

Oct
2025

Words

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
Frightful Phantasms and Friendly Feasts



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) by **Wednesday, October 15th**.

REVOLUTIONARY SPIRITS: **Ghost Stories of Colonial New England**

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

America has a unique and far-reaching history of stories of the strange and unusual, beginning with the very first settlers who arrived on these shores from England. These tales only increased during and after the American Revolution. From stories of restless phantoms of soldiers and war prisoners to reports of George Washington's spirit wandering the halls of Mount Vernon, there are a plethora of Revolutionary-era ghost stories to explore on the East Coast. In honor of the Halloween season and the upcoming 250th anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence, **Sean and Carrie McCabe** of the "*Ain't it Scary? with Sean & Carrie*" podcast will be hosting a short history of ghost stories with roots in colonial folklore and the Revolutionary War.



**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 full color edition of the current issue 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.

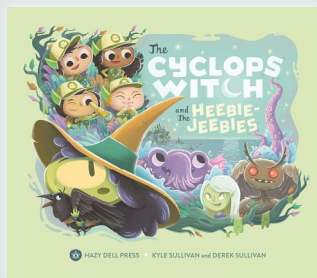
The Wallingford Public Library relies on member contributions in addition to funding it receives from the Town of Wallingford. We hope you will support the Library by becoming a member of the Wallingford Public Library Association. Your support helps ensure that the Library will continue to be a dynamic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

SPOOKY Staff Picks



Kayleigh
Until Dawn
from Sony



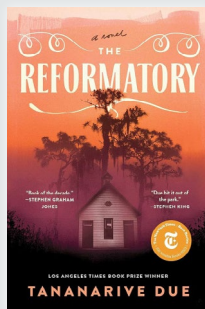
Caitlin
*The Cyclops Witch and
the Heebie-Jeebies*
by Kyle Sullivan



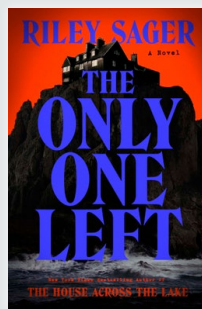
Rachel
Housebound
dir. by Gerard Johnstone



Meghan
Let the Right One In
dir. by Tomas Alfredson



James
The Reformatory
by Tananarive Due



Sam LeGrand
The Only One Left
by Riley Sager

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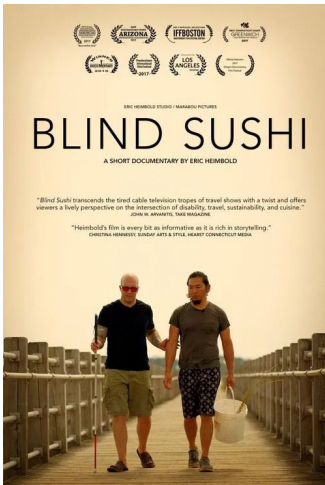
View this newsletter online!

Blind Sushi: A Screening & Tasting with Chef Bun Lai

Monday, Oct 27th | 7-9pm | Community Room | [Register](#)

After a brief business meeting, join us for a screening of the award-winning 17-minute documentary *Blind Sushi!* This short film, directed by Eric Heimbold of “Who Let the Dogs Out” music video fame, follows blind travel writer Ryan Knighton and Chef Bun Lai as they dive into the murky waters of Long Island Sound in search of ingredients to create a meal that is as enlightening as it is delicious. The screening will be followed by a tasting of **Chef Bun Lai’s** innovative and sustainable sushi creations and a lively conversation exploring the relationship between food, health, society, and the environment.

Chef Bun Lai is the recipient of the 2016 White House Champion of Change Award for Sustainable Seafood and a James Beard Award nominee. His family restaurant Miya’s, founded by his mother, Yoshiko Lai, in 1982, is the first sustainable sushi restaurant in the world. Miya’s specializes in sustainable seafood-based sushi, plant-based sushi, and invasive species-based sushi.



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

Malala Yousafzai Finding My Way

Wednesday, Oct 22nd | 7-8 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)

Thrust onto the public stage when she was 15 after the Taliban’s attack on her life, **Malala Yousafzai** became an international icon known for bravery and resilience. But away from the cameras and crowds, she spent years struggling to find her place in an unfamiliar world. Her new memoir *Finding My Way* is a story of friendship and first love, of anxiety and self-discovery, of trying to stay true to yourself when everyone wants to tell you who you are. In it, Malala traces her path from high school loner to reckless college student to a young woman at peace with her past. Through candid, often messy moments like nearly failing exams, getting ghosted, and meeting the love of her life, Malala reminds us that real role models aren’t perfect—they’re human.

Malala Yousafzai is an education activist, the youngest-ever Nobel laureate, bestselling author, and award-winning film producer. She was born in Mingora, Pakistan, in 1997 and graduated from Oxford University in 2020.

Philippa Gregory

Courtly Intrigue and Whispers as Weapons
Wednesday, Oct 29th | 2-3pm | Zoom | [Register](#)

Philippa Gregory returns to the infamous Tudor Court in her new novel *Boleyn Traitor*. Jane Boleyn watches from the shadows of the Tudor Court, where secrets are currency, every choice is dangerous, and even the faintest whisper can seal the fate of queens. For Jane, survival demands playing every role required of her: a loving wife who conceals her doubts, a devoted sister to Anne Boleyn at the height of her power, and an obedient spy who carefully wields her words. But in a court ruled by ambition and a tyrant’s sword, Jane must rely on her sharp wit and skillful maneuvering to outthink those around her, knowing that one wrong move could cost her everything.

Dr. Philippa Gregory is one of the world’s foremost historical novelists and has written many bestselling novels, including *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *The White Queen*. She studied history at the University of Sussex and was awarded a PhD by the University of Edinburgh. In 2021, she was awarded a CBE for services to literature and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

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: File Organization

Saturday, Oct 4th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Board Room | [Register](#)

Learn the key features and functions of the Windows file explorer to put organization back into your hands. Please bring your Windows 11 laptop to class. Elijah will demonstrate how to:

- Confidently navigate the modern file explorer interface to take control of your digital workspace
- Organize files and folders like a pro by mastering the drag and drop, right-click and custom views to save time and reduce clutter
- Customize your file explorer experience using layouts, pinned folders and shortcuts to match the type of personalization you are looking for
- Transfer files seamlessly between your computer and external storage devices (USB drives, external hard drives, SD cards), ensuring your data is safely backed up and always accessible

Dear IT: What Is New in iOS 26

Saturday, Oct 18th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collins Room | [Register](#)

Join Connor for an exciting deep dive into iOS 26 and all of the newest features Apple has added to your iPhone and iPad! Whether you're curious about the latest messaging improvements and redesigned apps, or just want to learn what's changing, this class will walk you through everything you need to know. Topics covered in this class include:

- A tour of new features in iOS 26, including visual changes and system updates
- Improvements to Siri, Apple Intelligence, and on-device AI
- New customization options for the Home Screen and Lock Screen
- Improvements to Messages and Phone Call
- New ways to multi-task and use your iPad like a Mac
- Tips for updating your device safely and efficiently

Please bring your fully charged iPhone or iPad to the class and make sure the device has been updated to iOS 26. If your device hasn't been updated yet, you're still welcome to join us and follow along!



Introduction to Canva

Monday, Oct 6th | 2-3:30pm OR

Saturday, Oct 25th | 2-3:30pm

Adults | Collaboratory

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

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

Cutting the Cord: Options for TV Without Cable

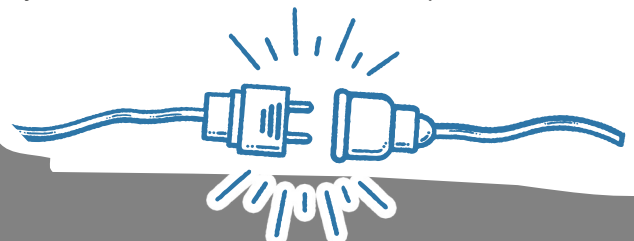
Saturday, Oct 11th | 2-3:30pm OR

Monday, Oct 20th | 2-3:30pm

Adults | Board Room

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

Thinking about getting rid of cable? This lecture-style class will explore Internet-based streaming services and various devices that allow you to watch TV without a cable subscription.



From the
B.S.
Borrower Services
Department

Cardholder Perks for Family Historians

Have you been trying to research your family tree, but so far your tree looks more like a lopsided shrub? Get started by learning the basics of family history research with our selection of genealogy guidebooks that can be found under **929 in the Adult Nonfiction section**. (walpublib.org/GenealogyBooks)

For online research, **Ancestry Library Edition** and **American Ancestors** (available for in-library use) provide access to billions of records, including census, vital, military, court, immigration, and other types of official records, as well as local directories, obituaries, photos, and much more. **Newspapers.com by Ancestry** (available for in-library use) provides online access to historical newspapers including *The Meriden Journal*, *The Meriden Daily Republican*, *The Meriden Republican*, *The Meriden Weekly Republican*, and the *Record-Journal*.

Want to preserve your family documents, photos, and videos for future generations? The **Collaboratory** offers a variety of equipment to digitize your VHS and audio cassettes, LPs, photographs, slides, negatives, and 8 mm film. Wondering what to do with those boxes and boxes of old slides? Borrow our **slide scanner** to create digital copies of glass slides, 35mm slides, film negatives, or flatbed slides. (walpublib.org/Collaboratory)

Additionally, the **Connecticut Collection** preserves Wallingford's history for public research. This collection includes photos, postcards, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, brochures, maps, school yearbooks, town directories, genealogies and more. To learn about using the Connecticut Collection, please ask a staff member at the Information Desk. (walpublib.org/ConnecticutCollection)



Take a peek back in time in the
Connecticut Collection!

walpublib.org/BSHistory

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS



Karate Kid: Legends

Friday, Oct 3rd | 6-8pm

Drop-in | Community Room | PG-13

After kung fu prodigy Li Fong relocates to New York City, he attracts unwanted attention from a local karate champion and embarks on a journey to enter the ultimate karate competition with the help of Mr. Han and Daniel LaRusso.



Jurassic World: Rebirth

Friday, Oct 24th | 6-8pm

Drop-in | Community Room | PG-13

Five years after the events of *Jurassic World: Dominion*, an expedition braves isolated equatorial regions to extract DNA from three massive prehistoric creatures for a groundbreaking medical breakthrough.

Children & Families

School-Aged Programs

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.

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

Cookie Decorating with the Tasty Sprinkle

Thursday, Oct 2nd | Grades 1-5 | 6:30-7:30pm
Children's Program Room | [Register](#)

Does your child love to decorate cookies? Then this is the class for them! Learn the secrets of decorating sugar cookies with smooth and shiny royal icing. We'll show you how to hold the bag, use special tools, and create a flower masterpiece! Kids will get to practice on their own set of cookies like a pro. By the end of the class, they'll have a set of beautifully decorated cookies to take home!

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

Saturday, Oct 4th | 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!

Pokémon Tournament

Saturday, Oct 4th | 1:30-4pm | Grades 2-8
Children's Room | [Register](#)

Come compete for a custom made Pokémon trophy and the title of best trainer in Wallingford! You will be matched up with other players for three rounds of games, then the players with the best records will duke it out in the finals for prizes. In addition to the trophy and title, other prizes will be given out to finalists including rare and powerful cards! Prizing will scale based on attendance, so the more people enter, the more prizes will be given out. This program will be part of Game On! for October. If you don't have your own deck, the library has loaner decks you can borrow.

All About Agriculture! With Miss Connecticut Teen Volunteer

Monday, Oct 6th | 5:30-6:30pm | Grades 2-5
Children's Program Room | [Register](#)

Join Ella Perillo, 2025's Miss Connecticut Teen Volunteer, to learn about the importance of agriculture to your daily life. Decorate a ceramic pot, plant some seeds, and even meet Iceberg the chicken!

Alebrijes with SCOW: A Story & Art Adventure

Thursday, Oct 16th | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades K-5
Children's Program Room | [Register](#)

Alebrijes are brightly colored imaginary creatures. Join SCOW to learn more about these Mexican folk art sculptures with a bilingual story, and then create your own fantastical animal!

Paws for Reading

Saturday, Oct 18th | 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 four. Presented by the Friends of the Wallingford Animal Shelter.

Tabletop Adventures: Percy Jackson

Tuesday, Oct 21st | 5:30-7pm | Grades 4-8
Children's Program Room | [Register](#)

Help save Camp Half Blood from invading monsters in this Dungeons and Dragons-esque adventure set in the world of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson! Create a demigod and help your fellow campers defend your home as all manner of monsters attack it! 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 one or more of the books ahead of time may have a distinct advantage.

Innovation Expedition for Tweens

Thursday, Oct 23rd | 2:30-5:30 | Grades 4-8
Community Room | [Register](#)

Innovation Expedition is an exciting, hands-on workshop where students work in teams to solve a real-world problem through creativity and collaboration. Participants will journey through the invention process, from brainstorming to designing, and finally presenting their innovative ideas. Students will learn real-world, life-long problem-solving skills. Don't miss out on this innovative adventure! *Please note, this is an early dismissal day for Wallingford Public Schools.*

LEGO Club

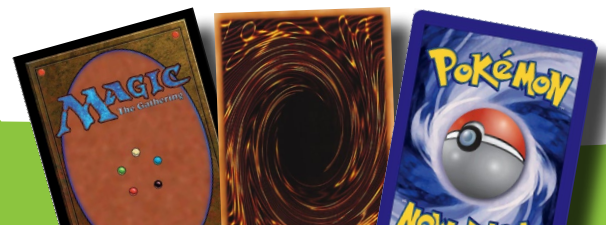
Saturday, Oct 25th | 2-3pm | Grades K-5
Wonder Room | [Register](#)

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.

Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, Oct 28th | 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.

Toddler Yoga

Friday, Oct 3rd | 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, Oct 11th | 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.

Rhyme Time Engineers

Friday, Oct 17th | 10:30-11:15am | Ages 3-5

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

When you combine early literacy, STEM, and retired kindergarten teacher, Adrienne Ferretti, you get Rhyme Time Engineers. Ms. Ferretti will lead preschoolers through a nursery rhyme and then guide them through rhyme-inspired STEM activities. *This program has been made possible by a donation from Ulbrich.*

Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, Oct 21st | 9:30am OR 1pm

Ages 3-5 | Marcus Cooke Park

[Register for 9:30pm](#) | [Register for 1:00pm](#)

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.

Halloween Party for Littles

Friday, Oct 31st | 10-11:30am | Ages 0-5

Children's Room | [Register](#)

Join us for a friendly spooktacular Halloween party in the Children's Room! Visit different craft and game stations spread out around the department. Make sure to wear your costume so you can trick or treat around the library. *This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like a reminder email.*

Weekly Story Times

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

Bouncing Babies

Ages 0-18 months | 10am or 10:30am | Wonder Room
Mondays, Sept 8th - Nov 10th

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 9th - Nov 4th

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 10th - Nov 12th

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 10th - Nov 12th

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 11th - Nov 13th

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.

Family Fun Together!

Family Dungeons & Dragons

Tuesday, Oct 7th | 6-8pm | All ages

Wonder Room | [Register](#)

It's Dungeons & Dragons for the whole family! In this program we will be providing the space and materials for kids and their grown-ups to play D&D together! We have numerous premade quests and characters, as well as multiple experienced players/ Dungeon Masters who can offer guidance on the rules or help run an adventure for you.

Kids of any age can come play, as long as their grown-ups play with them! This is a perfect program for someone's first foray into D&D, or for more experienced players who want to test out characters they have built, or even practice being the Dungeon Master.

Family Paint & Sip: Spooky Edition

Monday, Oct 13th | 6-7:30pm | Grades 2-6
Community Room | [Register](#)

Spooky season is here! Make a "boo-tiful" painting on a canvas while enjoying some apple cider. All painting abilities are welcome and instructions will be provided step-by-step. Grown-ups are welcome and encouraged to participate in the painting fun!



Adult Events

Happenings



Tax Q&A: A CT Department of Revenue Services Outreach Visit

Wednesday, Oct 1st | 11am-2pm | Collins Room | No registration required

Drop by the Wallingford Public Library between 11am and 2pm on October 1st to have all of your tax queries answered by an expert! The **CT Department of Revenue Services** is visiting public libraries throughout the state to answer questions related to Connecticut taxes and familiarize taxpayers with the state's new online portal myconnect, where they can file Connecticut tax returns, make payments, and view their filing history. These community outreach events are part of a statewide DRS effort to educate residents about their taxes.



Interviewing Strategies and Techniques

Wednesday, Oct 8th | 1:30-3pm | Community Room | [Register](#)

This comprehensive workshop is designed to provide job seekers with the skills they need to navigate the interview process with confidence from start to finish. Participants will learn how to prepare for a job interview effectively, conduct meaningful company research, and present themselves professionally. The session will also cover best practices for strategically answering key interview questions, asking appropriate and thoughtful follow-up questions, and closing the interview in a way that leaves a strong and lasting impression. Presented by the **American Job Center**.



Food for Thought: A Nutrition Series for Adults

Thursdays, Oct 9th, 16th, & 23rd | 2-3pm | Collins Room | [Register](#)

Our three-part "Food for Thought" series, led by **Priya Gooty** of **Omni Health LLC**, emphasizes the benefits of eating nutritious, home-prepared meals instead of eating out. The program covers meal planning strategies and aims to make the process enjoyable. Attendees will receive recipe handouts and participate in an interactive game at the end of each session. Separate registration is required for each class.

Class One (Thursday, Oct 9th): "Meal Prep Made Easy"

Class Two (Thursday, Oct 16th): "Safe Meal Storage"

Class Three (Thursday, Oct 23rd): "Fresh vs. Processed Foods"

Building Bridges of Belonging: A Community Housing Conversation

Tuesday, Oct 14th | 6:30-8pm | Community Room | [Register](#)

Join us for a community conversation on housing, neighboring, and calling Wallingford home. This gathering will provide an opportunity for participants to get to know each other as they share their housing experiences. We hope to offer a space where residents can discuss community concerns, explore how systemic issues shape various housing challenges, and build collective strategies together.



THE Wallingford TABLE

Where everyone has a seat.



The Wallingford Table Presents: Cooking with Ana

Tuesday, Oct 7th | 6-8pm | Community Room | [Register](#)

Join **Ana Avila** and the **Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW)** for a bilingual cooking demonstration in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month! Ana will be preparing traditional tamales from Mexico. During this educational and entertaining event, you'll get to see how this delicious dish is prepared and taste the final product. Don't miss an opportunity to celebrate diverse flavors and culture through food! *The Wallingford Table series is sponsored by donations from The Great Give.*

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.

WPL Play Readers

Wednesday, Oct 1st | 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.

ASL Conversation Group

Wednesday, Oct 1st | 7-8pm | Board Room

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

Wallingford Ukulele Club

Monday, Oct 6th | 10-11:30am | Community Room

Wednesday, Oct 8th | 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!

Saturday Mornings with Poetry

Saturdays, Oct 11th & 25th

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.

New Groups!

English Conversation Group

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

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.*

Woven Together: A Fiber Arts Club for Adults

Thursday, Oct 2nd | 6:30-8pm

Collaboratory Horseshoe Booth

Gather with fellow fiber arts enthusiasts on the first Thursday of the month! Whether you knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, macrame, or create any other type of textile art, there's a place for you here. Bring your current project & supplies. Beginners are welcome. This club will be facilitated by **Mary Jane Chicosi**, a local member of the American Sewing Guild.

Wallingford Ukulele Club: Advanced Beginner Workshop

Monday, Oct 20th | 6:30-8pm | Community Room

For those who know a handful of chords and a basic up/down strum, here's a chance to take your skills to a new level. A ukulele and music stand are required. Please pre-register by Oct 16th by emailing Beth Peters at bethpetersct@gmail.com.

International Movie Night:

Truman

Friday, Oct 10th | 6-8pm | Community Room

No registration required | PG-13



Join us on the second Friday of each month to enjoy a fascinating film from another country!

Our October 10th screening will feature the 2015 Spanish comedy-drama *Truman*. This moving story follows terminally ill actor Julián, who wants to spend his final days tying up loose ends instead of undergoing treatment. When his childhood friend Tomás pays him an unexpected visit, the two set out together to

plan Julián's funeral, settle his accounts and, most importantly, find a home for his beloved dog, Truman, in this heartfelt and surprisingly humorous movie.



For Readers

Book Clubs



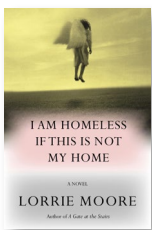
Mystery Book Club

The Silent Girl by Tess Gerritsen

Wednesday, Oct 8th | 3-4:15pm | Zoom | Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

On a tenement rooftop in Boston's Chinatown sits the corpse of a red-haired woman dressed all in black, her head nearly severed. Two strands of silver hair—not human—cling to her body. They are homicide cop Jane Rizzoli's only clues, but they're enough for her and medical examiner Maura Isles to recognize the bone-chilling echoes of an ancient Chinese legend.

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



Thursday Night Book Club

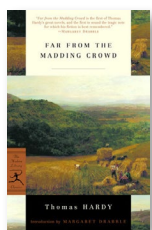
I Am Homeless If This Is Not My Home by Lorrie Moore

Thursday, Oct 16th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

In the fall of 2016, a high-school history teacher is visiting his brother, who is dying of late-stage cancer, when he rushes back to Illinois to take an absurd road trip with the ghost of his recently-deceased ex-girlfriend, a depressive therapy clown who took her own life. As he transports her decomposing body to a "body farm" in Kentucky, the narrative blurs the line between the living and the dead and between reality and delirium. Moore's novel won the 2023 National Book Critics Circle Award.

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



Classics Book Club

Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy

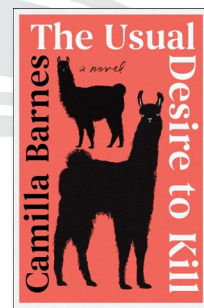
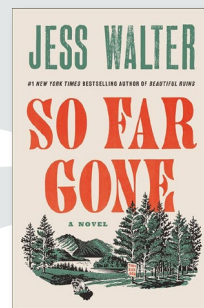
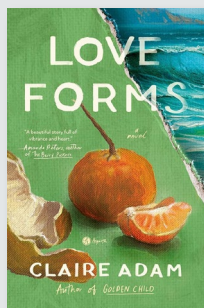
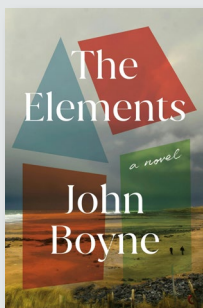
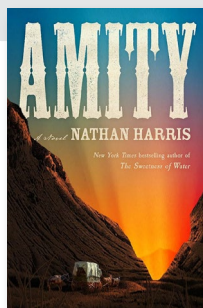
Thursday, Oct 23rd | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room and Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

In rural England in the 1870s, independent and spirited Bathsheba Everdene has come to Weatherbury to become a farmer on the largest estate in the area. Her bold presence draws three very different suitors: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, the soldier Sergeant Troy and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each, in contrasting ways, complicates her life. Hardy's first literary success, which has been adapted into a movie several times, evokes the decline of rural culture in the face of England's rapid industrialization.

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

Cindy's Picks



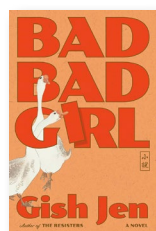


Novelty

What's new in novels
from Cindy Haiken



In her magnificent novel *Enlightenment*, Sarah Perry writes: "The faithless swifts had gone: it was the restless period between summer and autumn, when it was never possible to guess the weather or dress correctly for it." As September draws to a close and autumn officially arrives in New England, the fall publishing season shifts into high gear, with enough amazing-sounding new novels scheduled for publication in October to fill most of the pages in this newsletter! Here is a small sample of the great reads we have to look forward to this month:



Bad Bad Girl by Gish Jen — Two immigrants from Shanghai to New York meet in the late 1940s, marry and have children, one of whom grows up being told constantly that she is a "bad, bad girl."

Big Kiss, Bye-Bye by Claire-Louise Bennett — A woman who has moved to the country after a breakup reflects on her past loves.

Bog Queen by Anna North — An American forensic anthropologist investigates the surprising discovery of Iron Age human remains in England.

The Devil Is a Southpaw by Brandon Hobson — A man becomes obsessed with a Cherokee artist he was once locked up with when he was sent to a detention center as a young boy.

The Dogs of Venice by Steven Rowley — A heartbroken man takes a solo vacation to Venice and unexpectedly bonds with a dog.

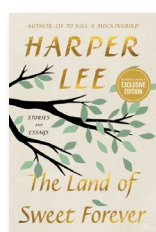
The Elopement by Gill Hornby — A woman's quiet life is upended when her widowed father remarries into a large and boisterous family.



Gone before Goodbye by Reese Witherspoon and Harlan Coben — A disgraced Army surgeon starts working under the table as a plastic surgeon for wealthy people and discovers that the work is more dangerous than she expected.

Heart the Lover by Lily King — A successful middle-aged novelist reminisces about her senior year of college when she lived in a professor's empty house with two male classmates.

I Am Cleopatra by Natasha Solomons — A fictional retelling of the life of the Egyptian queen Cleopatra, from her childhood to her fight to keep the throne.



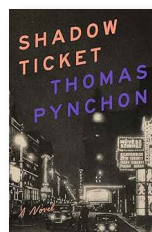
The Land of Sweet Forever by Harper Lee — A collection of early short stories and later nonfiction writing by the beloved novelist.

The Last Death of the Year by Sophie Hannah — In the 6th Agatha Christie homage mystery, Hercule Poirot struggles with a murder investigation during a New Year's Eve party.

Looking for Tank Man by Ha Jin — A Harvard student from China discovers the fraught, hidden history of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

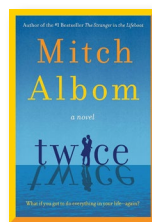
Minor Black Figures by Brandon Taylor — A Black painter from the South tries to navigate New York City's tight-knit art world.

Mrs. Wilson's Affair by Allyson Reedy — A retelling of *The Great Gatsby* from the perspective of Myrtle Wilson, Tom Buchanan's mistress



Shadow Ticket by Thomas Pynchon — An American private investigator goes searching for a missing heiress in Europe in the 1930s, and things do not go to plan.

Tom's Crossing by Mark Danielewski — Two friends in 1980s Utah head out on a mission to rescue a pair of horses that are scheduled to be slaughtered.



Twice by Mitch Albom — A man has the magical ability to do things over. He can rewind any moment and live it again, except for love; in that case, if he undoes it once, it is gone forever.

Venetian Vespers by John Banville — In the early 20th century, a pair of newlyweds escape to Venice after learning of their disinheritance but find themselves in sinister circumstances.

The Wayfinder by Adam Johnson — During the height of the Tu'i Tonga Empire in the Polynesian islands of the South Pacific, a young girl goes on a quest to save her people.

What a Way to Go by Bella Mackie — After a wealthy man is impaled by a spear-like decoration at his 60th birthday party, he is trapped in a bureaucratic purgatory until he can recall the exact details of his death.



Wreck by Catherine Newman — This sequel to the bestselling *Sandwich* is set two years in the future in Rocky's hometown in Western Massachusetts.

Also of note this month are the third book in the Lost Bride trilogy by Nora Roberts (*The Seven Rings*), the 6th Clay Edison thriller by Jonathan Kellerman (*Coyote Hills*), the 8th installment in the Lincoln Lawyer series by Michael Connelly (*The Proving Ground*), the 20th Inspector Gamache mystery by Louise Penny (*The Black Wolf*), the 29th Kay Scarpetta thriller by Patricia Cornwell (*Sharp Force*), the 32nd Andy Carpenter mystery by David Rosenfelt (*And to All a Good Bite*), a Christmas-themed Inspector Ian Rutledge novella by Charles Todd (*A Christmas Witness*) and new novels by Nelson and Alex DeMille (*The Tin Men*), John Grisham (*The Widow*), Debbie Macomber (*A Ferry Merry Christmas*), Freida McFadden (*The Intruder*), James Patterson (*The Picasso Heist*) and Nicholas Sparks (*Remain*).



Collaboratory

Drop-In Programs

YARN BOMBING: A Community Art Project

Monday, Oct 13th | 2-4pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 6+ | Drop-in | Collaboratory

Help us create knitted or crocheted squares that will later be stitched together to "yarn bomb" the trunks of the trees in front of the Library along North Main Street! You have the option to create a square of any size at home and bring it in to the Collaboratory during the drop-off period October 6th to October 11th, or join us in person to create a square on Monday, October 13th from 2-4pm. Yarn and limited supplies of knitting needles and crochet hooks will be available, but please feel free to bring your own from home.



Woven Together: A Fiber Arts Club for Adults

Thursday, Oct 2nd 6:30-8pm | Adults | Drop-in | Collaboratory

Gather with fellow fiber arts enthusiasts on the first Thursday of the month! Whether you knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, macrame, or create any other type of textile art, there's a place for you here. Bring your current project and supplies. Beginners are welcome. This club is facilitated by **Mary Jane Chicoski**, a local member of the American Sewing Guild.

Graphics Office Hours

Monday, Oct 6th & 20th | 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.

Open Sew

Tuesday, Oct 7th | 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, Oct 9th & 23rd | 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.

Lottery Programs

Visit the **October program lottery** to register for the events below:
walpublib.org/LotteryOct25

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

Resin Flower Coaster

Wednesday, Oct 1st | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Oct 2nd | 3-4:30pm

Nothing lasts forever... unless it's encased in epoxy resin! Learn about the resin casting processing while you create a flower-filled coaster.

Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.

Iron-on Felt Patches

Wednesday, Oct 8th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Oct 9th | 3-4:30pm

Using heat transfer vinyl and felt, create your own iron-on patches. No sewing required.

Paint Your Pet

Saturday, Oct 11th | 11am-12:30pm

Create a framed pet portrait with acrylic paint in the style of Andy Warhol! Please email a close-up clear photo of your pet (or favorite animal) to wplcollaboratory@gmail.com by Wednesday, October 8th for this personalized project. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

Polymer Clay Pumpkin Doorway

Tuesday, Oct 14th | 6-8:30pm | Collins Room

Create a polymer clay doorway, which can be inserted into a real pumpkin and reused year after year. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

Laser Cut Wall Sign

Wednesday, Oct 15th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Oct 16th | 3-4:30pm

Make custom laser cut wall art using your favorite word or short phrase. You will decorate the individual letters with paint, yarn, and other embellishments.

Halloween UV Resin Pins

Wednesday, Oct 22nd | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Oct 23rd | 3-4:30pm

Create Halloween-themed resin pins by tracing a template or drawing your own design, then curing and assembling the pins.

Whimsical Ghost Painting

Monday, Oct 27th | 6:30-8:30pm OR
Tuesday, Oct 28th | 2:30-4:30pm

Paint a whimsical ghost, along with a pumpkin and cat, on a pumpkin-shaped wood plaque.



COOL Laboratory

Did you know that the Collaboratory is also a music studio? It's true! We have musical instruments, microphones, recording software, and a noise-cancelling booth. In this month's Cool Laboratory video, you will learn about our musical equipment and how it can be used with Apple's GarageBand software.

walpublib.org/CLMusic



Just for Teens



Registration Required

Resin Ghost Light

Thursday, Oct 2nd | 6-7pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Make a little ghostie out of resin! You'll get to decorate the resin with dyes and mica powders. Once the resin cures, you'll be able to put your ghostie on a light stand and give them a glow. *Please note: this is a repeat program due to high demand. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

Halloween Needle Felting

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

Felt your own little Halloween decorations! Will you make a jack-o'-lantern? A witch hat? A bat? The choice is yours! Needle felting is a craft that uses a barbed needle to mat together fibers, typically wool, allowing you to create a wide variety of 2D and 3D objects.

Virtual Author Visit with Leigh Bardugo

Thursday, Oct 9th | 7-8pm | Zoom
Grades 6-12 & Adults | [Register](#)

Since publishing in 2015, Leigh Bardugo's highly popular *Six of Crows* has taken the world of YA literature by storm—and it's not hard to see why. The complex fantasy setting, thoughtfully-structured magic system, and deliciously morally gray characters all collide in a world you won't want to leave and you don't have to! Join us as we pick the brain of the *New York Times* bestselling author herself, celebrating the release of her *Six of Crows* (The Dregs Edition).

Yarn Bombing: A Community Art Project

Monday, Oct 13th | 2-4pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 & Adults | No registration required

Since publishing in 2015, Leigh Bardugo's highly popular *Six of Crows* has taken the world of YA literature by storm—and it's not hard to see why. The complex fantasy setting, thoughtfully-structured magic system, and deliciously morally gray characters all collide in a world you won't want to leave and you don't have to! Join us as we pick the brain of the *New York Times* bestselling author herself, celebrating the release of her *Six of Crows* (The Dregs Edition).

Halloween Silhouettes

Wednesday, Oct 15th | 3:15-4:45pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Paint a sunset over a spooky scene! Wear clothes that you are comfortable getting paint on.

Teen Craft Club

Thursday, Oct 16th | 2-4pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

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



Sew a Black Cat Pillow

Saturday, Oct 20th | 11am-2pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Sew your own adorable, soft black cat throw pillow! We'll use a simple pattern to cut the shape and will go through the sewing process step-by-step. Some experience with a sewing machine is preferred, but not required.

Innovation Expedition for Tweens

Thursday, Oct 23rd | 2:30-5:30pm | Community Room
Grades 4-8 | [Register](#)

Innovation Expedition is an exciting, hands-on workshop where students work in teams to solve a real-world problem through creativity and collaboration. Participants will journey through the invention process, from brainstorming to designing, and finally presenting their innovative ideas. Students will learn real-world, life-long problem-solving skills. Don't miss out on this innovative adventure! *Please note, this is an early dismissal day for Wallingford Public Schools.*

Craft a Magic Staff

Friday, Oct 24th | 3:30-4:45pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Craft your own magical staff to guide you on your mystic quests.

Drop-in 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:

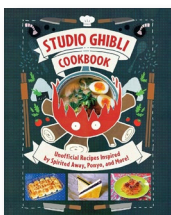
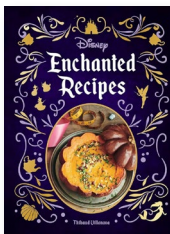
Edible Adaptations from Chris Ciemniowski

With so many great food events this month and with Thanksgiving (and Friendsgiving!) just around the corner, I went searching the library's collection for some of the most interesting and whimsical cookbooks!



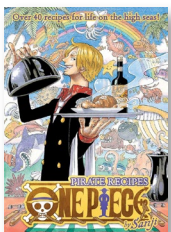
Planning a spooky gathering for Halloween? ***Hocus Pocus: The Official Cookbook*** might be what you're looking for to create memorable and chilling treats for your guests (especially if they are also *Hocus Pocus* fans!). The book contains many fall favorites from appetizers to desserts, with most including creepy garnishes or decorative ideas to make the plates look extra spooky!

And if you're a *Hocus Pocus* fan, you may also be a Disney fan! Disney's ***Enchanted Recipes*** is organized into four sections: Disney Princess inspired recipes, European cuisine, global cuisine, and other fanciful dishes (dubbed the "Wonderland" section in the book). Callbacks to dishes in Disney movies include Kronk's Spinach Puffs, Tiana's Beignets and Gumbo, Remy's Ratatouille, Kanine Crunchies, Mrs. Judson's Crumpets, and Creme de la Creme de la Edgar. Other dishes have a resemblance to the specific character or to the film they are derived from such as Ariel's Milkshake or Stroke of Midnight Pumpkin Soup. Still others are existing dishes with a Disney twist, such as kebabs, tamales, spaghetti, and even sushi!



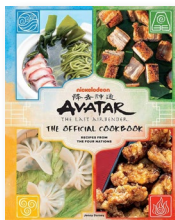
The Studio Ghibli Cookbook similarly contains recipes from the anime studio's films so that fans can remake the dishes at home. This cookbook's recipes are simple, requiring only a few steps and a handful of ingredients making them family-friendly and possibly a great follow-up activity to watching one of the studio's celebrated films. The book is split into two sections—main dishes and desserts—and includes recipes such as

Howl's Bacon & Eggs, Totoro's Bento, Tuna Onigiri, and Beef Stroganoff. Each recipe includes some background on the film it is from.

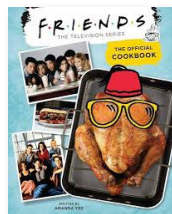


Anime fans won't want to miss ***Pirate Recipes by Sanji***, a cookbook inspired by *Once Piece* or *Avatar: The Last Airbender Official Cookbook*. Sanji's cookbook includes many Asian and seafood inspired dishes which coincides with the anime and manga's pirate theme. As you flip through the book you will also find mini comic strips and commentary on each recipe from Sanji and other *One Piece* characters. The

Avatar cookbook is split into four sections for each of the four Nations within the series: The Fire Nation, The Water Tribes, the Earth Kingdom, and the Air Nomads. Each of the four sections offers a variety of courses, giving readers (and chefs) an idea of what the cuisine of each fictional region might be like! For instance, many Water Tribe recipes focus on seafood and stews, while Fire Nation recipes emphasize grilling.

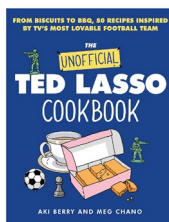
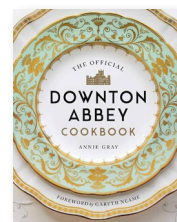


There might be no better cookbook for a friendsgiving than the ***Friends Official Cookbook*** inspired by the 90s television sitcom. While it is less



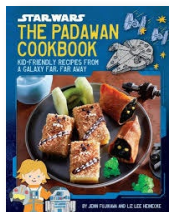
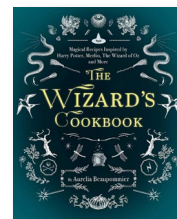
overtly themed than some of the other cookbooks on this list, each dish is pulled right out of the show, with the season, episode number, and title appearing at the top of each recipe. The recipes are even arranged in chronological order of appearance on the show, making it easy to theme a dinner party around specific episodes or season. One section even includes full menu plans based on the characters of Chandler and Monica.

For a more sophisticated dinner party you might try ***The Official Downton Abbey Cookbook***. The book is divided into "upstairs" and "downstairs" recipes with the "upstairs" containing specialized menus such as breakfast, lunch, supper, afternoon tea, garden party, picnics, race meets, and multi-course dinners. The cookbook embraces the show's historical authenticity by recreating some complex dishes from the 1900s such as Trout in Port Wine Sauce, Duck with Apples and Calvados, Porkchops with Sauce Robert, and Caviar Croutes. Interspersed between recipes are notes and suggestions for how to serve, eat, drink, and host in Edwardian fashion.



For a more laid back gathering, try ***The Unofficial Ted Lasso Cookbook***, which is perfect for game day gatherings! The book includes comfort foods like pigs in a blanket, fish and chips, shepherd's pie, pulled pork sandwiches, and goldfish mix. While not all recipes are from the show, the ones that are contain the season and episode number and title so you can stream while you cook!

Sorcerers of all types will find something they love in ***The Wizard's Cookbook*** which features recipes inspired by many famous franchises including *Bewitched*, *Doctor Strange*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *DuckTales*, *Zelda*, *Mary Poppins*, *Narnia*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *World of Warcraft*, and so many more! There's a handy pop culture guide at the very start of the book because it's nearly impossible for any one person to know every franchise. The book organizes its recipes into every day, special days, treats, and potions with varying levels of difficulty, plenty of nerdy references and gorgeously magical photos.



Finally, for *Star Wars* fans there is ***The Padawan Cookbook*** featuring family-friendly recipes organized by difficulty and themed as padawan cooking trials. The very first recipe in the lineup is the iconic Blue Bantha Milk Slushie. Many of the treats in the book are simple, such as two eggs and toast or butter coconut bars. But often these simple treats include adorable presentations and names, such as "Twin Sun Toast" or "Butter Chewies" (shaped like Chewbacca).

Whatever you decide to make at your next get together, if you use one of these books you're sure to have a unique dish—or at least an interesting story.



Oct Hours

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 9pm

Saturday
9:30am - 5pm

Scheduled Closings

No Scheduled Closings



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

Oct Specials
Tom Clancy & Clive Cussler
BOGO

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

Sally Coleman

(1928 - 2025)

A Personal Remembrance



Despite her small stature, I will always remember Sally Coleman as a giant in the history of the Wallingford Public Library. When I moved to Wallingford from New York State in the fall of 1975 as a young librarian, I was stunned by the cantankerous letters to the editor objecting to finding a location and building a new library for the community. Sally Coleman, writing in support, was being personally attacked by sharp responses in opposition. The debate, as I soon learned, had already been going on for several years and I recall thinking that I doubted whether I could stand up to such vigorous opposition. Soon after, I was hired as a reference librarian and witnessed over the next six years Sally's steadfast support for the "new" library at 200 North Main Street. As

Library Board President and member of the town appointed Building Committee, she stood strong to her values and understanding of what public library service should look like at the end of the twentieth century. Although many of us who worked with her quietly nicknamed her "The Sarge," she knew her place as a team member and was respected by all. As a board member, she helped set library policies over the years with respect for the Library Directors' professional guidance and in keeping with current and ever-changing library services. In particular, she supported an unusual arrangement of Co-Library Directors between Leslie Scherer and myself which lasted for 25 years, and, I believe, served the Library well.

As the years passed in the new building and as her terms on the Library Board ended, she continued her support on the Library Development Committee, especially with the sale of used books and with the 2005 building expansion. It was my pleasure to attend a special and well-deserved event at the library in 2018 in recognition of her 50 years of service at the Wallingford Public Library. At that event, Sally brushed off accolades as her motives were never personal. She dedicated her adult life to her family and the library. Her legacy is the vibrant community treasure that the Wallingford Library is today and I am grateful for the years I worked with her.

—Karen Roesler, Co-Director Wallingford Public Library (1983 - 2007)

Thanks to Sally for making the library at 200 North Main Street a reality.

IN OTHERS' Words...



Much of what I have done is left unfinished... not because I left it too soon, not because I was lazy, but because it had a life of its own that continues without me.



— Jeanette Winterson, *The Stone Gods*