



Friends of Acton Public Library

The Friends of Acton Public Library work throughout the year to raise funds to supplement the allocation that the library receives from the town. Funds raised by the Friends are used for programs for patrons of all ages, for the Museum Passes that afford free or reduced-price access to a variety of local museums and attractions, for supplies for programs for children and teens, for restroom toiletries and for the poetry contest prizes, to name only some of what we underwrite. The funds are raised by way of donations, occasional grants – such as from the Essex Savings Bank Community Investment Program, memberships, and book and bake sales. On November 20 and 21, the Friday and Saturday before Thanksgiving, the Friends will hold what has become their traditional pre-holiday book and bake sale. The hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. There will be a variety of books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs for sale as well as home baked goods made by our members and supportive volunteers from the community. So take a break from your holiday preparations and come by to find some great books, puzzles and media. And while you’re browsing, don’t forget to look at the bake sale, either to give yourself a treat or possibly to fill out your holiday menu. If you’d like to volunteer at the book sale, please contact Joanne at jogalli731@gmail.com. If you’d like to bake or help with the bake sale, please contact Helen at htfazzina@yahoo.com. Friends membership envelopes are available at the front circulation desk at the library. For information, contact the co-presidents, Nancy at nancyaprescott@gmail.com or Emily at Emily.lebovitz@gmail.com.



SEASON OF BOOKS

December 1-31

Celebrate the richness and light of all the different seasonal celebrations with the gift of unwrapping a new bedtime story each night!

How it works:

- 1. CHECK OUT - Borrow a stack of wrapped books.
- 2. UNWRAP - Open a new bedtime story each night.
- 3. RETURN - Bring the books back to the library.

Wrapped books are borrowed from the library, and therefore will need to be returned at the end of the loan period. Participants must have an active library card.

Free and open to all. Limit of one per family.

This program is co-sponsored by Old Saybrook Early Childhood Council.



The Beacon

November - December 2026

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LIBRARY HOURS

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

CLOSINGS

Veteran’s Day
Wed. Nov. 11

Thanksgiving
Thurs. Nov. 26
& Fri. Nov. 27

Christmas
Thurs. Dec. 24
& Fri. Dec. 25

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

Book Clubs, Good for Your Health

by Amanda Brouwer, director

Did you know Book Clubs are good for you? From an article in Psychology Today, “Book clubs increase social connection, which combats loneliness. Not only does social connection protect us against physical ailments, like chronic illness and disease, but according to the federal Centers for Disease Control, it also can lengthen our lives; help us better manage stress, anxiety, and depression; and improve our sleep quality.” (Artushin 2025) With those benefits, it’s a great thing that Acton has a few different Book Clubs for you to try!

If you are a Mystery reader, that group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1pm. If you prefer a general book discussion, there is a group that meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. If you are interested in learning about social justice issues, that club meets every other month on a Monday night. The last, and most recent addition to our regular books clubs, is our Books on Tap, which is held at Myrcene Ale or at Cuckoo’s Nest.

The best way to check to see where, when, and what each club is reading, is at <https://actonlibrary.org/services/adult-book-groups/>. We have copies of each book at our Main Desk and you can usually get a copy up to a month before the meeting. Feel free to try any of the clubs to see which one feels right for you. As with most of our programs, it is best to register.





IMAGINARY TAILS WITH IZZY

Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (no Izzy 11/3, 12/15, 12/22 & 12/29)
Come read your favorite book with Izzy, our friendly certified reading dog!
Sign up at the Children's Desk for 10-minute reading spots.



PEACE CRANE FOLDING

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. (no folding 11/26, 12/24 & 12/31)

Join us each week to fold Origami Peace Cranes. The purpose is to bring people together and find inner peace while folding the cranes. Once we reach 1,000 cranes, the cranes will be donated to a charity of the group's choosing. Directions and materials provided. No experience needed.



ACOUSTIC ARTISTS STORYTELLER SERIES

Wednesday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m. - Ramblin' Dan Stevens

Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. - John Calcagni

Acoustic Artists Storyteller Series at Acton Library is back! Stories and songs paired with pics and visuals. Each artist will bring something special to the experience. Registration suggested.



TABLETOP GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, November 25 at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for tabletop games for all ages. A time to gather and gab, eat and play. Card games, RPG's, board or console games and more. Design your night or join others in their fun and competition. Light refreshments available. Registration suggested.



DESIGN YOUR OWN MUG

Tuesday, December 8 at 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

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



FAMILY PAINT NIGHT

Wednesday, December 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Join YA librarian, Brian Story, for a fun evening of craft and conversation. Families are especially welcome. All paint supplies will be provided along with light refreshments. Registration suggested.

Adult Events

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



TECH TIME WITH BRIAN

Mondays by appointment

TECH TIME WITH REBECCA

Thursdays by appointment



MEET-UP MONDAYS

Mondays at 1:00 p.m.



COMPASSION-KNITS

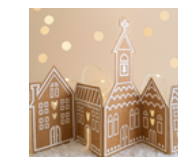
Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.



CRAFT NIGHT: Watercolor Leaves

Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Materials provided.



CRAFT NIGHT: Gingerbread Village

Tuesday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Materials provided.



COOKBOOK CLUB

4th Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

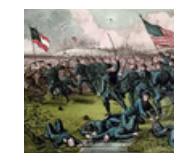
November 24

Friendsgiving



December 22

Cookie Exchange

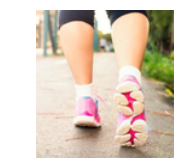


SHORELINE CIVIL WAR

ROUNDTABLE

1st Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.

November 3 & December 1



INDOOR WALKING GROUP

@ OS Park & Rec

Wednesdays

Nov. 18 - Mar. 31 at 11:15 a.m.





UNLOCK YOUR MEMORY

Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m.

A reflective writing session that guides you to explore and contextualize your personal memories. Delve into meaningful moments, uncover their significance, and bring your experiences to vivid life on the page. This program will be presented by Gabrielle Esposito.



BEYOND VIETNAM

Monday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Author Gerald Augustine toured Vietnam with the Veterans Breakfast Club in Dec. of 2023 for two weeks taking about 830 photos. In this hour-long slide-show presentation he will explain what Vietnam is like today and the history of our involvement. Books will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



BIRDING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m.

It's never been an easier time to be a birder, with new technologies that help you find birds and identify them in the field easily accessible on your phone and on the web. From eBird to Merlin, learn how to make the most of these technologies to plan your next birding trip or figure out what bird you saw out in the field! Presented by staff from The Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center. Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



TASTE OF KOREA

Saturday, December 5 at 12:00 p.m.

Members of Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project will present a Korean cooking demonstration & home-cooked meal. They will demonstrate two Korean dishes, and then serve a full meal to those attending. They will provide complimentary Korean recipe books. After the demonstration they will show a few short films about Korea. Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



ULTIMATE PUB TRIVIA

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

Each team will be asked 10 questions in 6 different categories. Play as a team (4 max) or individual. Light refreshments will be served.



WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

1st Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

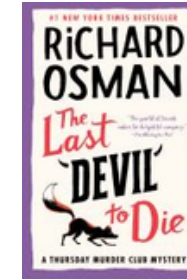
November 4

Becoming Madam Secretary by Stephanie Dray



December 2

The Cider House Rules by John Irving

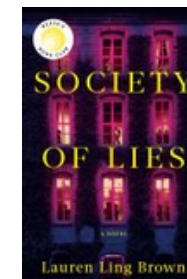


MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

3rd Wednesdays (Nov. & Dec. only) at 1:00 p.m.

November 18

The Last Devil to Die by Richard Osman



December 16

Society of Lies by Lauren Ling Brown

BOOKS ON TAP

2nd Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

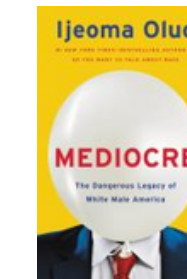
No meeting in November



December 9

@ The Cuckoo's Nest
The Ministry of Time by Kaliane Bradley

Registration suggested.



HYBRID: SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America by Ijeoma Oluo

Registration suggested.



APL POETRY WRITING GROUP

1st Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

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



Children's Events

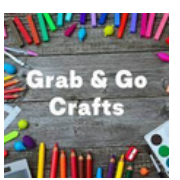


PLAYGROUP
Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
No registration.

STORY TIME
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Registration is suggested.



SING & STOMP
Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
(no class 11/27 & 12/25)
No registration.



GRAB & GO CRAFTS
Fridays
(no craft 11/27 & 12/25)
Available while supplies last.
No registration.



TINKER LAB
Mondays at 3:30 p.m. (no class 12/21 & 12/28)
Join us for Tinker Lab! We'll use problem-solving skills to imagine, explore, tinker, build, code, play, and design!
November: Time to explore coding! Dance Party from code.org and Scratch.
December: Code with robots! Let's get those Sphero robots rolling on the floor.
For Grades 2 - 6. Registration required.



POKEMON CLUB @ APL!
Saturday, November 21 & December 19 at 2:00 p.m.
Join our once-a-month Pokémon club where you can learn the card game with other enthusiasts, do a Pokémon activity, or make friends and talk all things Pokémon! Cards will be available for all to use during the program; no purchase necessary.
Free and open to ages 6-11. Registration required.



GROW N' GLOW TERRARIUMS
Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m.
The Old Saybrook Garden Club welcomes children ages 4 and up to make Grow N' Glow Terrariums! Children will layer soil, glow sand, stones, plant seeds, and decorate with glow-in-the-dark stickers. Come join the fun! Thanks to the generous support of the Old Saybrook Garden Club.
Free and open to children ages 4+. Registration required.



Children's Events



COZY COOKIE DECORATING
Saturday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m.
Join us for cozy cookie decorating! We'll supply the cookies and decorations; you bring the creativity! Create a tasty treat to enjoy on a chilly day with a good book. You may bring your own candy for decorating if you have a specific design in mind. **One cookie per person**
This program was made possible by the Friends of Acton Library.
Registration required.



NOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY
Thursday, December 31 at 11:00 a.m.
Join us to ring in the New Year in style with a very special Noon Year's Party! Enjoy crafts, snacks, and a bubble dance party. It all leads up to our famous balloon drop at noon! Best for ages 0 - 10 years of age.
Free and open to all. No registration required.



Young Adult Events



DROP-IN GAME DAY
Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.
(no games 11/5, 11/27, 12/24 & 12/31)



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
Fridays at 3:00 p.m.
November 6 & 20
December 4



YA TRI-TOWN GAMING TOURNEY - SMASH BROS.
Thursday, November 5 at 4:00 p.m.
One Up Games hosts Super Smash Bros at the Guilford Free Library! Join the squad and help Acton Library defend the cup. Ages 12-18.



YA LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PLANNING MEETING
Tuesday, November 17 & December 15 at 3:30 p.m.
Do you want to help at the library? Have a club you'd like to run? Help decide on games, displays, programs and collections? Join us!



STRESS OUT - PEACE IN
Tuesday, November 24 & December 22 at 3:00 p.m. & 3:30