

Feb
2026

Words

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Black History, Black Stories, Black Lives



Ubuntu Storytellers Present: **"The Long Echo of a Moment"**

Tuesday, Feb 3rd | 6:30-8pm

Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

The Ubuntu Storytellers, an ensemble of performance artists from across the Diaspora, are joined by guests who will tell personal stories of allyship. Contemporary stories of needing an ally, of being an ally and of the second guessing that sometimes comes after. Stories of being imperfect, unsure. Stories of being heard by the right someone at the right time. We tell these stories to celebrate when we step up and step in, as well as to acknowledge that sometimes it can be difficult to show up, speak up. Mostly we tell so we can feel together the impact of "the long echo of a moment." Sponsored by the NewAlliance Foundation in New Haven, CT.

Art of the African Diaspora: A Virtual Tour of the Amistad Center

Tuesday, Feb 17th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)

Founded in 1987 and housed within The Wadsworth Atheneum, the Amistad Center was inspired by the historical Amistad ship, whose African captives famously revolted for their freedom in 1839. Its collection of 7,000 works of art and artifacts document over three centuries of the beauty, struggle, and spirit of Black life in America and beyond. Explore its permanent and visiting exhibitions in this one-hour virtual tour led by members of the Center's staff!

Reserve a discount pass to the Wadsworth Atheneum:
walpublib.org/Wadsworth

**ONE BOOK
ONE WALLINGFORD**
Twenty Twenty-Six

BOOK REVEAL: Thursday, Jan 29th at 7pm

Across from the Information Desk and Streaming Live on Facebook.

**AUTHOR VISIT & BOOK SIGNING:
Tuesday, April 21st at 7pm**
More information on Page 3!



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

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted



Words

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

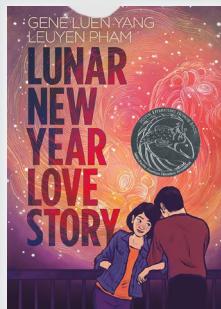
Words, a publication of the Wallingford Public Library, is sent electronically to members of the Wallingford Public Library Association. View the full color edition of the current issue on our website: walpublib.org/newsletter. **Words** is edited by Publicity and Public Services Librarian Christopher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

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

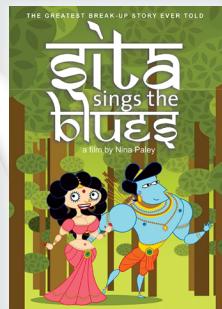
The Wallingford Public Library relies on member contributions in addition to funding it receives from the Town of Wallingford. We hope you will support the Library by becoming a member of the Wallingford Public Library Association. Your support helps ensure that the Library will continue to be a dynamic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

Become a member: walpublib.org/BecomeAMember

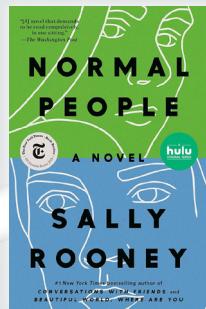
Staff Picks



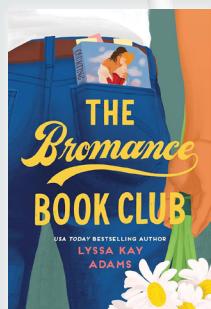
James
Lunar New Year Love Story
by Gene Luen Yang



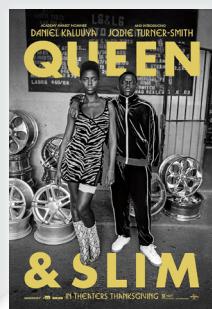
Chris
Sita Sings the Blues
directed by Nina Paley



Meghan
Normal People
by Sally Rooney



Sam Lee
The Bromance Book Club
by Lyssa Kay Adams



Daniella
Queen & Slim
directed by
Melina Matsoukas



Rachel
Loving
directed by Jeff Nichols

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View this newsletter online!

ONE BOOK ONE WALLINGFORD

Twenty Twenty-Six



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE REVEAL!

Thursday, Jan 29th | 7pm

Across from the Information Desk & Live on Facebook

No registration required

Join us either in person at the library's Information Desk or via Facebook Live as we reveal the 2026 One Book One Wallingford title. We'll hear from the book's author, share some background on the book and provide a preview of the wonderful programs we have planned. There will also be cake and beverages to celebrate this year's town-wide read! Copies of the book will be available to check out or purchase at the event.

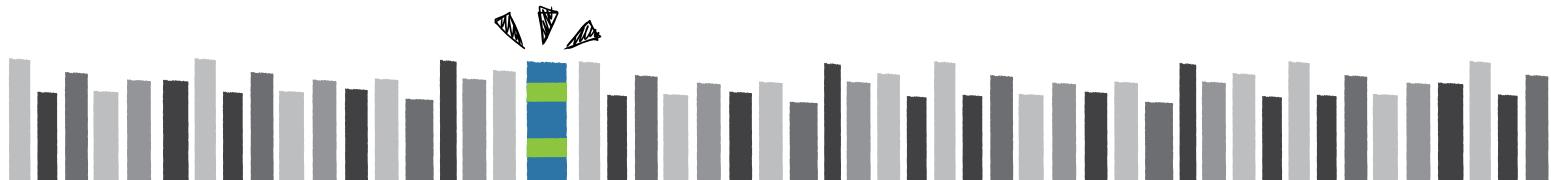
The goal of One Book One Wallingford is to bring the community together in reading and discussing the same book. After a series of book discussions and events related to the title, we will gather together for a visit with the author.

We have been revealing clues about the 2026 One Book One Wallingford title throughout the month of January. Clues are posted in the library, on our YouTube channel, 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. The first three clues are listed below! Stay tuned for more information about the events planned for One Book One Wallingford 2026!

CLUE #1: The book was published in 2024.

CLUE #2: The author used to live in Connecticut.

CLUE #3: Truth be Told Book Club's March title was selected in part because it is thematically connected to the OBOW title.



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 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: Apple Watch Basics

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

Do you want to learn how to use your Apple Watch to its fullest potential? Maybe you're a fitness enthusiast looking to get more metrics from your daily run, or maybe you just want to stay connected with loved ones in case of an emergency. In this hands-on class, Connor will explore the essential features of the Apple Watch, from setting up and customizing watch faces to managing notifications and settings. You'll also learn how to make the most of the powerful health and safety tools built into your device, including Fall Detection, heart rate and AFib monitoring, and the Health app. Whether you're brand new to the Apple Watch or just want to get more out of yours, this session will help you feel confident using it every day.

Dear IT: Exploring the Google App

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

Have you ever had a plant you are unsure how to care for? Have you ever wanted to try a restaurant but you're unsure of how to read the menu because it is in a different language? Ever seen a random doohickey or doodad in your house and are not sure what it belongs to? Find out how you can use your smart phone to tell you all about it!

Join us for a hands-on session where you'll discover the many ways the Google App can simplify your daily life with the power of AI—From translating text in real time to identifying music, solving math questions, and identifying various objects you have in your own home!

Free Digital Resources

Monday, Feb 2nd OR Saturday, Feb 28th

2-3:30pm | Board Room

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

Learn what free digital resources are available through the Wallingford Public Library. Your card gets you access to free eBooks, Audiobooks, comics, music, movies and more! Please note that you need a Wallingford Public Library card to make full use of the resources discussed in this class.

hoopla



Libby.

kanopy



COMICSPLUS

Ask IT:

Sundays, Jan 25th, Feb 8th & 22nd, March 8th & 22nd, and April 12th & 19th | 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 that we can accommodate as many people as possible. Assistance will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.



From the
B.S.
Borrower Services
Department

Cardholder Perks for Consumers & Investors

Are you thinking of making a big purchase or investment this year? Before you invest your hard-earned money in a product that might result in buyer's remorse, use your library card to do some research and make sure that your money is being well-spent!

- **Consumer Reports** is one of the best sources for detailed, factual reviews of thousands of consumer products, including appliances, electronics, automobiles, and more. Wallingford patrons can access the online edition of Consumer Reports through the library's website. (walpublib.org/ConsumerReports)
- **Weiss Financial Ratings** is an online resource that offers independent, objective ratings of the financial stability of stocks, mutual funds, ETFs, banks, credit unions, and insurance companies, as well as a personalized planning tool for Medigap coverage. (walpublib.org/WeissFinancial)
- **Magazines:** In our magazine section, investors can find up-to-date information in publications including *Bottom Line Personal Finance*, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine*, and *The Value Line Investment Survey* (available at the Information Desk), while consumers may be interested in *Consumer Reports*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Motor Trend*.



MONDAY NIGHT MOVIES



Ballerina

Monday, Feb 9th | 6-8pm
Community Room | Rated R
No registration required

Join us to watch the 2025 action-thriller *Ballerina*, the latest film in the John Wick series! Trained in the assassin traditions of the Ruska Roma, Eve Macarro takes on an army of killers as she seeks revenge against those responsible for the death of her father.



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, Feb 3rd | 6-8pm | Kids & Their Grown-Up
Wonder Room | [Register](#)**

It's Dungeons and 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.

International Snack Attack

**Thursday, Feb 5th | 6:30-7:15pm | Grades 3-5
Children's Program Room | [Register](#)**

Curious about what kids in other countries might snack on? Bring your spirit of adventure and try some out. You just might find a new favorite!

American Sign Language Club for Kids

**Wednesday, Feb 11th | 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.

Family STEM: Rube Goldberg Machines with the Playful Engineers

**Thursday, Feb 12th | 4-5:30pm | Ages 4+
Community Room | [Register](#)**

Accomplish a simple task in a complicated way by making a Rube Goldberg Machine! The Playful Engineers will bring all sorts of supplies. Families, bring your creativity. *Please note, this is an early release day for Wallingford Public Schools. This program is made possible by a donation from Ulbrich.*

STEM Explorers

**Friday, Feb 13th | 5-6pm | Grades 3-7
Children's Program 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.

LEGO Club

**Saturday, Feb 14th | 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.

Let's Make a Music Video!

**Tuesday, Feb 17th | 2-4:30pm | Grades 3-8
Children's Program Room | [Register](#)**

Come help us create a music video to post on the library's YouTube channel! We will be learning the entire process, from planning and storyboarding, to acting and filming.

Homeschool Meetup

**Wednesday, Feb 18th | 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.

Reading Buddies

**Friday, Feb 20th | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades K-2
Children's Room Drop-in | [Register for a reminder](#)**

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.*

Paws for Reading

**Saturday, Feb 21st | 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. *Presented by the friends of the Wallingford Animal Shelter.*

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

Saturday, Feb 21st | 2-4pm | Grades PreK-8

Wonder Room | Drop-in | [Register for a reminder](#)

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!

Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, Feb 24th | 4-7pm | Grades PreK-8

Wonder Room | Drop-in | [Register for a reminder](#)

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.



School-Aged Programs (continued)

Holi: A Festival of Colors

Wednesday, Feb 25th | 6:30-7:30pm | Grades PreK-5
Community Room | [Register](#)

Layavinyasa, a women-led organization that builds bridges between people of different cultures and forges new paradigms using Indian art forms, will explain all about the colorful holiday of Holi and how people celebrate it across India. Participants will be able to make a paint-splattered craft.

Preschool Programs

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.

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

Toddler Yoga

Friday, Feb 6th | 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.

Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, Feb 17th | 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, Feb 20th | 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.

Silly Story Time

Saturday, Feb 28th | 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.*

Astronomy Club

Thursday, Feb 26th | 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!

Dance Workshop

Saturday, Feb 28th | 2-3pm | Grades 2-9
Community Room | [Register](#)

Attend an engaging dance workshop with three internationally-renowned pre-professional dancers and students from Choate Rosemary Hall. The class, which is hosted by **Dance to Empower**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that these students formed, gives participants the chance to experiment with fundamental stretching, ballet skills, and creative choreography. All skill levels of dancers are welcome!

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. See website for descriptions: walpublib.org/storytimes

Bouncing Babies

Ages 0-18 months | 10:30am | Wonder Room

Mondays, Jan 5th - Feb 23rd

(No Class on Feb 16th)

Waddling Ones & Twos

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

Tuesdays, Jan 6th - Feb 24th

Happy Feet

Ages 2-3 | 10:30am | Children's Program Room

Wednesdays, Jan 7th - Feb 25th

Pajama Family Story Time

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

Wednesdays, Jan 7th - Feb 18th

Preschool Story Time

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

Thursdays, Jan 8th - Feb 26th



Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, Feb 7th | 10am-12noon | Children's Room | [Register for Family Story Time](#)

Stop by the library to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day. We have tons of fun activities going on! Grab a free book, check out our face painting & tattoo stations in the wonder room. register to attend a story time, and stop by our Early Childhood Education & Information Fair.

Early Childhood Education & Information Fair

Saturday, Feb 7th | 10am-12noon | Community Room & Collins Room

Looking for childcare in town? Wondering what services Wallingford has to offer families with young children? Stop by this event that highlights Wallingford's preschools, licensed childcare centers, and the town services that are available for our town's youngest members. Come meet representatives from local agencies and have all of your questions answered. *This program is jointly sponsored by WECARE.*

Adult Events



Tories, Spies, and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut

Tuesday, Feb 10th | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

Which side are you on? That's the question that every single person in Connecticut had to answer in 1775, as the thirteen colonies began a rebellion against British rule. Loyalty was not only a matter of words or opinion. For soldiers and civilians alike, loyalty could mean loss of fortune, of friends, and even of life. This presentation by the **CT Museum of History and Culture** reveals stories—some famous, some obscure—of Nutmeggers who risked and sacrificed to support their chosen side during this “tumultuous jarring time of civil war.” Join us for a fascinating look at a lesser-known side of the Revolution in honor of America’s 250th!



I Do: The History of Wedding Fashion and Tradition

Tuesday, Feb 24th | 7-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Register](#)

Join us to learn all about the modern history of matrimonial ceremonies! Based on the **New Canaan Museum & Historical Society's** 2023 exhibition of the same name, this program will explore the evolution of wedding styles, rituals, and customs in the West over the last 150 years. We will discuss the rise of the “white wedding,” the use of World War I parachutes as bridal fabric, and other historical anecdotes, along with legal changes that reflected shifting social mores. This illustrated presentation will include photographs of both the fashions and the change-makers who shaped the modern wedding. **Nancy Geary**, Executive Director of the New Canaan Museum, will lead this one-of-a-kind lecture!



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

Join us for a weekly program to forge new connections with folks you might otherwise never get to know! Come for the coffee, stay for the fun and engaging conversation facilitated by professional people person Linda Reilly-Blue.

NEW! The Connection Corner

Fridays | 11am-1pm | Board Room

On Fridays between 11 am and 1 pm, 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, Feb 2nd | 10-11:30am | Community Room

Wednesday, Feb 11th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room

Monday, Feb 23rd | 6:30-8pm | Community Room

Join our Wallingford Ukulele Club to practice and play with other uke enthusiasts! Every session starts with a few easy warm-ups for beginners, followed by songs at the intermediate level. Participants may bring their own ukuleles or borrow one at meetings.

WPL Play Readers

Wednesday, Feb 4th | 6:30-8:30pm | Collins Room

The Wallingford Public Library Play Readers bring and share poetry, prose, famous speeches and documents, monologues, and original material! Come check us out. All are welcome to read and/or listen.

ASL Conversation Group

Wednesday, Feb 4th | 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

Saturdays, Feb 14th & 28th | 9:45am-12noon

Board Room

A meeting of people who love reading and writing poetry! To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Karen Ciosek at kjc73048@gmail.com.

NEW! Wallingford Writers' Guild

Wednesday, Feb 25th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room

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.

Tax Season and Tax Assistance

Tax filing season is around the corner and the library is ready to help in partnership with the **Human Resources Agency of New Britain**. Federal 1040 Income Tax Forms in both English and Spanish as well as 1040 Instruction Booklets typically arrive at the library in late January. You can also find the forms (and schedules) available online to download and print: rebrand.ly/IRSforms

The State of Connecticut encourages residents to file their income taxes electronically and no longer provides paper forms to Connecticut Libraries. You can file your CT State Income Tax forms electronically here: rebrand.ly/CTefile Or you can download and print paper forms here: rebrand.ly/CTtaxforms

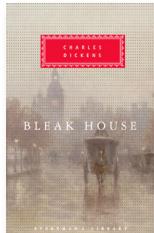
If you earned less than \$69,000 in 2025, you may be eligible for free tax preparation services from IRS-certified tax preparer volunteers through HRA of New Britain. In-person appointments at the library will take place on most Saturdays from 10am to 2pm starting Jan 24th until April 13th. You may call to make an appointment at **(860) 356-2000** or visit their website through this shortened link: walpublib.org/VITA

Appointments fill up quickly so we encourage you to make an appointment as soon as possible! While librarians can help you find the forms you need, library staff members are not involved in the tax preparation process. If you have questions about this tax preparation service, please contact HRA of New Britain at (860) 225-8601. We are proud to partner with VITA each year as one of their locations to provide this free, volunteer-run tax preparation service for Wallingford residents.



For Readers

Book Clubs



Hibernation Book Club: Long Reads for Short Days

Bleak House by Charles Dickens

Tuesdays, Jan 27th, Feb 10th & 24th, March 10th & 24th | 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

Mystery Book Club

The Burglar in the Library by Lawrence Block

Wednesday, Feb 4th | 3-4:15 pm | Zoom

Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

Bookseller and burglar Bernie Rhodenbarr planned a romantic weekend at a New England inn with his girlfriend in the hopes of stealing a first edition of *The Big Sleep* from the inn's library. But when she announces that she can't go with him because she's getting married, he brings his best friend and his cat instead. Then a surprise guest appears, another guest is found dead, and everyone is snowed in with no way to reach the outside world.

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

Classics Book Club

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Thursday, Feb 5th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

First published in 1925, this novel of the American Jazz Age is the story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, who is married to the millionaire Tom Buchanan. It is also the story of Gatsby's friendship with Daisy's cousin Nick Carraway, who moves to Long Island in 1922, eager to leave his native Midwest and WWI behind. Fitzgerald's short work is widely considered to be one of the greatest American novels of the 20th century.

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

Thursday Night Book Club

Breathing Lessons by Anne Tyler

Thursday, Feb 19th | 6:30-8 pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Maggie and Ira Moran are on a road trip from Baltimore, Maryland to Deer Lick, Pennsylvania to attend the funeral of a friend. Along the way, they reflect on the state of their marriage through their quarrels, their routines and their ability to tolerate each other's faults with patience and affection. Set over the course of one emotionally fraught day, Tyler's 1988 novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1989.

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

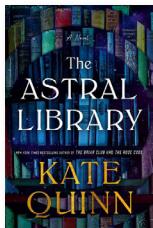


Novelty

What's new in novels from Cindy Haiken



In her wonderful children's novel *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, Joan Aiken writes: "It was dusk—winter dusk. Snow lay white and shining over the pleated hills, and icicles hung from the forest trees." There are few times of the year better suited to a great read than a long winter evening. Luckily, publishing houses agree, as February's new release calendar is filled with a big list of terrific new novels that are perfect to read while snuggled under a thick blanket with a hot beverage nearby. Here is a sample:



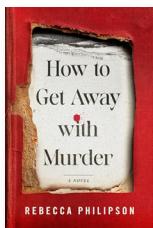
The Astral Library by Kate Quinn — A woman who spends her free time reading fantasy novels at the Boston Public Library finds a way to escape into her favorite book.

A Better Life by Lionel Shriver — A New York family takes in a Honduran immigrant, who may or may not be the innocent paragon she claims to be.

Brawler by Lauren Groff — A collection of short stories that reflect on the battle between the kinder and darker sides of human nature.

Dirty Metal by Allison LaMothe — A woman who works for a tabloid newspaper starts to report on the Russian criminals moving to Brooklyn's Brighton Beach.

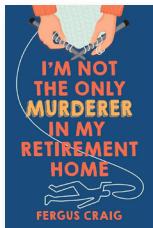
The End of Romance by Lily Meyer — An anti-romantic granddaughter of Holocaust survivors finds herself at odds with her own beliefs when she falls in love with not one, but two men.



The Girls Before by Kate Alice Marshall — A search-and-rescue agent who has never stopped looking for her missing best friend finds evidence that implicates a powerful family.

Head of Household by Oliver Munday — A short-story collection that depicts the evolving role of fatherhood in contemporary society.

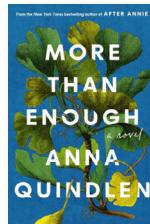
How to Get Away with Murder by Rebecca Philipson — A Scotland Yard detective tries to find the author of a self-help book that promises quite literally to teach readers how to get away with murder.



I Give You My Silence by Mario Vargas Llosa — This final novel by the Nobel Prize-winning novelist is about a Peruvian music lover who wants to write a biography of the man he believes to be the country's finest musician.

I'm Not the Only Murderer in My Retirement Home by Fergus Craig — After a former serial killer is released from prison and moves into a retirement home, one of the residents is murdered.

It's Not Her by Mary Kubica — Two families vacationing at a secluded lake resort are at the center of a chilling crime.



Laws of Love and Logic by Debra Curtis — A woman is torn between her beloved high school sweetheart and the devoted husband she married years later.



More than Enough by Anna Quindlen — A high school English teacher receives the results of an ancestry test that genetically pairs her with a stranger.

One of Us by Elizabeth Day — A dysfunctional but privileged family in modern day England uses the class system to try to gain political power.



The Optimists by Brian Platzer — A wonderful schoolteacher shares the story of the incredible trajectory of his most astonishing student.



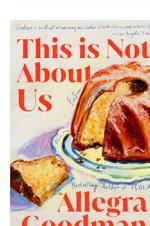
The Reservation by Rebecca Kaufman — On the morning that a famous restaurant is getting ready to host one of its most important bookings ever, the owner discovers that the main course has been stolen.



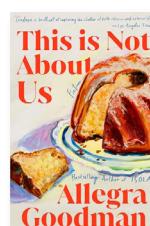
Saoirse by Charleen Hurtubise — A woman who ran away from her troubled childhood in Michigan makes a new life for herself in Ireland.



So Old, So Young by Grant Ginder — Five parties over the course of 20 years bring six college friends together, exploring the ways we run from and cling to our friends in love, life and death.



This Book Made Me Think of You by Libby Page — Once a month for a year, a woman receives a book from her dead husband.



This Is Not About Us by Allegra Goodman — Two women are unmoored after their beloved sister passes away, and then their disagreement about apple cake turns into a decade-long family feud.



Trust No One by James Rollins — A group of university students who have been falsely accused of murder go on a hunt across Europe to unlock the secrets buried within a centuries-old book.

Also of note this month is the 11th Orphan X thriller by Gregg Hurwitz (**Antihero**), the 20th Cotton Malone novel by Steve Berry (**The Devil's Bible**), the 25th installment in the Dave Robicheaux series by James Lee Burke (**The Hadacol Boogie**), the 26th Joe Pickett thriller by C.J. Box (**The Crossroads**), the 38th Hamish Macbeth mystery by M.C. Beaton (**Death of a Groom**), the 41st Alex Delaware thriller by Jonathan Kellerman (**Jigsaw**), the 62nd installment in the In Death series by J.D. Robb (**Stolen in Death**) and new novels by Alexander McCall Smith (**The Lost Language of Oysters**) and Brad Thor (**Cold Zero**).



Collaboratory

Drop-In Programs



Graphics Office Hours

Monday, Feb 2nd | 2–4pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Drop-in | Collaboratory

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



Woven Together: A Fiber Arts Club for Adults

Thursday, Feb 5th | 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!



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



A store-bought card is nice, but a thoughtful hand-made card shows next level appreciation. We have tons of scrapbooking equipment and nice paper for you to use to make a customized, one-of-a-kind card any time you may need one. With Valentine's Day coming up, you may want to get started sooner rather than later! Watch the video to see all the steps, and we hope to see you (and your cards) soon.

walpublib.org/CLCard



Lottery Programs

Visit the February program lottery to register for the events below:
walpublib.org/LotteryFeb26

Unless otherwise noted, **registration is required and programs are open to adults and teens in grades 9+.** You may enter the Collaboratory program registration lottery from the 20th to the 22nd of the month prior. Participants will be selected via random drawing on the following business day. All others will be placed on the waitlist. Due to high demand, we may limit individual participants to one program per month. If there are available seats after the lottery, registration will be directly through our online calendar. Project photos can be found at walpublib.org/UpcomingCollaboratory

Mandala Heart Rock

**Monday, Feb 2nd OR Wednesday, Feb 4th | 6:30-8:30pm
OR Friday, Feb 6th | 2:30-4:30pm | Collaboratory**

Paint a detailed mandala heart on a flat stone using dotting techniques. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

Geometric Paper Collage

**Tuesday, Feb 3rd | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Feb 5th | 3-4:30pm | Collaboratory**

We will be making soothing collages using paper cut into geometric shapes! If there is any paper in particular you have at home you would like to use, feel free to bring it in.

Wooden Quilting Block

**Tuesday, Feb 17th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, Feb 19th | 3-4:30pm | Collaboratory**

We will be using wooden pieces cut with our laser cutter to create decorative wooden quilting blocks! There will be three different classic quilt block patterns for you to choose from. Please note that this is not a quilting program. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*

Winter Wonderland Landscape Painting

Saturday, Feb 28th | 10am-12:30pm | Community Room

Join us for a relaxed, welcoming painting session where you'll gently explore color, composition, and a variety of painting materials. No experience needed! Together, we'll paint a snowy winter wonderland step by step using acrylics, trying out different techniques and styles along the way. Come unwind, get creative, and discover the simple joy of painting.



Talking TED @ Home

Thursday, Feb 12th | 7-8pm | Adults | Zoom | [Register](#) (after the lottery period)

Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event. In February, we will watch and discuss Kelly McGonigal's "How to Make Stress Your Friend."

Stress. It makes your heart pound, your breathing quicken and your forehead sweat. But while stress has been made into a public health enemy, new research suggests that stress may only be bad for you if you believe that to be the case. Psychologist Kelly McGonigal urges us to see stress as a positive, and introduces us to an unsung mechanism for stress reduction: reaching out to others.



Just for Teens

Registration Required

Teen Cuisine: Melted Chocolate Decoration

Thursday, Feb 5th | 4:30-6:30pm | Community Room
Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Chocolate lovers rejoice! Come melt chocolate and dip or drizzle it onto strawberries, cookies, and so much more! Take some goodies home to a Valentine, or save them all for yourself! (The chocolate being used is processed in a facility where tree nuts and peanuts are also processed.)



Drop-in Events

Paper Crafting Party

Wednesday, Feb 11th | 4-6:30pm
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Register for a reminder](#)
Use paper as a base to make Valentine's cards, Lunar New Year related crafts or anything else that you are drawn to. Use any of the many tools and materials available in the Collaboratory, including patterned paper, stamps, funky scissors, and die cutters. The Cricut can be used if needed for custom shapes and complex patterns! This is a drop in event, so feel free to come at any time and leave when you are finished crafting!

Teen Craft Club

Thursday, Feb 12th | 2-4pm | Collaboratory
Grades 6-12 | [Register for a reminder](#)

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.



GirlTech STEM Event: Strawberry DNA Extraction

Friday, Feb 13th | 5:30-6:30pm | Collaboratory
Grades 5-12 | [Register](#)

The Choate GirlTech Club is excited to announce a strawberry DNA extraction event. This event is not only going to introduce you to the basics of DNA, but will also give you the chance to collect your own strawberry DNA! No prior knowledge is required.



Custom Cricut Stickers

Tuesday, Feb 17th | 4:30-6:30pm
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Register](#)

Learn to use Cricut Design Space to create stickers from images you find or create!



Teen Debate Club

Tuesday, Feb 24th | 3-4:30pm | Collins Room
Grades 9-12 | [Registration Encouraged](#)

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. *Teen Debate Club meets the last Tuesday of each month.*

Trading Card Battle Club

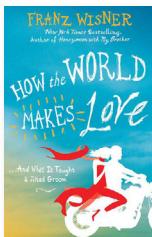
Tuesday, Feb 24th | 4-7pm | Wonder Room
Grades 4-8 | [Registration Encouraged](#)

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. *Trading Card Battle Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month.*

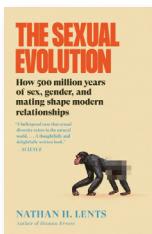




Last Words: Intimacy in Many Forms from Chris Ciemniewski



To coincide with Valentine's Day in the February 2022 issue of Words, I compiled a list of books about the different ways people show love. Along the way I discovered the book **How the World Makes Love** by Franz Wisner. In the book, Wisner discusses his travels around the world and reflects on the way people from different cultures demonstrate affection, romance, and love towards one another. This year, I decided I wanted to find books about intimacy and how the world shows intimacy. *How the World Makes Love* was one of the first books that came up in my search. While it is a gem, it has now been almost 20 years since its publication—but thankfully the library is always adding new books to the collection. Here are some of the best books published within the last five years that show how the world gets intimate in ways you may not know...

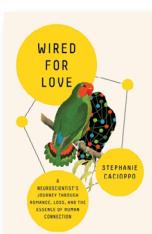


The newest book on this list, **The Sexual Evolution** by Nathan H. Lents, explores the history of sex from a biological point of view, both in humans and in other animals. Lents argues that all kinds of diversity are important to evolution—including sexual diversity. Using examples of creative ways animals have learned to procreate, he draws parallels to how sexual diversity in humans is also beneficial to us as a species. It's not survival of the fittest, but of the most diverse, including a variety of sexual strategies and preferences.

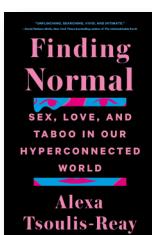


While there are a handful of books that already cover the history of sex, Rachel Feltman's **Been There Done That** is the latest and maybe the most humorous book to romance the subject. After a brief overview of interesting mating practices in the animal kingdom, Feltman turns to sexual practices in recorded history including early interpretations of pregnancy, ancient sex toys, and early explicit drawings. She discusses why we are obsessed with size and even writes an ode to farts.

The book is a lot of fun to read, and Feltman's primary objective seems to be to make sex fun again.



Neuroscientist Stephanie Cacioppo has spent much of her career studying what goes on in our brains when we are in love, but at the age of 37, she was content to be single herself. However, when she met a fellow neuroscientist studying loneliness, she soon felt all of the emotions she had studied for so long. **Wired for Love** is her story of processing love for the first time in her thirties while analysing her own emotions through brain chemistry and human behavior.

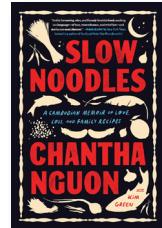


In today's fast paced world it can be difficult to find that special someone. **Finding Normal** by Alexa Tsoulis-Reay explores online dating and hookup culture and our human desire to find someone who we are sexually compatible with. She argues that technology is increasingly used to find community and belonging and that, at its core, finding a sexual partner (although not necessarily a romantic partner) is really the search for the most intimate type of belonging. We look for someone who is as "normal" as ourselves.

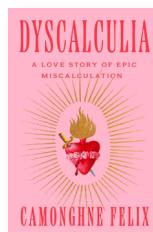
The next few books on this list feature stories of intimacy from different backgrounds including diverse cultures, gender identities, orientations, and life experiences.



In Hindi the word *besharam* roughly translates to *shameless*. In her book **Besharam**, author Priya-Alika Elias reflects on the challenges of how women are portrayed in society and offers sassy anecdotes about becoming shameless about love, sex, and body image. This feminist collection is for anyone looking for fresh takes on how to disrupt today's taboos.

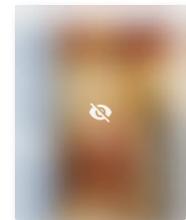


Slow Noodles follows the life of Chantha Nguon, a Cambodian woman who lost her home and most of her family during the reign of Pol Pot. She seeks refuge in Thailand and spends two decades cooking in a brothel and serving drinks in a nightclub. In the book she interweaves traditional recipes with stories from the brothel and memories of her family.

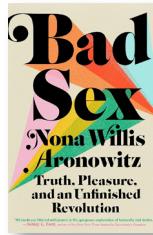


In **Dyscalculia** Camonghne Felix reflects back on her "miscalculations in love" in poetic prose. She uses math as a metaphor for her actions in the "formula" of love and attempts to discern which variables led to heartbreak. Through the various love stories Felix asks the question "Who gets to assert their right to pain?"

Jeremy Atherton Lin's **Deep House** reads like a gay fever dream. After the United States Congress prepares the Defense of Marriage Act, Lin moves to London with the guy of his dreams. The book then follows their travels around the world as they try to find a welcoming place to call home through remote forests, sex clubs, dive bars, and hotel rooms, along the way running into a cast of bartenders, criminals, friars, artists, and more. This one is perfect for fans of *Heated Rivalry* who are looking for more steamy gay stories in defiance of gender norms.



When wife and mother Molly Roden Winter told her husband Stewart that a flirtatious man at a bar asked her out on a date, Stewart encouraged her to accept. This begins Molly and Stewart's open relationship and extramarital (but consensual) sexual encounters. Winter chronicles her open love life in her book **More**, which defies conventional marriage norms and explores the possibilities and struggles that come with a polyamorous lifestyle.



In 2022 *Teen Vogue* sex and love columnist Nona Willis Aronowitz felt that her ideas of feminism and sexual liberation had fallen apart due to political turmoil. **Bad Sex** is a symposium of her attempt to reclaim her sexual authenticity. She looks back hundreds of years to discover stories of "ambivalent wives, free lovers, radical lesbians, and sensitive men" to rediscover her own sexual satisfaction and push through the horrors of patriarchal capitalism, in the process shining a light on the universal questions of desire.





Feb Hours

Monday - Friday

9:30am - 9pm

Saturday

9:30am - 5pm

Sunday (thru April)

12noon - 4pm

Scheduled Closings

Presidents' DaySunday, Feb 15thMonday, Feb 16th**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

Feb Specials
DVDs & CDs

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

Virtual Author Visits

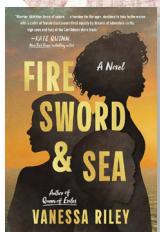
Celebrating Black History Month

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

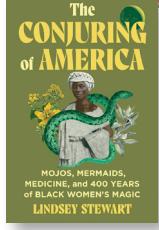
Vanessa Riley

Swashbuckling Heroines and High Seas Adventures**Thursday, Feb 5th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Register](#)**

Join us as we chat online with Vanessa Riley about her newest book, *Fire, Sword and Sea*, based on the story of the female pirate Jacquette Delahaye. In the Caribbean Sea in 1675, Delahaye is the mixed-race daughter of a tavern owner on the island of Tortuga. Instead of marriage, Jacquette dreams of joining the seafarers and smugglers whose tall-masted ships cluster in the turquoise waters around Tortuga. In Haiti she becomes Jacques, a dockworker, earning the respect of those around her while hiding her gender. For the next 20 years, she raids the Caribbean, making enemies and amassing a fortune in stolen gold. When her fellow pirates decide to increase their profits by entering the slave trade, Jacquette turns away from piracy and begins to plot a war of liberation.

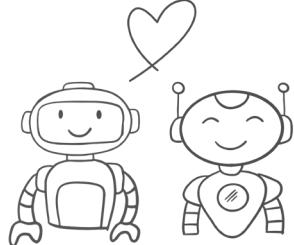
Vanessa Riley is an award-winning author and the recipient of the 2024 Georgia Mystery/Detective Fiction Author of the Year. Her work has been featured in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Washington Post*, NPR, and *The New York Times*.

Dr. Lindsey Stewart

Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's Magic**Thursday, Feb 12th | 2-3pm | Zoom | [Register](#)**

Feminist philosopher Dr. Lindsey Stewart's book, *The Conjuring of America: Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's Magic*, tells the stories of Negro Mammies of slavery, the Voodoo Queens and Blues Women of Reconstruction, and the Granny Midwives and textile weavers of the Jim Crow era. These women continued their practices and worship for centuries and passed down their traditions. Stewart uncovers new contours of American history, sourcing letters from the enslaved and dispatches from the lore of Oshun and other African mystics. *The Conjuring of America* is a love letter to the real magic Black women used that sowed rebellion, freedom, and hope.

Lindsey Stewart is a Black feminist philosopher and an Associate Professor of philosophy at the University of Memphis. She is the author of *The Politics of Black Joy*. Her work has been featured in *Blavity*, *Signs*, *Hypatia*, and the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*.



IN OTHERS' Words...

In the last days of humanity, humans cultivated a growing disdain for their own soul. Many didn't even believe in the sanctity of the creative process anymore; they wanted to eliminate it and usher in automation to do the work. But it didn't go the way the humans wanted or expected; creativity meant experiencing, processing, understanding human joy and pain.

— Nnedi Okorafor, *Death of the Author*
— Zelie Oyenzeri-Onyedele, *Rusted Robots*