1990s, Mattel produced a collection of international dolls from countries all over the world. To celebrate Hispanic



**This display has been  
canceled due to a  
change in availability.**

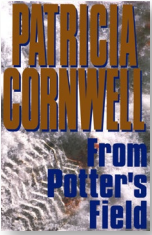
and handmade with authentic fabrics, ribbons, and colors. Drop by the library anytime in September to see these beautiful, one-of-a-kind figurines in our display case!





# For Readers

## Book Clubs



### Mystery Book Club

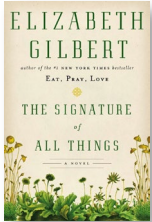
**From Potter's Field** by Patricia Cornwell

Wednesday, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> | 3-4:15pm | Zoom

Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

A nude female corpse sits propped against a fountain in New York City's Central Park. When Dr. Kay Scarpetta and her colleagues arrive on the scene, they recognize the signature of serial killer Temple Brooks Gault. Scarpetta, on assignment with the FBI, visits the morgue and uses her forensic expertise to try to give a name to the unidentified woman. But while she's working, Gault strikes again.

To participate, contact Carole at [cshmurak@gmail.com](mailto:cshmurak@gmail.com) and put "Wallingford Mystery Book Club" in the subject line.



### Thursday Night Book Club

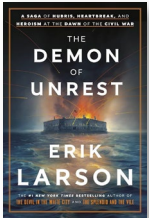
**The Signature of All Things** by Elizabeth Gilbert

Thursday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8 pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Born to "the richest man in Philadelphia" in 1800, Alma Whittaker spends hours learning Latin and Greek and studying the natural world. But her plain appearance and her intelligence relegate her to spinsterhood until she meets gifted artist Ambrose Pike. After they marry, Alma, who has never traveled out of Philadelphia, travels from Tahiti to Holland and learns about both the ways of the world and her own complicated nature.

For details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken at [chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org](mailto:chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org)



### Truth Be Told Nonfiction Book Club

**The Demon of Unrest:**

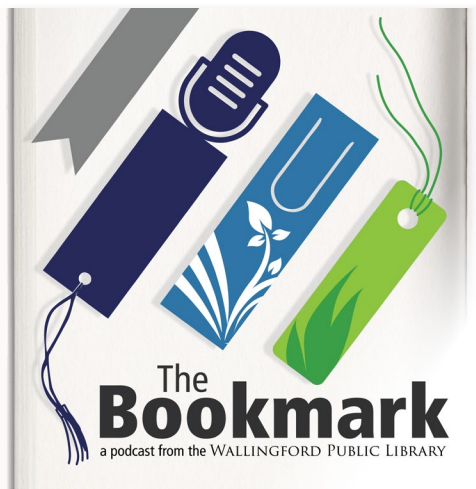
**A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War** by Erik Larson

Thursday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8 pm | Collins Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Educator Susan Gomes

On November 6th, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became the president of a country bitterly at odds; Southern extremists were moving ever closer to destroying the Union. Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, and plantation records, Larson reminds us that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late.

For details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken at [chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org](mailto:chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org)



**New Episode!** 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 talk about the fall publishing season, the 2025 Booker Prize for fiction longlist, and the upcoming edition of the library's popular Book Buzz program.



**Listen here:** [walpublib.org/TheBookmark](http://walpublib.org/TheBookmark)





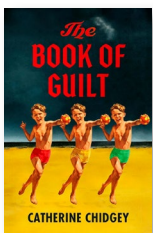
# Novelty

What's new in novels  
from Cindy Haiken



In his funny and moving new novel *I See You've Called In Dead*, John Kenney writes that "September has always been, for me, the beginning of the new year. Back to school. Back to life." As we come to the end of the dog days of summer, you can almost feel a subtle shift in the air. There is just a little more energy, vim and vigor. The publishing world perks up too as it starts to anticipate the release of some of the biggest books of the year. To give you a feel, here is a sample of the impressively large number of new novels scheduled to be published in September:

**Amity** by Nathan Harris — In the aftermath of the Civil War, two siblings try to reunite after one is kidnapped and taken to Mexico by her former slave owner.

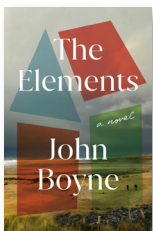


**The Book of Guilt** by Catherine Chidgey — In an alternate version of England in which WWII has ended in a stalemate, 13-year old triplets are the sole survivors of a disease that devastated the orphanage where they live.

**Circle of Days** by Ken Follett — The continuation of the bestselling series about three Neolithic people who come together to begin the construction of Stonehenge.

**Clown Town** by Mick Herron — The 9th book in the bestselling Slow Horses series, now streaming on Apple TV+.

**A Different Kind of Tension** by Jonathan Lethem — A short-story collection that shifts between realism and the surreal and between the absurd and the mundane.

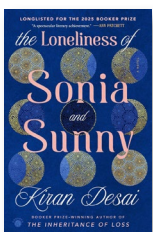


**The Elements** by John Boyne — Four interconnected narratives, each representing a different perspective on crime: the enabler, the accomplice, the perpetrator and the victim.

**Guilty by Definition** by Susie Dent — A team of lexicographers working at a famous dictionary publishing house are sent letters with clues to a decades-old secret.

**The Impossible Fortune** by Richard Osman — The 5th installment in the #1 bestselling Thursday Murder Club series, soon to be a TV miniseries streaming on Netflix.

**The Killer Question** by Janice Hallett — An amateur-sleuth story set in a pub during trivia night, where the clues are revealed through the quiz categories as well as messages and emails.



**The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny** by Kiran Desai — An Indian couple pursue love and success on their own terms both in the U.S. and in their homeland. Longlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize for fiction.

**Mercy** by Joan Silber — Two pairs of friends are connected by a tiny moment in the emergency room of St. Vincent's hospital in New York City.

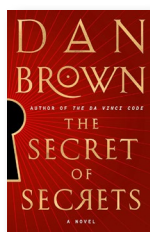


**One of Us** by Dan Chaon — 13-year-old orphaned twins join the circus while on the run from an evil con man in America in 1915.

**The Phoebe Variations** by Jane Hamilton — A straight A high school senior's world is upended by her adoptive mother's insistence that she meet her biological mother.

**Revenge of Odessa** by Frederick Forsyth and Tony Kent — The long-awaited sequel to the #1 bestselling spy thriller *The Odessa File*.

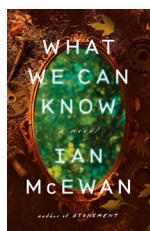
**Ripeness** by Sarah Moss — An Irish woman's best friend is contacted by a previously-unknown older brother who was adopted and raised in America and now wants to "see where he comes from."



**The Secret of Secrets** by Dan Brown — After a professor of symbology travels to Prague to attend a lecture by a scientist with whom he has recently begun a relationship, he is targeted by a powerful organization.

**Vianne** by Joanne Harris — This return to the world of the bestselling novel (and Oscar-nominated film adaptation) *Chocolat* is set six years before Vianne first opened her chocolate shop in a small French village.

**We Love You, Bunny** by Mona Awad — In this sequel to the bestselling *Bunny*, Samantha Heather Mackey leaves academia and heads out on her first book tour as a published author.



**What We Can Know** by Ian McEwan — Survivors of a nuclear disaster in 2119 England become fixated on an enigmatic love poem written in 2014.

**The Wilderness** by Angela Flournoy — Five Black women who share a lifelong bond attempt to navigate the trials of middle age.

**Will There Ever Be Another You** by Patricia Lockwood — A writer grapples with the debilitating long-term effects of Covid-19.

Also of note this month are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sanchez and Heron thriller by Jeffery Deaver (**The Grave Artist**), the 8<sup>th</sup> Cormoran Strike novel by Robert Galbraith (**The Hallmarked Man**), the 17<sup>th</sup> Easy Rawlins mystery by Walter Mosley (**Gray Dawn**), the 21<sup>st</sup> Joanna Brady mystery by J.A. Jance (**The Girl from Devil's Lake**), the 21<sup>st</sup> Cork O'Connor mystery by William Kent Krueger (**Apostle's Cove**), the 22<sup>nd</sup> installment in the Inspector Lynley series by Elizabeth George (**A Slowly Dying Cause**), the 24<sup>th</sup> Mitch Rapp thriller by Vince Flynn (**Denied Access**), the 26<sup>th</sup> No 1 Ladies Detective Agency novel by Alexander McCall Smith (**In the Time of Five Pumpkins**) and new novels by Jeffrey Archer (**End Game**), Elin Hilderbrand (**The Academy**), James Patterson (**Billion Dollar Ransom**) and Danielle Steel (**The Portrait**).

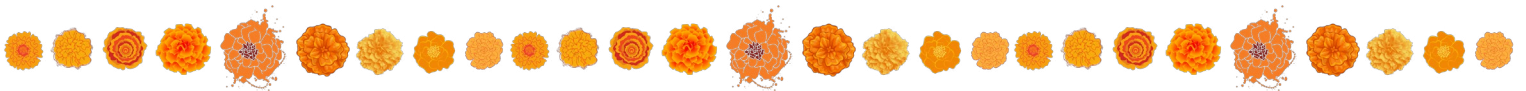


# Collaboratory

## Photo Requests for our **Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Altar**

This fall, the Library will hold a *Día de Muertos* (Day of the Dead) Celebration. This Mexican tradition is a way to remember loved ones who have passed away. It includes an extravagant altar with photos of those individuals, special offerings, and cultural symbols. Besides commemorating loved ones, the photos also are believed to help their spirits be free. We invite the community to share photos of their deceased loved ones (humans only, please) for inclusion in the altar. The altar will be on display in the Collaboratory in late October and early November and will be featured at the *Día de Muertos* Celebration.

Please email photos with the subject line **Altar Photo** to the Collaboratory ([wplcollaboratory@gmail.com](mailto:wplcollaboratory@gmail.com)) by **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**.



## Drop-In Programs

### Open Sew

**Tuesday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> | 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

**Thursday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> | 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 second and fourth Thursday of the month (only the second Thursday in September).

### Graphics Office Hours

**Monday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup> | 2-4pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Drop-in | Collaboratory**

Do you need dedicated one-on-one help with a graphics project? Our talented volunteer, Kate, will help you use Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, or Photoshop to turn your vision into reality. Stop by between 2-4pm on the first or third Monday of the month (only the third Monday in September).

## COOL Laboratory

Buttons (also known as pins) are fun, easy to assemble, and perfect for personal expression, giveaways, special events, and more. We have all the supplies you need, including circle cutters to give the perfect shape. Two sizes are available—1.25 and 2.25 inch diameter.

Collaboratory computers also have graphic design software including Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, and CorelDraw to help you create the perfect button.

[walpublib.org/CLButtonMaker](http://walpublib.org/CLButtonMaker)





# Lottery Programs

Visit the September program lottery to register for the events below:  
[walpublib.org/LotterySept25](http://walpublib.org/LotterySept25)

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 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://walpublib.org/UpcomingCollaboratory)

## Acrylic Paint Pour

Tuesday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR  
Thursday, Sept 4<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm

Have you ever wanted to try paint pouring but not at home? Make your masterpiece at the library instead! Be sure to wear clothing appropriate for a messy painting project.

## Laser Etched Wall Plate Cover

Saturday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> | 11am-12:30pm

Learn how to prepare a job for the laser cutter in CorelDRAW using royalty-free images found on Pixabay to create your own beautiful wall plate cover. (Finger) Painting the covers after they are laser etched also will be an option! *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

## Koi Slate

Monday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8:30pm OR  
Wednesday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> | 2:30-4:30pm

Paint a swimming koi on a slate tile using decorative painting techniques. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

## Introduction to Sewing: Quilted Oven Mitt

Tuesday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR  
Thursday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm

Use one of the Collaboratory's sewing machines to create a quilted oven mitt. This project is suitable for both beginners and more advanced sewers.



## Reusable Beeswax Wrappers

Saturday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> | 11am-12:30pm

Make your own reusable food wraps using beeswax and cotton cloth! They can be refreshed and used for years!

## Sublimation Metal Sign

Tuesday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR  
Thursday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm

Use our sublimation printer and heat press to decorate a metal sign, suitable for indoor or outdoor use. If you have a specific image you want to include, please bring it on a flash drive.



## Talking TED @ Home

Thursday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> | 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 September, we will watch and discuss Simon Sinek's "How Great Leaders Inspire Action."

Simon Sinek has a simple but powerful model for inspirational leadership—starting with a golden circle and the question: "Why?" His examples include Apple, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Wright brothers.



# Just for Teens

## Registration Required

### Customize a Zip Pouch

Wednesday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> | 3:30-4:45pm  
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Customize a small zip pouch with any design you come up with, perfect for storing your essentials in your backpack! We'll use the Collaboratory's sublimation printer, which will allow you to create a full-color design.

### Teen Craft Club

Thursday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> | 2-4pm | Collaboratory  
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 Craft Club meets during the school year on the monthly WPS early release days.*

### Sew a Key Fob

Saturday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup> | 11am-12:30pm  
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Sew your very own key fob/wrist keychain! This is a great project for a beginner sewist and will allow you to create your own one-of-a-kind key ring.

### College Admissions and Financial Aid Planning Workshop

Tuesday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> | 6:15-7:45pm  
Collins Room | Grades 9-12 & Adults | [Register](#)

Take the Stress Out of the Process—Start smart and early! Join returning presenter, Lynn Verrilli, for this workshop where you'll learn how to navigate college admissions with confidence and uncover strategies to maximize financial aid—regardless of income. Lynn will cover topics including:

- Insider tips on admissions timelines
- Strategies to lower college costs
- What colleges are really looking for and what you should be doing in high school to strengthen your chances of getting into a top-choice school

### Paint an Autumn Suncatcher

Wednesday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> | 3:30-4:45pm | Collaboratory  
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

The beautiful colors of autumn may not be here quite yet, but you can bring them inside with this program! We'll take glass frames and use translucent paint to create an autumn scene that the sun can shine through and illuminate.

## Teen Clubs

### Teen Debate Club

Last Tuesday of the month | 3-4:30pm | Collins Room  
Grades 9-12 | [Registration encouraged](#) | [Register](#)

Do you like to debate? Do you want to participate in something bigger than you? Are you a committed and dedicated teen? Then the WPL Debate Club is for you! Each session, we will introduce a new debate topic. Then, each team will have time to research and devise an argument. We will then have an entire debate discussion with a judge who will award points. Overall, this will be a fun and competitive activity for all local high school students.

### Trading Card Battle Club

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

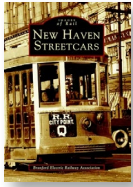
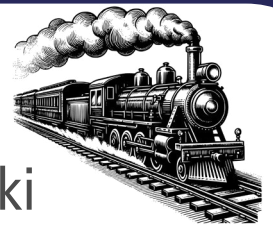




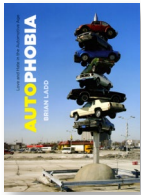


# Last Words:

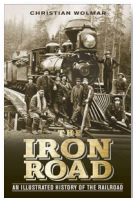
## To the Trains from Chris Ciemniowski



Although it may not be evident today, the United States owes much of its early economic success to steam trains. During the industrial revolution trains were instrumental in transporting materials and people around a vast and growing country. Not too long afterward, electric streetcars popped up in American cities, beginning in Richmond, VA and spreading to cities like New Haven and even Wallingford to further assist in getting people from their front doors to their destinations in a world without automobiles. While larger cities like New York eventually implemented and retained their metro networks, the trains and trolleys that led the country to prosperity have been largely supplanted by the Interstate system and automobiles. In his book **Autophobia**, Brian Ladd had these sentiments to offer on this uniquely American phenomenon:

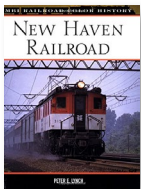


"Cars are the scourge of civilization, responsible for everything from suburban sprawl and urban decay to environmental devastation and rampant climate change... Some thirty million people were killed in car accidents during the twentieth century—plus the countless number of hours we waste in gridlock traffic commuting to work, running errands, picking up our kids, and searching for parking, and one can't help but ask: Haven't we had enough already?"



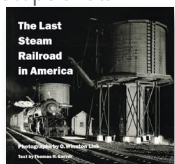
Let's leave behind the diesel-scented asphalt roads for a moment and recall a time when public transit was the future. To the trains! Christian Wolmar's set of text-heavy books **The Iron Road** and **The Great Railroad Revolution** offer a definitive history of trains in America. Included are maps of railroads across the nation from different decades which show the progress and cessation of the rails as they made their way from the coasts to the interior. The

story of America's railroads begins with necessity: in order for the country's industry to expand, it needed to build rails to transport materials—and people would soon follow. It became every large city and small town's dream to be connected to the growing railway network and the progress that came with it.



While Wolmar's books capture the spirit of American locomotion as it took off across the country, Peter E. Lynch's **New Haven Railroad** focuses solely on Connecticut's most historic railroad system. Local history buffs will love this collection of stories and images of the New Haven Railroad from the 1880s through the 1960s. The main text describes the history of the railroad in a way that all readers can understand, while pictorial captions give more technical descriptions of the engines and rolling stock.

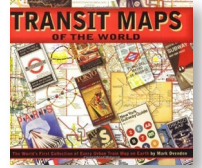
The coffee table-sized book **The Last Steam Railroad in America** contains a beautiful assortment of high quality color and black and white photos taken by O. Winston Link with text by Thomas H. Garver. The book captures both the charm and melancholy of the last years of the steam engines, particularly images of passengers and crew. Landscape shots depicting steam engines passing through autumnal hills, golden wheat fields, and snowy valleys, leaving a billowing trail of smoke in their wake, invoke a distinctly Americana ambience.



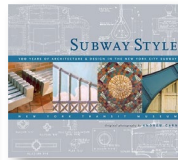
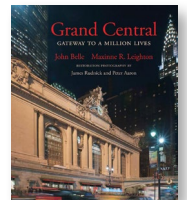
**Train: The Evolution of Rail Travel** by Philip Marsh focuses on technological advancements and cultural significance of railroads throughout time across all continents. The book highlights important milestones along the way and contains pages of historical photos, travel posters, illustrations of long-gone structures, and architectural blueprints. The book bears the same charm as reading through a homemade scrapbook of collected memorabilia.



For even more railroad realia, Brad S. Lomazzi's **Railroad** offers a collection of timetables, travel brochures, and posters from defunct railroad networks. Written as a guide for collectors, the reproductions will also appeal to frequent travelers and American history buffs alike. If you're into maps, **Transit Maps of the World** by Mark Ovenden is a complete collection of every urban train map on Earth, organized by the amount of marketing material available for each system. Containing maps from every major city in the world, the book describes in detail the evolution of each map's design.

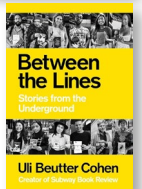
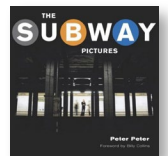


—And what would the railroads be without their stations? Jill Jonnes' **Conquering Gotham** describes the construction of one of the most legendary lost train stations: New York's Penn Station. Jonnes examines how the gilded age made the station's construction possible, what made it so remarkable, and what made the loss of the original station so devastating. More familiar to contemporary travelers is Grand Central Station. In **Grand Central: Gateway to a Million Lives** authors John Belle and Maxinne R. Leighton provide the biography of one of the world's most recognizable train stations and how it became "grand." Along with detailed 3D maps and cross-sections, the book touches on different facets of the station such as architectural and artistic details, its adjoining real estate, and its place in the collective minds of American travelers.



Once you arrive in Grand Central Station, (nearly) all of New York City is accessible via a robust subway system! **Subway Style**, a collection of photographs from Andrew Garn, hones in on the often overlooked details of the

New York City subway—the things fast-moving travelers may not notice such as tile work, stone reliefs, wrought iron gates, lighting fixtures, benches, signage, and other artwork. For well seasoned subway riders, the book may be fun to flip through to see how many details you recognize! **Training Days** from Thames & Hudson similarly focuses on the many graffiti murals found throughout the subway system and contains brief bios and profiles of the artists who made them. The New York City subway is famously known for its eclectic riders. Brian Young's **The Train 1984** and Peter Peter's **The Subway Pictures** are coffee table books which draw attention to the amazing and unusual denizens of the subways cars as the subjects of these photo collections. While these two collections contain only images, **Between the Lines** by Uli Beutter Cohen features a collection of interviews with travelers on the New York subway system. In particular, the interviews focus on what subway passengers are reading, where they are heading, and their thoughts on the city, which offers readers insight into their fellow travelers' psyches.



This list would not be complete without mention of model railroad enthusiasts. **The Lionel Legend** by Robert Schleicher offers a glimpse into this niche hobby for railroad lovers. Each page of this 253 page book focuses on a different engine, car, or lineside structure such as stations, water towers, or lumber mills. Enthusiasts will appreciate the comprehensiveness of the collection, while casual readers will be enthralled by the attention to detail in these miniature railroads.

I hope this month's column inspires you to board a train here at Wallingford Station to visit **The Libraries of the Hartford Line** (more info on the back cover) and rediscover the joy of traveling the iron roads.



## Sept Hours

**Monday - Friday**  
9:30am - 9pm

**Saturday**  
9:30am - 5pm

## Scheduled Closings

**Labor Day**  
Monday, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>



**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

**Sept 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.



# Libraries of the HARTFORD LINE

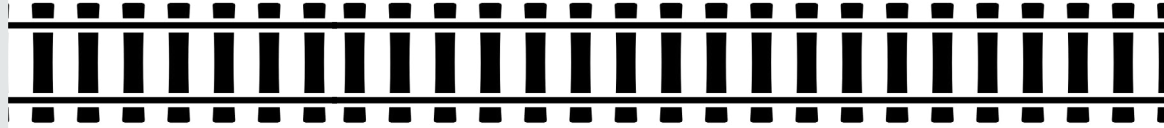


**MERIDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**WINDSOR Public Library**



**Did you know you can use your CT library card at any library in the state? Travel by train and explore the Libraries of the Hartford Line for a chance to win a library swag bag!**

Each library along the Hartford Line is just a short scenic walk (20 minutes or less) from their town's train station. Park your car at your closest station and enjoy the benefits of public transit as you ride the rails through central Connecticut. Embark at each stop to discover the unique characteristics and services found at each library, from delightful children's rooms and exciting teen lounges to busy maker spaces and cozy reading rooms.

Visit the Information Desk at any of the participating libraries to pick up a guide book and receive a stamp and small prize at each library. Once you receive all four stamps, return the guide book to any of the participating libraries by **Oct 7<sup>th</sup>** to be eligible for the grand prize drawing.



## IN OTHERS' Words...



I'm not saying I'll turn down a good road trip, but it has been the trains, ferries, subways, and most frequently the buses that have most helped me travel the world. When I want to explore a place, to get a sense of its culture, people, and neighborhoods (even my own), I have found that there is no better way to travel than public transportation. Crowded or nearly empty, full of conversations or silence, scheduled or unscheduled, with live chickens or Styrofoam packets of eggs, on sleek coaches or beat-up minibuses, whether in my hometown or a new town in a foreign country: traveling on public transportation becomes a primary insight into a place and culture.



— Bryanna Plog, *Make Sure You Have a Map*