**Edible Wild Plants and Fungi of Summer**
*Tuesday, Aug 9th | 6:30-8pm | Community Room & Zoom | [Click to register]*
The summer months are a bounty of ripe berries, nectar-laden edible flowers, amazing edible plants along the seashore, and edible mushrooms that can carpet the forest floor after warm, rainy days. Learn how to identify, sustainably harvest, and prepare the wild foods of summer, from beach plums to invasive wineberries, including some of the choice summer fungi like chanterelles and the myriad of pored Boletes. Join The 3 Foragers as they teach the edible plants and fungi of summer with their original photos and recipe ideas featured in an educational slideshow.

The 3 Foragers are a family from southeastern Connecticut who have been identifying, photographing, and cooking with the edible plants and fungi of New England for more than 17 years. Their blog, Facebook page, and book all focus on family-friendly, environmentally sustainable harvest of both our native and invasive species of plants, and ways to incorporate these foods into your diet with original recipes.

**Beekeeping Demonstration and Honey Tasting**
*Tuesday, Aug 16th | 6:30-7:30pm | Community Room | [Click to register]*
Beekeeper Mark Ceneri of Trumbull Nature & Arts Center will cover everything about bees and beekeeping! He will show you how beekeeping equipment is used, lead a lively discussion on the importance of pollination to food production, offer captivating facts about the cooperative structure of honeybee society, and tell you all you need to know about honey, royal jelly, and beeswax. We will also have a tasting of Connecticut raw honey.

This Summer we encourage you to blaze a new trail with our summer reading program, **Beyond the Beaten Path**. No matter your age, read and take part in activities that encourage exploration and learning in a way that is unique to YOU—and earn the chance to **win great prizes** along the way! There are summer programs for all ages. Take a look inside to find the one for you (look for the shields!), or visit the library’s summer reading webpage: walpublib.org/2x0R5Fj
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.

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.

Register for events online through our digital calendar of events: walpublib.org/2APNwEF

Click “Register” under the event description to hold your place for an event. If the event is full, you may be able to put your name on the waiting list.

Join our email list to receive personalized emails so you never miss the events that interest you the most: walpublib.org/3BDXaXB

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

Words Contents

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6 Children & Families
8 Adult Events
10 For Readers
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14 Just for Teens

Word of Mouth - Staff Picks!

The Daughter of Doctor Moreau by Silvia Moreno-Garcia
Kristina G.

Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner
Barbara C.

The Wandering Earth by Cixin Liu
Chris C.

The Palace Project

There are even more ebooks available than ever before! You can use the Palace Project app to search both the Wallingford Library’s digital collection and the Connecticut State Library’s digital collection at the same time in one search! Look for it in your app store!

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There are even more ebooks available than ever before! You can use the Palace Project app to search both the Wallingford Library’s digital collection and the Connecticut State Library’s digital collection at the same time in one search! Look for it in your app store!
The Library Glow-Up continues...with an updated elevator!
Although the library's renovation was completed only 14 years ago, the two-stop elevator is original to the 1982 building and is now 40 years old. While it's safe to use, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain.

The Town of Wallingford owns the library building and, therefore, Mayor Dickinson and the Town Council have agreed to fund the removal of the existing hydraulic elevator and the installation of a new electric elevator. The library’s new electric elevator will be more energy efficient, have an updated mechanical system, and be easier to maintain.

The project is scheduled to be completed in mid-September. Until that time, the elevator will not be available.

If you are unable to use the stairs to access the library’s main level, please know there are a few options. You can:
- Park on North Main Street and enter the library through the front door.
- Schedule a Park 'n Pickup. If you don’t know what that is, call us and we’ll explain it!
- Visit a library in another town (like Durham, Hamden, or North Haven). You can use your library card at any public library in Connecticut!

We appreciate your patience and understanding. We know this will be a disruptive process, but the end result will definitely be worth the inconvenience.

Beyond the Beaten Path: A Summer Challenge for All Ages | July 5th - Aug 20th
We might all live in the same town, but we all blaze our own path through Wallingford! Let’s see what paths everyone takes!

Each week on social media we will post a topic asking you to share something you love about Wallingford. Post a photo with your response, use the hashtag #TrailblazersOfWallingford, and tag us. We’ll share and retweet your photos! Everyone who submits at least one photo over the summer will be entered into a drawing to win a $25 gift card to the Wallingford business of their choice. Three winners will be selected at random.

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!
Welcome, Kaleb!

We’re excited to welcome Kaleb Cahoon to the Wallingford Public Library staff! Kaleb will be working in the Borrower Services Department so you are likely to meet him at the Check-Out Desk. Here’s a little bit about Kaleb—

Hello, my name is Kaleb Cahoon! I moved to New Haven from Virginia in 2019 to attend graduate school and have decided to make Connecticut my new home.

I have worked in both academic and public libraries and enjoy helping people discover the wide range of resources available from their library. In my spare time, I also enjoy cooking, hiking, reading, and container gardening on my balcony. I am excited to join the staff of the Wallingford Public Library and look forward to meeting you!

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted. Due to the one-on-one nature of our in-person programs, masks will be required for all participants.

**Introduction to Kanopy**
*Monday, Aug 8th | 3-4:30pm | Adults | Collins Room | [Click to register]*
Learn how to use Kanopy, the library’s free streaming video service! Kanopy can be used on a variety of different devices and is a great place to watch movies and documentaries. *Note: Kanopy is only available to Wallingford Library card holders.*

**Backing Up Data and Understanding the Cloud**
*Monday, Aug 15th | 3-4:30pm | Adults | Collins Room | [Click to register]*
This class is for those that would like to learn how and when to backup data, different storage options, and what it means to save to “the cloud.”

**One-on-One Computer Tutoring**
*Tuesday & Thursday Afternoons*
*4:45pm OR 4:45-5:30pm | Collaboratory | Registration required | [Click for calendar]*
Register for a one-on-one computer tutoring session with volunteer students. Learn about keyboard or mouse skills, word processing, internet searching, online job applications, or social media. You can bring your own device or the library can supply a laptop for your tutoring session. Please register for a 45-minute time slot in advance by visiting the events calendar on our website or calling us at (203) 265-6754.
Meet Marie Hulicki

There are so many volunteers that work behind the scenes to make our library run smoothly. We are showcasing a volunteer each month so you can get to know these fantastic people a little better. This month we’re chatting with library volunteer Marie Hulicki!

How long have you been a volunteer at Wallingford Public Library?
I have been a volunteer here for 4 years. I helped out upstairs for a while but I have mostly been in the Book Seller. I also help with sorting donations that we receive.

Tell me a little about yourself.
I am a retired teacher. I taught 4th grade. I am an avid reader. I have read 49 books since January. I also facilitate a genealogy program at the Senior Center. Genealogy has been a hobby of mine for the past 7 years.

What is your favorite part of being a volunteer?
I love talking to and helping the patrons. I also enjoy sorting, as I often find books that I haven’t read and add them to my “to-be-read” list.

What changes have you seen during your time here?
Covid has changed things here. We are not as busy as we once were so there are fewer shifts. I look forward to seeing more people return to the library.

What advice would you give to a new volunteer or for someone who is considering volunteering here?
It’s fun to spend time here and everyone I work with is great. This is an especially good place to volunteer if you love to read.

Do you feel fulfilled being a volunteer here?
Yes, I enjoy being here. It gets me around people. I have learned so much about new authors and books. I love to share my love of books with others.

In the autumn of 2019, the library received a generous donation from Marie to create a tween area in the Children’s Room. The tween area is the perfect spot for older readers who are not quite ready to make the transition over to the Teen Area. It includes a colorful wall, comfy chairs for reading, updated computer tables, and most importantly, a big display of recommended books to read.
Go Beyond the Beaten Path in the Children’s Room this summer! Our two trailblazing summer learning programs will encourage your child to read and discover more about the world beneath their feet.

Beyond the Beaten Path: The Last Days of Summer Reading! For Kids Entering Grades K-6
Don’t miss out on your chance to win one of our amazing prizes! The last day to submit books, minutes, and grand prize entries for both reading programs is Saturday, August 20th. To complete the program and earn a FREE book from the Wallingford Public Library’s Book Seller, you need to read 600 minutes this summer. If you finish early, keep going! By reading 1200 minutes before the program officially ends on August 20th, you will earn a chance to win one of our Grand Prizes.

Click for more info and to register

Staff Picks!

Miss Alyssa
Swim Team
by Johnnie Christmas
Ages 8-12

Miss Alyssa
Shirley & Jamila
Save Their Summer
by Gillian Goerz
Ages 8-12

Miss Kari
Out of My Heart
by Sharon Draper

Miss Kristina
Just Harriet
by Elana K. Arnold
Ages 6-8

Miss Kristina
When Life Gives You Mangos
by Kereen Getten

Mr Josh
There’s a Bug on My Book!
by John Himmelman
Ages 4-6

Mr Josh
Bees: A Honeyed History
by Piotr Socha
Ages 9-11

Miss Kari
The Mushroom Fan Club
by Elise Gravel
Ages 7-10
**EVENTS BEYOND THE BEATEN PATH**

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.

**Theater Workshop: The Three Silly Billies**
Wednesday, Aug 17th | 4:30-5:45pm | Ages 6-11
Collins Room | [Click to register](#)
In this silly retelling of the “Three Billy Goats Gruff,” the goats join with The Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood and others to get past the troll. After acting out this story participants will do a craft.

**TAKE HOME KITS**

Kits are available in the Children’s Room on a first come, first served basis. Kits may be reserved by calling (203) 284-6436, beginning the first day the kit is available.

**Mini Zen Moss Gardens**
Available to pick up beginning Monday, Aug 1st
All Ages
Grow a moss garden of your own design and watch it grow on a windowsill at home! Kit materials will be provided by the library. You will need to provide your own water and sunlight!

**STORY TIMES**

Daytime programs will take place on the front lawn, as weather permits. 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.

**Baby & Toddler Time**
Tuesday, Aug 2nd & Wednesday, Aug 3rd
10:30am | Ages 0-2 | Front Lawn
This class introduces babies, toddlers, and their grownups to the library and each other while learning how to support their growth and development through songs, puppets, rhymes, and books.

**Family Story Time**
Wednesday, Aug 3rd | 6:30pm | Ages 0-5
Community Room
Join Miss Alyssa for a fun interactive story time for all ages and stages!

**Preschool Story Time**
Thursday, Aug 4th | 10:30am | Ages 3-5 | Front Lawn
Books, puppets, and songs will reinforce your child’s pre-reading skills through repetition and rhyme.

**Preschool Programs**

**Crafternoons**
Mondays, Aug 1st & 8th | Ages 3-5 | 10:30am-12:30pm
Wonder Room | Drop-in Anytime
Put on your artist’s hat and join us to make a different craft each week.

**BOOKFLIX**

Keep kids entertained and reading even while on the go! Bookflix is an early literacy resource that combines storybooks with video for pre-kindergartners to third graders. Available for free with your library card. Access Bookflix here: [walpublib.org/3aum0kR](http://walpublib.org/3aum0kR)

**Muzzy**

Developed by the BBC, Muzzy’s simple and effective program works by teaching a second language through fun and animated stories featuring Muzzy and friends. These stories use the natural immersion method, which is modeled after the way children learn their first language. Access Muzzy for free with your library card: [walpublib.org/3MHB8Z3](http://walpublib.org/3MHB8Z3)
**Jellyfish Pastel Painting**  
*Tuesday, Aug 2nd | 6-8pm  
Community Room | [Click to register]*  
With guidance from award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack, you will produce your own original pastel of a stunning jellyfish using techniques like blending and transparency. Due to the one-on-one nature of this program, masks will be required for all participants.

**Resume Writing Workshop**  
*Wednesday, Aug 17th | 7-8:30pm | Board Room | [Click to register]*  
Has it been a while since you’ve written a resume? Do you need to put together a resume soon and don’t know where to start? Are you wondering what information employers are looking for in a resume? Join Librarian and Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman for a session learning how to write a quality resume. We’ll go over general guidelines and find out about some free resources to help you put together a resume that makes you shine!  

Wallingford library card (or card from another subscribing library) recommended*. This is a great session to attend before a one-on-one session with Sarah for those who want to create a new resume. "Non-WPL participants are welcome. Please check with your home library to see if they subscribe to JobNow! before registering. Due to the one-on-one nature of this program, masks will be required for all participants.

**Lunch & Learn: Eating on a Budget**  
*Monday, Aug 8th | 10-11am | Community Room & Zoom | [Click to register]*  
Masonicare’s Lunch & Learn is back! Join ShopRite of Wallingford’s Marisa McCoy, Registered Dietician to learn tips on shopping and preparing healthy foods while being mindful of rising food costs. This program is presented in partnership with Masonicare.
Beyond the Beaten Path: A Summer Reading Program for Adults (18+) | July 5th-Aug 20th
This summer WPL invites adults to take part in Beyond the Beaten Path, a summer program for adults. Earn buttons and the chance to win great prizes by taking part in activities that encourage you to blaze your own trail. The activities promote connection, curiosity, reflection, and joy (and of course, reading!). Participation is easy and fun, and the best part is that you can do it your OWN way! Sign up at the Information Desk or visit bit.ly/3OiBela.

Gatherings

Spanish Conversation Group
Thursdays | 4:30-5:30pm | Collins Room | No registration required
Improve your Spanish in a friendly and non-judgmental space! All skill levels are welcome.

WPL Play Readers
Wednesday, Aug 3rd | 6:30-8:30pm | Collins Room
No registration required
We perform short plays, skits, scenes and monologues from long plays and movies. Comedy, tragicomedy, tragedy, melodrama, and domestic scenes will be portrayed. The door is always open to newcomers. Stop by for a warm welcome by members of the troupe. And, of course, we hope you stay for our show!

Wallingford Writers Community
Saturday, Aug 20th | 2-4pm | Zoom
Join the Wallingford Writers Community and discover how the fellowship of other writers can help you pursue your writing goals! All meetings include dedicated writing time, craft techniques for fiction and literary nonfiction, and the opportunity to share work in a supportive, creative forum. To participate, contact Leah Farrell at lfarrell@wallingfordlibrary.org.

Knit @ WPL
Monday, Aug 1st & 15th | 6-7:30pm
Board Room | No registration required
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.

Saturday Mornings with Poetry
SMwP is on a break for the summer. See you Sep 10th!

One-on-One Career Counseling
Sign up today to schedule your appointment with the library’s career specialist Sarah Eiseman! Get personalized help with crafting a resume or cover letter or preparing for your big interview. Click here to get started or contact Leah Farrell at lfarrell@wallingfordlibrary.org. You will be contacted shortly to schedule your appointment.
**In her most recent novel,** *The Wedding Dress Sewing Circle,* Jennifer Ryan writes: “The last days of summer always held that lethargic headiness, as if nature longed to laze in the golden hues, the ripening fruits heavy on the boughs, trying to cling on before the inevitable scents of autumn stole in from the woods.” As we head into the dog days of August, it’s reassuring to know that there is always a stack of new books waiting to be read when you’re too hot or too lethargic to do much else. Here are some of the novels slated for publication in August to keep you company as summer winds down:

**Afterlives** by Abdulrazak Gurnah — During the colonization of East Africa, a young man returns home years after being kidnapped to discover that his parents are gone and his sister is treated as a slave.

**Babysitter** by Joyce Carol Oates — The lives of three people—the wife of a prominent businessman who is having an affair, a street hustler and a serial killer called Babysitter—intersect in a Detroit suburb in the 1970s.

**Carrie Soto Is Back** by Taylor Jenkins Reid — A retired tennis champion comes out of retirement at the age of 37 after watching a young phenom beat her long-standing record at the 1994 US Open.

**Daisy Darker** by Alice Feeney — Family members gather for their matriarch’s 80th birthday in her crumbling, gothic house on a tiny island and then begin to disappear one by one.

**Elizabeth Finch** by Julian Barnes — After taking a class taught by a commanding and exacting female professor, a man develops an obsessive, intellectual crush on her.

**The Family Remains** by Lisa Jewell — In this sequel to the best-selling *The Family Upstairs,* two women are faced with complicated mysteries that are linked to a cold case that left three people dead in a Chelsea mansion 30 years ago.

**Girl, Forgotten** by Karin Slaughter — Forty years after a young woman was murdered on her prom night, a local judge starts receiving death threats and a US Marshal comes to town to investigate.

**Haven** by Emma Donoghue — In the 7th century, two monks leave Ireland in a boat in search of an isolated spot to establish a new monastery and wind up on a bare island inhabited by thousands of birds.

**The House of Fortune** by Jessie Burton — This companion novel to the *New York Times* best-seller *The Miniaturist* is set in 18th-century Amsterdam and involves a Jane Austen-esque marriage plot for a young mixed-race woman.

**The Last White Man** by Mohsin Hamid — A young man wakes up one morning to discover that his skin has turned “a deep and undeniable brown” and soon learns that everyone in his town is slowly turning darker.

**The Many Daughters of Afong Moy** by Jamie Ford — An exploration of the ways that different states of consciousness, each involving extreme moments of pain or joy, interconnect seven generations of Chinese women over the course of 250 years.

**Mercury Pictures Presents** by Anthony Marra — An ambitious young Italian woman makes her way among the émigrés of 1930s and ‘40s Hollywood as the production company she works for teeters on the edge of bankruptcy.

**Mika in Real Life** by Emiko Jean — A 35-year-old woman gets to know the daughter she placed up for adoption 16 years ago and finds unexpected love with her daughter’s widowed adoptive father.

**Other Birds** by Sarah Addison Allen — When a young woman comes to claim her dead mother’s home on an island off the South Carolina coast, she meets her quirky and secretive neighbors, including a girl on the run, two estranged middle-aged sisters, a lonely chef, a legendary writer and three ghosts.

**A Tidy Ending** by Joanna Cannon — A British housewife living in a quiet neighborhood becomes obsessed with the former resident of her new house while her husband is acting suspicious and young women in town start to go missing.

Also of note this month are the 6th installment in the Cormoran Strike series by Robert Galbraith (*The Ink Black Heart*), the 19th Cork O’Connor mystery by William Kent Krueger (*Fox Creek*), the 62nd Stone Barrington thriller by Stuart Woods (*Black Dog*) and new novels by Sandra Brown (*Overkill*), James Patterson (*The Ninth Month*) and Danielle Steel (*The Challenge*).
Thursday Night Book Club:
**So Long, See You Tomorrow** by William Maxwell
Thursday, Aug 18th | 6:30-8pm | Collins Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken

On a winter morning in the 1920s, a man named Lloyd Wilson is killed in rural Illinois and the friendship between two lonely teenagers is shattered. 50 years later, one of those boys—now a grown man—tries to reconstruct the events that led up to the murder and is inevitably drawn back to his lost friend, who is the son of Wilson’s killer. Maxwell’s short novel is an evocative story of youth and loss.

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

Mystery Book Club
**Murder in Mesopotamia** by Agatha Christie
Wednesday, Sept 7th | 3-4:15pm | Community Room & Zoom

Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak

When a woman arrives at an ancient site in the Iraqi desert to nurse the wife of a celebrated archaeologist, she finds her patient suffering from bizarre visions and nervous terror, and then a member of the research team is murdered. With one spot of blood as his only clue, Hercule Poirot must unravel a mystery which strains even his remarkable powers.

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

**Cindy’s Picks!**

*Adult Assembly Required* by Abbi Waxman

*Jane’s Country Year* by Malcolm Saville

*Nora Goes Off Script* by Annabel Monaghan

Need More Reading Suggestions?
**The Bookmark Podcast** is a production of the Wallingford Public Library. Readers Advisory Librarian, Cindy Haiken and Assistant Director, Julie Rio take you inside the library world to talk about books, authors, reading experiences, and what they love about their jobs.

**Book Seller** Hours

Mon, Tue, Fri, & Sat
10am - 12noon

Wed
10am - 12noon & 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Thu
2:30pm - 4:30pm

August Specials:
Children & YA Books
*Buy One, Get One Free*

DVDs & CDs
*Buy One, Get TWO Free*
Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Registration begins at 7am on the 22nd of the month prior. Collaboratory programs are open to adults and teens in grades 9+ unless otherwise noted. Due to the one-on-one nature of our in-person programs, masks will be required for all participants.

In the Collaboratory

Samurai Chainmaille Bracelet
Monday, Aug 8th | 7-8:30pm | OR | Wednesday, Aug 10th | 7-8:30pm
Register for Monday | Register for Wednesday
Create a bracelet of small metal rings meshed together.
This program is made possible by a generous donation from Jean Anderson.

Laser Cut Ocean Scene
Tuesday, Aug 9th | 7-8:30pm | OR | Thursday, Aug 11th | 3-4:30pm
Register for Tuesday | Register for Thursday
Assemble and paint an ocean scene cut out on our laser cutter.

Talking TED @ Home
Thursday, Aug 11th | 7-8pm | Adults | Zoom | Click to register
Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event. In August, we will watch and discuss Pamela Meyer’s “How to Spot a Liar.”

Imaginarium Container Garden
Friday, Aug 12th | 3-4pm | Click to register
Create a beautiful succulent container garden.

Needle Felted Frogs
Tuesday, Aug 16th | 7-8:30pm | OR | Thursday, Aug 18th | 3-4:30pm
Register for Tuesday | Register for Thursday
Learn how to needle felt a quirky and cute frog by hand. Needle felting uses a barbed needle to mat fibers together, typically in wool.

Handwriting Fun
Wednesday, Aug 17th | 7-8:30pm | Collins Room | Click to register
Turn your own handwriting into colorful creations that can be used for cards, journaling, doodling and of course, just for fun! Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.

Starburst Mirror
Tuesday, Aug 23rd | 7-8:30pm | OR | Thursday, Aug 25th | 3-4:30pm
Register for Tuesday | Register for Thursday
Mirrors are great. They let us check on how we are doing, and even make our spaces seem bigger than they are! In this program, we will be constructing and decorating our own round mirrors using a variety of different supplies including wood and rope. Note: This is a repeat program. Please do not register if you have attended previously.

Monarch Butterfly Rock
Wednesday, Aug 24th | 6:30-8:30pm | Click to register
Learn to paint a monarch butterfly on a garden rock.

3D Printed Potted Plant Embroidery
Tuesday, Aug 30th | 7-8:30pm | OR | Thursday, Sep 1st | 3-4:30pm
Register for Tuesday | Register for Thursday
Embroider a potted plant pattern onto a 3D printed template! The templates will be in a variety of colors to make your embroidery stand out.
August is here, and that means it’s time to start voting in the Some Assembly Required contest! There will be two ways to vote this year—online and in-person. For online voting, all of the entries are uploaded on the library’s Facebook page. To vote, simply “Like” the entries that you like! To vote in-person, just ask for a ballot form at the Information Desk. We will have a display up with images of all of the entries so you can make an informed decision. There will be a winner for each category, and whoever gets the most votes will receive the grand prize. The winners of each category will receive a special laser cut prize and a $25 gift card to the Wallingford business of their choice, and the grand prize winner receives a Collaboratory-made trophy along with a $100 gift card to the Wallingford business of their choice. Voting will take place from Aug 1st until Aug 20th, and we will announce the winners on Aug 22nd. Good luck to all who entered, and be sure to vote!

Facebook: @wallingfordlibrary
Look for the album Some Assembly Required 2022 and cast your votes by giving a “like.”

Max Facts from Max Spurr

Have you seen the newest additions to the Collaboratory? We are very fortunate to now offer a poster printer and a new photo printer! We got a new photo printer because our old one has been extremely popular, so we knew that it would be an investment that would be well utilized by the public. The old photo printer could print pictures up to 13 by 19 inches, and we received lots of requests for a printer that is capable of printing true poster-sized prints, so we got one of those too! These new additions, combined with the software on our computers (including the full Adobe Creative Cloud with programs like Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign), make the Collaboratory into a true one-stop printing destination. For pricing and more information, either ask at the Help Desk, or check out the Collaboratory section of the WPL web site.
Just for Teens

Beyond the Beaten Path:
A Summer Reading Program for Teens Entering Grades 6-12 | July 5th - Aug 20th
This summer go Beyond the Beaten Path and broaden your horizons with new reads, new interests, and new experiences. As always, anything you read will earn you a prize entry. But this summer you can also go forge new trails. Simply pick one (or more!) trails and complete the trail tasks along the way. Completing a trail will earn you an entry into the grand prize drawing. You can also earn bonus prize entries by completing a weekly art challenge in the library. Sign up at the Information Desk or visit bit.ly/3mMFgN3 to register.

Registration for all programs is required unless otherwise noted.

**Summer Camp Craft: Pokémon Perler Beads**  
Monday, Aug 1st | 3:30-4:30pm | Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)
Come hang out and talk about all things Pokémon while making your favorite Pokémon out of perler beads!

**Anime Night: Laid-Back Camp**  
Thursday, Aug 4th | 6-8pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | Drop-in
This month we’re going to watch a few episodes of *Laid-Back Camp* (TV-14).

**Summer Camp Craft: Cyanotype Sun Prints**  
Monday, Aug 8th | 3-4:30pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)
Cyanotype printmaking dates all the way back to the mid-1800s and is still a great way to make art! We’ll mix together the chemicals to coat paper and then leave it in the sun to create the blue-toned print.

**Teen Cuisine: S’more Truffles**  
Thursday, Aug 11th | 3-4pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)
Learn how to make this delicious take on s’mores. These s’more truffles are easy to make and to share—no campfire required!

**Summer Camp Craft: Shrinky Dinks**  
Monday, Aug 15th | 3-4:30pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)
Shrinky Dinks are a really fun and creative art projects! Use sharpies to create your own custom design on the shrink plastic, then put it in the oven to watch it shrink down! You can keep them as is, turn them into magnets, keychains, or even jewelry!

**Modern Calligraphy**  
Wednesday, Aug 17th | 4-5:30pm | Collins Room | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)
Modern Calligraphy introduces a fun, flowing alphabet that can be drawn or written with a flexible marker. Taught by calligrapher, Debby Reelitz, you will learn where this style comes from, strategies on how to create this lettering style, and projects to use the skills you have learned.

**Into the Woods Drama Workshop**  
Wednesday, Aug 17th | 6-7:30pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)
Join drama instructor Ingrid Schaeffer as she leads participants through a workshop based on Steven Sondheim’s *Into the Woods*.

**Scrolling Sunset Painting**  
Thursday, Aug 18th | 6-7:30pm | Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | [Click to register](#)
Paint a sunset then construct a small box that will allow you to scroll through the painting. As you turn the handles, the painting will go from day to night.
In anticipation of the upcoming Netflix adaptation of The Three-Body Problem series, I’ve begun reading the science-fiction works of Chinese author Cixin Liu. Liu’s short stories and novels fall into the category of hard-sci-fi which focuses less on individual character development and more on speculative science and humanity’s plausible future beyond the bounds of Earth. What sets his sci-fi apart from most Western sci-fi is his hope that humanity will come together to work towards a common goal. Capitalism is so ingrained in Western culture that it underlies most English-language sci-fi, sometimes as the cause of humanity’s downfall and other times as its savior. In contrast, Liu’s works depict a civilization that has overcome the necessity for monetary systems and personal freedoms altogether to imagine a future where we work together for the greater good. His message for the audience is that if we are ever to venture into the galaxy, we must unite around that common objective.

Liu also ponders the question, “Should we be venturing into the galaxy in the first place?” After an explosion in discoveries of exoplanets over the past decades, detailed in Exoplanets (523.24 SUM) by Michæl Summers and James Trefil, scientists have realized there are billions of planets that could harbor life. In his book, The Crowded Universe (523.24 BOS) citing the Drake equation, author Alan Boss states, “Life is not only possible elsewhere in the universe, it is common.” It was Enrico Fermi who infamously asked the question, “If so many planets can harbor life, then where is everyone?” establishing the Fermi Paradox. Liu’s Three-Body Problem trilogy and many of his short stories speculate on potential first encounters with extraterrestrial life and possible solutions to the Fermi Paradox.

Scientists have offered several theories on why we have not found life on other planets even though the math tells us that life should be more prevalent. In his Three-Body Problem series, Liu focuses on one potential solution which has come to be known as The Dark Forest Theory, named after the The Dark Forest, the title of the second book in Liu’s series. Liu likens the galaxy to a forest at night, where countless lifeforms exist as predators and prey, all hiding. For any lifeform to make itself known in the dark forest could mean certain death by a predatory lifeform. Similarly, the predatory lifeforms conceal themselves in order to catch potential prey. Therefore it is in the best interest of all lifeforms to remain undetected.

Liu argues that the goal of all life is to stay alive. In the coffee table book Surviving (591.4 MIN) Alejandro Minelli and Maria Pia Mannucci detail the many ways animals from our own planet have evolved and adapted to living conditions in order for their species to thrive. If species are unable to evolve or adapt, they are lost. The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar (578.47 SIM) by Matt Simon in particular details insidious ways species have evolved to specialize in killing or controlling other species.

In The Aliens Among Us (578.62 ANT) author Leslie Anthony outlines how invasive species are transforming the planet. For instance, he specifies how Burmese pythons are destroying the ecosystems of the Everglades. Because the pythons evolved in a different ecosystem than Florida, they compete with native species who have little to no self-defense against them. Without external interference, the pythons will annihilate most other life in the Everglades.

One might think human intervention would be a solution to this problem, but humans were responsible for introducing the pythons to the Everglades in the first place. In fact, in Beloved Beasts (591.68 NUI) Michelle Nijhuis describes how humans are historically responsible for the majority of recent animal extinctions and continue to be the cause of an ongoing mass extinction. In Liu’s framework, this isn’t even something preventable. It is the natural course of life. As a species, our only goal is to stay alive and all other species, whether by intention or not, will be annihilated so that our species can survive by dominating the planet’s resources.

If we as humans treat our Earthly companions in this way, what’s to say extraterrestrial lifeforms won’t treat us the same if they were to discover our resource-rich planet? We often forget to think of ourselves as animals because we have held dominance over the planet for so long. In The Old Way (305.8961) Elizabeth Marshall Thomas takes us back to our beginnings, when humans were just as much prey as we were predators, before we adapted to become the dominant species. There hasn’t been an external threat to our species in so long we have forgotten what competition for life is like.

And yet, we are still at conflict with ourselves. Isabel Wilkerson’s Caste (305.5122 WIL) expresses how our perpetuation of class systems such as those based on religion, race and wealth distract us and divides us rather uniting us. From Liu’s perspective, this internal conflict is what holds us back as a species and makes us vulnerable to any potential external threats. Within many of his works there is a deep appreciation for ant colonies and the way these insects cooperate and build a civilization together in harmony with one another, united by the common goal to flourish as one. In Adventures Among Ants (595.7961 MOF), Mark W. Moffet travels the globe to detail how many different ant colonies live to dominate their ecosystems, even displaying many behaviors similar to humans. Every ant has a purpose and performs a necessary function to propagate the colony. In theory, the ant colony acts as one being rather than many. In Liu’s works, the ant colony symbolizes what humans must become if we are to make ourselves known in the galactic forest—and survive.

Yochai Benkler’s The Penguin and the Leviathan (302.14 BEN) describes how nearly all systems in our society from business models to legal systems, have been designed to reward self-interest. He lamented that cooperation gets us further, quicker than the way our current systems are designed, describing how the World Wide Web was such a triumph because of people working together outside of the system together to create something for the common good.

Mark W. Moffet’s analyses how all societies rise, thrive, and fall in his book The Human Swarm (301 MOF). He recounts how we already have the capacity to work together in situations that favor collective best interests such as queuing patiently at the airport or exchanging resources with each other. These actions help our society go on functioning as a unit. He also compares humans to ants stating, “In an ant society, every individual is a stranger; nevertheless, together they achieve extraordinary feats.”

Cixin Liu would argue that we need to be the human swarm because if we are still competing with each other, we don’t stand a chance against hostile extraterrestrials who would strip our planet of its resources and possibly annihilate our species.

We need to operate as one organism: Earth.
In Others’ Words...

“I hadn’t been out to the hives before, so to start off she gave me a lesson in what she called ‘bee yard etiquette’. She reminded me that the world was really one bee yard, and the same rules work fine in both places. Don’t be afraid, as no life-loving bee wants to sting you. Still, don’t be an idiot; wear long sleeves and pants. Don’t swat. Don’t even think about swatting. If you feel angry, whistle. Anger agitates while whistling melts a bee’s temper. Act like you know what you’re doing, even if you don’t. Above all, send the bees love. Every little thing wants to be loved.”

—Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*