



Friends of Acton Public Library

The Friends of Acton Public Library is an auxiliary organization made up of individuals dedicated to supporting the library through advocacy and fundraising. Today, libraries provide more to their communities than books and media. Libraries have become gathering places and contribute to a sense of community, especially for those who might otherwise be alone. They host book clubs for adults, offer activities and present educational and entertaining programs for people of all ages, including seniors, adults, teens and children. The librarians teach technology skills to those who are completely inexperienced and offer refresher assistance to anyone who needs it. They have helped people to apply for jobs, to apply for benefits, such as Social Security, and, on occasion, to locate a place to stay. The knitting group at Acton makes, among other things, hats and mittens for those who might need them in the winter. There are personal care items and diapers available in the restrooms for those whose budgets might stretch to buy them. And Acton is a designated heating and cooling center in extreme weather and will soon be receiving a generator in support of that mission.

It takes money to run a library. And while Acton is a municipal library included in the town of Old Saybrook budget, the Friends provide supplementary funding to expand the programs that can be presented. The Friends also underwrite the personal care items in the restrooms, and we pay for the Museum Pass Program that makes available free or discounted passes to a broad number of local attractions. A full list can be found on the library website – actonlibrary.org.

Currently, the Friends annual Membership Drive is under way. The Membership Drive and our periodic book and bake sales are the major ways in which we raise money. We have volunteer opportunities for those who might be interested in becoming involved. Late in May, at a date to be announced soon, we will host our annual meeting, and all members of the Friends and of the community at large are welcome to attend. If you love Acton library please consider becoming a member of the Friends. Donations to the Friends are tax deductible to the extent provided by law under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. For information on your exact situation, please consult with your tax advisor.

For more information on joining the Friends, contact co-presidents Nancy Prescott at nancyaprescott@gmail.com or Emily Lebovitz Miller at emily.lebovitz@gmail.com.



Art & Collections

In the Gallery & Display Case
May - Sudeshna Sirkar- Paintings

In the Gallery
June- Tedd Levy - School History
In the Display Case
June - Robert Braunfield- Birds



The Beacon

May-June 2025

CONTENTS

- All Ages.....2
- Summer Preview.....3
- Children's.....4
- Young Adult.....4
- Adult Book Groups.....5
- Adult Events.....6 & 7

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday
10 - 8

Friday - Saturday
10 - 5

Sundays
1-5 (thru May 4)

CLOSINGS

Memorial Day
Mon. May 26

Juneteenth
Thurs. June 19



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

Library Receives \$3,000 Grant

by Karen Giugno

The Library has received a \$3,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County to assist with ongoing current and future library fundraising efforts. The generous donation will support our fundraising software and partially fund our Development Officer, Victoria Miller, who is currently using the software, communicating with donors, identifying prospective new donors, and coordinating marketing and strategy. The CFMC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of Middlesex County now and in the future by developing endowments, making grants that have impact, and assisting donors in meeting their philanthropic objectives. To learn more about our fundraising campaign, see our website at: Actonlibrary.org.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of Middlesex County

Philanthropy • Leadership • Legacy



Summer Reading Game Boards, for all ages, will be available in the library and online starting June 1. Register for Summer Reading and you will be entered into the drawing for our raffle!

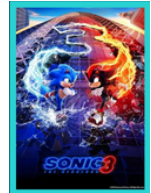
Summer Reading Kick-off will be Friday, June 20th!



DESIGN A BOOKMARK CONTEST

Entries accepted May 1 - 31.

Artists of all ages are invited to design an original bookmark for this year's summer reading program Level Up at Your Library. Download the template from our website or pick one up in the library. Design the bookmark and return it to the library for a chance to have your design chosen as the bookmark of the summer. Winners will be announced at our Summer Reading Kickoff Party.



POPCORN PALOOZA: FAMILY MOVIE

Friday, May 2 at 1:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to enjoy popcorn and watch Sonic 3 on the big screen. No registration.

ACOUSTIC STORY TELLERS

Wednesday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m.

This month, Crows in the Meadow will offer a blend of folk and bluegrass with country harmonies and just a little rock n' roll. Registration suggested. **Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library**

FAMILY PAINT NIGHT

Wednesday, May 28 & June 25 at 6:00 p.m.

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

31st ANNUAL POETRY PRESENTATION

Thursday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Winners of the 31st Poetry Competition will present their winning poems. Registration suggested. **Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library**

WORLD WIDE KNIT IN PUBLIC DAY

Saturday, June 14 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Please join us on the library patio for a drop-in knitting and crocheting event while enjoying some light refreshments. Share your passion for knitting in the company of others who knit and crochet! Bring along your own project or use our supplies to start a new project. No registration.

MAKE MUSIC DAY

Saturday, June 21 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join us for our 5th Annual Make Music Day celebration on the patio. No registration.



TECH TIME WITH BRIAN

Mondays by appointment



MEET-UP MONDAYS

Mondays at 1:30 p.m.



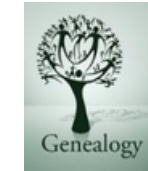
COMPASSION-KNITS

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.



SHORELINE CIVIL WAR

ROUNDTABLE
1st Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.
May 6 & June 3



VIRTUAL- GENEALOGY

INTEREST GROUP
2nd Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
May 8 & June 12



OUTDOOR WALKING GROUP

Wednesdays through- May 21 at 10:30 a.m.
Join Cindy for a 45-minute walk around the neighborhood.



INTRO TO SQUARE DANCING

Saturday, May 3 & June 14 at 11:00 a.m.
No experience needed.

CRAFT NIGHT

3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.



May 20

Felted Summer Scene
Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library



June 17

Paint Night

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library

SATURDAY CINEMA

Saturday, May 17
at 2:00 p.m.



Join us for a movie on
our 9-foot screen.

Here
2024, PG-13, 104 min.

COOKBOOK CLUB

4th Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

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

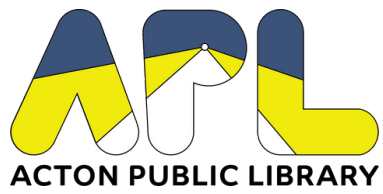


May 27
Big Heart
Little Stove
by Erin French



June 24
Cooking in
Real Life
by Lidey
Heuck

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



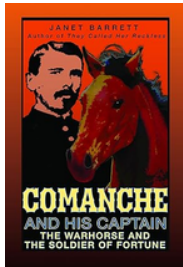
Adult Special Events



WEDNESDAY WRITE-IN

Wednesday, May 7 & June 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Writing in community creates community. Gather together with Old Saybrook's new poet laureate Sandra Yannone to write together and share your new creations monthly. All welcome regardless of writing experience.



COMANCHE AND HIS CAPTAIN - THE WARHORSE AND THE SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

Thursday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Against the fury of the Civil War and the challenges of securing the frontier, the intertwined stories of the tough Mustang, Comanche, and the courageous soldier of fortune, Captain Myles Keogh, move toward a climax that spells the end for one and a beginning for the other. Presented by the author, Janet Barrett. Books will be available for purchase.



DOWNTON ABBEY TEA & CHOCOLATE

Saturday, May 10 at 2:00 p.m.

A Pleasant Pairing: Tea & Fine Chocolates: Downton Abbey Theme. Enjoy English teas, chocolate and lemon curd samplings with fun Downton Abbey trivia and display! Presented by Kim Larkin

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



ALTERED BOOKS WITH FLOGRIS

Tuesday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Learn how to turn an unwanted book into a 3-D piece of keepsake art. An abundance of supplies are included in this fun and enriching program. Presented by the staff from the Florence Griswold Museum.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



10 WARNING SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S

Thursday, June 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Memory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or other dementia. Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. Learn how to recognize common signs of the disease in yourself and others and what next steps to take. Presented by Alzheimer's Association.

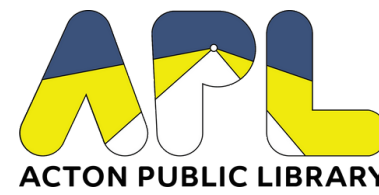


CREATIVE CRAFTING

Wednesday, June 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Use our leftover supplies to create your own craft project.

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



Summer Preview



SUMMER READING KICK-OFF

Friday, June 20 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library



MAKE MUSIC DAY

Saturday, June 21 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesdays & Wednesdays, July 8 - 30, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Free Lunches for Kids (Ages 2-18)

This program was made possible by the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board and meals were donated by local restaurants.



SUMMER READING CELEBRATION

Friday, August 22 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library

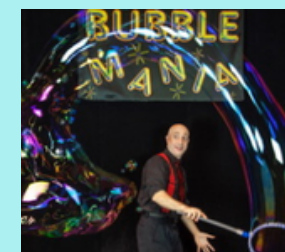
FAMILY NIGHTS

Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

Xen's Critters
Thursday,
July 10



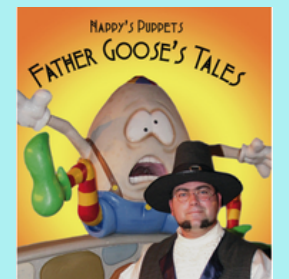
BubbleMania
Thursday,
July 17



Birds of Prey
Thursday,
July 24



Father Goose's
Tales
Thursday,
July 31



Matica Family Circus
Thursday,
August 7



Two of a Kind Sing-a-long
Thursday,
August 14



All Family Night programs are sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.

Registration is required for all Family Night programs.

APL Children's Events

ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



PLAYGROUP
Mondays May 5- 19 at 10:30 a.m.
No registration.



SING & STOMP
Fridays, May 9 & 23 at 10:30 a.m.
No registration.



STORYTIME
Tuesdays, May 6 & 13 at 10:30 a.m.
Registration suggested.



GRAB & GO CRAFTS
Fridays, May 2-30, June 13 & 27
Available while supplies last.
No registration.



CUPCAKE DECORATING
Saturday, May 3 at 2:00 p.m.
Come decorate cupcakes with us! We will have cupcakes, frosting and some candy for decorating. Feel free to bring additional items to share.
Registration required. **Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.**



CONTAINER GARDENING WITH OS GARDEN CLUB
Saturday, May 31 at 1:00 p.m.
Young Gardeners are invited to come discover the secrets of container gardening! Learn about soil, drainage and colorful flowers as you plant your very own patio pot. All materials provided by the Old Saybrook Garden Club. Open to children in grades K-3. Registration required.

APL Adult Book Groups

ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB
1st Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
May 7
Horse
by Geraldine Brooks
June 4
Lessons in Chemistry
by Bonnie Garmus



FOODIE FICTION BOOK CLUB
Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.
May 15
Miss Eliza's English Kitchen
by Annabel Abbs
June 12
Black Cake
by Charmaine Wilkerson



BOOKS ON TAP BOOK GROUP
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
May 7
Tom Lake
by Ann Patchett
June 11
Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt



MYSTERY BOOK CLUB
4th Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
May 28
Wrong Place, Wrong Time
by Gillian McAllister



June 25
Think Twice
by Harlan Coben



HYBRID SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION
Monday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Yellowface
by R. F. Kuang



APL Young Adult Events

ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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



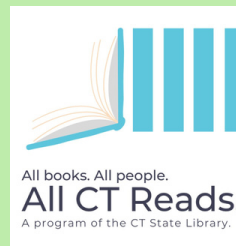
DROP-IN GAME DAY
Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2.0
16+
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
May 7 & June 18



HYBRID - DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
Fridays at 3:00 p.m.
May 9, 16 & 23
June 6 & 27



ALL CT READS BOOKCLUB
Tuesday, June 24 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.



Join reference librarian, Emily B., to discuss Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. Inspired by true events that rocked the nation, a profoundly moving novel about a Black nurse in post-segregation Alabama who blows the whistle on a terrible wrong done to her patients, from the New York Times bestselling author of Wench.

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