**REVEAL PARTY!**

**Wednesday, Jan 5th | 7-8pm | Across from the Information Desk | No registration required**

Wallingford Public Library will be unveiling our pick for the 2022 One Book, One Wallingford celebration with a public ceremony, and you’re invited!

What is the book? Who is the author? Up until now it’s been a closely-held secret. Join us on the main floor of the library, located at 200 North Main Street, to be among the first to find out! The event will feature a video from the author, the opportunity to purchase a copy of the book, and the announcement of the slate of events taking place all over Wallingford. You will also be able to snag FREE tickets to the author visit and book signing.

The goal of One Book, One Wallingford is to connect people in our community through shared reading and discussion of the same book. This annual celebration features lectures, public programs, and book discussions throughout the months of March and April and will culminate in a visit from the author on April 4, 2022. Stay tuned to our website for the latest updates.

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**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Monday, Jan 31st | 11:30am-4:30pm | Community Room**
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 Ciemniewski from contributions by library staff members.

Library Director: Jane Fisher
Main Library: 200 North Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492  
Phone (203) 265-6754  |  Text (203) 903-8447  |  wallingfordlibrary.org
Yalesville Branch: 400 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492  |  Phone (203) 269-3688

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.

View the current issue in color on our website using this QR code or at the following link: walpublib.org/3iVmOjB

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.

Book Seller Hours
Mon, Tue, Fri, & Sat
10am - 12noon

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

Thu
2:30pm - 4:30pm

January Specials:
Clive Cussler, Tom Clancy, DVDs, CDs and Audio Books
Buy One, Get One Free

VITA Tax Assistance

Saturdays, Jan 15th — April 16th
9:30am-2:30pm
Schedule an appointment by calling: (860) 356-2000
For more info and to schedule online visit: bit.ly/31M9tFi

Word of Mouth - Staff Picks!

All of the Marvels
by Douglas Wolk
Chris C.

The Midnight Library
by Matt Haig
Shane H.

My Love Mix-Up!
by Wataru Hinekure
Dylan K.
In “Little Gidding,” the fourth and final poem in his celebrated Four Quartets, the poet T.S. Eliot writes “For last year’s words belong to last year’s language / And next year’s words await another voice.” As we come to the end of 2021 and anticipate 2022, one of the most exciting things to look forward to is a whole year’s worth of new fiction from established authors, debut novelists and everyone in between. Here are some of January’s new novels to usher in 2022’s new fiction titles:

Anthem by Noah Hawley — A group of unlikely heroes sets out on a quest to save a single innocent life and in the process might wind up saving mankind.

The Appeal by Janice Hallett — After the cast of a local theater group raises money for treatment for the director’s granddaughter, who has a rare form of cancer, tensions increase when one member expresses some doubt, and then someone is murdered.

The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections by Eva Jurczyk — A woman who works in the rare books department of a university discovers that both a priceless book and one of the librarians have gone missing.

A Flicker in the Dark by Stacy Willingham — Twenty years after her father was arrested as a serial killer, a Louisiana psychologist grows increasingly concerned as local teenage girls start to go missing.

The High House by Jessie Greengrass — Four people who are trying to make a home in the midst of an environmental disaster fight to stay alive as rising waters threaten to submerge their town.

Honor by Thrity Umrigar — An Indian-American journalist returns home to cover the story of a Hindi woman attacked by her own family for marrying a Muslim.

The Last House on the Street by Diane Chamberlain — A recently-widowed woman moves into a new home and struggles with threatening notes and a neighbor’s secrets about the history of the land on which her house was built.

The Maid by Nita Prose — After a hotel maid discovers the dead body of a wealthy man in his suite, she becomes the prime suspect in the case.

The School for Good Mothers by Jessamine Chan — After a mother has a single moment of poor judgment involving her daughter, a group of government officials decide whether she is a candidate for an institution that measures the success or failure of a mother’s devotion.

Seasonal Work by Laura Lippman — A collection of stories, including one never-before-published novella, filled with deception, murder, dangerous games and love gone wrong.

Small World by Jonathan Evison — Present-day travelers on a train and their ancestors from a prior century are brought together by the history they share against the backdrop of the California gold rush and the development of the Continental Railroad.

Thank You, Mr. Nixon by Gish Jen — An 11-story journey through U.S.-Chinese relations, capturing both the excitement of a world on the brink of change and the all-too-human encounters that follow as East meets West.

To Paradise by Hanya Yanagihara — A triptych of stories set in 1893, 1993, and 2093 that explore the fate of humanity and the essential power and sorrow of love.

Also of note this month are the 5th installment in the Mitford Murders series by Jessica Fellowes (The Mitford Vanishing), the 16th Pike Logan thriller by Brad Taylor (End of Days), the 21st book in the Inspector Lynley series by Elizabeth George (Something to Hide) and new novels by Isabel Allende (Violeta), Marie Benedict (Her Hidden Genius), Alafair Burke (Find Me), Fiona Davis (Magnolia Palace), Dean Koontz (Quicksilver), Jacqueline Mitchard (The Good Son), James Patterson (The Horsewoman) and Danielle Steel (Beautiful).

Cindy’s Picks!

The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman
Oh William! by Elizabeth Strout
These Precious Days by Ann Patchett

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.
All participants of in-person programs are required to wear masks.

**Saturdays with Sara: Rainbow in a Jar**
Saturday, Jan 8th | 10:30am | Wonder Room
Grades 3-5 | Registration required
[Click to register]
Third, fourth and fifth graders will work collaboratively to create a hypothesis on ways in which to create a rainbow in a jar. Students will learn about density and how it’s measured to create their very own class rainbow!

**LEGO Club**
Saturday, Jan 15th | 10:30am | Grades K-5
Wonder Room | Registration required
[Click to register]
At this program, kids and their grown-up will have a chance to show off their building skills with LEGO bricks provided by the library.

**Dungeons and Dragons: Chaos in the Chocolate Factory**
Tuesdays, Jan 18th & 25th | 4:30-6:30pm
Grades 4-5 | Collins Room
Registration required
Register once for both events
[Click to register]
Take your golden ticket and pack your sword in this Charlie and the Chocolate Factory-themed Dungeons and Dragons adventure!

**Reading Buddies**
Fridays, Jan 21st & 28th | 6:30-7:30pm
Grades K-2 | Registration encouraged
[Click to register Jan 21st]
[Click to register Jan 28th]
Spend a Friday evening reading with a high school buddy! Choate student volunteers will join us to do some group read-alouds, small group reading practice, and other fun activities.

**2022 Early Childhood Education and Information Fair**
Saturday, Jan 22nd
(snow date: Feb 5th) 9:30am-12noon
Open to families | Community Room
Drop-in
Choosing the right preschool or childcare facility for your family is a difficult decision. Make the decision a little easier by joining us at this event highlighting Wallingford’s preschools, licensed childcare centers, and town services available for our preschool population. Meet representatives from local agencies and have all of your questions answered! Jointly sponsored by WECARE.

**Gaming Club**
Saturday, Jan 29th | 10:30am | Grades K-5
Wonder Room | Registration required
[Click to register]
Come connect with other gamers in our community! We will have plenty of games on hand to choose from, but feel free to bring your own board, tabletop, or card games.

**Pokémon Club**
Saturday, Jan 29th | 2-4pm | Grades K-5
Children’s Program Room
Registration required | [Click to register]
Come hang out and play/talk Pokémon with Mr. Josh! Whether you’re a new trainer who wants to learn to play or you’re a champion looking for a challenge, there is fun to be had at the Pokémon Club!

**Story Walk with Mrs. Stowe**
Wednesday, Jan 12th | 9:30am OR 1:30pm
Ages 3-5 | Marcus Cooke Park
Registration required | [Click to register]
Take a walk in 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.

**Turtle Time!**
Thursday, Jan 27th | 4:30pm | Ages 4-11
Zoom | Registration required | [Click to register]
Shannon from The Turtle Room will present a program about the difference between turtles and tortoises and their extinction and conservation. She will show several turtles and tortoises from around the world.

**Virtual Performers**
Registrants will receive the Zoom link via email on the day of the program.

**Choate Tutors**
Tuesdays & Thursdays,
Jan 4th - Feb 17th | 5-6pm
Grades K-5 | Children’s Room
Drop-in
Have questions about your homework? Student volunteers from Choate Rosemary Hall are here to help! Drop by with your homework and a tutor will be happy to assist you. Many thanks to Choate Rosemary Hall and the student volunteers for offering this great program!
STORY TIMES

Registration is required for all story time classes and opens online 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.

Click for Registration Calendar

**Baby & Toddler Time**
Ages 0-2 | 10:30am | Community Room
Tuesdays, Jan 11th - Feb 15th*
Wednesdays, Jan 12th - Feb 16th
This class introduces babies, toddlers, and their grown-ups to the library and each other while learning how to support their growth and development through songs, puppets, rhymes, and books. *Class on Tuesday, Feb 1st will take place in the Children's Program Room

**Twos and Threes Story Time**
Wednesdays, Jan 12th - Feb 16th | Ages 2-3
6:30pm | Children's Program Room
Full of music, movement, and stories, this program is perfect for older 2s and younger 3s making the transition to Preschool Story Time.

**Independent Preschool Story Time**
Thursdays, Jan 13th - Feb 17th | Ages 3-5
10:30am | Children's Program Room
Books, puppets, and songs will reinforce your child’s pre-reading skills through repetition and rhyme. Children are encouraged to attend the class independently while parents stay close by in the Children’s Room. A craft is included that will help kids develop their fine motor skills.

**Virtual Family Story Time**
Fridays, Jan 14th - Feb 18th
Ages 0-5 | 10:30am | Zoom
This early literacy enriched story time will explore books, songs, and rhymes for all ages from the comfort of your own home! A Zoom link will be sent via email the day of the program.

**Family Story Time**
Saturday, Jan 22nd | Ages 0-5
10:30am | Children's Program Room
Join us for a fun story time for the whole family! We will meet once a month for an interactive story time suitable for all ages and stages.

**STEAM Story Time @ Home: Germs**
Week of Tuesday, Jan 18th | Ages 3-7 | Registration required
Click to register
It’s STEAM for younger kids! Kits will include materials for 3 activities and a book checked out on your card. For this kit each family will need two apples from home.

**Big Ideas Book Club: Kindness and Caring**
Week of Monday, Jan 24th | Ages 0-8 | Registration required
Click to register
This is an inclusive book club kit for families who want to introduce their kids to big ideas through developmentally appropriate books, discussion, and activities. Books included in kits will be checked out to your library card.

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A COLLECTION THEY’D LIKE TO DISPLAY?

We’re looking for exciting and creative collections curated by the children in our community to put in our display cases!

How to submit an application:
- Scan the QR code to the left with your cell phone camera to be taken to the online form
- Go to wallingfordlibrary.org > About > Meeting Rooms & Exhibits and click on the link for the form
- Visit the Children’s Room and ask for an application
- Call the Children’s Room at (203) 284-6436

We can’t wait to see your display!
Adult Events

**Happenings**

**Are You Smarter than a Librarian? Virtual Trivia Night**
Tuesday, Jan 18th | 7-8pm | Zoom | Registration required | Click to register
Team up with family and friends or play alone! We will be accepting 15 teams, but individuals are welcome to play as their own team! Only one registration per team. Prior to the program you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting along with instructions on how to play.

**Radon Testing Presentation with Wallingford Health Department**
Wednesday, Jan 19th | 1-2pm | Community Room | No registration required
The Wallingford Health Department will present a program on the dangers of radon. Free radon test kits will be distributed.

**Conversations on Race:**
**An Expert Panel on Health and Healthcare Disparities**
Tuesday, Jan 25th | 7-8:30pm | Zoom | Registration required | Click to register
Join our expert panel to discuss race and disparities in healthcare and health outcomes. We will also take a look at what is being done here in Connecticut to address it and what YOU can do about it. Panel will include opportunities for Q&A.

Panelists:
- Kevin Collins and Taylor Tucker — Health Equity Solutions
- Keren Prescott — Power Up Manchester
- Elisabeth Michel — Hartford HealthCare
- Dr. Rocio Chang Angulo — UConn Health Disparities Institute

**Gatherings**

**Knit @ WPL**
Mondays, Jan 10th & 24th | 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**
Saturday, Jan 8th & 22nd | 9:45am-noon
Zoom & Board Room* | No registration required
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.

**WPL Play Readers**
Wednesday, Jan 5th | 6:30-8:30pm
Collins Room* | No registration required
The Wallingford Public Library Play Readers 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, Jan 15th | 2-4pm
Zoom & Board Room*
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.

*WPL is closely monitoring the current public health situation, and may require masking during meetings or for them to be held virtually. You will be notified of our final decision no later than one week in advance. Refreshments will not be served at in-person meetings at this time. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Leah Farrell at (203) 284-6425 or lfarrell@wallingfordlibrary.org.
Meet the Author: Ross Douthat
Monday, Jan 10th | 7-8:30pm | Community Room & Zoom* | Registration required | Click to register
Ross Douthat is a political analyst and an Opinion columnist for the The New York Times. Prior to joining the Times, he was a senior editor at The Atlantic and a blogger on its website. He is also a contributing editor of The National Review. He is the author of several books, including To Change the Church: Pope Francis and the Future of Catholicism, Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics, Privilege: Harvard and the Education of the Ruling Class, and The Decadent Society. His most recent book, The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery, about his exhaustive efforts to recover from chronic Lyme’s disease, was published in October of 2021. Douthat lives with his wife and four children in New Haven. He will be joining us to talk about The Deep Places, to answer questions and to sign copies of the book, which will be available to purchase at the event.

Attend Virtually: The program will be streamed live from the library straight to your home through Zoom. Once registered, you will be contacted prior to the program with participation instructions.

Attend In-Person: Face masks covering the nose and mouth are still required in all areas of the library at all times.

Book Discussions

Thursday Night Book Club
Deacon King Kong by James McBride
Thursday, Jan 20th | 6:30-8pm | Zoom & Collins Room*
Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken
In September of 1969, a cranky old church deacon called Sportcoat walks into the courtyard of a housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls out a gun and, in front of witnesses, shoots the project’s drug dealer. Brought vividly to life are the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the African-American and Latinx residents who witness it, their white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the church where Sportcoat was deacon, the neighborhood’s Italian mobsters and Sportcoat himself. McBride’s novel won the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction.

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

Truth Be Told Nonfiction Book Group
The Soul of America by Jon Meacham
Thursday, Jan 27th | 7-8:30pm | Zoom & Collins Room*
Discussion moderated by Educator Susan Gomes
The Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer explores past political struggles in American life, including the Civil War and Reconstruction, the backlash against immigrants during the First World War, the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s, the fight for women’s rights, isolationism in the years before World War II, McCarthyism and Lyndon Johnson’s crusade against Jim Crow, and in so doing he demonstrates that our current partisan politics are not new.

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

Mystery Book Group
A Charitable Body by Robert Barnard
Wednesday, Feb 2nd | 3-4:15pm | Zoom & Community Room*
Discussion moderated by Professor and Author Carole Shmurak
Felicity, the wife of Yorkshire Detective Inspector Charlie Peace, is thrilled when she’s asked to help oversee Walbrook Manor, one of England’s most distinguished stately homes and a recent gift to the nation. But when the remains of a body turn up in a nearby lake, Charlie and Felicity discover that old sins are never forgotten and that sometimes there is a good reason for murder.

To participate, contact Carole at cshmurak@gmail.com.

Classics Book Club
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Thursday, Feb 3rd | 7-8:30pm | Zoom & Collins Room*
Discussion moderated by Readers Advisory Librarian Cindy Haiken
A humble, orphaned boy named Pip is apprenticed to a blacksmith but dreams of becoming a gentleman. One day, under mysterious circumstances, he finds himself in possession of “great expectations.” Charles Dickens’ classic story of crime, guilt, revenge and reward is filled with compelling characters, including the fearful convict Magwitch, the beautiful and haughty Estella and Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride.

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

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.

WPL is closely monitoring the current public health situation and may require events to be cancelled or rescheduled if deemed necessary for the health and wellbeing of our patrons and staff. Please note that masks are still required in the library at all times. Check our website or social media for the most up-to-date information. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at (203) 265-6754.

Open Sew
Tuesday, Jan 4th (first Tuesday of the month) | 5:30-8:30pm
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. 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.

Deer Shadow Box
Tuesday, Jan 4th | 7-8:30pm  OR  Thursday, Jan 6th | 3-4:30pm
Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Collaboratory | Registration required
Click to register for Tuesday  |  Click to register for Thursday
We will assemble a deer themed paper shadow box, a perfect winter decoration for any bookshelf. The pieces for the project will be cut with the Cricut Maker prior to the class.

Recycled Magazine Map
Tuesday, Jan 11th | 7-8:30pm  OR  Thursday, Jan 13th | 3-4:30pm
Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Collaboratory | Registration required
Click to register for Tuesday  |  Click to register for Thursday
In this program we will use magazines to make a collage-style map of the world. There will be a template, so even if your geography is a little rusty you can still have a good time!

Talking TED @ Home
Thursday, Jan 13th | 7-8pm | Zoom | Adults | Registration required | Click to register
Join librarian Cindy Haiken on Zoom to watch and discuss a popular TED talk. In January, we will watch and discuss Kathryn Whitehead’s “The Tiny Balls of Fat That Could Revolutionize Medicine.”

What if you were holding life-saving medicine … but had no way to administer it? Zoom down to the nano level with engineer Kathryn A. Whitehead as she gives a breakdown of the little fatty balls (called lipid nanoparticles) perfectly designed to ferry cutting-edge medicines into your body's cells. Learn how her work is already powering mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines and forging the path for future therapies that could treat Ebola, HIV and even cancer. Once registered, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting via email on the day of the event.

3D Printed Crystal Embroidery
Tuesday, Jan 18th | 7-8:30pm
OR  Thursday, Jan 20th | 3-4:30pm
Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Collaboratory | Registration required
Click to register for Tuesday
Click to register for Thursday
Embroider a crystal pattern onto a 3D printed template! The templates will be in a variety of bright colors to make your embroidery stand out.

Valentine Gnome Decorative Painting
Monday, Jan 24th | 6:30-8:30pm
OR  Wednesday, Jan 26th | 6:30-8:30pm
Adults & Teens in Grades 9+ | Collaboratory
Registration required
Click to register for Monday
Click to register for Wednesday
Learn how to paint a cheery Valentine gnome on a wooden board using techniques like shading, highlighting, and dotting.
Since we are now dedicating our time to in-person programs, we will repeat one of our “greatest hits” kits each month for the rest of 2021, which we will produce on-demand. Just fill out the request form, and we will contact you when it is ready for pickup.

**One-on-One Computer Tutoring**
Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning Jan 4th
4-4:45pm OR 4:45-5:30pm | Registration required | [Click for calendar](#)
Register for a one-on-one computer tutoring session with volunteers from Choate. 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.

**Cutting the Cord: Options for TV Without Cable**
Monday, Jan 10th | 3-4:30pm | Board Room | Adults | Registration required | [Click to register](#)
Thinking about getting rid of cable? This lecture-style class will explore Internet-based streaming services and various devices that allow you to watch TV without a cable subscription.

**Don’t Send It Off: Maintaining a Computer at Home**
Friday, Jan 21st | 6:30-7:30pm | Collins Room | Adults | Registration required | [Click to register](#)
(Additional sessions on February 11th, March 25th, and April 15th)
Don’t Send It Off: Maintaining a Computer at Home is a series of lectures hosted by the Computer Hardware Club from Choate Rosemary Hall aiming to teach the community how to fix basic tech issues and ways to keep a computer running smoothly. Come and learn about file management, screen cleaning, virus protection, and more!

**Introduction to Google Forms**
Monday, Jan 24th | 3-4:30pm | Board Room | Adults | Registration required | [Click to register](#)
Learn the basics of Google Forms, a free, online survey and quiz creation software. We will go over creating new forms, adding questions and images, and linking them to spreadsheets.

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**Take Home Kit**
Due to ongoing interest, we will continue offering a monthly take home kit through the winter. Just fill out the request form, and we will contact you when it is ready for pickup.

**Fabric Feathers**
Create feathers from fabric scraps with this take home kit. Add twine and beads to hang it on a wall or add to a keychain. All materials will be provided except for a sewing needle. [Click to request a kit](#).

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**Max Facts from Max Spurr**
Happy New Year! Do you have any New Year’s resolutions? We may be able to help! The library has all sorts of FREE resources to help you commit to whatever your resolution may be. Of course, everyone knows about our fantastic book and DVD collection, but some of our best resources are actually available through our website! We have databases with lots of information on all sorts of different topics. Whether your improvement is professional, creative, or personal, we have something for you. Check out the “Online Resources” section of the WPL website, or ask at the Information Desk for a rundown of what we offer!
[Click to visit online resources](#)

**Niche Academy** also offers video lessons on how to use almost every digital resource the library offers. If you need help using one of the library’s digital offerings, visit Niche Academy for a quick tutorial!
[Click to visit Niche Academy](#)
WPL is closely monitoring the current public health situation and may require events to be canceled or held virtually if deemed necessary for the health and wellbeing of our patrons and staff. Please note that masks are still required in the library at all times. Check our website or social media for the most up-to-date information. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Head of Teen Services, Kayleigh Sprague at (203) 265-6754.

**Sewn Hand Warmers**
*Thursday, Jan 6th | 6-7:30pm | Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | Registration required*
[Click to register]
Keep your hands warm this winter by sewing and filling your own reusable, rice-filled hand warmers. Basic experience with a sewing machine is preferred, but not required.

**How to Make Your Dragon**
*Saturday, Jan 8th | 10:30am-1:30pm | Collins Room | Grades 6-12*
Registration required | [Click to register]
Join returning instructor Deb Jaffe to learn how to sculpt your very own dragon from polymer clay. Deb will guide you through the process of sculpting, texturing, and coloring your dragon. These techniques can be learned by novices and perfected by experts.

**Pokémon Card Art!**
*Tuesday, Jan 11th | 6-7pm | Collaboratory | Grades 6-12*
Registration required | [Click to register]
Come create magnets, stickers, custom card sleeves, and other art projects using Pokémon cards! We will be deconstructing foil Pokémon cards and turning them into wonderful creations.

**GirlTech STEM Club**
*Wednesdays, Jan 12th & 26th, Feb 9th & 23rd | 5-6:30pm | Collins Room | Grades 5-8*
Registration required | [Click to register]
GirlTech is a club at Choate Rosemary Hall that seeks to empower young girls to be interested in STEM. Join them to interact with students passionate about programming, engineering, and all things STEM.

**3D Printing for Teens**
*Thursday, Jan 20th | 3-4:30pm | Collaboratory | Grades 6-12 | Registration required*
[Click to register]
The library has a new Ultimaker S3 3D printer! Come to this session to learn about the printer and how to submit a job for printing. The program will go over how to find an object for printing and then request the print through the library. All participants will get a free 3D print.

**D&D Battle Arena: Robot Pirate Island**
*Friday, Jan 21st | 6-8pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12*
Registration required | [Click to register]
Prepare for battle in this epic and action-filled D&D adventure! Will your character survive the perils of Robot Pirate Island?

**Anime Night: Your Choice!**
*Thursday, Feb 3rd | 6-8pm | Community Room | Grades 6-12*
Registration appreciated | [Click to register]
For this Anime Night we’re trying something a bit different! You get to vote on what we show. The winning title will be announced the week before the program. Be sure to vote early for your selection! Vote here: forms.gle/urhn3mCSza6PbPHc6

Contact Kayleigh (ksprague@wallingfordlibrary.org) with questions.

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**Top 5 Most Borrowed Books of 2021:**

1. *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo
2. *Crown of Midnight* by Sarah Maas
3. *The Selection* by Kiera Cass
4. *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before* by Jenny Han
5. *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart

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Panpsychism by Chris Ciemniewski

“The universe is an ongoing explosion. That’s where you live. In an explosion. We absolutely don’t know what living is. Sometimes atoms just get very haunted. That’s us. When an explosion explodes hard enough, dust wakes up and thinks about itself.”

—The CryptoNaturalist

The Hard Problem of Consciousness has plagued the minds of philosophers for centuries. The question being: “How can we have conscious experiences if we are made of unconscious matter?”

In his book, The Mysterious Flame (153 MAC) Colin McGinn introduces two of the most enduring theories of consciousness, but then explains why neither theory works. Materialists, he says, believe that there is nothing more to our mind than neurons firing within muscles. The physical feeling of pain and the experience of being in pain are the same thing according to Materialists. McGinn refutes this claim with Thomas Nagel’s bat paradox. This paradox states that we can know everything there is about how a bat’s brain functions and how its neurons fire, but we will still never understand the experience of being a bat. He then moves to Dualism as a theory which posits that the mind’s consciousness is separate from the brain and body. The brain processes our events, but something else entirely is responsible for retaining awareness of the experience. According to McGinn, this theory also fails when it is considered that the brain and mind must be connected, since neither can exist without the other. Rejecting the two most enduring theories of consciousness, McGinn spends the rest of the book using specific situations to come up with other plausible theories.

Neuroscientist Mark Solms approaches consciousness from a scientific angle in his book The Hidden Spring (153 SOL). Solms believes many of our subjective experiences are simply ways to cope with various bodily needs. According to Solms, all things that we might consider subjective experiences are flows of chemical reactions designed to manipulate us into performing a specific task. Throughout the book Solms educates readers on how to read their inner consciousness to understand what their mind is really trying to tell them. Using his background in neuroscience to support his claims, he describes how all consciousness occurs within the brain alongside the body’s many other systems as a mechanism to keep the individual running.

For some, it might be enough to think that consciousness occurs as a process of the brain and nothing more, but for others this way of thinking removes the agency we believe we have as an autonomous conscious being. Conscious (153 HAR) by Annaka Harris brings the question back to its philosophical basics, “Why would any collection of matter in the universe be conscious?” She lands on an alternate theory: “All matter in the universe is conscious.” This is the Panpsychism theory of consciousness. While it might not be the most scientifically or philosophically accepted theory of consciousness, it is one of the most playful.

Panpsychism is the theory that consciousness comes fromoutside the body rather than from somewhere within us and is one of the oldest theories of consciousness. Peter Ells defines it in his book Panpsychism (Hoopla) specifically as “the doctrine that the physical world is pervasively sentient.” Ells is a supporter of Panpsychism and in his book includes a rejection of previously mentioned models of consciousness followed by a philosophical breakdown of how it could be possible. If consciousness pervades the universe, then all matter has some level of consciousness.

Panpsychism has been used by authors in fictional works. In Philip Pullman’s His Dark Materials (PUL), consciousness is referred to as Dust which originated at the creation of the universe. In the series, Dust is especially attracted to children who are still learning about the world and all the possibilities it offers. As children age, however, less Dust, or consciousness, is attracted to them as there is less to discover. In the world of His Dark Materials, the less consciousness an object or individual attracts, the more it becomes a static piece of matter unable to forge paths or make decisions. This free will as a byproduct of consciousness is also what keeps Pullman’s universe alive. Describing what would happen without consciousness, Pullman writes “The universes will all become nothing more than interlocking machines, blind and empty of thought, feeling, life.” Just as a human without consciousness may act on base instincts like a machine, so too does the universe, settling into an unchanging form. Pullman designs consciousness to work on both a micro and macro scale as a mechanism which keeps the individual and the universe running. When asked what constitutes a conscious being, Pullman states “From what we are, spirit. From what we do, matter. Matter and spirit are one.” According to Pullman, operating within a Panpsychist framework, we are consciousness animating matter.

Panpsychism is suggested in Star Wars too, although it wasn’t fully developed until the prequel film era. In The Phantom Menace it is explained that microscopic creatures known as midichlorians are found in all living cells. The higher the midichlorian count of an individual, the more sensitive they are to The Force. The midichlorians act as a manifestation of consciousness within the Star Wars universe just as Dust represents consciousness in His Dark Materials. Because all matter is conscious, The Force allows certain individuals to connect with seemingly inanimate objects and move them with their mind through connected consciousness. The midichlorians are revealed to come from the Wellspring of Life, at the very center of the galaxy. Some Star Wars characters who have exceptionally high midichlorian counts are even able to project their consciousness after death, and in doing so rejects theories of materialism in the Star Wars universe. Star Wars embraces dualism and demonstrates that the consciousness and body are separate entities.

Panpsychism is used in many works of fiction that require world-building and is malleable enough to fit within existing and fictional spiritual, religious, and parascientific beliefs. Although fervently dismissed by the scientific community, its one of the most malleable theories of consciousness and can be made palatable to each individual. Rather than the neuroscience theories which suggests that all consciousness is within our head and beyond our control, Panpsychism is a liberating theory of consciousness. It provides us the hope that we can be individuals with the potential for greatness, while at the same time offering us the humility that we are already part of something greater than ourselves.
In Others’ Words...

Everyone has a moment in history which belongs particularly to him. It is the moment when his emotions achieve their most powerful sway over him, and afterward when you say to this person “the world today” or “life” or “reality” he will assume that you mean this moment, even if it is fifty years past. The world, through his unleashed emotions, imprinted itself upon him, and he carries the stamp of that passing moment forever.

—John Knowles, A Separate Peace