

Jan  
2026

# Words

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**New and Newsworthy for the New Year!**



## **NEW!** Wallingford Writers' Guild

**Begins Wednesday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm**  
**Collins Room | No registration required**

Are you seeking a small, supportive writing community for adults? Look no further! In this new program that meets on the final Wednesday of each month, we'll write fun, short pieces in the form of blogs, diaries, micro-fiction, self-care journaling, zines, and much more. Each meeting will be a series of short exercises and prompts. As a group, we'll build creative practices for daily living. No previous writing experience is necessary. This workshop series will be led by Kathleen Stewart, a cultural anthropologist and writer with over 30 years of experience teaching writing all over the world.

## **NEW!** The Connection Corner

**Fridays starting Jan 9<sup>th</sup> | 11am-1pm**  
**Board Room | No registration required**

Every Friday between 11am and 1pm, we will host weekly drop-in sessions at the library for anyone who would like to speak with a social worker. These sessions are informal and designed to offer support, resources, and guidance to community members.

## Ask IT

**Sundays, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> | 12noon-3:30pm | Information Desk | Drop-in**

Do you have a quick question about your phone, tablet, or other device? Digital Navigators Elijah and Connor will be available to answer your questions during drop-in hours this winter. They can assist with tasks like setting up email, downloading apps, or accessing digital resources. Each visit will be brief so we can accommodate as many people as possible. Assistance will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to schedule a dedicated 60-minute session with one of our Digital Navigators, please call (203) 626-4774.

Ask IT will be available on the following Sundays: Jan 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, and April 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>



Connor



Elijah



**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

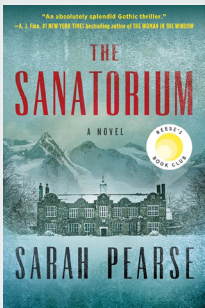
**Words**, a publication of the Wallingford Public Library, is sent electronically to members of the Wallingford Public Library Association. View the full color edition of the current issue on our website: [walpublib.org/newsletter](http://walpublib.org/newsletter). **Words** is edited by Publicity and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

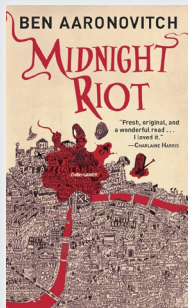
The Wallingford Public Library relies on member contributions in addition to funding it receives from the Town of Wallingford. We hope you will support the Library by becoming a member of the Wallingford Public Library Association. Your support helps ensure that the Library will continue to be a dynamic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

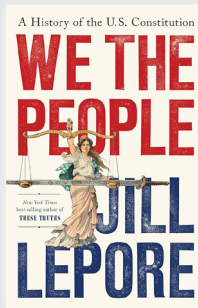
## Staff Picks



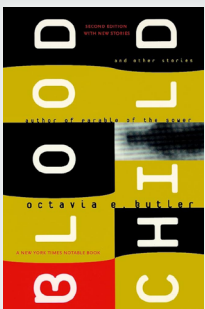
**Kayleigh**  
*The Sanatorium*  
by Sarah Pearse



**Sam Lee**  
*Midnight Riot*  
by Ben Aaronovitch



**Kaleb**  
*We the People*  
by Jill Lepore



**Daniella**  
*Bloodchild*  
by Octavia E. Butler



**Chris**  
*Tunic*  
designed by  
Andrew Shouldice



**Windsor**  
*Under the  
Whispering Door*  
by TJ Klune

## Words Contents

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



View this newsletter online!

# ONE BOOK

## ONE WALLINGFORD

Twenty Twenty-Six

### BOOK REVEAL:

Thursday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Across from the Information Desk  
and Streaming Live on Facebook.

### AUTHOR VISIT & BOOK SIGNING:

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

Are you putting together your 2026 reading list? We hope you'll join us in reading our 2026 One Book One Wallingford selection!

The goal of One Book One Wallingford is to bring the community together in reading and discussing the same book. After a series of book discussions and events related to the title, we will gather together for a visit with the author.

We will reveal clues about the 2026 One Book One Wallingford title throughout the month of January. Clues will be posted in the library and on our Instagram and Facebook pages. Anyone who guesses the book title correctly before the reveal will be entered into a drawing to win a copy. The first person to guess the title correctly will also win a copy of the book. You may guess as many times as you'd like, but only one correct guess per person will be included in the final drawing. Stay tuned for more information about the events planned for One Book One Wallingford 2026!

# Virtual Author Visits

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

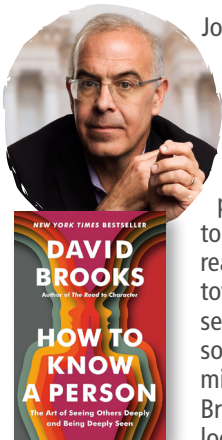
Thank you for your continued support of our used book store!

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

## David Brooks

**The Creative and Compassionate Art  
of Seeing Others Deeply**

Tuesday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> | 2-3 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



Join us for an online discussion with the bestselling author **David Brooks** about his book *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply*. Brooks draws from the fields of psychology and neuroscience and the worlds of theater, philosophy, history, and education to present a welcoming, hopeful, integrated approach to human connection. *How to Know a Person* helps readers become more understanding and considerate toward others and find the joy that comes from being seen. Along the way it offers a possible remedy for a society that is riven by fragmentation, hostility, and misperception. The act of seeing another person, Brooks argues, is profoundly creative: How can we look somebody in the eye and see something large in them and, in turn, see something larger in ourselves?

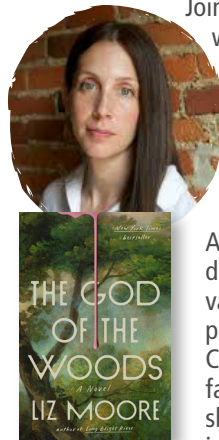
*How to Know a Person* is for anyone searching for connection, and yearning to be understood.

**David Brooks** is one of the country's leading writers and commentators. He is an op-ed columnist for *The New York Times* and a writer for *The Atlantic*, and he appears regularly on PBS Newshour. He is the bestselling author of *The Second Mountain*, *The Road to Character*, *The Social Animal*, *Bobos in Paradise*, and *On Paradise Drive*.

## Liz Moore

**Secrets and Second Chances**

Wednesday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)



Join us as we talk with Liz Moore about her latest work, *The God of the Woods*, an instant *New York Times* bestseller. Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn't just any 13-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara's older brother similarly vanished 14 years ago and was never found. As a panicked search begins, a thrilling drama unfolds. Chasing down the layered secrets of the Van Laar family and the blue-collar community working in its shadow, Moore's multi-threaded story invites readers into a rich and gripping dynasty of secrets and second chances.

**Liz Moore** is the author of five novels: *The Words of Every Song*, *Heft*, *The Unseen World*, the *New York Times* bestselling *Long Bright River*, and *The God of the Woods*. A winner of the 2014 Rome Prize in Literature, she lives in Philadelphia and teaches in the MFA program in Creative Writing at Temple University.

There's One More!  
**See page 9**



# 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: ChatGPT & AI Essentials**

**Monday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup> | 6-7:30pm OR Saturday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm**

**Collins Room | Adults | [Register for Sat](#) | [Register for Mon](#)**

Are you curious about ChatGPT and how AI tools can help you in your daily tasks? In this class, Connor will explain what ChatGPT is, how it works, and the basics of machine learning. You'll learn how to craft effective prompts to generate emails, understand the pros and cons of different AI models, and discover how AI-powered conversation models can quickly answer your questions. Whether you're new to AI or looking to enhance your skills, this session will give you practical insights into leveraging ChatGPT for work and everyday life.

*Please bring your fully charged smart phone, tablet, or laptop computer to the class and make sure your devices have been updated to their latest software. It is VERY important that your device is updated to the latest software in order to access these features.*

## **Dear IT: Bring Your New Device: Setup Workshop**

**Saturday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Board Room | Adults | [Register](#)**

Did you get a new phone, tablet, or laptop over the holidays and aren't quite sure what it can really do? Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) is a relaxed, hands-on workshop where you bring your device and your questions. Instead of a fixed lecture, this is an open learning lab. Patrons can explore together, share tips, and get guidance from Elijah as they go.

What to Bring:

- Your device (smartphone, tablet, or laptop)
- Any email and device logins

*This workshop is for anyone who recently received a new device for the holidays and wants a friendly, supportive place to learn, practice, and ask questions at their own pace.*

## **CNC with Carvera**

**Monday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> OR Saturday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>**

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

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

The Carvera, a desktop CNC mill, is the most advanced machine offered in the Collaboratory. Come to this class to learn all about it! Please note that successful completion of a test is required to use the Carvera. While this class is not mandatory prior to taking the test, it will help you learn what you need to know to take the test. You can also study on your own using the "Carvera Study Guide" found at [wallingfordlibrary.org/collaboratory](http://wallingfordlibrary.org/collaboratory) and then schedule a test.

## **Introduction to Canva**

**Saturday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Collaboratory**

**[Register](#)**

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





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

# Cardholder Perks for The New Year

Two common New Year's resolutions are to save money and read more books. If you'd like to keep those resolutions going past January, the library is here to help! You've probably spent some time browsing the shelves at the library, but did you know that you can access the collections of nearly 30 other libraries in our LION consortium from the comfort of your own home? Visit [walpublib.org/MyAccount](http://walpublib.org/MyAccount) and log in to your account with your last name and library card number. Once you've logged in, you can search

the catalog for a specific title, or browse by author, keyword, or subject.

Once you've found what you're looking for, click that "Place Hold" button! If the item is available at another library, it will be sent to your preferred pickup location. Once we receive the item, you will be notified by email or phone to let you know that it is ready for pickup (we can hold most items for 7 days). If you'd also like to receive a text notification, sign up at [walpublib.org/TextNotifications](http://walpublib.org/TextNotifications).

Ever wonder what happens when you place a book on hold? Each day, libraries in the LION system print a list of items that have been requested by their patrons and patrons at other LION libraries. Once a library has pulled the book you've requested from their shelf, it will be packed into a bin. These bins are then picked up, sorted, and delivered to their destinations by LION's private courier service, called Riverbend. Once we've received a delivery, Borrower Services staff unpack and sort the materials. In 2024, Wallingford Library staff handled a whopping 3,754 bins full of books, CDs, DVDs, and other materials requested by library patrons. After everything has been sorted, a staff member checks in the items and place them on our hold shelf, and you'll be notified that your hold is ready to pick up! Check out the video below to see this process in action!



What happens when you place a book on hold? Find out!

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

## MONDAY NIGHT MOVIES



**Thunderbolts\***  
Monday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm  
Community Room | PG-13  
No registration required

Ensnared in a death trap, an unconventional team of antiheroes—Yelena Belova, Bucky Barnes, Red Guardian, Ghost, Taskmaster and John Walker—embarks on a dangerous mission that forces them to confront the darkest corners of their pasts.



# Children & Families

## School-Aged Programs

*Registration is required unless otherwise noted.*

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

### Family Dungeons & Dragons

**Tuesday, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> | 6-8pm | Kids & Their Grown-Up  
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.

### STEM Explorers

**Friday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> | 5-6pm | Grades 3-7  
Wonder Room | [Register](#)**

Join students from Choate Rosemary Hall for an evening of STEM-related fun! Each month, we will explore a different STEM topic through exciting hands-on activities.

### Custom Art Trading Cards

**Tuesday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades 2-8  
Wonder Room | [Register](#)**

Come learn how to create custom art out of your trading cards! We will be modifying the art of existing cards to make magnets and stickers. This program will focus on Magic the Gathering cards, but we will have Pokémon and Yu-Gi-Oh cards to alter as well. Participants can bring their own cards or use ones provided by the library.

### American Sign Language Club for Kids

**Wednesday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> | 4:30-5:30pm | Grades 2-5  
Wonder Room | [Register](#)**

Come practice sign language with other kids! Each month will have a different theme and you will be able to reinforce what you learn through games and activities.

### Break It!

**Thursday, Jan 15<sup>th</sup> | 4:30-6pm | Grades 1-5  
Community Room | [Register](#)**

The library has a pile of old electronics and we need YOU to help us dismantle them. Whether you want to take things apart to figure out how they work, or if you just want to use tools to destroy stuff, there is fun to be had at Break It!

### Reading Buddies

**Friday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades K-2  
Children's Room | [Register](#)**

Spend a Friday evening reading with a high school buddy! Choate volunteers will join us to do some group read-alouds, small group reading practice, and other fun activities. This program is offered in conjunction with Choate Rosemary Hall and the Wallingford Rotary Interact Club. This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like a reminder email.

### LEGO Club

**Saturday, Jan 17<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!

### Tabletop Adventures: The Last Airbender

**Tuesday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> | 5:30-7pm | Grades 4-8  
Children's Program Room | [Register](#)**

During the war with the Fire Nation, an elite group of warriors and benders team up to break into Fire Lord Ozai's palace and steal a priceless gemstone for him known as The Dragons Eye. Create your own Avatar character and team up with friends on this Dungeons & Dragons adjacent adventure. This quest will be using a modified version of the Kids on Bikes tabletop RPG system, which is similar to Dungeons & Dragons. Players who are familiar with *The Last Airbender* show and comics may have a distinct advantage.

### Homeschool Meetup

**Wednesday, Jan 21<sup>st</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.

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

**Saturday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> | 2-4pm | 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!

### Trading Card Battle Club

**Tuesday, Jan 27<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.

# School-Aged Programs (continued)

## **Astronomy Club**

Thursday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades K-5

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

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

## **Snowflake Story Time with the Wallingford Garden Club**

Friday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup> | 4:30-5:30pm | Grades K-5

Children's Program | [Register](#)

Come join The Wallingford Garden Club as we learn all about snowflakes in this STEAM story time! We will read some stories, sing some songs, and make a paper snowflake to take home.

## Preschool Programs

*Registration is required unless otherwise noted.*

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

## **Toddler Yoga**

Friday, Jan 2<sup>nd</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, Jan 3<sup>rd</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. *This is a drop-in event, but register if you would like a reminder email.*

## **Dance with Me**

Friday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> | 10:30-11:15am

Ages 18 months-2.5 years | Community Room | [Register](#)

Join us for a fun, interactive class where little ones explore movement with their parent or caregiver. The focus is on music, rhythm, and developing basic motor skills in a supportive environment. Gilia José of Movements Academy of Dance will be teaching.

## **Rhyme Time Engineers**

Friday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> | 10:30-11:30am | 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.

## **Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe**

Tuesday, Jan 20<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.

## **Baby Ballet**

Friday, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> | 10:30-11:15am | Ages 2-3

Community Room | [Register](#)

Join us for an engaging introduction to ballet for toddlers, focusing on basic positions, gentle stretching, and creative movement to build coordination and foster a love for dance. Gilia José of Movements Academy of Dance will be teaching.

## 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 | 10:30am | Wonder Room

Mondays, Jan 5<sup>th</sup> - Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>

(No Class on Jan 19<sup>th</sup> or Feb 16<sup>th</sup>)

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

## **Waddling Ones & Twos**

Ages 15 mo-35 mo | 10am or 11am | Wonder Room

Tuesdays, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> - Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

In this story time, toddlers with their caregivers will learn more about how language works through songs, rhymes, books, and more. Following story time, families are invited to stay and play. 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, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> - Feb 18<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Pajama Family Story Time**

Ages 0-5 | 6:30pm | Community Room

Wednesdays, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> - Feb 18<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Preschool Story Time**

Ages 3-5 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room

Thursdays, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> - Feb 26<sup>th</sup>

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



# Adult Events



## Winter Wonders: A Virtual Nature Program

**Wednesday, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)**

Join us for a fascinating virtual talk about what happens to our flora & fauna during the coldest season of the year! You will learn the many ways that winter transforms our gardens and our landscapes, why snowflakes have six sides, and how strangely beautiful and startling winter can be. **Margery Winters**, Assistant Director at the **Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, CT** will lead this fun visual presentation. [Reserve a Museum Pass to Roaring Brook.](#)



## The Hygge Life: A Guide to Winter Wellness

**Tuesday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)**

Hygge (pronounced "hoo-gah") is a Danish concept that embodies a feeling of coziness, contentment, and well-being, often achieved through simple pleasures and creating a warm, inviting atmosphere. It's more than just a trend; it's a way of life that emphasizes slowing down, appreciating the present moment, and finding joy in everyday life. Join **Ann Zak**, Executive Director at the **Wallingford Senior Center**, for an informative discussion about the practice of Hygge and how to incorporate it into your life. Attendees will get to enjoy hot teas from her collection!



## Seize the Day: Poems for Morning, Afternoon, and Night (A Four-Part Series)

**Wednesdays, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, and Feb 11<sup>th</sup> | 3-4:30pm | Collins Room | [Register](#)**

According to the poet Philip Larkin, "days are where we live." Poets are among the best chroniclers of our daily existence, so it's no wonder that they choose certain parts of the day as the setting of, or inspiration for, their musings. Join us as we explore various poets' accounts of the passage of time. Attendees are encouraged to read the poems for each session in advance, but no prior exposure is required. This class will be interactive, so you will be encouraged to participate as the spirit moves you. There will be four 90-minute class sessions led by **Cyrus Cook**, a Wallingford resident and retired English teacher at Choate Rosemary Hall. By signing up for the first class, you will sign up for all of the classes in the series.



## Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors

**Wednesday, Jan 21<sup>st</sup> | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)**

When did your immigrant ancestors first arrive in America? **Al Fiacre**, Senior Researcher at the **Godfrey Memorial Library**, will teach you how to locate genealogical records from various regions of the United States. Different types of resources can help place where your ancestors emigrated from and distinguish among 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> century arrivals. As governmental records began to evolve, they can also tell you more about the work opportunities each ancestor sought, when they married, how many children they had, and where they were buried.



## Job Search Strategies

**Thursday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> | 2-3:30pm | Community Room | [Register](#)**

Are you ready to learn more about successful job search strategies? Are you ready to discover how to use tools that will help launch you to the next level of your career, whether you are job searching, changing careers, or just want something new? In this workshop led by **Denise Wood** of the **American Job Center**, you will learn effective methods for securing your next job, including employee research and preparation.



## "What's Growing in That Box?": A CT Foodshare Presentation

**Tuesday, Jan 27<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)**

"What's Growing in That Box?" invites attendees inside Connecticut Foodshare's innovative hydroponic Freight Farms to discover how fresh, culturally relevant produce is grown year-round to support local communities. Led by **Dom Piccini**, Director of Agricultural Programs, this presentation highlights the journey from concept to daily operations, showcasing how vertical farming strengthens food access in Connecticut. Participants will learn how these climate-controlled farms work, what's currently being grown, and the meaningful impact this produce has across the state. Join us for an inspiring behind-the-scenes look at farming in a whole new way!

*Snow Date: Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

# Library Groups

*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.

## NEW! The Connection Corner

**Fridays starting Jan 9<sup>th</sup> | 11am-1pm | Board Room**

Every Friday between 11am and 1pm, we will host weekly drop-in sessions at the library for anyone who would like to speak with a social worker. These sessions are informal and designed to offer support, resources, and guidance to community members.

## Wallingford Ukulele Club

**Monday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup> | 10-11:30am | Collins Room**

**Wednesday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room**

**Monday, Jan 26<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, Jan 7<sup>th</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, Jan 7<sup>th</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, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<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).

## NEW! Wallingford Writers' Guild

**Begins Wednesday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8pm**

**Collins Room | No registration required**

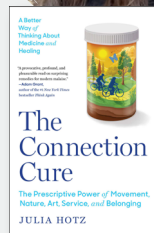
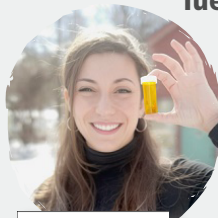
Are you seeking a small, supportive writing community for adults? Look no further! In this new program that meets on the final Wednesday of each month, we'll write fun, short pieces in the form of blogs, diaries, micro-fiction, self-care journaling, zines, and much more. Each meeting will be a series of short exercises and prompts. As a group, we'll build creative practices for daily living. No previous writing experience is necessary. This workshop series will be led by Kathleen Stewart, a cultural anthropologist and writer with over 30 years of experience teaching writing all over the world.

## Virtual Author Visit

**Julia Hotz**

**Nature, Art, and Service as Medicine**

**Tuesday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> | 2-3 pm | Zoom | [Register](#)**



Jump start your new year with journalist and author **Julia Hotz**, who will be discussing *The Connection Cure: The Prescriptive Power of Movement, Nature, Art, Service, and Belonging*. Traditionally, when we get sick, health care professionals ask, "What's the matter with you?" But around the world, teams of doctors, nurses, therapists, and social workers have started to flip the script, asking "What matters to you?" Science shows that social prescribing is effective for treating symptoms of the modern world's most common ailments—depression, ADHD, addiction, trauma, anxiety, chronic pain, dementia, diabetes, and loneliness. By integrating age-old medicines like art, nature, movement, and volunteer service

into patient's daily lives, social prescriptions are radically changing health and healthcare in more than 30 countries. *The Connection Cure* empowers you to find, experience, and implement this revolutionary medicine in your own community. By reconnecting to what matters to us, we can all start to feel better.

**Julia Hotz** is a journalist based in New York. Her stories have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *The Boston Globe*, *TIME Magazine*, and more. *The Connection Cure* is her first book.



# For Readers

## Book Clubs



### Hibernation Book Club: Long Reads for Short Days

**Bleak House** by Charles Dickens

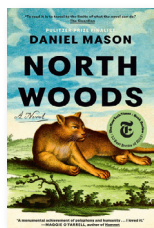
Tuesdays, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> | 5:30-7pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

If you have always wanted to read big classic works of literature but have been daunted by their length and supposed complexity, we have a book club just for you! In the Hibernation Book Club, we will read one long classic novel every winter, dividing it up into shorter sections and meeting six times over the course of three months to work our way through it.

Our title for the winter of 2026 is *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens. Published serially in 1852–53 and in book form in 1853 and considered to be one of Dickens' best novels, *Bleak House* is the story of the Jarndyce family, who wait (and wait and wait) to inherit money from a disputed fortune in the settlement of the extremely long-running lawsuit known as Jarndyce and Jarndyce. Filled with a large cast of memorable characters and told partly by the novel's heroine Esther Summerson and partly by an omniscient narrator, *Bleak House* helped lead to the enactment of legal reform in Britain in the 1870s. In this six-part program, we will read *Bleak House* in installments of approximately 160 pages each and meet every other week to discuss it.

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

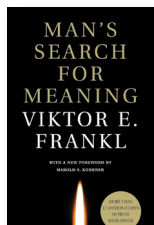
**North Woods** by Daniel Mason

Thursday, Jan 15<sup>th</sup> | 6:30-8 pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

A pair of young lovers in colonial New England escape wrathful judgment in their Puritan village by fleeing into the wilds of western Massachusetts. They lay a foundation stone, and soon a yellow house comes to occupy that spot. Over the course of the following three centuries, the inhabitants of that house come and go while the house thrives, lapses into disrepair, is abandoned and then revived, all while serving as a silent witness to the lives and deaths of its occupants. Mason's 2023 novel was voted one of the top ten books of the year by the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

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



### Truth Be Told Nonfiction Book Club

**Man's Search for Meaning** by Viktor Frankl

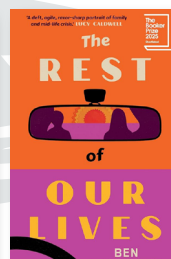
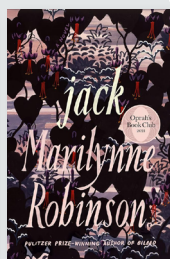
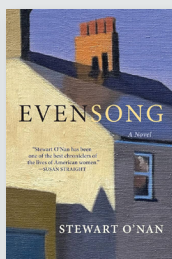
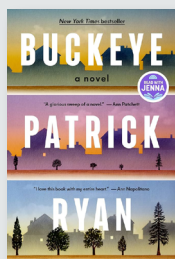
Thursday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> | 6:30-8 pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Educator Susan Gomes

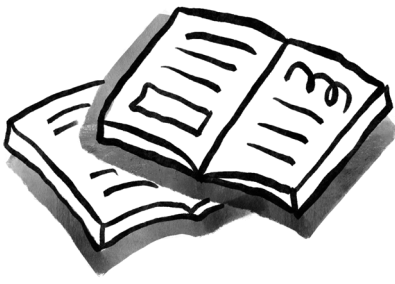
A psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor, Frankl describes life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. In his book, which was voted one of the most influential books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in a Library of Congress survey, Frankl argues that affirming a *why* to live gives us the freedom to choose our life's meaning.

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

## Cindy's Picks

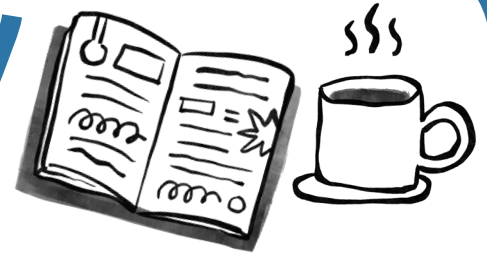




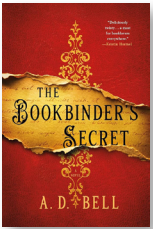


# Novelty

## What's new in novels from Cindy Haiken



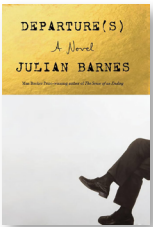
In his masterful novel *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville writes: "I know not all that may be coming, but be it what it will, I'll go to it laughing." As we turn to 2026, make our resolutions and anticipate a clean slate, the publishing industry is already gearing up for a whole year of fantastic new books. January is traditionally a slower month for new releases while readers settle in with their holiday gift books, but there are still plenty of wonderful novels scheduled for publication this month. Here is a sample:



***The Bookbinder's Secret*** by A.D. Bell — At the turn of the last century, a woman finds a confession hidden beneath the binding of a burned book that reveals a story of forbidden love, lost fortune and murder.

***Crux*** by Gabriel Tallent — Two high school seniors living in the southern Mojave Desert try to escape their futures through rock climbing.

***Dandelion Is Dead*** by Rosie Storey — A woman goes out with a man her deceased sister had been talking to on a dating app.



***Departure(s)*** by Julian Barnes — 20 years after a man tried to play matchmaker to two university friends, he tries again, with unexpected results.

***Evelyn in Transit*** by David Guterson — Three Buddhist lamas show up at the home of an itinerant woman to announce that her five-year-old son is the seventh reincarnation of the illustrious Norbu Rinpoche.

***The Final Score*** by Don Winslow — Six previously unpublished crime novellas.

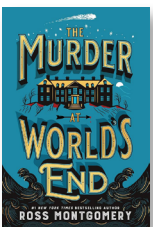
***The First Time I Saw Him*** by Laura Dave — This sequel to the bestselling and Apple TV+ series *The Last Thing He Told Me* is set five years in the future.



***The Future Saints*** by Ashley Winstead — A record executive tries to get a band back on track after their manager dies.

***The Infamous Gilberts*** by Angela Tomaski — While a crumbling Gothic manor is being purchased by a luxury hotel chain, its faithful guardian reminisces about the history of the house and the family that lived in it.

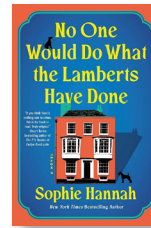
***Lost Lambs*** by Madeline Cash — As a couple's marriage reaches its breaking point, their daughters' lives start to spiral.



***The Method*** by Matthew Quirk — A young actress goes undercover to help save her best friend.

***The Murder at World's End*** by Ross Montgomery — A viscount fearing the arrival of Halley's Comet is found murdered in his study by an ancestral crossbow.

***My Husband's Wife*** by Alice Feeney — A woman returns home after a run to discover that her key does not work and that another woman is living in her house and appears to be married to her husband.



***No One Would Do what the Lamberts Have Done*** by Sophie Hannah — A family goes on the run after a neighbor accuses their dog of biting a young girl.

***Room 706*** by Ellie Levenson — A happily married woman and the man with whom she is having an affair are together in a hotel when it is placed under siege.

***The School of Night*** by Karl Ove Knausgaard — An ambitious photographer is willing to sacrifice everything to pursue his dreams of artistic and commercial success.



***The Seven Daughters of Dupree*** by Nikesha Elise Williams — Seven generations of Dupree women navigate love, loss and the unyielding ties of family.

***Skylark*** by Paula McLain — A woman's quest for artistic freedom in 1664 becomes connected with a doctor's dangerous mission during the German occupation of France in the 1940s.

***The Storm*** by Rachel Hawkins — A gulf coast beach motel has survived a century of hurricanes but has also been the site of several mysterious deaths.

***Such a Clever Girl*** by Darby Kane — 15 years after an entire family goes missing, one member returns to their home town.



***Vigil*** by George Saunders — The wild final evening in the epic, complicated life of the CEO of an oil company.

***When We Were Brilliant*** by Lynn Cullen — A fictionalized account of the professional relationship between Marilyn Monroe and her photographer Eve Arnold.

Also of note this month are the 3rd Antique Hunters mystery by C.L. Miller (***The Antique Hunter's Murder at the Castle***), the 3<sup>rd</sup> Escape Artist thriller by Brad Meltzer (***The Viper***), the 20<sup>th</sup> Jack Swyteck thriller by James Grippando (***The Right to Remain***), the 21<sup>st</sup> installment in the Private series by James Patterson (***Private Rome***), the 22<sup>nd</sup> Jason Bourne thriller by Brian Freeman (***Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Revenge***) and new novels by Dean Koontz (***The Friend of the Family***), Freida McFadden (***Dear Debbie***), James Patterson (***The Invisible Woman***), Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child (***Pendergast: The Beginning***) and Danielle Steel (***The Devil's Daughter***).



# Collaboratory

## Drop-In Programs



### Graphics Office Hours

**Monday, Jan 5<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.



### Woven Together: A Fiber Arts Club for Adults

**Thursday, Jan 8<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

**Thursdays, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> & Jan 22<sup>nd</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.



### Open Sew

Open Sew is currently on hiatus. We're sorting out some loose threads and looking for a new group facilitator. We hope to get the group spooled up again soon!



## COOL Laboratory



Nothing looks better than the cover of a good book... except maybe the same book cover with a complimentary bookmark! This month let's learn how to use our needle felting machine. Needle felting uses a barbed needle to mat fibers together, typically in wool. Though this video shows how to use the needle felting machine, it can also be done by hand. The machine cuts down on project time since it felts quickly with several needles, but working by hand is best for creating smaller details. It is easy and fun!

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





# Lottery Programs

Visit the January program lottery to register for the events below:  
[walpublib.org/LotteryJan26](http://walpublib.org/LotteryJan26)

*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)*

## Resin Photo Coasters

**Tuesday, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR Thursday Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 3-4:30pm | Collaboratory**

In this class we will be laminating photos to encase them in resin so they will last forever and ever! If you have a picture you would like to use, either bring the physical copy, or have it on a flash drive for easy printing. Files can also be emailed in advance to [wplcollaboratory@gmail.com](mailto:wplcollaboratory@gmail.com).

## Sublimation Sequin Pouches

**Saturday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> | 11am-12:30pm | Collaboratory**

Customize your own pouch with reversible sequins! Use our sublimation process and get more familiar with Collaboratory devices!

## Paper Marbling

**Tuesday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30pm OR Thursday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 3-4:30pm | Collaboratory**

Learn the art of Paper Marbling using ink. It is a relaxing craft with beautiful results!

## The Full Bake: Introduction to Sourdough

**Saturday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> | 12-3pm | Community Room**

This workshop takes you through every stage of sourdough baking in an interactive, beginner-friendly way. Fresh loaves will be available to show ideal results, along with loaves baked with intentional beginner mistakes so you can learn how to "read" crumb structures. Using ready to go dough, you'll learn stretch-and-folds, coil folds, shaping, and scoring. You will go home with your own starter, a care card, and a recipe so you can continue baking and experimenting at home. Bring your notebooks and pencils to take notes and be ready to be baking beautiful loaves the same week!



## Talking TED @ Home

**Thursday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm | Adults | Zoom | [Register](#) (after the lottery period)**

Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event. In January, we will watch and discuss Chris Anderson's "It's Time for Infectious Generosity: Here's How."

What would happen to humanity if generosity went viral? Sharing transformative stories from around the world, head of TED Chris Anderson outlines why the time has come for the internet to realize its power to supercharge small acts of kindness, changing lives at a scale never experienced before. Learn how to cultivate a generous mindset — with or without giving money — and get inspired with tools to amplify your impact. "Be brave. Give what you can, and then be absolutely amazed at what happens next," Anderson says.



# Just for Teens

## Registration Required

**Handmade Clove and Orange Pomanders**  
Wednesday, Jan 7<sup>th</sup> | 4pm-6pm | Collaboratory  
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Once used to ward off the spread of disease through miasma (bad air) these fragrant decorations are a blast to make. Whether you settle on filling the whole orange with cloves, or opt for a more intricate design, you'll have a great time stabbing oranges and chatting with friends!

**Sublimation LED Photo Frames**  
Tuesday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> | 3:15pm-4:45pm | Collaboratory  
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Learn how to use the library's sublimation printer and design software to illuminate a digital image you bring in or one you create during the program!

**Teen Craft Club**  
Thursday, Jan 15<sup>th</sup> | 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 the Collaboratory's 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.

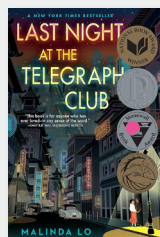
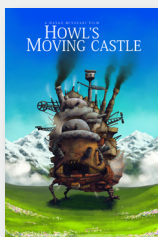
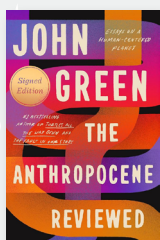
**Laser Engraved Water Bottle**  
Wednesday, Jan 21<sup>st</sup> | 4:30pm-6:30pm | Collaboratory  
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Learn how to measure and design a custom water bottle with CorelDraw. Text or graphics, full wrap or something smaller, the power to personalize is in your hands!

**Custom Cricut Vinyl Decals**  
Wednesday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> | 5-7pm | Collaboratory  
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Use Cricut Design Space and the Cricut to make solid colored vinyl decals from silhouette style images or from text. Great for personalizing water bottles, binders, device cases, and more!

## Some of James' Favorite Titles...



## 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.

## Meet James!

WPL's New  
Teen Librarian



Hi everyone! I am James Morrison (he/him) and I am delighted to be WPL's new Teen Librarian. Many of you know me already from my time in the Collaboratory over the past year. You will continue to see me on the Collaboratory desk as well as the reference desk, leading teen programs, and wandering the stacks of the YA collection. I have a BA in History from the University of Iowa and I have my MLIS from Southern Connecticut State University.

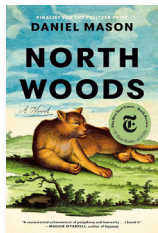
My wife, Millie, and I live in Wallingford, where we moved in part for access to the wonderful library. My interests are broad and they grow broader whenever I hear anyone speak passionately and knowledgeably about almost anything. I love trivia and strategy games, especially those that involve cards. I have recently begun the dive into the extensive history of D&D and I look forward to familiarizing myself with our manga collection.

I believe that the library should be a safe space that embodies the overlap of lifelong learning, entertainment, and community growth. I am committed to doing my best to fostering that and ensuring our doors continue to open to endless possibilities.

# Last Words:

## Housekeeping from Chris Ciemniewski

"We tell you, tapping on our brows, / The story as it should be,  
As if the story of a [house](#) / Were told, or ever could be."  
—Edwin Arlington Robinson, *Eros Turannos*



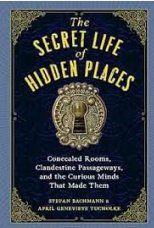
While most books feature humans as their main characters a few books ask the question "What if these walls could talk?" and feature a [house](#) as their main character. In this month's Thursday Night Book Club selection, *North Woods* by Daniel Mason, the yellow [house](#) anchors the overarching narrative as different residents come and go across centuries.

The [house](#) gets limited perspectives on its residents' lives, but readers are treated to the full picture. *The Big House* by George Howe Colt tells the story of a large summer house on Cape Cod and the five generations of a family who have lived there. Visiting it for what may be a final time, they reminisce about memories of summers past and a vanishing way of life.



Ray Bradbury's short story, *There Will Come Soft Rains*, published in 1950, famously features an automated smart [house](#) which continues its daily operations long after its occupants have perished. The short story has since inspired countless adaptations by professional and aspiring filmmakers. A YouTube search will return a number of adaptations, including the chilling [1984 animated short film](#) from director Nozom To'laho'javev.

Many haunted [house](#) stories were inspired by the real-life Winchester Mystery [House](#), a sprawling mansion in San Jose California designed by Sarah Winchester (originally from New Haven, CT) and under continuous construction for 38 years between 1884 and 1922. The [house](#) features a nonsensical layout with architectural curiosities, such as stairs that lead nowhere and doors that open to vertical drop-offs. It is one of many unusual buildings featured in Stefan Bachmann's *The Secret Life of Hidden Places*.



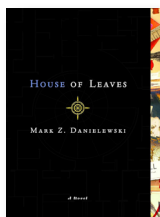
The titular Hill [House](#) in Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* is one of the most notable examples of a [house](#) as a character with agency of its own. It influences its inhabitants and distorts their realities. The Netflix adaptation modernizes the plot and goes one step further by giving the [house](#) the ability to shapeshift in order to further impose its will.



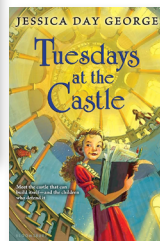
Both the graphic novel series *Locke and Key* by Gabriel Rodríguez and its Netflix adaptation feature the sprawling Keyhouse Manor. After moving into the newly inherited estate, the characters begin to find keys forged from a mysterious form of iron that are able to unlock hidden rooms and other mystical functions of the [house](#). But the keys may have malicious intents of their own.



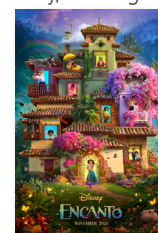
*House of Leaves* by Mark Danielewski features The [House](#) on Ash Tree Lane, which is bigger on the inside than it appears on the outside and contains a labyrinth of ever-changing rooms and possibly holds some kind of beast inspired by the mythological [minotaur](#). The "leaves" in



the title refer to the pages of the book, which act as a metaphor for the [house](#). The book follows the [house's](#) new occupants as they discover just how big the [house](#) really is. Similarly *Piranesi* by Susanna Clark takes place entirely within a structure that seems to fill the entire world. Simply called The [House](#), its architecture is inspired by the mind bending paintings by Giovanni Battista Piranesi, who later inspired the art of M.C. Escher. The main character and seemingly the only living inhabitant within the structure must figure out how he arrived there and what it all means.



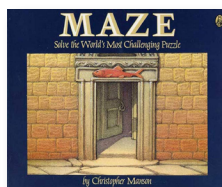
*Tuesdays at the Castle* is a whimsical children's book about Castle Glower, which changes its layout and adds new rooms to its structure every Tuesday, making it difficult to map or navigate—an advantage for its occupants when the castle is held under siege. In the movie *Encanto*, *Casita* is a sentient [house](#) that interacts with members of the Madrigal family and adds a unique



room for each of them as they discover their magical powers.



In the video game *Blue Prince*, the player inherits the Mt. Holly estate, a [house](#) which needs to be rebuilt every day in a gridlike structure. Each time a player opens a door, they must choose to construct one of three random rooms from the [house's](#) history. The game is particularly good at capturing the essence of rooms we've all seen throughout our own lives through its gameplay mechanics. For instance, if you return to the dining room after hearing the dinner bell you will find that a meal has been served. In the library you can request books to read, but you must wait for the next in-game day for the book to materialize—just like waiting for library holds in real life! It is stipulated that players must reach Room 46 in order to inherit the estate, but reaching Room 46 may only be the start of a much larger puzzle...



*Blue Prince* is inspired by Christopher Manson's *Maze*, a book which claims to be "The World's Most Challenging Puzzle." Each page of the book represents a room of a [house](#) and features cryptic text, illustrations, and doorways to other rooms (pages) of the [house](#). Readers are challenged to decipher the visual riddles on each page to find the shortest route to Room 45 and then back to Room 1. The path through the house was solved two years after its publication, but some of the book's deeper riddles took puzzlers decades to solve. The book is long out of print, but [preserved on the internet](#)!

Books, like [houses](#), are shifting spaces. With each turn of the page we find ourselves in a new setting. This newsletter itself is like a [house](#) with separate rooms for Readers, Makers, Families, and more! Each page acts as the blueprint for conjuring different programs and events that manifest in the Library throughout the year. Who knows what kind of spaces we will craft in 2026!

"This is not really a book.  
It's a building in the shape of a book."  
—Christopher Manson, *Maze*





## Jan Hours

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

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

**Sunday** (thru April)  
12noon - 4pm

## Scheduled Closings

### New Year's

Close at 4pm on Wed, Dec 31<sup>st</sup>  
Thursday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
Monday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>

## Join us in welcoming WPL's new **Volunteer Coordinator Kasey Goggins!**

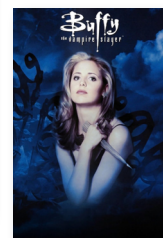
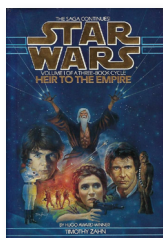


Hello! My name is **Kasey Goggins**, and I am so happy to be working as the new Volunteer Coordinator! This past spring, I graduated with my Master in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University and I am eager to bring my recent education to life at Wallingford Public Library. After living in Central New York for the past two years, I'm excited to be back in my home state to start my career.

In my spare time, I enjoy reading books in the fantasy, science fiction, romance, and Young Adult genres, and I occasionally dabble in comics and graphic novels. I also love to craft, especially when I'm creating clay trinkets, greeting cards, and paintings.

At the library, I can be found at the Information Desk. If you see me there, please feel free to come ask about volunteer work at the library, or to chat about books and crafting! I look forward to becoming a part of this lively community and getting to know everyone in it.

## Check out some of **Kasey's Favorite Titles...**



**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

**Jan Specials**  
Puzzles  
BOGO

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

## Our Website Is Now More Accessible!



WPL's website now includes accessibility features through **Recite Me Assistive Toolbar**! Look for the accessibility icon located in the lower left corner of the website to access features such as:

- Screen reading support
- Reading aids for focus and comprehension
- Customizable styling options
- Translation into 100+ languages

Try it here: [wallingfordlibrary.org](http://wallingfordlibrary.org)

## IN OTHERS' **Words...**



People, Caroline thought, were like houses. They could open their doors. You could walk through their rooms and touch the objects hidden in their corners. But something—the structure, the wiring, the invisible mechanism that kept the whole thing standing—remained invisible, suggested only by the fact of its existing at all.



— Lauren Oliver, **Rooms**