

Dec  
2025



# Words



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Sounds of the Season!



### SCOW School of Music Presents Festival of Carols

Tuesday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> | 6:30-8pm  
Community Room & Facebook Live  
Registration preferred | [Register](#)

Join the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) School of Music for a festive holiday concert! The SCOW Singers will present a program of traditional Christmas Carols in both Spanish and English. Light refreshments will be served!

### Uke-Tide Carols: A Wallingford Ukulele Club Holiday Concert

Wednesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm  
Community Room  
Registration required | [Register](#)

Gather with our Wallingford Ukulele Club as they celebrate the Holiday Season! This delightful group of uke-thusiasts will "Jingle-Bell Rock" you with holiday classics from "Blue Christmas" to "Light One Candle." Everyone will be invited to sing along! Curious about the Club? Come see what they're all about!



## More Holiday Traditions Inside!



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](http://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).

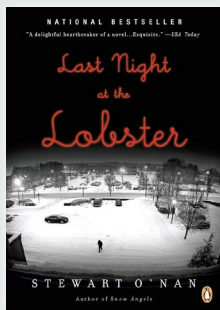
The Wallingford Public Library relies on member contributions in addition to funding it receives from the Town of Wallingford. We hope you will support the Library by becoming a member of the Wallingford Public Library Association. Your support helps ensure that the Library will continue to be a dynamic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

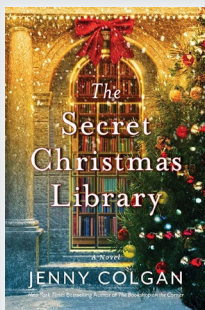
## Holiday Picks



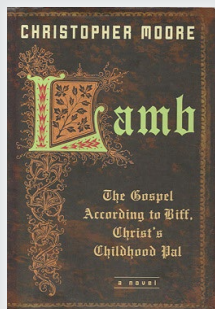
**Rachel**  
*Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas*  
dir. by Larry Weinstein



**Chris**  
*Last Night at the Lobster*  
by Stewart O'Nan



**Cindy**  
*The Secret Christmas Library*  
by Jenny Colgan



**Meghan**  
*Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*  
by Christopher Moore



**Kristina**  
*Christmas in Connecticut*  
dir. by Peter Godfrey



**James**  
*Blankets*  
by Craig Thompson

## Words Contents

- 4** Tech Training
- 6** Children & Families
- 8** Adult Events
- 10** For Readers
- 12** Collaboratory
- 14** Just for Teens



View this newsletter online!



# Etsy Artisan and Local Author Holiday Market

Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> | 10am-2pm | Drop In | Community & Collins Rooms | No registration required



The Wallingford Public Library is delighted to support local graduates of our Etsy Craft Entrepreneurship workshops and local published adult and children's book authors. Come to our annual holiday market to meet and talk with the artisans and writers and purchase some wonderful crafts or personally autographed books to give as gifts this holiday season. Hot beverages and sweet treats will be available in the lower lobby.

**Local Authors:** Willona Amoakoh, Ray Benoit, Chantelle Daley, Joanna Doster, Valerie Ruby-Omen, Annie Lisa, Steve Liskow, Caroline Musmanno, Marie Nichols, Gevera Bert Piedmont, Stephanie Villeda

**Etsy Artisans:** Claudia Dixon, Deborah Masse Haggert, Gevera Bert Piedmont, Clare Speyer



# Wallingford Center Inc. Holiday Stroll

Friday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> | 4-9pm | Drop In | Across from the Check-Out Desk | No registration required

Throughout downtown Wallingford local merchants will be offering special discounts and deals to kickstart your holiday shopping. Indulge in hot coffee, sample festive goodies, and even catch a glimpse of Santa himself! Don't miss the cozy bonfire at the Gazebo, where you can warm up and enjoy delicious treats from local food trucks, along with roasted chestnuts and kettle corn. The first 150 visitors to the Wallingford Public Library during the Stroll will receive a laser cut wooden ornament made in the Collaboratory, and visitors can also enter into a drawing to win a winter-themed laser cut lantern. Anyone who is completing a "Go the Distance" card can also stop by the Library to collect one of eight stamps needed to be entered into an additional prize drawing. More info: [walpublib.org/holidaystroll1225](http://walpublib.org/holidaystroll1225)

Find Virtual **Author Visits** on page 14 this month!

# tech Training



Everything is going online—the bank, the pharmacy, the DMV. So you need to be online, but maybe you never had the chance to learn how. You may have even tried to teach yourself, but that can be overwhelming and confusing. The library can help! **Tech Connect** is a free service staffed by **digital navigators** who will teach you what YOU want to do on your devices. Our digital navigators will develop a customized plan to help you successfully connect to the online world. This includes one-on-one training 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: Using Apple's iWork Suite**

**Saturday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Board Room | Adults | [Register](#)**

Learn how to get the most out of Apple's free productivity apps—Pages, Numbers, and Keynote—with Connor as your guide. Whether you're writing a letter, managing a budget, or designing a beautiful presentation, the iWork suite has you covered. Please bring your fully charged iPhone, iPad, or Mac and ensure your devices are running their most up-to-date software. If you haven't downloaded any of the iWork apps yet, no problem—we'll show you how to get started.



## **Dear IT: Android Phone Basics**

**Saturday, Dec 27<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Board Room | Adults | [Register](#)**

Join Elijah to gain the skills needed to navigate your Android smartphone. Whether you're new to Android or need a refresher, this class will help you perform everyday tasks with confidence. *Please bring your Android phone to class.*

## **Introduction to Silhouette Studio**

**Monday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> OR Saturday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>**

**2-3:30pm | Collaboratory**

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

This class will teach how to use Silhouette Studio, the software used to create custom designs for the Silhouette vinyl cutting machines.

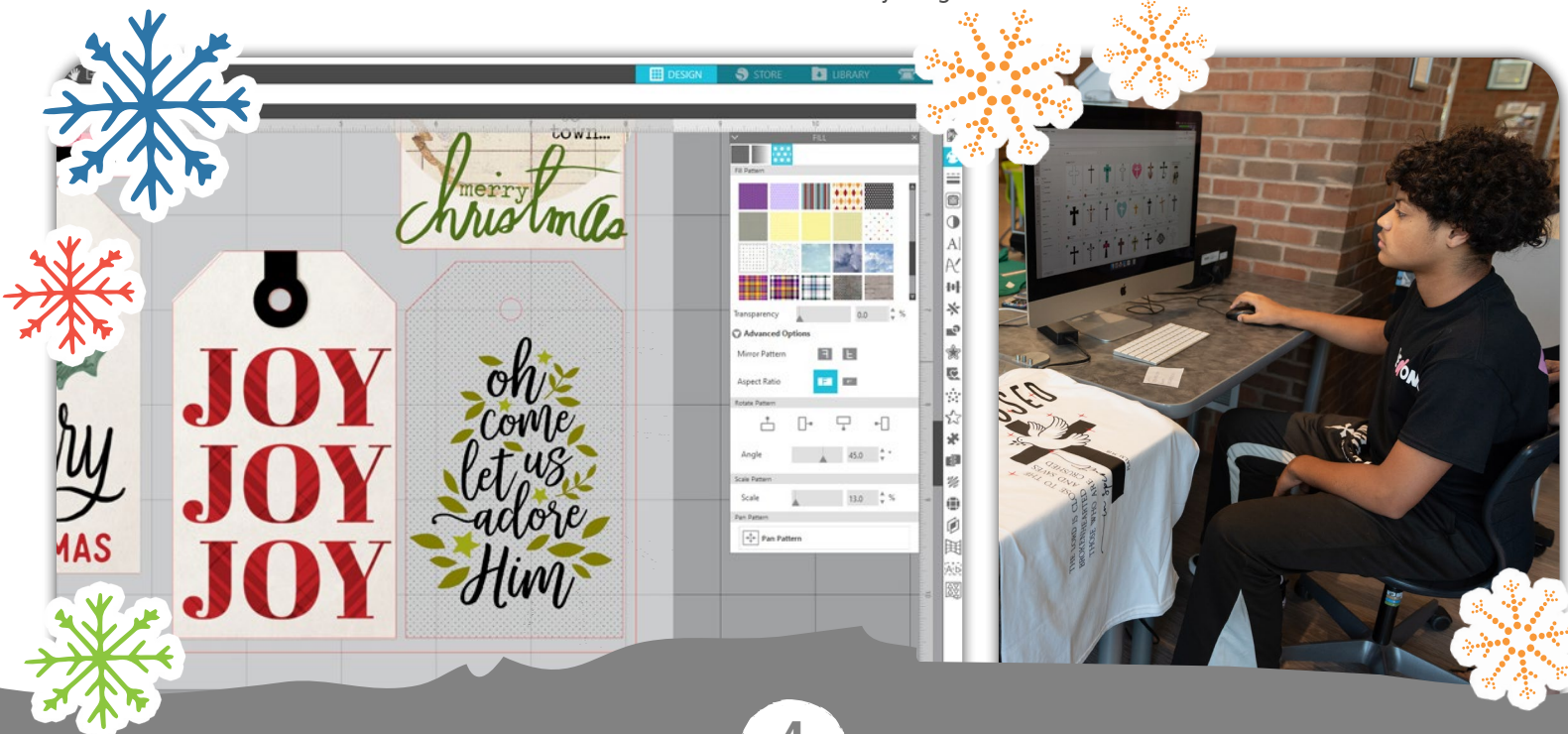
## **Introduction to the Collaboratory**

**Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> OR Monday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**

**2-3:30pm | Collaboratory**

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

Ever wonder exactly what is in the Collaboratory (or what the Collaboratory even is)? Come to this class and learn about each and every thing in there!





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

# Cardholder Perks for The Holidays

Do rising prices have you feeling down this holiday season? Not to worry—the library is here to help! With your library card, you can save money on your electric bill, streaming services, holiday gifts, and more!

Want to keep your home merry and bright without blowing up your electric bill? Borrow a **Kill-a-Watt meter** to monitor the energy usage of common household appliances and find out exactly how much you're spending to

keep those holiday lights burning through the night. ([walpublib.org/LibraryofThings](http://walpublib.org/LibraryofThings))

Tired of paying more and more for streaming services that seem to be offering fewer of the movies and shows that you actually want to watch? Get them for free from the library instead! Dust off that old DVD player and check out our huge selection of movies, documentaries, and TV shows. If the Wallingford Library doesn't have what you're looking for, there's a good chance that you can request the item from another LION library. No DVD player? No problem! The library also offers streaming access to movies and TV shows through **Kanopy**. Just create an account using your library card number and start binge watching those feel-good holiday movies!

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

If you've experienced sticker shock while you're out doing the holiday shopping, you're not alone—even Santa is feeling the crunch of higher prices this year! Rather than spending big bucks on store-bought items, make your own gifts in the **Collaboratory** instead! Add a personal touch to your gifts by cutting custom designs on our **Cricut maker**, engraving your items with the **laser cutter**, or even printing your own designs on bags, clothing, and more with our **fabric printer**! ([walpublib.org/Collaboratory](http://walpublib.org/Collaboratory))

And don't forget that you can also use the library to "try before you buy!" Before you invest in a pricey new game or toy that will be forgotten by New Year's, borrow it from our **Library of Things** instead! Try out a variety of popular board games, electronic devices, toys, and videogames...for free! ([walpublib.org/LibraryofThings](http://walpublib.org/LibraryofThings))

  
A   
**Bookmark**  
ORIGINAL  
  
Holiday Short

**How  
The Library  
Saved  
Christmas**



Inside of a library, just before Christmas Eve,  
There happened a story you must see to believe...

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

# Children & Families

## School-Aged Programs

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

### Winter Card Making

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> | All Day | All Ages  
Children's Room | Drop-In

Make a card to give to a special someone to celebrate the season!

### Kids in the Kitchen: Frozen Cookie Dough

Thursday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades 2-5  
Children's Program Room | [Register](#)

Kids, get your aprons on! We are going to make some freezer cookie dough. Now when you have a need for some freshly baked cookies, be it for a party, family movie night, or because it's Tuesday, you will be ready. Everyone will be in awe of your awesome planning skills.

### Paws for Reading

Saturday, Dec 13<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.*

### Pokémon TCG Academy with Imperial Gaming and Collectibles

Monday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> | 5-7pm | Grades 1-8  
Wonder Room | [Register](#)

Come level up your Pokémon TCG Gameplay at this learn-to-play program jointly hosted by Imperial Gaming and Collectibles and the library. There's a spot for you whether you're an experienced trainer looking for advice from experts, or a new player looking to play your first game! You can also battle for prizes, and trade with other players.

### Winter Karaoke

Tuesday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> | 5:30-6:30pm | Grades PreK-8  
Wonder Room | [Register](#)

Come sing your heart out at this family karaoke event! We will have a karaoke machine set up in the Wonder Room, where you can choose a song from our winter themed repertoire, or sing out that earworm that's been stuck in your head. Family participation is heavily encouraged.

### Pajama Story Time: Cocoa Edition

Thursday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-7:30pm | Babies-Grade 5  
Children's Program | [Register](#)

Winter means it's time to get cozy! Wear your pajamas to story time and enjoy some cocoa, too! (Hot Cocoa, chocolate milk, and apple cider will be options for drinks).

### LEGO Club

Saturday, Dec 20<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. Participants must have an accompanying adult in the room during the program, and adults are encouraged to make their own creations!

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

Saturday, Dec 27<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!

### Life-Sized Candy Land

Tuesday, Dec 30<sup>th</sup> | Grades PreK-5  
Community Room | [Register](#)

Sign up for a time slot to come play a life-sized version of your favorite candy game! Travel along the rainbow path to King Kandy's Castle and complete challenges, make crafts, and collect treats along the way!

### Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, Dec 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. This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like a reminder email.





# Preschool Programs

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

## Toddler Yoga

Friday, Dec 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, Dec 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.

## Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> | 9:30am OR 1:30pm

Ages 3-5 | Marcus Cooke Park

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

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

## Rhyme Time Engineers

Friday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> | 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.*

# Bilingual Homework Help

## Bilingual Homework Help

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

Children's Room | Drop-in

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

## Ayuda Bilingue con las Tareas

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

Área de los Niños | No necesita cita

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

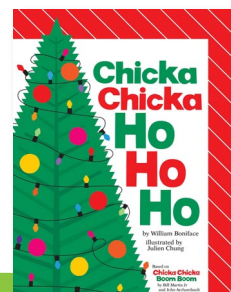
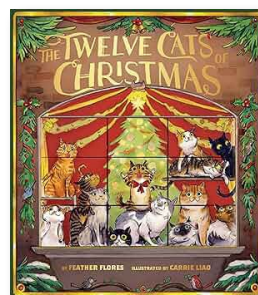
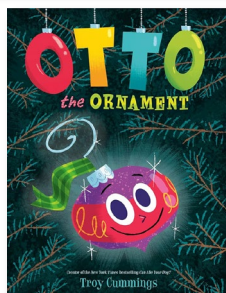
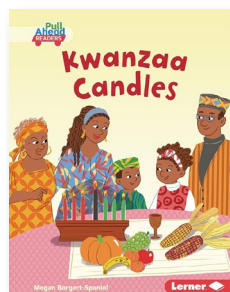
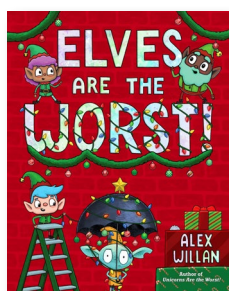
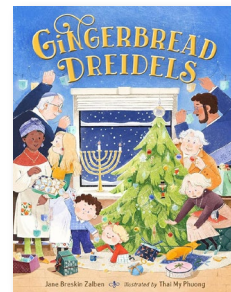
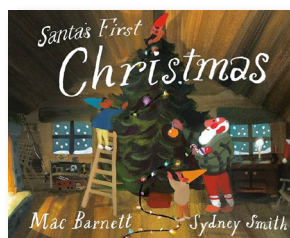
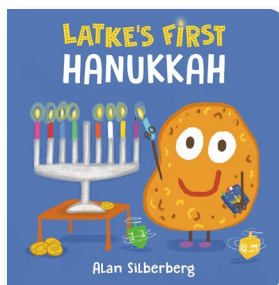
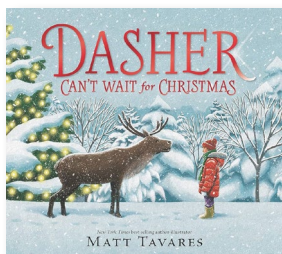
# Homeschool Meetup

Wednesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> | 1-3pm | All ages

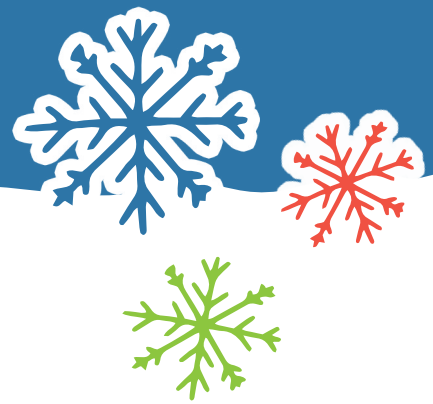
Wonder Room | [Register](#)

Looking to connect with other homeschooling families? Stop by the library on the third Wednesday of every month to chat, share ideas, and network with other homeschoolers. This is not a librarian led program, but passive activities will be available to keep kids busy while parents and caregivers talk. This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like a reminder email.

# Discover New Holiday Favorites!



# Adult Events



## Holiday Happenings



### Green Gifting: A DIY Wrapping Party!

**Mondays, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8:30pm | Collaboratory Conference Table | No registration required**

Join us at one of our fun, festive, eco-friendly wrapping parties this holiday season! You are invited to drop by the Collaboratory on any of the first three Monday nights in December between 6:30-8:30pm to wrap gifts in the company of your fellow crafters. We'll provide everything you need to create beautiful, sustainable packages for your loved ones to open. You are also welcome to bring your own eco-friendly wrapping supplies from home. This is an opportunity to save time, money, and the earth all at once! Librarian and craft enthusiast Kim Musket will be on hand to assist patrons with their wrapping projects.



### A Jane Austen Holiday Celebration

**Wednesday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> | 7-8pm | Community Room | [Register](#)**

In honor of Jane Austen's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday this December, you are invited to a Regency holiday party at the Wallingford Public Library! We will be joined by cultural historian Rachel Koladis, who will share with us some of the traditions and activities that were fashionable in Jane's lifetime. Participants will have the opportunity to make a fragrant clove-studded pomander ornament, which was a popular gift to give during the Regency era, and enjoy spiced cider and shortbread cookies while listening to a selection of period music. Guests are welcome and encouraged to dress in historical costume!



### Monday Night Movies Presents: "Bad Santa"

**Monday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm | Community Room | No registration required**

Join us for a special screening of the 2003 holiday classic *Bad Santa*! (Rated R) In this dark comedy, the crotchety Willie T. Stokes (Billy Bob Thornton) and his partner (Tony Cox) reunite once a year for a holiday con. Posing as a mall Santa and his elf, they rip off shopping outlets on Christmas Eve. This year, however, Willie is falling apart. He's depressed and alcoholic, and his erratic behavior draws the suspicion of mall security (Bernie Mac). But when befriending a small boy brings out his kinder side, Willie begins to wonder if there is still some hope for him. This is a tie-in event with our "Bad Santa Walk" taking place on December 11<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with The Gilded Curtain! Patrons must be 17 years or older to attend the screening and 21 years or older to participate in the Walk.



### Wallingford Garden Club 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Tea & Decoration Exhibit

**Wednesday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> | 1-3pm | Community Room | No registration required**

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the spirit of the holiday season! Drop in and treat yourself to delicious homemade sandwiches and sweets while enjoying the creative display of holiday decorations designed by the Wallingford Garden Club. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to share the warmth of this holiday tradition. Garden Club members will be on hand to share information about this community organization.



### Bad Santa Walk

**Thursday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm | The Gilded Curtain, 86 Center Street, Wallingford | [Register](#)**

Join us in downtown Wallingford for a raucous new holiday tradition! As an homage to the 2003 dark comedy *Bad Santa* starring Billy Bob Thornton, we will meet at The Gilded Curtain to wet our whistles and go a-wassailing around town to serenade participating local businesses. We encourage all revelers to dress as their favorite *Bad Santa* characters for this holiday romp! Each guest will be treated to one drink at The Gilded Curtain for free, courtesy of the Wallingford Public Library. (Additional beverages must be purchased out of pocket.) Must be 21 years or older to participate. Attendance is limited to 25 people. SNOW DATE: Thursday, Dec. 18th.



### Ask Attorney Allinson

**Wednesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room | Registration preferred | [Register](#)**

Attorney Steven Allinson, a lawyer in Wallingford, will speak and answer your questions about probate, trusts, wills, estates, Medicaid, and other estate planning. At this forum, the Attorney cannot give specific legal advice; all of 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.

## English Conversation Group

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

This is an informal gathering for people who wish to practice speaking English. There is no level of proficiency required to join. The group is facilitated by library staff member **Rebecca Paniagua**, who is a native speaker of English. *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.*

## 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, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> | 10-11:30am | Community Room**

**Wednesday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Community Room**

**Monday, Dec 29<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Community 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!

## WPL Play Readers

**Wednesday, Dec 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.

## ASL Conversation Group

**Wednesday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> | 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.

## Saturday Mornings with Poetry

**Saturday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

**9:45am-12noon | Board 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).



## The Caring Tree: A Food and Clothing Drive

**Monday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**

**All Library Hours | Front Lobby**

Join us in helping families in need this giving season! Donations of hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens in both children's and adult sizes are welcome and will be delivered to local charitable organizations in December. You may also donate non-perishable grocery items such as cold cereal and canned fruit/applesauce, stews, soups, chili, and vegetables for our wonderful local food pantries. We encourage everyone to participate in any way they can!



## Talking TED @ Home

**Thursday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> | 7pm-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)**

Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event. In December, we will watch and discuss Kelly Corrigan's "To Love Is to Be Brave."

Family life often requires extraordinary bravery, from navigating the daily challenges to surviving the unexpected crises. Author and podcaster Kelly Corrigan offers profound wisdom (and seven key words) to help you focus in on what matters most.

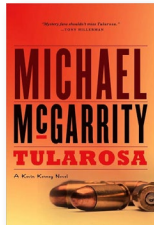
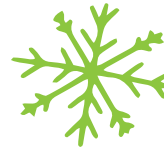




# For Readers



## Book Clubs



### **Mystery Book Club**

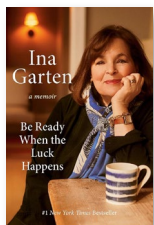
**Tularosa** by Michael McGarrity

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

Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

Two years after an on-the-job shooting forced him into early retirement, the ex-Santa Fe chief of detectives Keith Kerney is drawn back into action when his former partner Terry Yazzi asks for Kerney's help. Yazzi's son is a soldier who has disappeared in the desert surrounding the White Sands Missile Range. To find him, Kerney must track clues that lead deep into his own family's ranching past.

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



### **Truth Be Told Nonfiction Book Club**

**Be Ready When the Luck Happens: A Memoir** by Ina Garten

Thursday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Known as the Barefoot Contessa, Garten is the author of 13 best-selling cookbooks and is also a Food Network personality. In this intimate and inspiring memoir, she shares details of her journey, including her troubled childhood, her long, loving marriage to Jeffrey, her small business beginnings, and the success of her iconic brand. How easy was that?

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



### **Thursday Night Book Club**

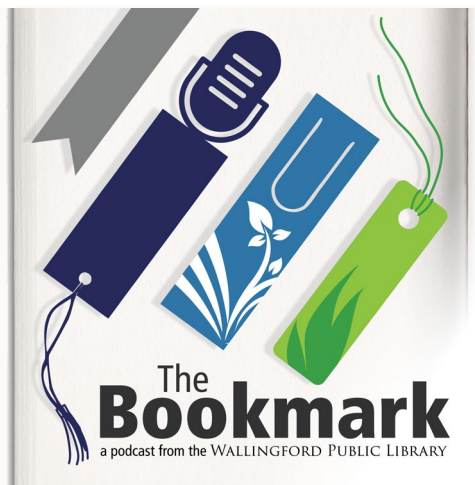
**Sipsworth** by Simon Van Booy

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

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

An 80-something-year-old woman who has lost her husband and son returns to the small English village where she was raised after spending decades living abroad. She simply wants to be alone, but one day, she discovers that a small mouse has moved in. Over the course of the following two weeks, the reclusive widow suddenly discovers a reason to live. Van Booy's 2024 novel is a short and whimsical reminder that goodness can appear in unexpected places.

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

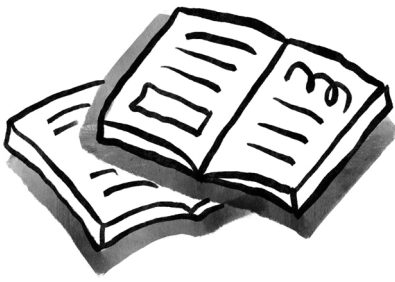


**New Episode!** Join Library Director Sunnie Scarpa and Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken on The Bookmark Podcast for quarterly conversations about books, authors, reading experiences, library happenings and what they love about their jobs and working together. On the newest episode of the podcast, they talk about upcoming holiday events at the library, books to give as gifts, and the subjectivity of the reading experience.



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



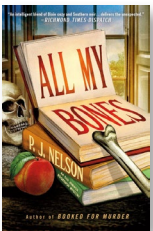


# Novelty

What's new in novels  
from Cindy Haiken



In his magical novel *The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame writes: "The rapid nightfall of mid-December had quite beset the little village as they approached it on soft feet over a first thin fall of powdery snow. Little was visible but squares of a dusky orange-red on either side of the street, where the firelight or lamplight of each cottage overflowed through the casements into the dark world without." As we approach the final month of the year and the start of the holiday season, the publishing community slows down a bit, and there are fewer new releases in December than at any other time of the year. That's the bad news. The good news is that there are still many new novels to look forward to while you contemplate the turkey, the stuffing, and the pumpkin pie. Here are some examples:



**All My Bones** by P.J. Nelson — The owner of a bookstore in a small Southern town becomes an amateur detective after a good friend is charged with the murder of a local woman who no one liked.

**The Award** by Matthew Pearl — A young writer who lives in the same apartment building as a very famous author wins a prestigious literary prize.

**The Birdwatcher** by Jacquelyn Mitchard — A journalist decides to investigate a double murder in an effort to exonerate her best friend, who has been found guilty of the crimes.



**Canticle** by Janet Rich Edwards — In 13<sup>th</sup>-century Belgium, a 16-year-old young woman runs away from home and joins an independent community of religious women who refuse to answer to the Church.

**Dead Ringer** by Chris Hauty — A disgraced Secret Service agent and a Jesuit professor look back at the murder of President Kennedy.

**Everybody Wants to Rule the World** by Ace Atkins — In 1985, a suburban teen suspects that his mother's new boyfriend is a KGB agent.

**Everyone in the Group Chat Dies** by L.M. Chilton — A woman receives a text from her former roommate, who died 12 months earlier.

**The Gallagher Place** by Julie Doar — When an illustrator living in New York City returns to her family's Hudson Valley estate for the holidays, she discovers a murder on the property.



**The Heir Apparent** by Rebecca Armitage — A young woman who is in her second year of residency after medical school suddenly becomes the heir to the British throne.

**House of Day, House of Night** by Olga Tokarczuk — After WWII, a woman and her husband move to a small village in Poland and buy a house formerly owned by Germans.

**Huguette** by Cara Black — A 17-year-old young woman tries to survive in post-WWII France.



**The Italian Secret** by Tara Moss — A woman in post-WWII Australia investigates a family secret that takes her to the coast of Naples.

**The List of Suspicious Things** by Jennie Godfrey — In 1979, tween best friends in England investigate the identity of the Yorkshire Ripper.

**May Contain Murder** by Orlando Murrin — After a friend offers a man a trip aboard a luxury yacht in exchange for help with her memoir, an onboard guest is found dead.

**The Rest of Our Lives** by Ben Markovits — A man whose marriage and job are both in trouble takes an unplanned road trip after dropping his daughter off for her first year of college. Shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize for Fiction.



**Tailored Realities** by Brandon Sanderson — A collection of ten short stories from the bestselling author that span the genres of both fantasy and science fiction.

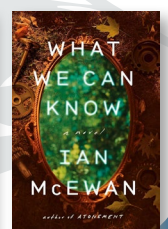
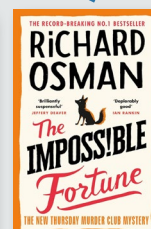
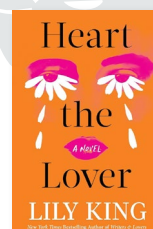
**Television** by Lauren Rothery — An aging, A-list movie star lotteries off the entirety of his massive salary to a member of the general viewing public before taking up with a much younger model.



**The Time Hop Coffee Shop** by Phaedra Patrick — A woman receives magical coffee and wishes for the perfect life of her past, which she hopes will give her a second chance in the present.

Also of note this month are the 5<sup>th</sup> Michael Gannon novel by Michael Ledwidge (**Closing Time**), the 8<sup>th</sup> Karen Pike mystery by Val McDermid (**Silent Bones**), the 8<sup>th</sup> Teddy Fay adventure by Brett Battles (**Stuart Woods' Blown Away**), the 10<sup>th</sup> Presidential Agenda thriller by W.E.B. Griffin and Jack Stewart (**Direct Action**), the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunny Randall novel by Alison Gaylin (**Robert B. Parker's Booked**), the 15<sup>th</sup> Jack Stapleton thriller by Robin Cook (**Spasm**), the 26<sup>th</sup> Sharpe novel by Bernard Cornwell (**Sharpe's Storm**), the 37<sup>th</sup> installment in the Sisterhood series by Fern Michaels (**Code Blue**) and a new novel by James Patterson (**The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe**).

## Cindy's Picks





# Collaboratory

## Drop-In Programs



### Green Gifting: A DIY Wrapping Party!

**Mondays, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8:30pm | Collaboratory Conference Table | No registration required**

Join us at one of our fun, festive, eco-friendly wrapping parties this holiday season! You are invited to drop by the Collaboratory on any of the first three Monday nights in December between 6:30-8:30pm to wrap gifts in the company of your fellow crafters. We'll provide everything you need to create beautiful, sustainable packages for your loved ones to open. You are also welcome to bring your own eco-friendly wrapping supplies from home. This is an opportunity to save time, money, and the earth all at once! Librarian and craft enthusiast Kim Musket will be on hand to assist patrons with their wrapping projects.

### Graphics Office Hours

**Mondays, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> & 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.

### Open Sew

**Tuesday, Dec 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!

### Woven Together

**Thursday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | 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 & supplies. Beginners are welcome. This club is facilitated by Mary Jane Chicoski, a local member of the American Sewing Guild. No registration required!

### Maker Office Hours

**Thursday, Dec 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 December).



# Lottery Programs

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

[walpublib.org/LotteryDec25](http://walpublib.org/LotteryDec25)

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)

## Polymer Clay Poinsettia

**Tuesday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> | 6-8:30pm | Collins Room**

Create a realistic life-sized polymer clay poinsettia flower just in time for your holiday giving or entertaining. Each participant will create one flower.

## Paper Quilling for the Holidays

**Wednesday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR**

**Thursday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm | Collaboratory**

Learn paper quilling, the art of rolling and shaping thin strips of paper into different 3D designs, to create a holiday card. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

## Button Mosaic

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

Create a mosaic using buttons. Trace a shape of your choosing and sew buttons onto your "canvas" for this personalized creation!

## Clay Krampus

**Monday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> | 6-8:30pm | Collins Room**

Create your very own Krampus from clay! Krampus is a European legend, a mythical creature that appears around the holidays.

## Snowflake Faux Stained Glass

**Wednesday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR**

**Thursday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm | Collaboratory**

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

## Holiday Cards

**Thursday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm | Collaboratory**

Use die cuts, embossing folders, and stamps to make three beautiful holiday cards, including a 3D card. No card making experience needed. All materials provided, including envelopes, so the cards will be ready to send to your loved ones.

## Wood-Inlaid WPL Bookmark

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

Learn the laser cutting and etching process for wood veneers and then assemble a pre-cut Wallingford Public Library bookmark.

## Penguin Hugs Slate

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

**Tuesday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> | 2:30-5pm | Collaboratory**

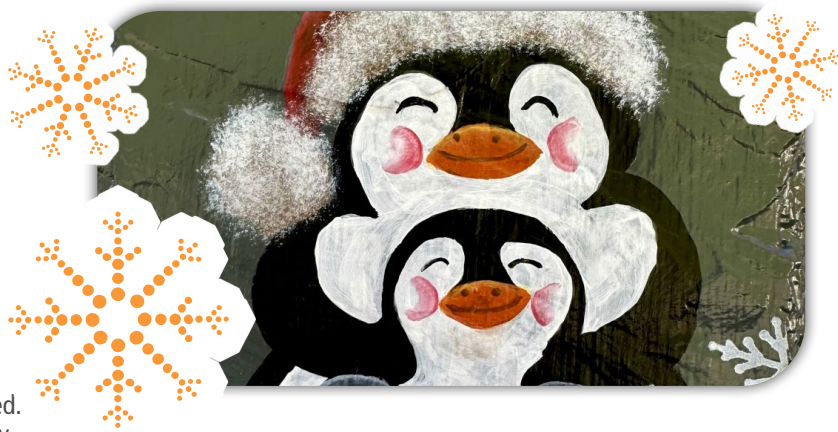
Paint a cheery winter-themed penguin family on a repurposed slate. This is an intermediate level painting project. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

## Custom Printed Fabric

**Wednesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR**

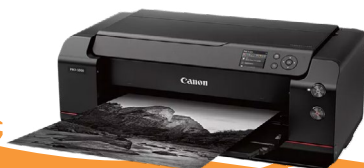
**Thursday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm | Collaboratory**

Create your own design and then use the Brother PrintModa Studio fabric printer to print it directly onto an 8x8" piece of cotton for your next sewing project. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



## COOL Laboratory

Now that everyone carries a camera with them at all times, we take more pictures than ever. You can carry thousands with you everywhere you go on your phone, but they still look best printed out! We have lots of options for printing your photos here in the Collaboratory, along with great help from Collaboratory staff, and really reasonable pricing. Check it out!



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



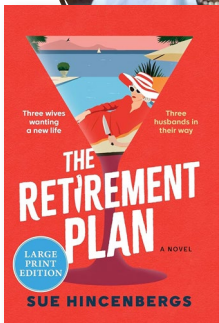
Where are all the **Teen** events? We are in the process of hiring a new Teen Services Librarian and hope to have some teen programs soon!

# Virtual Author Visits



## Sue Hincenbergs Scheming Wives and High-Stakes Hilarity

Tuesday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> | 2-3 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



Join in an online chat with debut author **Sue Hincenbergs** to discuss her novel *The Retirement Plan*. After 30 years of friendship, Pam dreams of her perfect retirement with Nancy, Shalisa, Marlene, and their husbands. And then the four women discover that their husbands have pooled their funds for an investment that goes wrong, causing their dreams of beachfront condos and a sunny, carefree retirement to vanish. But when one husband dies in a freak accident, the other three women are shocked to see his widow rebound with a huge life insurance payout and a new life in Florida. In the aftermath, the women discover that their husbands have identical, seven-figure life insurance policies. A new dream forms, and this time, it involves a hitman. Meanwhile, their husbands have a secret retirement plan of their own.

**Sue Hincenbergs** is a former television producer who has worked on award-winning programs ranging from sitcoms to lifestyle. Sue lives in Toronto with her (very much alive) husband, her scruffy, middle-aged rescue dog Kramer, and the rooms full of the stuff her three sons left behind when they moved out.

## The Legacy of Julia Child's Kitchen with Author and Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson

Tuesday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> | 2-3 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)

Smithsonian curator and public historian **Paula J. Johnson** is the author of *Julia Child's Kitchen: The Design, Tools, Stories, and Legacy of an Iconic Space*. Julia Child's 20' x 14' kitchen was a room that was a kitchen, a dining room, a living room, and a place of mid-century homey comfort. Located in Washington, D.C., for most of her life, the kitchen contains more than 100 books, and bits of her life as a teacher, television host, and author. The book includes interviews with Julia Child and a stunning array of photographs.

**Paula J. Johnson** conducts research for the Food History Project and was awarded the 2020 Food History Award in 2020.



**This program has been  
cancelled and is being  
rescheduled.**

**We apologize for the  
inconvenience.**

knacks,  
cooking  
guides  
s, and a

story in Washington, DC. She  
the Director of the Smithsonian's  
Distinguished Scholar in the Humanities

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)





# Last Words:

## *Clair Obscur* Obscured from Chris Ciemniowski

Listen to the score by Lorien Testard and Alice Duport-Percier:



Alicia



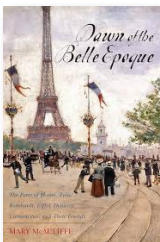
Lumière



In January's newsletter, I began the year by talking about *Astro Bot*, 2024's Game of the Year, and how it was an evolution in 3D platforming video games. I wanted to close out the year by talking about another game. This year's release of *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* was another example of an evolutionary achievement in game design (and is favored to win Game of the Year for 2025). For the last decade, game developers have tried to craft a Role-Playing Game that combines

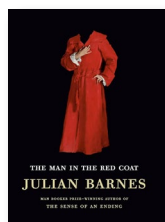
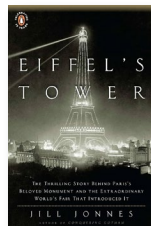
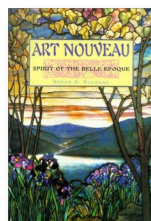
real-time action with turn-based elements, often with little mainstream success—until *Clair Obscur*. The game utilizes turn-based offense and real-time defense mechanics that have been praised by much of the gaming community as finally offering the perfect synthesis of the two gaming styles. Although this is its most technical achievement, *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* is also an atmospheric game with a slow burn, character-driven narrative that hooks players in its first twenty minutes.

The story centers around the small island city of Lumière, a city reminiscent of Paris. Across a channel, on the continent, a giant woman and a stone monolith are visible. Each year an illuminated number on the monolith counts down and all of the residents of Lumière who are that age or younger are turned to flower petals in an event known as the *gommage*. After each *gommage*, an annual expedition sets out to the continent to try to understand the countdown and how to stop it, but no expedition has ever returned. The game begins on the eve Expedition 33 is set to launch. It's difficult to talk more about *Clair Obscur* in detail without spoiling its story, which continues to develop around this singular mystery. But just how its gameplay is a synthesis of game mechanics, the narrative is a blending of various ideas and imagery. So, without any spoilers, here are some other pieces of media you may enjoy if you liked *Clair Obscur*—or if you see media you like on this list, you may also enjoy *Clair Obscur*!



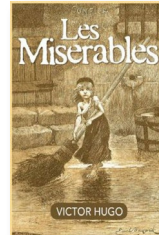
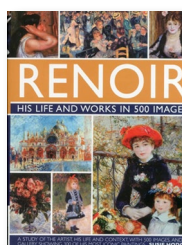
The town of Lumière bears a strong resemblance to *Belle Époque* Paris, even prominently featuring a rendition of the Eiffel Tower which was constructed by Gustave Eiffel during that time period. For anyone interested in this brief, but beautiful period of French history, you can check out *Dawn of the Belle Époque* for

the social and historical issues that forged the time period or *Art Nouveau: Spirit of the Belle Époque* for more information on the aesthetic look of the time period. The book *Eiffel's Tower* focuses both on Gustave's construction of Paris's now iconic tower, and on the events of the World's Fair for which the tower was built.



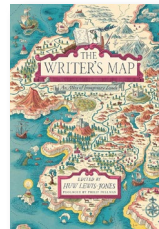
Players will soon discover that the artwork of this period, and artwork in general, are central to the game's narrative. *The Man in the Red Coat* by Julian Barnes is similarly a love letter to the *Belle Époque* and is a fictionalized account of the life of Samuel Jean de Pozzi, a French surgeon and the subject of a John Singer Sargent portrait. The book depicts his travels through this "beautiful age

of glamour and pleasure." The game also features allusions to French artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir. *Renoir: His Life and Works in 500 Images* is one of the most accessible books in the collection for an overview of the artist's life and works.

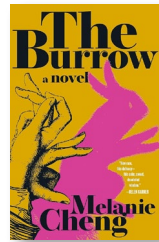
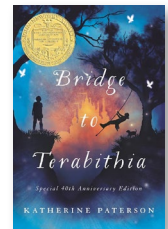
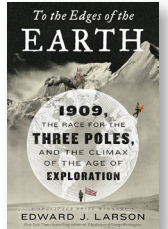


Although it takes place during the *Belle Époque*, *Clair Obscur* also revels in the fervor of the French Revolution, evoking works such as Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. Both Hugo's novel and *Clair Obscur* ask audiences to consider future generations, what comes after, and the place of children in a time of revolution. The many failed previous expeditions of *Clair Obscur* also bring to mind real-life expeditions like Ernest Shackleton's failed expedition to

Antarctica, which you can learn more about in *To the Edges of the Earth*. The book also chronicles other antarctic expeditions from the age of exploration which set out to map the icy continent. Within the game, players can find logs from failed expeditions which provide insight for Expedition 33, showing how progress is made incrementally and built off of the labors of those who came before.

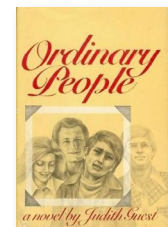


Once Expedition 33 lands on the continent, they find themselves in a fantastical land that seems at times like Lewis Carroll's *Wonderland* or J.M. Barrie's *Neverland*. *The Writer's Map* features a collection of imaginary lands from literature and contains fabulous new renditions of what maps of these famous fictional places might look like. *Clair Obscur* also bears a striking resemblance to *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson. Both narratives explore how children craft imaginary places in their youth as a form of escapism and the relevance of our own imagined creations as we age out of them.



During the game's final act, it is revealed that the story at the heart of *Clair Obscur* is the story of a grieving family and the different ways each of the family members is processing a death. One family member grieves and moves on, another seeks revenge for the death, and another sinks into despair and longing for the past. *The Burrow* by Melanie Cheng is a novel that also deals with the family dynamics of processing a death. In the book a family adopts a pet rabbit to help them with the grieving process, but they all have different responses to this coping method. *Ordinary People* by Judith Guest features a family that fractures due to their grief. After his brother is killed, Conrad spirals into a deep depression while his father struggles with guilt and his own identity and his mother tries to distract herself by meticulously upkeeping the home.

*The Letters* by Luanne Rice & Joseph Monninger features a husband and wife's differing responses to the death of their son. The husband goes on a trip to Alaska to visit his son's death site, while the mother spends time on an island painting in solitude. The game doesn't offer a right or a wrong answer to how to deal with grief, but in true RPG fashion, there are two possible endings to the story. However, neither offers a "happy" ending for all characters, and it is up to each player's own moral interpretation to decide to which ending is the most ideal, just as there are multiple ways to grieve.



I hope this has painted a picture of *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* for anyone who has read this before playing and I hope those who come after playing find something new to enjoy as we count down to a new year.



## Dec Hours

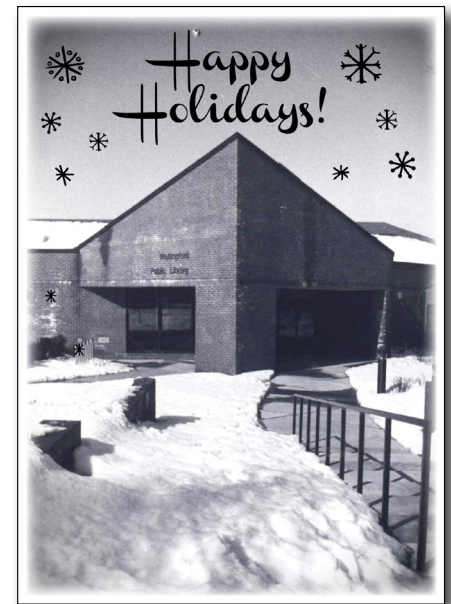
**Monday - Friday**  
9:30am - 9pm

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

## Scheduled Closings

**Christmas**  
Wednesday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>

**New Year's**  
Closing at 4pm on Wed, Dec 31<sup>st</sup>  
Thursday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>



**Holiday Postcards** featuring historical images from the Connecticut Collection are now available for **\$1 each** at the Check-Out Desk. All proceeds benefit the library.



**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

**Dec Specials**  
Holiday CDs, DVDs, & Books  
BOGO

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



**Take home your homemade holiday gifts**  
in a **Collaboratory Gift Bag for \$1**  
or a **Collaboratory Tote Bag for \$5**

## IN OTHERS' Words...



Laugh all you want, but I think learning to love yourself in a country where you're told that you're the plague on the economy, that you're nothing but a prisoner in the making, that your life can be taken away from you at any moment and there's nothing you can do about it—  
learning to love yourself in the middle of all that? Hell, that's a goddamn miracle.



— Jason Mott, *Hell of a Book*