



# Friends of Acton Public Library

The Friends of Acton Public Library will be hosting a mini book and bake sale on the first floor of the library on Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15. In addition to our usual inventory of books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs, we will be selling delicious baked goods. And we will also have a table featuring handmade items including aprons for both adults and children and tote bags that can be used both for errands and for gifting. Remember to stop by for some great bargains and tasty treats!

For those who are not familiar with the Friends, our mission is to support the library by providing funds to enhance the programming budget beyond that allocated by the town. We also pay for the museum passes that may be borrowed by patrons (please see the list of available passes at the circulation desk or on [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org)) and the personal hygiene items made available in the restrooms at no charge. We raise the funds by means of our annual membership drive and our periodic book and bake sales. For the past few years, we have also received generous grants from the Essex Savings Bank Community Investment Program. We appreciate all the votes from Essex Savings account holders that have allowed us to receive a share of its community investment funds.

Currently, we are also using our funds to support the library's capital campaign for its Turn the Page renewal project. Full information about the renewal project is available at the library and on [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org). Because we are a tax exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, donations made to the Friends are tax deductible to the extent provided by law and may be directed specifically for use in the renewal project. Direct distributions from a donor's individual retirement account, or IRA, may also be treated as tax exempt qualified charitable distributions. Check with your tax advisor for further information on qualified charitable distributions.

Should you be interested in joining and volunteering with the Friends, please contact co-presidents Nancy Prescott at [nancyaprescott@gmail.com](mailto:nancyaprescott@gmail.com) or Emily Lebovitz-Miller at [emily.lebovitz@gmail.com](mailto:emily.lebovitz@gmail.com).



## Art & Collections

### In the Gallery

March - Kristine Schiavi - Paintings  
April - Michele Van Epps Memorial Quilt

### In the Display Case

March - Kristine Logindice - Pencil Sculpture  
April - Leigh Harrison - Collection



# The Beacon

March - April 2025

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## LIBRARY HOURS

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

## CLOSINGS

- Good Friday  
Fri. April 18
- Easter  
Sun. Apr. 20



Register for library events on our website  
[www.actonlibrary.org](http://www.actonlibrary.org)  
or call 860-395-3184

## Revered Library Director Honored

by Karen Giugno



During the month of April, a memorial quilt in honor of former director Michele Van Epps will be on display in the library gallery.

Michele was library director at the Acton Public Library from 2010 until 2017. Michele was instrumental in bringing the Acton Library into the LION consortium, expanding library programming, enhancing adult services, and running two book clubs for years, one a Mystery Book Club which was her special interest. Michele contracted lung disease in 2014, but it never defeated her spirit. She was known as a very caring person and was beloved by her friends, family, the library board and staff, and patrons alike.

From the quilter and close friend, Amanda Merrill:

"I was honored to be commissioned by Michele's alma mater and the Acton Public Library to make a memorial quilt. Michele's daughter Carol gave me a list Michele's passions: music, books, farmers' markets, Girl Scouts, sewing, church, coffee, travel, and Harry Potter.

In the quilt, I was able to honor each of her "favorite things." This has been a labor of love and I feel Michele has been "with me" throughout and is pleased with the result. Michele was amazing and inspirational in her determination to live life to the fullest for as long as she could."



The Acton Seed Library is getting ready for spring! Several of the companies we request donations from have come through with lots of interesting seeds. Many of the seeds we offer are organic. Seeds can be reserved starting Monday, March 10th. You will be able to choose up to five different seed packets. This will be on a first come – first serve basis. Please visit the Seed Library page on the website under Services for more information.

## 31st ANNUAL POETRY COMPETITION

Entries for Acton Public Library's 31th Annual Poetry Competition will be accepted from April 1 - 30, 2025. Entry forms will be available in the library and on the library's website beginning March 1. Winners will be recognized during the library's annual Poetry Presentation.

Awards will be provided by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



## ACOUSTIC STORYTELLERS

Wednesday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m. - The Bards of Gungywamp

Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. - Sweet Polly Duo

Registration suggested.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library



## IRISH DANCE PERFORMANCE

Saturday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m.

The talented dancers of Gray Irish Dance School will perform a variety of traditional Irish dances. You'll be amazed by their skill, grace, and energy!

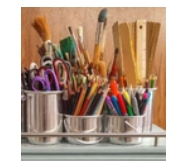
Registration suggested. Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library



## FAMILY GAME NIGHTS

Wednesday, March 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, March 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, April 4 at 1:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to enjoy popcorn and watch Moana 2 on the big screen. Rated PG. No registration required.



## Drawn Cricut Mug

Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Create a mug, by drawing your own design, using infusible ink markers. Materials provided. Registration suggested.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library



## TECH TIME WITH BRIAN

Mondays by appointment



## MEET-UP MONDAYS

Mondays at 1:30 p.m.



## COMPASSION-KNITS

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.



## SHORELINE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

1st Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
March 4 & April 1



## VIRTUAL- GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP

2nd Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.  
March 13 & April 10



## INDOOR WALKING GROUP

Wednesdays, through March 26 at 11:15 a.m.

Join Cindy to walk on the indoor track at Park & Rec

## OUTDOOR WALKING GROUP

Wednesdays starting April 23 - May 21 at 10:30 a.m.

## CRAFT NIGHT

3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.



March 18  
Watercolors



April 15 & 17  
Cricut Tote

## SATURDAY CINEMA

Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.



March 29  
Wicked  
2024, PG, 160 min.



April 12  
Challengers  
2024, R, 131 min.

## COOKBOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 22  
at 6:00 p.m.

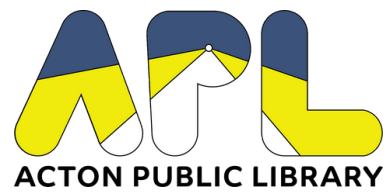


The Weekday Vegetarians  
by Jenny Rosenstrach

Make a recipe in the book  
& bring to share with  
the group.

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





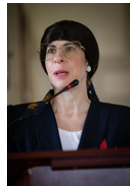
# Adult Special Events



## KERRY BOYS: IRISH MUSIC

Saturday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m.

The Kerry Boys are Mark James and Pierce Campbell. These two Connecticut Irish Balladeers combined their talents to form an exciting Irish music duo over 25 years ago. **Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.**



## RUTH BADER GINSBURG: I DISSENT

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

This show is the inspiring story of how Ruth Bader Ginsburg changed her life—and ours. This one-woman show will be presented by Sheryl Faye.

**Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.**



## INTRO TO SQUARE DANCING

Saturday, March 22 at 11:00 a.m.

Swing your partner! Join us for an intro to square dancing led by Steven Mazeau. No experience or partner required.



## SOURDOUGH DEMONSTRATION

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

Eileen Unger will talk about sourdough starter and demonstrate the bread baking process. Participants will sample different types of sourdough breads and get starter and a recipe to take home with them!

## COOPERATIVE LEGOS

Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Each participant will make a small, medium & large LEGO plant to take home.

**Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.**



## GREEN OLD SAYBROOK

Thursday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Old Saybrook has developed the Green Old Saybrook Community Tree and Shrub Planting Guide. Kathy Connolly, MALD, Landscape Designer, who generously helped develop the guide, will talk about why the guide was developed and how to use it, with Q&A.



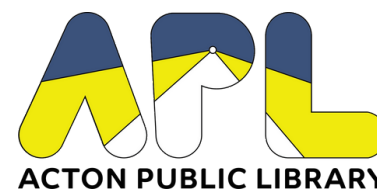
## PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS: BEES & BUTTERFLIES

Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Protecting our pollinators begins with us. Learn about the plight of the Monarch butterfly, the honey bee, and the endangered native bumble bees. Learn how we can do our part to save these fascinating pollinators. Presented by Catherine Wolko



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



# Adult Book Groups

## WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

1st Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
March 5

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer

by Irene Gut Opdyke

April 2

The Covenant of Water

by Abraham Verghese



## BOOKS ON TAP

### BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, April 9

at 6:00 p.m.

The White Lady

by Jacqueline Winspear



## HYBRID SOCIAL

### JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, March 24

at 6:30 p.m.

Disability Visibility

edited by Alice Wong



## FOODIE FICTION BOOK CLUB

3rd Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.

March 20

Caramel Pecan Roll Murder

by Joanne Fluke

April 17

Lessons in Chemistry

by Bonnie Garmus



## MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

4th Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

March 26

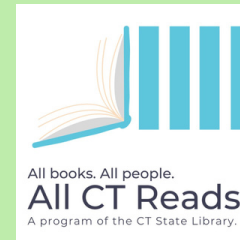
No Strangers Here

by Carlene O'Connor

April 23

The Lying Game

by Ruth Ware



## ALL CT READS BOOKCLUB

Tuesday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m.

All CT Reads, a program of the CT State Library, is a year-long initiative to promote lifelong reading, learning, and connection. One main book title and three shortlist book titles are selected each year.



This April we will discuss Evil Eye by Etaf Rum. The acclaimed New York Times bestselling author of A Woman Is No Man returns with a striking exploration of the expectations of Palestinian-American women, the meaning of a fulfilling life, and the ways our unresolved pasts affect our presents.

**Registration is suggested as space is limited for most adult book clubs.**



**LEARN & PLAY PLAYGROUP**  
**Mondays at 10:30 a.m.**  
**March 3 - April 28**  
**(no class Mar. 10 & Apr. 14)**  
**No registration.**



**GRAB & GO CRAFTS**  
**Fridays**  
**March 14 - April 25**  
**(no craft Mar. 7 & Apr. 18)**  
**Available while supplies last.**  
**No registration.**



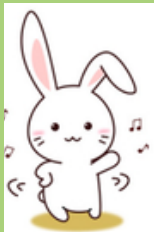
**MAKE A LEPRECHAN TRAP**  
**Saturday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m.**  
 Bring your creativity and build your very own leprechaun trap using our recycled materials!  
 Free and open to all. Space is limited and registration is required.



**GRUB CLUB**  
**Wednesdays, March 26 - April 9 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.**



**TIE DYE DRAWSTRING BAGS**  
**Saturday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m.**  
 Far out! Color your own groovy tie-dyed drawstring bag. All you have to do is bring your creativity. Supplies will be provided. This might get messy, so please wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Free and open to children ages 5 and up. Space is limited and registration is required.



**BUNNY HOP WITH ASTRA DANCE**  
**Saturday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m.**  
 Get ready to hop into spring with Astra Dance Studio! Join us for a fun and energetic dance class that will have you hopping, bopping, and twisting your way to fun. This event is perfect for kids ages 3 and up. Registration required.



**EARTH DAY WITH OS GARDEN CLUB**  
**Saturday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
 The Old Saybrook Garden Club is hosting an Earth Day Celebration. Families with elementary school age children are welcome to join us. Activities will include : nature scavenger hunt, making a birdhouse, storytime & games.  
**No registration required.**



## Young Adult Events



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



**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2.0 16+**  
**Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**  
**March 5 & April 9**



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



**HYBRID - DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB**  
**Fridays at 3:00 p.m.**  
**March 14 & 28, April 25**



**RUBBER DUCK COSPLAY**  
**starting Saturday, February 22**  
 Rubber ducks have fandoms too! Decorate your baby duck any way you choose. Using paint, cloth, clay, whatever you have - transform the duck with fun costumes and return it by 3/22/25 for judging.  
 Free and open to all ages 10-18. Registration required. Supplies are limited.



**SPRING INTO POETRY**  
**Saturday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m.**  
 Every spring the Earth invites us to bloom into our possibilities. Renew your growth as a poet/writer with Old Saybrook's new poet laureate Sandy Yannone as she guides you through a series of writing prompts to seed new poems that you then can submit to the 31st Annual Poetry Contest. All are welcome regardless of writing experience. Bring your notebook or laptop or use our supplies. Light snacks provided.