



Friends of Acton Public Library

The Friends of the Acton Public Library are thrilled by the generous support of everyone that helped to make our Holiday Book and Bake Sale in November one of our best yet! Raising almost \$3,300 at this sale, the Friends are now able to easily meet the library's recent request for additional programming funds in the coming year. Every contribution to the Friends is needed and quickly returned to the community through the wide variety of programs and resources offered by our library. Whether you are a volunteer for the Friends, an individual or business donor, a library patron or a staff member, the Friends can't thank you enough for giving back to the Friends and to the community so that the library continues to be a 'beacon of light' shining bright for everyone throughout the year.

If you would like more information about the Friends and would consider volunteering some time, please feel free to contact either of the co-presidents, Nancy Prescott, at nancyaprescott@gmail.com and Emily Miller at beacon137@aol.com.



The Beacon

January - February 2025

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LIBRARY HOURS

- Monday - Thursday
10 - 8
- Friday - Saturday
10 - 5
- Sundays
1-5

CLOSINGS

- New Year's Day
Wed. Jan. 1
- MLK Day
Mon. Jan. 20
- Presidents' Day
Mon. Feb. 17

Register for library events on our website
www.actonlibrary.org
or call 860-395-3184

New Year, New to You Services?

by Amanda Brouwer



Every New Year many of us try new things or try to create new habits or learn new ideas. The good thing is, the library can help with a few items on your new year, new you to do lists!

Have you thought that maybe it was time to change careers? Did you know you can have your resume reviewed and edited by professionals through JobNow by using your library card? Or, do you think it might be time to go back and get a new degree? We have testing books in our Lifelong Learning section. Have you thought it is finally time to learn a new language? We have Transparent Language for that, which comes with an app so you can take language lessons on your commute.

There are three other services that we want you to remember the library offers. We proctor exams by appointment, we offer homebound delivery services, and we also have 3 Notaries Public on staff. Each of these services has some limitations and rules, but we do our best to accommodate. Please read further about these services and when they are available on our website: actonlibrary.org. We hope you enjoy a healthy and Happy New Year!

Happy New Year

Art & Collections

In the Gallery

- January - Mary Volk - Paintings
- February - Tedd Levy - Historical Saybrook Photos

In the Display Case

- January - Acton Compassion-Knits
- February - Ed Duffy - Clay Statues



Celebrate the 14th Annual Take Your Child to the Library Day with us here at Acton Public Library on Saturday, February 1 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Free and open to all. No registration required.

This program was made possible by the Friends of Acton Library.

APL All Ages Events

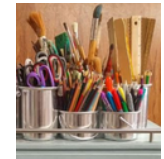
ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



FAMILY GAME NIGHTS

Wednesday, January 22 & February 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Join YA librarian, Brian Story, for a fun evening of games. Try one of ours or bring your own. Registration suggested.



FAMILY PAINT NIGHTS

Wednesday, January 29 & February 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Join YA librarian, Brian Story, for a fun evening of craft and conversation. Registration suggested.



POPCORN PALOOZA - FAMILY MOVIE

Friday, February 7 at 1:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to enjoy popcorn and watch Wild Robot on the big screen. Rated PG. Free and open to all. No registration required.

ACOUSTIC STORYTELLERS SERIES

Wednesdays, January 15 & February 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening with great local artists and storytellers.

We kick off this new storytelling series in January with the return of Ryan Mitten.

Followed by local songwriting duo, & Steve Knauth, in February.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



APL Adult Events

ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



TECH TIME WITH BRIAN

Mondays by appointment



TECH TIME WITH EMILY

Thursdays 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
by appointment



MEET-UP MONDAYS

Mondays at 1:30 p.m.



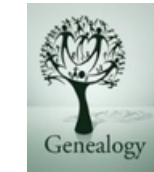
COMPASSION-KNITS

Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.



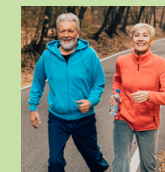
SHORELINE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

1st Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
January 7 & February 4



VIRTUAL- GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP

2nd Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
January 9 & February 13



INDOOR WALKING GROUP

Wednesdays, January 8 - March 26 at 11:00 a.m.
Join Cindy to walk on the indoor track at Park & Rec.



INTRO TO SEATED ZUMBA GOLD

Thursday, January 9 at 2:30 p.m.
Join us for an introduction to seated Zumba Gold.

CRAFT NIGHT

3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

January 21 & 23: Cricut Mug
2 small group sessions -
register for 1 only

February 18: Yarn Birds



SATURDAY CINEMA

Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.

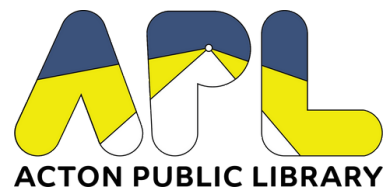


January 18
Twisters
2024, PG-13, 122 min.



February 15
Bob Marley: One Love
2024, PG-13, 107 min.

Registration is suggested as space is limited for all adult programs.



Adult Special Events



RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Ramblin' Dan Stevens performs a mix of traditional fingerstyle blues, Americana and originals. His unique style of "bottleneck" slide playing, popularized by early Mississippi Delta bluesmen, includes use of a homemade, three stringed "Cigar Box Guitar" and one stringed "Diddly Bow", both primitive blues instruments.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



JIGSAW PUZZLE COMPETITION

Saturday, January 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us for our 3rd Annual Puzzle Competition. You may join as a team (4 max.) or as an individual (to be added to a team with fewer than 4). Each team will receive the same 500-piece puzzle. The first team to finish the puzzle will receive a gift card to a local business.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



CAKE & CUPCAKE DECORATION DEMONSTRATION

Tuesday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Various piping skills and the application to cakes/cupcakes will be demonstrated. This is not a hands-on class. Participants will get to enjoy eating the cake after the demonstration. Presented by Barbara Gaudio, who has trained at The New York Academy of Cake.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



VENTURE SMITH

Tuesday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Son of an African king, Venture Smith became the first black man to document his capture from Africa and life as an American slave and later a successful black freeman in Connecticut. Why Venture Smith's Narrative is an Important Part of Colonial New England History will be presented by Susan R. Waide.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



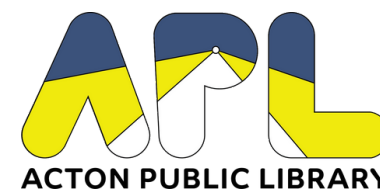
HEALTHY CHOCOLATE MAKING

Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m.

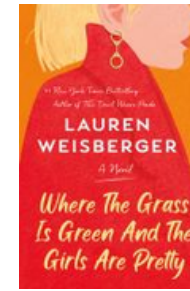
What could be better on a cold winter's day (or any day) than indulging in some rich satisfying chocolate? Learning to make your own chocolate truffles, bark & clusters could definitely top that! Presented by Maria Brandriff.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.

Registration is suggested as space is limited for all adult programs.



Adult Book Groups



WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

1st Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

January 8

Where the Grass is Green and the Girls are Pretty by Lauren Weisberger

February 5

The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar



FOODIE FICTION BOOK CLUB

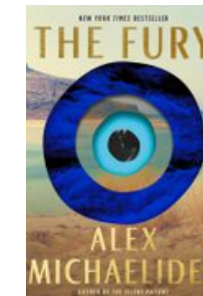
3rd Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.

January 16

Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame by Olivia Ford

February 20

Rosaline Palmer Takes the Cake by Alexis Hall



MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

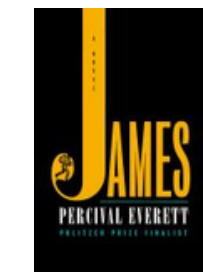
4th Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

January 22

If Something Happens to Me by Alex Finlay

February 26

The Fury by Alex Michaelides



SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m.

James

by Percival Everett

BOOKS ON TAP BOOK GROUP

2nd Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

This group will resume in April.

Registration is suggested as space is limited for most adult programs.



LEARN & PLAY PLAYGROUP
 Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
 January 6 - February 10
 (no class Jan. 20)
 No registration.



SING & STOMP
 Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
 January 10 - February 28
 (no class Feb. 21)
 No registration.



STORY TIME
 Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
 January 7 - February 11
 Registration is required.



GRAB & GO CRAFTS
 Fridays
 January 10 - February 14
 Available while supplies last.
 No registration.

BIRDS GET HUNGRY TOO!

Saturday, January 4 at 10:30 a.m.



Discover the joys of birdwatching and help our feathered friends survive the winter. Learn about winter bird feeding and create a suet feeder to attract birds to your yard. This hands-on program is perfect for children ages 4 - 8 and a caregiver. Space is limited and registration is required. Presented by Old Saybrook Garden Club.

GRUB CLUB

Wednesdays, January 22 - February 5 at 3:30 p.m.



Grub Club is an after-school cooking club. Learn basic cooking skills and fun new recipes to make for the family. All supplies are provided. Please disclose any allergies upon registering. Open to children ages 8 and up. Space is limited, and registration is required. Funded by the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board and presented by Kathy Cobb, MS, RDN, Public Health Nutritionist.

POKEMON DAY

Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m.



Join us for a Pokemon themed party to celebrate Pokemon Day! Enjoy crafts, games, snacks and more! This program was made possible by the Friends of Acton Library.



DROP-IN DAYS
 Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m.



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2.0 16+
 Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
 January 8
 February 5



DROP-IN GAME DAY
 Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.



HYBRID - DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
 Fridays at 3:00 p.m.



FORTNITE TOURNAMENT

Thursday, February 13 at 3:30 p.m.

Gather your friends! Defend the cup from Madison & Guilford. Free and open to all ages 12 - 18. Please register. Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.

