

May
2024

言葉 cards



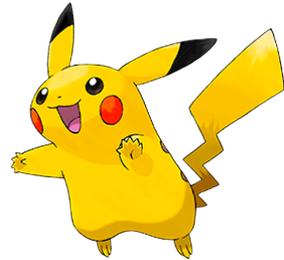
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY



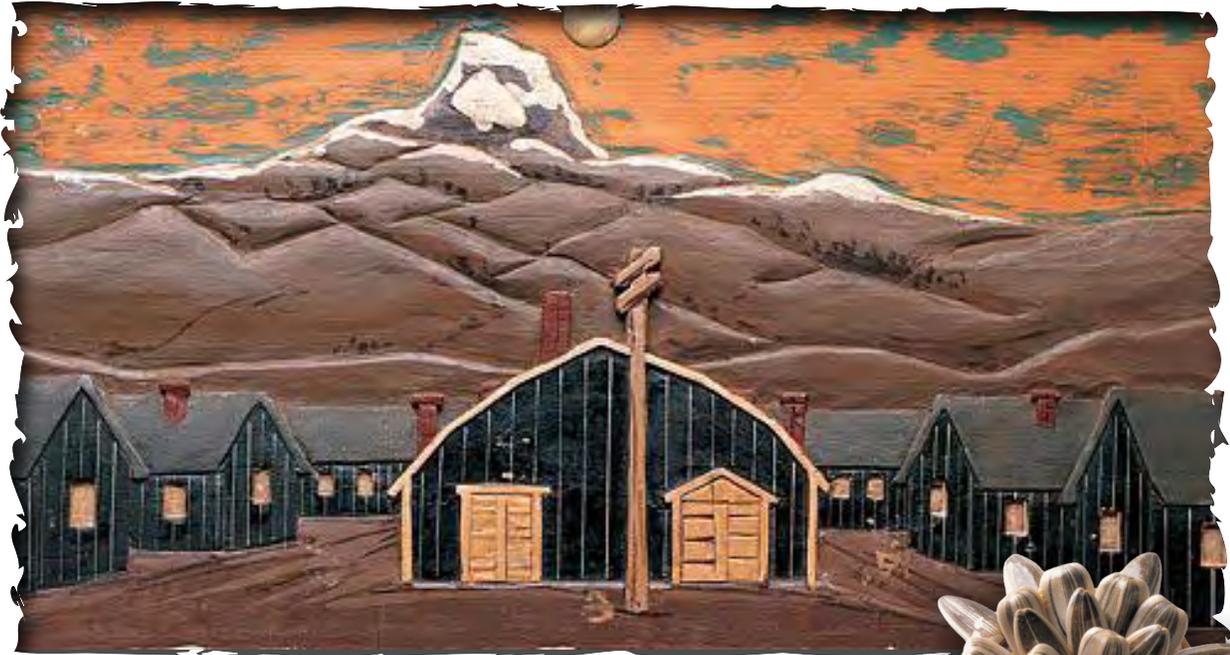
コスプレ COSPLAY CON

Saturday, June 1st | 11-3pm | Grades K-12
Community and Collins Room

Calling all Cosplayers! Come celebrate your favorite characters and fandoms at Cosplay Con! You can come dressed up as a character you love or make your own cosplay at some of our stations! There will be sword fighting, a photo booth, arts and crafts, a costume contest, and more!



五月
May



我慢 The Art of Gaman: Crafts of Japanese-Americans Interned During WWII

Wednesday, May 22nd | 7-8pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

During World War II, nearly 120,000 Japanese-Americans were forced to leave their homes on the West Coast and were incarcerated in internment camps. One way to learn about their lives is to see the objects they created during their imprisonment. Nancy Beck, whose family was imprisoned in the internment camps, will present samples of these items, from basic necessities such as chairs and tools to a beautiful basket of flowers made from shells, and tell stories of their creators. She will also show footage from the 2011 short documentary *Art of Gaman*, in which former prisoners share their experiences of "gaman," or "enduring the unbearable with dignity."



Celebrating
Asian
American
and Pacific
Islander
Heritage
Month!

Vol. 17 Iss. 05



WALLINGFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.



WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR DOORS OPEN TO ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Wallingford Public Library
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. *Words* is edited by Publicity and Public Services Librarian Christopher Ciemniowski from contributions by library staff members.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

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. *Words*, a publication of the Wallingford Public Library, is sent electronically to members of the Wallingford Public Library Association. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we are also eligible to accept a bequest from your estate plan.

CR Consumer Reports™

Free with your library Card!

Unbiased reviews and ratings on a wide range of products and services to

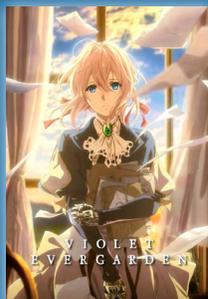
empower consumers in making informed purchasing decisions:

walpublib.org/ConsumerReports

Word of Mouth - Staff Picks!



JoJo's Bizarre Adventure
Max S.



Violet Evergarden
Kayleigh S.



Yu-Gi-Oh!
Josh L.

Stay-Connected!

Words is the Wallingford Public Library's monthly newsletter of events. Each month, the first 50 copies are printed in color followed by an unlimited printing in grayscale.

View the current issue in color on our website using this QR code or at the following link:
walpublib.org/newsletter



Register for events online through our digital calendar of events:
walpublib.org/events

Never Miss an Event!

Join our email list to receive personalized emails so you never miss the events that interest you the most: walpublib.org/email

Follow us on social media for more news, events, and photos: @WallingfordLibrary on Facebook and @WalPubLib on Twitter and Instagram.

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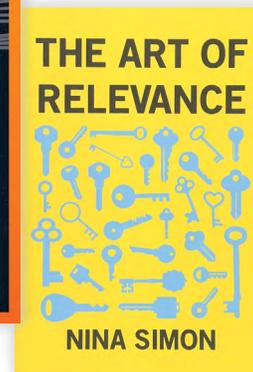
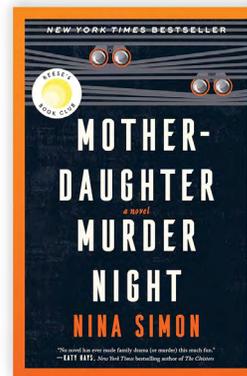
Virtual Author Events

A Love Letter to Strong Women Everywhere with Nina Simon

Wednesday, May 8th | 7-8pm | Zoom | [Click to register](#)



Join Nina Simon as she chats about her lighthearted whodunnit featuring a grandmother-mother-daughter trio of amateur sleuths, *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*. In *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*, high-powered business woman Lana Rubicon is convalescing in a sleepy coastal town with her adult daughter Beth and teenage granddaughter Jack. After Jack finds a dead body, she becomes a suspect in the homicide investigation, and the Rubicon women are thrown into chaos. With Jack and Beth's help, Lana uncovers a web of lies, family vendettas and land disputes lurking beneath the surface of a community populated by folksy conservationists and wealthy ranchers. But as their amateur snooping advances into ever-more dangerous territory, the headstrong Rubicon women must learn to do the one thing they've always resisted: depend on each other.



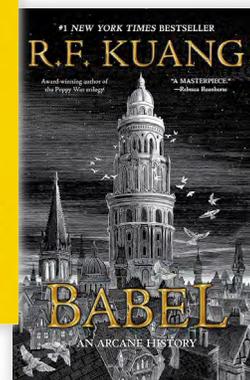
Nina Simon writes crime fiction about strong women. She is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*, which was a Reese's Book Club pick and a "best of 2023" selection for Amazon, Barnes & Noble, CrimeReads, and LibraryJournal. Before turning to fiction, Simon worked as NASA engineer, slam poet, game designer, museum director, and nonprofit CEO. *Mother-Daughter Murder Night* is her first novel. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Simon now lives off-the-grid in the Santa Cruz Mountains with her family.

Asian American Representation in Literature with Rebecca F. Kuang

Tuesday, May 21st | 7-8 pm
Zoom | [Click to register](#)



Join us for a conversation with Kuang about her *New York Times* bestselling novel, *Yellowface*. In *Yellowface*, June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars. But Athena is a literary darling while June Hayward is literally nobody. So when June witnesses Athena's death in a freak accident, she impulsively steals Athena's just-finished experimental novel about the unsung contributions of Chinese laborers during World War I. So what if June edits Athena's novel and sends it to her agent as her own work? So what if she lets her new publisher rebrand her as Juniper Song—complete with an ambiguously ethnic author photo? Doesn't this piece of history deserve to be told, whoever the teller? But June can't get away from Athena's shadow, and slowly, the evidence threatens to bring June's (stolen) success down around her. Kuang's novel is timely, razor-sharp and a page turner.



Rebecca F. Kuang is the award-winning, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the Poppy War trilogy, *Babel: An Arcane History*, and *Yellowface*. A Marshall Scholar, she has an MPhil in Chinese Studies from Cambridge University and an MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies from Oxford University and is a PhD candidate in East Asian Languages and Literatures at Yale University, where she studies diaspora, contemporary Chinese literature and Asian American literature.



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

Tech Training

Tech Connect

- Free tech help
- Free computers
- Free internet

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 to do that. You may even 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, assistance in signing up for free or discounted home Internet and a long-term loan of your very own computer.

Call us today at **(203) 626-4774** to meet with a digital navigator.

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.

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 Matt, as they teach beginner classes in computer topics and answer your most important questions.



Dear It: De-Googling

Saturday, May 4th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Board Room | [Click to register](#)

If you're concerned about Google, but don't know where else to go, Matt will help you explore options for other email providers, office programs, web browsers, and more. There will be time for Q&A.



Dear It: iPhone Part 1

Saturday, May 18th | 3-4:30pm | Adults | Collins Room | [Click to register](#)

Elijah will teach you the basics of the iPhone, including Apple IDs, basic phone settings, and navigation tips. There will be time for Q&A.



Introduction to the Collaboratory

Saturday, May 11th OR Monday, May 20th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collaboratory

[Register for Saturday](#) | [Register for Monday](#)

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



Intermediate Canva

Monday, May 13th | 2-3:30pm | Adults | Collaboratory

[Click to register](#)

Use Canva to practice different design principles such as visual hierarchy, negative space, and balance that will help your designs shine! This will be a hands-on, guided class. Basic experience with Canva is required.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS

in the Community Room



Lisa Frankenstein

Friday, May 10th | 6pm
Drop in | Rated PG-13

Lisa is an unusual young woman who harbors a strange crush on a handsome bust adorning a gravestone in her local cemetery. When a series of wild circumstances reanimate the deceased man, the two decide to give their fledgling attraction a chance at life.



The Beekeeper

Friday, May 24th | 6pm
Drop in | Rated R

Mr. Clay serves the Beekeepers, a secret organization with overreaching powers around the world. After quitting his work and leaving behind his dangerous life, Mr. Clay befriends Mrs. Parker. One day, Mrs. Parker falls prey to a phishing scam and takes her own life. The incident fuels Mr. Clay's vengeance to seek the truth behind her suicide. His pursuit of justice leads him back to his own dark past and its repercussions on the future of the world he lives in.

From the **Borrower Services Department**



Psst... watch this space for tips and tricks from our Borrower Services Department about things you may not have known you could do with your library card.

You know the members of our Borrower Services Department as the people who check out your materials, but they do so much more than that! In addition to emptying book drops and reshelving materials, our Borrower Services staff are also the ones who pull allllll the item holds off the shelf twice a day when you place requests. Some of our Borrower Services Staff are trained like detectives to track down misplaced items and others offer individualized support for library users who may need help with their account. The Borrower Services' "fulfillment center" unpacks books arriving from other libraries and prepares items for delivery to our 38 partner libraries. Staff even act as savvy negotiators with out-of-system libraries to have scarce items sent to Wallingford to save patrons a drive. Borrower Services runs reports on collection inventory and borrowing statistics, they create library cards for new patrons, they mend injured books, and they act as the library's welcoming committee!

Just like there's so much more to the Borrower Services Department than meets the eye, there is so much more to your library card than you may know! We can't wait to hear their insider tips!

Support

Wallingford **TABLE**

Where everyone has a seat.

Donate here on

May 1st and 2nd

(or for more info)



walpublib.org/GreatGive

During The Great Give!

The Great Give is a 36-hour, online, community-wide giving event that begins at 8am on May 1st. The Great Give was created by **The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven** to raise visibility and resources for nonprofits serving the Greater New Haven area. Donations received by the library will be matched by the **NewAlliance Foundation**.

This year the Wallingford Public Library is raising money for **The Wallingford Table**. The mission of The Wallingford Table is to foster intentional dialogue among the diverse communities of the Town of Wallingford through culinary experiences. We believe that bringing people together to share a meal is fundamental to breaking down barriers, building new friendships, and celebrating the unique aspects of our many cultures.

SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAMS

Registration is required unless otherwise noted. Registration opens four weeks prior to the program date at 9am.

Colors of My Jewish Year: Shavuot

Thursday, May 2nd | 4:30pm | Grades PreK-2
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Children and caregivers gather together to learn about different Jewish holidays. Join Wallingford's Beth Israel Synagogue in reading stories, making a craft, and eating a snack. Whether you are curious about Jewish holidays or already celebrate, all are welcome to join the fun. *This program has been made possible through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.*



Homeschool Meetup

Monday, May 6th | 1-3pm | All ages
Wonder Room | [Click to register](#)

Looking to connect with other homeschooling families? Stop by the library on the first Monday 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.

Spring Family Paint & Sip

Monday, May 6th | 6pm | Grades K-5
Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Come enjoy a refreshing cup of lemonade while you paint a sunset scene on a canvas. All painting abilities are welcome and instructions will be provided step-by-step. Grown-ups are welcome and encouraged to participate in the painting fun!

Water Cycle Story Time

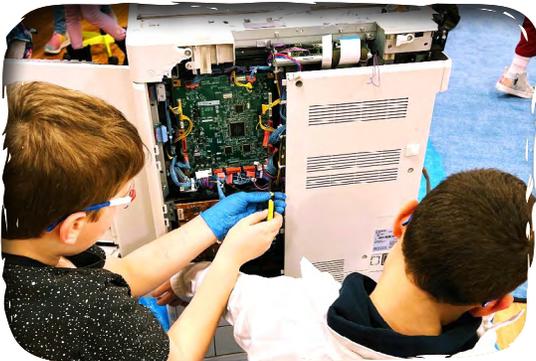
Wednesday, May 8th | 4:30pm | Grades K-5
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

The Wallingford Garden Club will be joining us for another science themed story time! In this one, we will be learning all about rain and the water cycle. We will read some stories, sing some songs, and do a science themed craft.

Break It!

Tuesday, May 14th | 4:30pm | Grades 1-5
Wonder Room | [Click to 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!



Sign Language Club for Kids

Wednesday, May 15th | 4:30pm | Grades 2-5 |
Wonder Room | [Click to 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.

Create and Take Club: Galaxy Jars

Monday, May 20th | 5:30pm | Grades K-2
Children's Program Room | [Click to register](#)

Hold the galaxy in your hands and see just how calming it can be! We will make our calming galaxy jars using paint and shiny, shimmering stars.

Nature Walk at Fresh Meadows

Wednesday, May 22nd | 4:30pm | Grades 1-5
Fresh Meadows | [Click to register](#)

Join us for a nature walk in one of the Wallingford Land Trust's most interesting trails! We will be taking a lovely stroll along the meadow learning about the plants, animals, and glacial deposits that you can see there. Bring hiking boots and clothes you don't mind getting a little wet or muddy! An adult is required to attend the walk. Younger siblings are welcome to tag along!

Trading Card Battle Club

Tuesday, May 28th | 4-7pm | Grades 4-8
Children's Room | [Click to register](#)

Calling all trading card sharks! If you have the urge to battle, come bring your Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, and Magic the Gathering cards down to the library to test your skills and compete for prizes. Premade decks can be provided by the library, but bringing your own is encouraged.



PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Registration is required unless otherwise noted.

Registration opens four weeks prior to the program date at 9am

Silly Story Time

Saturday, May 11th | 10:30am | Ages 0-5
Children's Program Room | [Click to 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.

Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe

Tuesday, May 21st | 9:30am OR 1:30pm
Ages 3-5 | Marcus Cooke Park

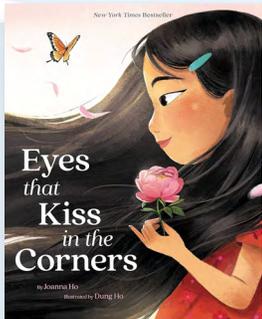
[Register for 9:30am](#) | [Register for 1:30pm](#)

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.

Celebrating

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH!

AGES 5-9



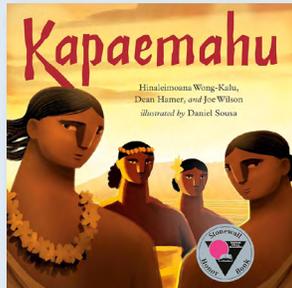
AGES 9-12



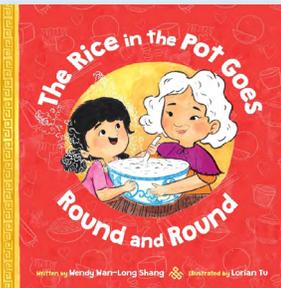
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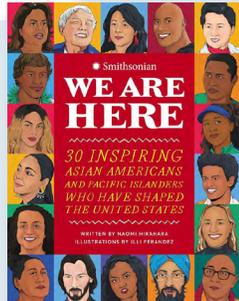
AGES 7-12



AGES 3-5



AGES 6-11



BILINGUAL HOMEWORK HELP

Bilingual Homework Help

Wednesdays | 4-8pm

Grades K-5 | Children's Room | Drop-in

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

Ayuda Bilingue con las Tareas

Miércoles | 4-8pm | Grados K-5

Área de los Niños | No necesita cita

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



VISIT THE NATURE CORNER

In the Nature Corner you can discover exhibits of live detritivores such as isopods, millipedes, earthworms, and disc snails, as well as specimens of cicadas which are common in Connecticut throughout the summer.

Black Swallowtail Caterpillars will also be arriving in late May and June. Watch them build their chrysalises and morph into butterflies before we release them throughout the early summer.

You can also learn more about **The Wallingford Land Trust** which oversees multiple public nature trails throughout the town of Wallingford where you may see even larger wildlife, including turtles! To learn more about the turtles you might find in Wallingford, visit page 9.





The History of Antisemitism

Tuesday, May 7th | 7-8pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Antisemitism is defined as prejudice against or hatred of Jewish people and has existed for millennia. During the Holocaust, the Nazis and their collaborators murdered six million Jewish men, women, and children across Europe. But antisemitism didn't start or end there. What makes it one of the oldest and most persistent forms of hatred? This presentation will trace the history of the so-called "longest hatred" from ancient times to today, showing the intersection of four basic threads: religious, socio-economic, political, and racial. This background is crucial to understanding and combating antisemitism in our modern world. This talk will be led by **Steven A. Goldberg**, Director of Education at the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center in New York. It will be held the day after Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) in memory of those who perished.



Healthy Cognition for Adults: A TLC Speech Presentation

Thursday, May 9th | 7-8pm | Collins Room | [Click to register](#)

Cognition is the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses. It plays an important role in our everyday lives. Some examples of cognition include learning something new, processing language, solving problems, and using memory. This presentation will provide information about the ways we use cognition on a daily basis, how it changes as we age, and helpful tips and strategies for improving our own cognition.



Turtle Travels: Saving Wildlife Around the World from Home

Tuesday, May 14th | 7-8pm
Community Room & Zoom | [Click to register](#)

Turtles are in trouble. Regarded until recently as indestructible, they are now the most endangered group of vertebrates on the planet. **Anthony Pierlioni** is the Senior Director of **theTurtleRoom**, an international organization of conservationists who work to ensure that endangered species don't go extinct. Several of the turtles he rehabilitates are already extinct in the wild and only exist today because of these efforts. You will have the chance to meet these incredible creatures, hear more about Anthony's family conservation work right here in Wallingford, and learn how that work is having an impact around the globe. *(For more info about common turtles you can find in CT see the top of page 9.)*



Professional Networking Basics

Wednesday, May 15th | 7-8:30pm
Collins Room | [Click to register](#)

Are you getting ready for a job fair? Are you looking for some guidance on how to network effectively? Join **Librarian and Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman** for a session learning how to prepare for a job fair and use your network to help you land a great job. In this informative session, learn how to create an elevator pitch, reach out to recommenders, and prepare for a quick screening interview.



Americana Melodies: A Musical Journey Through the Ages

Wednesday, May 29th | 7-8pm | Community Room | [Click to register](#)

Join us the week of Memorial Day for a loving tribute to American music! "Americana Melodies" is an exciting and engaging concert featuring cello, mandolin, banjo and more that explores the history of the U.S. through its songs. Musician and music historian **Ryan Mitten** will perform beloved classics of the American canon, from Civil War ballads to early Broadway and the American Folk Revival. This concert will also feature Ryan's collection of vintage musical instruments and artifacts for the audience to enjoy.



TURTLES ALL THE WAY DOWN

by Mr. Josh

There are twelve different kinds of turtles found in Connecticut and of those, four are sea turtles! Here are a few of my favorites that you may see around Wallingford.

Common Snapping Turtle — Snapping turtles are the largest freshwater turtle in the state, weighing up to 35 pounds! Snapping turtles use their powerful jaws to catch frogs, fish, and even sometimes birds and small mammals. Don't go near these animals unless you have to, they have a dangerous bite!

Eastern Box Turtle — This turtle is commonly found wandering the woods of Connecticut and is easily recognizable by the "boxy" arch of its shell. These turtles can live to be around 100 years of age and a big part of that is all the vegetables in their diet. They love leaves, grass, fruits, and berries but they have also been known to eat bugs, frogs, and even snakes!

Painted Turtle — These turtles like to hang out in ponds, lakes, and other still bodies of water. Often, you will see them basking on rocks or logs in the sun next to the water in the mornings. These turtles will only eat underwater, and prefer to eat aquatic plants, crayfish, tadpoles, mussels, and even small fish!



Gatherings *Most of these programs are drop-in and do not require registration unless otherwise noted.*

Spanish Conversation Group

Thursdays | 4:30-5:30pm | Collins Room

Improve your Spanish in a friendly and non-judgmental space! Some knowledge of Spanish recommended.

French Conversation Group

Mondays | 4:30-5:30pm | Collins Room

Improve your French in a friendly and non-judgmental space! Some knowledge of French recommended.

Literacy Volunteers

Tuesdays | 11:30am-1pm | Horseshoe Booth

JoDenise Codianne-Calabrese from Literacy Volunteers will be available Tuesdays for literary assistance. If you are an adult who needs help reading, writing, speaking or understanding English—or know someone who does—drop by the Board Room during Denise's visiting hours for literacy support.

One-on-One Career Counseling

Wednesdays | 7-9pm | Zoom

Sign up today to schedule your appointment with our Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman! Get personalized help with crafting a resume or cover letter or preparing for your big interview. Appointment required. Sessions are scheduled individually and may not fall on this date. Fill out our online form to request a session: walpublib.org/CareerCounseling Staff will contact you shortly to schedule your appointment.

Knit @ WPL

Monday, May 6th & 20th | 6-7:30pm | Horseshoe Booth

Knit @ WPL is a place where knitters and crocheters can practice their work in the company of others. Newcomers are welcome to join, but knitting experience is required.

WPL Play Readers

Wednesday, May 1st | 6:30-8:30pm | Collins Room

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

Saturday Mornings with Poetry

Saturday, May 11th | 9:45am-12noon | Collins Room

A meeting of people who love reading and writing poetry. 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.

Beginners Ukulele Club

Monday, May 13th | 10-11am | Collins Room

Join our new Beginners' Ukulele Club which will meet the second Monday of the month at the Wallingford Public Library! Adults who have not played before or who are just starting out are welcome to attend. Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus will lead and facilitate the club. *Please bring your own instruments.*

Intermediate Ukulele Club

Wednesday, May 8th | 7-8pm | Collins Room

Join our new Intermediate Ukulele Club which will meet the second Wednesday of the month at the Wallingford Public Library! Adults with previous experience playing a ukulele are welcome to attend. Local Ukulelist Steven Lazarus will lead and facilitate the club. *Please bring your own instruments.*

Game Night!

Tuesday, May 28th | 4-8pm | Community Room

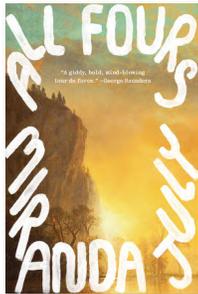
[Registration preferred](#)

Come play board games, video games, and trading card games at the library! We will have Super Smash Brothers, Magic the Gathering, and our collection of board games out for public use. Games from home are welcome as well. Bring some friends to game with or meet up with people at the library! The group meets the last Tuesday of the month.

New in Novels by Cindy Haiken

If you are viewing this newsletter digitally, you can click any of the book covers below to view them in the catalog.

In Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel *The Secret Garden*, the heroine Mary Lennox describes spring as "the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine." That feels quite appropriate this spring, doesn't it? Luckily, there is an amazing list of new novels scheduled for publication in May to help us with the rain and to read on a picnic blanket in the sunshine. Here are some terrific examples:

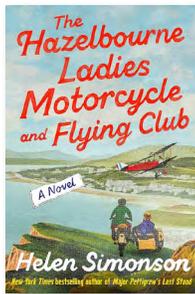


All Fours by Miranda July — A woman leaves her husband and child at home to drive across the country from Los Angeles to New York and then spontaneously exits the freeway early to start a new journey.

Blue Ruin by Hari Kunzru — A performance artist who lives out of his car and delivers groceries is invited to stay on an estate owned by his ex-girlfriend and her new partner.

Early Sobrieties by Michael Deagler — A 26-year-old spends his first "dry" summer couch surfing through South Philadelphia and struggling to find a place for himself in the adult world.

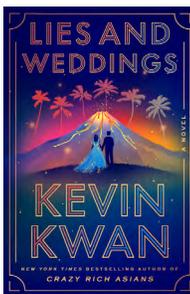
The Guncle Abroad by Steven Rowley — In this sequel to the bestselling *The Guncle*, gay uncle Patrick takes his niece and nephew under his wing as they travel to Italy for their father's wedding, about which they are not thrilled.



The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club by Helen Simonson — At the end of World War One, women in England discover that the freedom they gained during the war is being revoked.

Last House by Jessica Shattuck — A World War Two-veteran and his code-breaker wife start a complicated relationship with Big Oil in 1953.

The Last Murder at the End of the World by Stuart Turton — When most of the world is destroyed by a deadly fog, the residents of one protected, idyllic island survive, until someone is murdered and the fog returns.



Lies and Weddings by Kevin Kwan — When a family trust fund is depleted, the mother of the modern-day heir to an earldom schemes to marry her son off to a rich woman, but he's secretly in love with the humble girl next door.

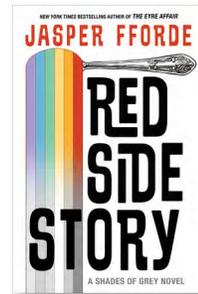
Long Island by Colm Tóibín — A sequel to the bestselling *Brooklyn*, set 15 years in the future when Ellis and Tony are living on Long Island with their children.

The Ministry of Time by Kaliane Bradley — In the near future, a civil servant is offered the salary of her dreams to work for a government agency trying to establish whether time travel is feasible.



Murder at Tanton Towers by Amy Myers — The owner of a local café tries to solve a murder that takes place on the grounds of a stately manor.

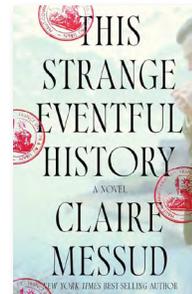
The Paradise Problem by Christina Lauren — The buttoned-up heir of a grocery chain and his free-spirited artist ex fake a relationship in order to receive a massive inheritance.



Red Side Story by Jasper Fforde — This sequel to the best-selling *Shades of Grey* returns to the world of Chromatacia, where the societal hierarchy is strictly regulated by one's limited color perception.

The Stolen Child by Ann Hood — In 1974, a man with months to live returns to Europe in search of answers to the questions that have haunted him since World War One.

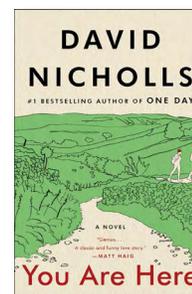
Summers at the Saint by Mary Kay Andrews — The manager of a coastal resort for the well-to-do goes missing after a wild staff party.



This Strange Eventful History by Claire Messud — 70 years in the lives of the members of a family who are left without a homeland after Algerian independence.

Very Bad Company by Emma Rosenblum — After a group of top executives from a tech startup gather for their annual retreat in Miami, one of them goes missing.

The Winner by Teddy Wayne — A tennis coach begins an affair with a wealthy divorcée while simultaneously falling for an artsy woman he meets on the beach.

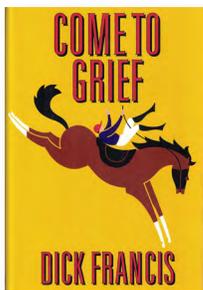


You Are Here by David Nicholls — Two people, one adrift and reclusive and the other stuck and removed, head out together on a ten-day hike.

Also of note this month are the 3rd Camino Island thriller by John Grisham (*Camino Ghosts*), the 4th Electra McDonnell historical mystery by Ashley Weaver (*Locked in Pursuit*), the 7th Penn Cage thriller by Greg Iles (*Southern Man*) the 14th Women's Murder Club novel by James Patterson (*The 24th Hour*), the 17th 44 Scotland Street mystery by Alexander McCall Smith (*The Stellar Debut of Galactica MacFee*), the 20th Longmire mystery by Craig Johnson (*First Frost*), a short story collection by Stephen King (*You Like It Darker*) and new novels by Harlan Coben (*Think Twice*), Joyce Carol Oates (*Butcher*), Nora Roberts (*Mind Games*) and Ruth Ware (*One Perfect Couple*).



Book Discussions



Mystery Book Club

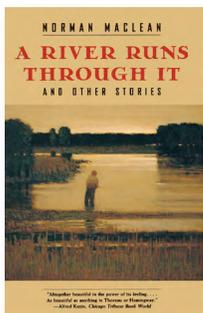
Come to Grief by Dick Francis

Wednesday, May 1st | 3-4:15pm | Community Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

One-handed private investigator and former jockey Sid Halley investigates a horrifying string of mutilations of two-year-old ponies that unnervingly mirror his own injury. Much to Sid's dismay, the evidence points to his old friend and former racing competitor Ellis Quint, who has become a popular TV entertainer.

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



Thursday Night Book Club

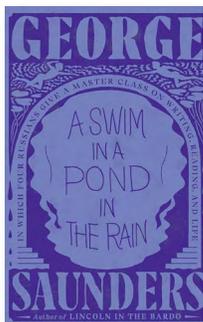
A River Runs through It by Norman Maclean

Thursday, May 16th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

Maclean, a retired English professor who began writing fiction at the age of 70, offers a fictional account of his life with his parents and younger brother Paul. While the two brothers spend endless hours each week fly-fishing with their minister father, their mother provides a strong support system. It soon becomes clear that Paul has his own way of seeing the world, which baffles his family. Maclean's 1976 novella is viewed as one of the classic American stories of the 20th century.

To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org



Truth Be Told Nonfiction Book Club

A Swim in a Pond in the Rain by George Saunders

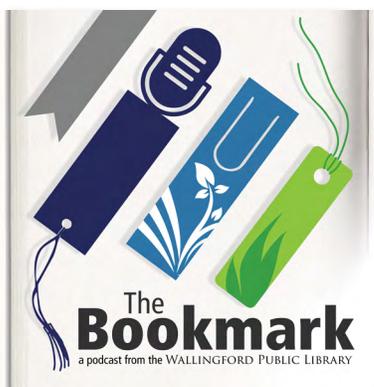
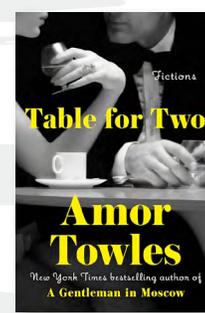
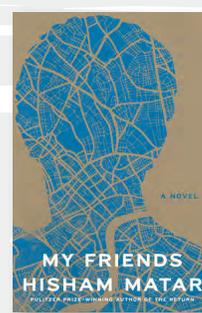
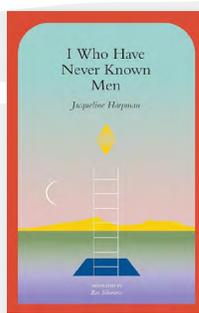
Thursday, May 30th | 7-8:30pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Educator Susan Gomes

The award-winning author has taught creative writing at Syracuse University for over 25 years. This is the book version of a seminar he teaches that focuses on seven stories by the Russian masters: Chekhov, Tolstoy, Turgenev, and Gogol. All the stories are included in full, and readers need not be familiar with Russian literature to find Saunders' master class in reading, writing, and living to be richly rewarding.

To participate and for details about meeting virtually or in-person, contact Cindy at chaiken@wallingfordlibrary.org

Cindy's Picks



Have you heard?? We've brought back the Library's podcast, **The Bookmark**, hosted by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken and Library Director Sunnie Scarpa. Join Sunnie and Cindy quarterly for conversations about books, authors, reading experiences, library happenings and what they love about their jobs and working together. The next episode will air on **May 1st**!



Listen here: walpublib.org/TheBookmark

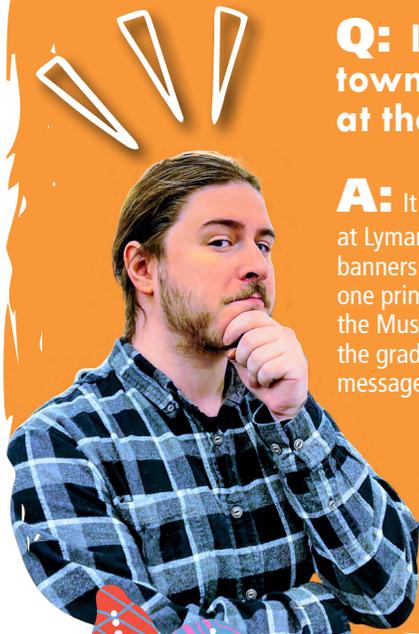
Drop-In Programs



Open Sew

Tuesday, May 7th | 6-8:30pm | Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Drop-in | Collaboratory
Do you like to sew? Join people who enjoy quilting and sewing at a casual "drop in" program anytime from 6-8:30pm in the Collaboratory. Bring your unfinished projects, either hand sewing or machine. There are 4 portable sewing machines (or bring your own) and lots of sewing supplies and tools provided by the library for your use. Stop by for 10 minutes or for the full 2.5 hours for a fun evening of sharing and learning!

Max FAQs from Max Spurr



Q: I saw some graduation banners around town last year, and I heard I can make them at the Library. Is this true?

A: It is true! In a fundraising partnership with the Music Parents Associations at Lyman Hall and Sheehan high schools, we are printing 2024 custom graduation banners! The cost is \$30 for a graduation banner on indoor paper, and \$40 for one printed on weather-resistant outdoor paper. Half of the cost goes directly to the Music Parents Association of the high school on the banner. Banners include the graduate's photo and name, and some templates offer the option of a special message. To place an order, go to: <https://walpublib.org/GradBanner>.

ConGRADulations to all this year's graduates and their families!

If you have a question for Max FAQs, let us know at the Information Desk or the Help Desk in the Collaboratory, or you can email it directly to me at [mspurr@wallingfordlibrary.org](mailto:mspur@wallingfordlibrary.org).

ETSY ARTISAN 

Spring Market

Saturday, May 4th | 10am-2pm
All ages | Drop in | Community



Spring is finally here and with it comes a season of celebrations... Mother's Day, graduations, birthdays, weddings, baby showers, and Father's Day, to name a few. Forget the big box stores and celebrate your loved ones with a special handmade gift, made locally by crafters from Wallingford and surrounding towns. There's something for everyone, in a range of prices.

Market vendors are graduates of the Wallingford Public Library's Etsy Craft Entrepreneurship Workshops. Please attend the Spring Market, shop small, and become a part of their entrepreneurial journey.

Lottery Programs

Visit the May program lottery to register for the events below:
walpublib.org/MayLottery2024

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



Etched Vases

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

Create a design in CorelDRAW to etch onto a glass vase using the laser cutter.



Sublimation Puzzle

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

Make your own beautiful full color 120-piece 8-inch by 11-inch jigsaw puzzle! If there are specific images you want to use, be sure you bring the originals to scan or have access to them digitally. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Laser Cut Cactus

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

Assemble and paint a laser cut cactus, a great decoration for the warmer months! All pieces will be cut out of wood prior to the program. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Spring Gnome

Tuesday, May 21st | 6:30-8:30pm OR
Thursday, May 23rd | 2:30-4:30pm

Paint a charming spring gnome on a wooden board.



Rainbow Fish

Wednesday, May 22nd | 6-8:30pm

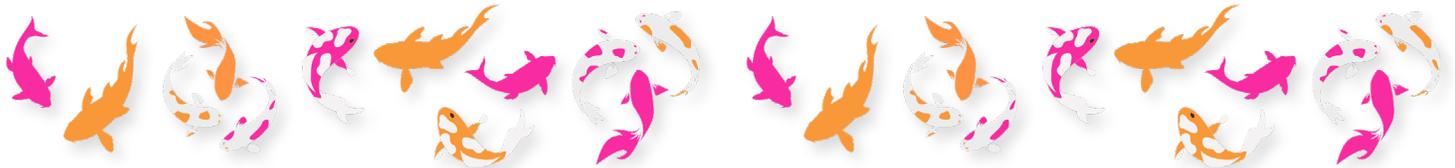
Create a whimsical polymer clay rainbow fish sculpture using the millefiori technique.



Resin Jewelry

Wednesday, May 29th | 7-8:30pm OR
Thursday, May 30th | 3-4:30pm

Resin jewelry is beautiful, customizable in an infinite amount of ways, and easier to make than it seems! We will use resin, molds, dyes, and small objects to create earrings and pendants. *Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.*



Talking TED @ Home

Thursday, May 2nd | 7-8pm | Adults | Registration required | Zoom
[Click to 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 May, we will watch and discuss Sue Klebold's "My Son Was a Columbine Shooter. This Is My Story."

Sue Klebold is the mother of Dylan Klebold, one of the two shooters who committed the Columbine High School massacre, murdering 12 students and a teacher. She's spent years excavating every detail of her family life, trying to understand what she could have done to prevent her son's violence. In this difficult, jarring talk, Klebold explores the intersection between mental health and violence, advocating for parents and professionals to continue to examine the link between suicidal and homicidal thinking.

Registration Required

Make Your Own Dice Set!

Wednesday, May 1st | 3:30-4:30pm
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)

Use resin to create your own dice set for Dungeons & Dragons and other tabletop games! Each participant will make a full set of custom dice. Please note: due to the time resin needs to cure, you will need to pick up your dice the following week.

Star Wars Planet Wall Art

Thursday, May 2nd | 6-7:30pm
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12
Registration required | [Click to register](#)

Bring a little piece of a galaxy far, far away into your home! We'll create laser-cut wall art representing your favorite Star Wars planet. You'll get to paint the wood and assemble the pieces to create a layered piece of wall art. *All pieces will be cut ahead of time, on your registration please indicate what planet you would like: Coruscant, Endor, Hoth, Mustafar, Naboo, or Tatooine.*



Needle Felting Free for All

Wednesday, May 8th | 3:15-4:30pm
Collaboratory | Grades 6-12
Registration required
[Click to register](#)

Needle felting is a craft that uses a barbed needle to mat fibers together, typically in wool. This session will be completely freeform and you'll be able to felt anything you'd like!

Polymer Clay Turtles

Wednesday, May 15th | 5:30-8pm
Community Room | Grades 6-12
[Click to register](#)

Deb Jaffe will teach participants how to make their very own turtle out of polymer clay!



Drop-in Events

Trading Card Battle Club

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

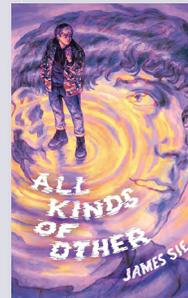
Calling all trading card sharks! If you have the urge to battle, come bring your Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, and Magic the Gathering cards down to the library to test your skills and compete for prizes. Premade decks can be provided by the library but bringing your own is encouraged.

Game Night!

Last Tuesday of the month | 4-8pm
Collins Room | Teens & Adults
[Register for a reminder](#)

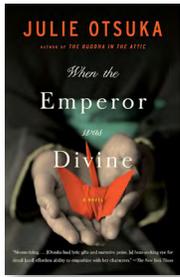
Come play board games, video games, and trading card games at the library! We will have Super Smash Brothers, Magic the Gathering, and our collection of board games out for public use. Games from home are welcome as well. Bring some friends to game with or meet up with people at the library!

Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month!



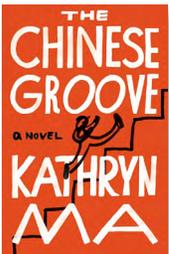
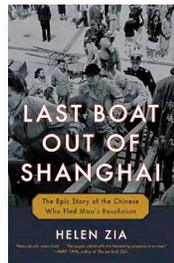
East Meets West by Chris Ciemniowski

If you are viewing this newsletter digitally, you can click any of the titles below to view them in the catalog.



The very first book I had to read for a college English class was Julie Otsuka's *When the Emperor Was Divine* (OTS). The class itself was mainly concerned with examining literary techniques, but after having to read so many older American and British novels in high school, I was delighted to be reading a contemporary novel that happened to be written by an Asian American author. It is a painful but poetically succinct account of a Japanese American family's experience of being evicted from their home and sent to a Japanese internment camp in the middle of the desert during World War II and their somber return home four years later. It's a brief but powerful primer on a dark event in American history.

During the 1960s many Chinese citizens fleeing Mao Zedong's Communist Revolution arrived in America. (If you've read Cixin Liu's *The Three-Body Problem* or have been watching the recent Netflix adaptation, this is the event depicted in the opening scenes.) In her book *Last Boat Out of Shanghai* (951.042 ZIA) Helen Zia discusses how Shanghai, an historically sophisticated and intellectual metropolis, became the target of revolution by a young generation of Chinese students. The novel *Norwegian Wood* (MUR) by renowned Japanese author Haruki Murakami takes place during the same time period and portrays a similarly progressive student movement in Tokyo which Murakami postulates may have been misguided.



Subsequent Asian American authors have written about their experiences in America since the Mid-20th Century in their memoirs and in fiction. *The Leftover Woman* (NEW KWO) by Jean Kwok tells the story of Jasmine Yang, who leaves her rural Chinese village for New York City, fleeing a controlling husband and searching for her daughter, who was taken from her at birth due to China's one-child policy. Kathryn Ma's novel *The Chinese Groove* (MA) tells the story of eighteen-year-old Shelley Zheng who leaves his despised family in China for a better life in San Francisco with his rich uncle, only to find his American family is living in poverty.

Everything Asian (WOO) by Sung J. Woo is a more lighthearted and amusing look at the Asian American immigrant experience. The book's chapters alternate between various members of a Korean American family who own a souvenir shop called "East Meets West" and immigrants of other nationalities who own other shops in a New Jersey shopping center. At the center of the narrative is twelve-year-old David Kim, who grows up experiencing all of these cultures at once and must parse them while learning English and searching for the best hamburger. Woo's writing style makes readers feel as if they too are experiencing 1980s American culture for the first time through a new set of eyes.



Ruth Ozeki (best known for her novel *A Tale for the Time Being*) crafts a cross-cultural narrative in her book *My Year of Meats* (OZE) which features a split narrative between two women, Jane Takagi-Little, a television producer whose program is sponsored by an American meat exporter, and Akiko Ueno, a housewife looking to escape her overbearing husband. The narratives intersect in a way that reveals the unsettling truths behind the global meat marketing and production industry.

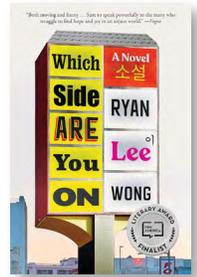
R.F. Kuang examines issues of racism, cultural appropriation, and the alienating effects of social media in her new novel *Yellowface* (KUA). Narrated in the first person, it follows June Hayward in her attempts to

rebrand and publish her deceased friend Athena Liu's unfinished literary masterpiece. You can meet author Rebecca F. Kuang virtually on May 21st! (For more info on *Yellowface* and Kuang's virtual author visit Page 3.)



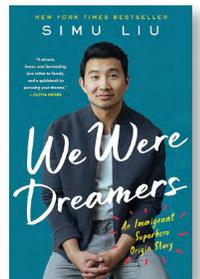
Both *Biting the Hand* (B LEE), a memoir by author Julia Lee, and *Which Side Are You On* (WON) a novel by Ryan Lee Wong, examine the complicated status of Asian Americans in an American society dominated by Black versus white rhetoric. Having grown up in a predominantly Black neighborhood during the police beating of Rodney King and the murder of Latasha Harlins, Julia Lee grapples with her own identity in American society. It follows her journey of self-discovery and atonement

while she reads the works of writers like James Baldwin and Toni Morrison while studying for her PhD in English. Wong's novel follows 21-year-old Reed who joins a Korean-Black coalition movement after the police killing of a Black man by an Asian American police officer. Throughout the novel Reed attempts to reconcile how we can live with integrity and pleasure while police brutality and racism still exist.

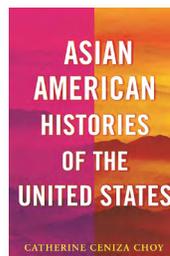


Other Asian American writers have chosen to express their experiences in poetry rather than in prose. Duy Doan, winner of the 2017 Yale Series of Younger Poets, explores "the ambiguities and tensions that mark our efforts to know our histories" in his collection *We Play a Game* (811.6 DOA). Former Wallingford Poet Laureate Debora Kuan's *Xing* is a collection of poems highlighting the intersections of dualities such as "East versus West, doubt versus belief, conformity versus individuality, and the external world versus the internal one."

Simu Liu, best known for starring in *Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, chronicles his long road to fame in *We Were Dreamers: An Immigrant Superhero Story* (791.4302 LIU). Liu discusses how his parents left him in China with his grandparents at an early age while they departed for America, returning years later to whisk him back to America with them. Liu struggles to come to terms with his new, less gentle guardians while at the same time navigating a strange new culture. After becoming disillusioned with the unreasonable expectations placed on him by his family and society, he sets his sights on Hollywood.



The PBS documentary *Life on Four Strings* (DVD 781.092 JAK) follows the success of ukulele musician Jake Shimabukuro after he leaves his home in Hawai'i. The documentary captures Jake's loneliness and feelings of separation from home and family and his transformation into a phenomenon on tour throughout the continental United States and Japan.



The dust flap description of Catherine Ceniza Choy's collection of essays *Asian American Histories of the United States* (973.0495 CHO) begins, "Most Americans are ignorant of Asian American history." This collection is meant to remedy that! In a refreshingly interesting organizational structure, each of ten chapters features a different year in American history and its impact on the Asian American community. It begins in 2020 with the COVID-19 Pandemic and moves backwards in time until 1869. This collection is an accessible way to learn about Asian American History in a way that is relatable by beginning with recent events before moving backwards through previous generations.

May Hours

Monday - Friday
9:30am - 9pm

Saturday
9:30am - 5pm

Scheduled Closings

Memorial Day
Saturday, May 25th
Monday, May 27th

Monday
10am - 12noon

Tuesday & Wednesday
10am - 12noon
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Friday
10am - 2pm

Sat
10am - 12:30pm

May Specials
Children's & YA – BOGO

言葉



On Display in the **Front Lobby** in May

My Small View of Australia

This exhibit displays the Blue Mountains of New South Wales where "serious amateur" photographer Brian Gray visits his daughter and family. These mountains are actually a sandstone plateau with deep escarpments similar to the Grand Canyon. Brian's photography ranges from landscapes to streets to flowers and birds. More of his work can be viewed online:

[flickr.com/PHOTOS/GASTONS PHOTOGRAPHY](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gastons_photography/)



A picture is worth a thousand **Words...**



Visit the **Connecticut Museum of Culture and History** to see the *Connecticut's Bookshelf* exhibition on display through October, featuring our very own Mr. Josh! Josh shares memories about the beloved Boxcar Children book series as part of the "Shelf Talkers" audio commentaries featured throughout the exhibition. Learn more here: ow.ly/X5sk50RefIE



Thanks to everyone who joined us in the front garden for an impromptu eclipse viewing party! The library is not collecting used eclipse glasses, but you may donate them to [Astronomers without Borders](#) or [Eclipse Glasses USA](#) so that children in other parts of the world can safely view upcoming eclipses in their areas. Click the links for more info.

In Others' Words...



“ If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking. ”

–Haruki Murakami 村上春樹,
Norwegian Wood ノルウェイの森