

Speaking Volumes

www.winpublib.org



CREATING QUALITY ONLINE LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

The Library has long had an online presence—and technology devices available in the Library of Things and for events on-site—but the pandemic has forced the staff to up their tech game in the past year to bring quality programming to patrons at home. And they have more than delivered.

On a recent Tuesday morning, Karen Chmielewski hosted virtual Preschool Storytime. Instead of physically sitting in front of a room of eager preschoolers for a session of stories and songs, everyone gathered in squares on the screen. Karen used a large green screen to provide a colorful starry background for her interactive reading of Tom Fletcher's *There's a Dragon in Your Book* and a handful of children followed along with hand gestures and smiles—just like they would be doing in person.

Indeed, librarians—including Erin Dagenais and new Director of Children's Services, Brittany DeLorme—have collaborated with WinCAM to produce so much content this past year that this organization recognized the Library with their Outstanding Contributing Organization Award. At a time when usual programming covering town events was slim, WinCAM Executive Director David Gauthier explained that the librarians had stepped up with nearly a dozen storytime videos a month for use on WinCAM's local television channel as well as the Library's own outlets. Brittany and Erin had been trained in video production through WinCAM so they used these skills to record themselves and then sent the clips off to Suzette Ferdinand, the Operations Manager at WinCAM, for editing, graphics, and beautiful finishing work.

The Library has also developed similar collaborations with the Network for Social Justice, The Jenks, and Book Ends, developing programs not just for children, but also teens and adults. Not only are your librarians stepping up to the challenges of this past year, but they are also working to

strengthen community relationships and support local small business. Much of this tech boost has been made possible by the Friends who, with the help of generous donors, have purchased tripods, camera mounts, tablet mount, ring lights, microphone, and a green screen.

MAKING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS DURING A PANDEMIC

Community-building has always been a goal at the Library—where you can borrow a book, join a group, or participate in a discussion. You can still do these same things, but how do you make meaningful connections during a pandemic when in-person gatherings are impossible?

Erin Dagenais, a nearly decade-long town resident, recent library school graduate, and new Community Engagement Librarian seems to be just the person for this moment in time. "The pandemic," she knows, "has made it difficult for people to connect." This is especially true for newcomers to town and those with technology challenges—the latter fact makes the community at The Jenks particularly appreciative of Erin's recent initiatives.

At The Jenks, third Thursdays bring Coffee and Books where members of the community join Erin to discuss both classics and new releases. The group brings "all their personal history" to reading and discussing books such as *The Bean Trees*, by Barbara Kingsolver, and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. You can tell just by talking to her that Erin gets as much joy out of these encounters as the rest of the group does.

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THE MINUTEMAN LIBRARY NETWORK

A saving grace during the pandemic has been the Library's enormous effort to circulate books in a safe fashion—especially when books from the entire Minuteman Library Network again became available. The Minuteman Library Network (“MLN”) is a consortium of 41 Metrowest public and academic libraries

that share resources, including a single catalog that allows Minuteman cardholders to find, request, and borrow member libraries' materials, both digital and tangible. The system makes over 10 million loans and renewals annually and is funded through annual membership fees. In brief:

The MLN, with almost 6 million items to lend (1.5 million unique titles), provides three main services:

Catalog:	Tech for Patrons:	Benefits for Libraries:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search one library or all libraries in the network• Renew and request library materials• Create book lists• Opt in to track your reading history• Pay fines• Find articles and reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MLN Mobile App: Manage checkouts & renewals, request items, schedule curbside pickup, use contactless borrowing inside the building• Text Messages: Get notifications for pick ups & overdue items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides shared catalog for easier borrowing• Supplies internet and communication tools• Assists with cataloging and record management• Offers staff training• Collects statistics on collection usage

MAKING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS DURING A PANDEMIC

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Erin's focus on adult programming has also brought the Library virtual events like the Movies for Older Adults (first Wednesdays) and a Genealogy Basics working group (every Thursday)—yet another way to connect with people through the links in family histories. More plans for the rest of the year include an adult reading challenge and more collaborations with local businesses like the one she and Brittany DeLorme spearheaded this past holiday season with Book Ends.

“I’m trying to think of ways,” says Erin, “to bring people together who are challenged by technology or access so they can have a sense of their normal library routine.” Looks like this new addition to the Library staff has accomplished what she set out to do—and she’s still coming up with new ideas. She works mainly remote during the pandemic but can be found at the Reference desk on her “favorite day of the week” (because she gets to leave the house) in her other role as Information Services Librarian. Welcome to the Library, Erin, we are so glad to have you here.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Programs are free on Zoom unless another platform is mentioned. Registration is required unless otherwise noted; register via the Calendar at <https://www.winpublib.org/events/>.

Adult Programs

Learn Something New Series

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 6:30 PM

Making Crepes for Beginners. Learn to make delicious sweet and savory crepes from start to finish. We'll walk you through how to prepare a crepe batter and demonstrate how to cook, fill, and store them.

MONDAY, MAY 24, 6:30 PM

Working with Mosaic Tiles. Artist and instructor Leslie Doherty will present a mosaic workshop to teach participants how to create their own unique design on a small trivet. Supplies will be provided.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3 AND 10, 6:30 PM

Macrame Two-Class Series: Class 1-Knots/ Class 2-Plait. We'll demonstrate and practice the 7 "must know" macrame knots in the first session and how to make an easy beginner macrame plant hanger in the second. Supplies will be provided.

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 6:30 PM

Making Cast Iron Skillet Pizza for Beginners. Get a perfect crispy outside, chewy inside crust on your next pizza. We'll walk you through how to prepare the dough and your cast iron skillet.

MONDAY, JULY 12, 6:30 PM

Making Strawberry Shortcake for Beginners. What could be better than a summer strawberry shortcake? Learn to make the biscuits, homemade whipped cream, and juicy strawberry topping.

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 6:00 PM

Dial-a-Mystery. Can you ferret out the kidnapper or follow the clues to discover the blackmailer? Join us for an evening of mystery and detection! Participants will be sent instructions and assigned roles to play as details of a dastardly plot are revealed.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 6:30 PM

The 101 of CBD. Winchester's own Denise Costello RN, MS, aka "The Green Nurse" will join us to talk about how mindfulness-based practices, CBD, and diet can be used to relieve suffering due to stress, chronic illness, anxiety, and cancer while reducing reliance on pharmaceuticals.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 6:30 PM

Making Tomato Tarts for Beginners. Take advantage of those beautiful August tomatoes and learn to make a delicious tomato tart. We'll demonstrate how to prepare the crust and filling and show off the finished product.

FRIDAY AUGUST 20, 7:00 PM

Name That Tune! Test your musical smarts! Saxophonist and comedian Ben Pernick will challenge participants to identify song titles, artists, and lyrics from a repertoire of over 500 melodies, including Top 40 hits, TV themes and more.

Library Online Series

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1:00 PM

Facebook. If you've been curious about Facebook, this is a chance to see how to get started. We will go over the basics such as signing up, adding posts and photos, and seeing those of family and friends. No registration required.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1:00 PM

Overdrive/Libby. Learn how to find and read ebooks, digital audiobooks, and magazines with Overdrive and its app, Libby. Overdrive offers a great selection that you can enjoy on a computer or mobile device. No registration required.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1:00 PM

BPL eCards. Learn how you can access the Boston Public Library's extensive collection of online resources with your own BPL e-card. No registration required.

Conversation Groups & Book Groups

MEETS 3RD THURSDAYS AT 1:00 PM

Coffee & Books

May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19

MEETS 1ST MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM

Cookbook Club

May 3, June 7, no Jul/Aug meeting, September 13*

(*DENOTES DATE CHANGED DUE TO A HOLIDAY)

MEETS EVERY THURSDAY AT 2:00 PM.

Genealogy Discussion Group

MEETS 4TH THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM. (no registration required)

Hot Reads for Young Professionals

May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23

LIBRARY PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Conversation Groups & Book Groups, continued

MEETS 1ST MONDAYS AT 10:00 AM

In Transition: A Conversation Series for Navigating Disruptions in Our Lives

May 3, June 7, no Jul/Aug meetings (no registration required)

MEETS 1ST WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM

Movies for Older Adults

May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4

MEETS 2ND TUESDAYS AT 7:30 PM

2nd Tuesday Women's Reading Group

May 11, June 8, no Jul/Aug meetings, September 14 (no registration required)

MEETS EVERY TUESDAY AT 1:00 PM

Viva Español: Grupo de Conversación

MEETS 3RD MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM

WPL Book Discussion Group

May 17, June 21, no Jul/Aug meetings, September 20 (no registration required)

Teen Programs

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1 AND AUGUST 1

LitLoot. Teens, looking for something new to read but not sure where to start? Try our LitLoot surprise bags! To register simply fill out our form and we'll put together a bag with a book chosen to match your interests as well as a few other surprises.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 7:00 PM

TEEN CRAFT TIME: SUNCATCHERS. Take advantage of that summer sun and brighten up your space with this sparkly, sculptural suncatcher craft kit. Participants will receive everything needed to make a suncatcher: wire, beads, and a sparkly prism that will spread rainbows around your room.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 7:00 PM

Teen Snack Time: Mug Cake. Learn to make delicious mug cakes for a quick, easy snack for one. We'll provide all the ingredients; you just need a microwave.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 7:00 PM

Teen Craft Time: Make Your Own Dragon Eggs.

Learn how to turn a few everyday objects into a realistic-looking dragon egg! We'll provide all the materials and instruction you need to create a shiny, sparkly, magical egg.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 7:00 PM

Teen Craft Time: Upcycled Animal Art. Turn old magazines into upcycled animal silhouette art worthy of framing in this virtual craft program. We'll supply all the materials and you supply the creativity.

Children's Programs

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 10:30 AM AND THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 6:00 PM

In the Kitchen. Learn how to make some tasty sweet and savory bites with Ms. B and Denise. Everyone who signs up will get a little promotional gift, along with recipe cards for what we will be making so you will know what to have on hand to cook along with us. For families with children of all ages, adult participation required.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 8:00 PM

Kid Trivia for Adults!. Parents! Have you read the *Elephant and Piggie* books a hundred times? Could you sing the *Thomas the Tank Engine* theme song in your sleep? Well then, this trivia event is for you. We'll compile several rounds of trivia based on all the knowledge you've gleaned from your kiddos' favorite indoor pastimes.

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 12:00 PM

Summer Reading Kick-Off Car Caravan. Be on the lookout as an undersea caravan makes waves around town to kick off Summer Reading. Come meet us as we drive through town and give us a wave back! No registration required.

MEETS EVERY OTHER SATURDAY AT 10:30 AM

June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, August 21

Preschool STEAM. Join us for a series of storytimes where we'll spark your child's interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and math with stories, songs, and hands-on activities and experiments. For families with kids ages 3–6.

MEETS ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 3:30 PM

June 30, July 28, August 25

Chapter One. You're never too old for storytime; log on to hear how some of our newest books begin. Join Ms. B as she reads aloud some fun and fabulous chapter book beginnings. We'll leave a little time at the end for read-alikes and recommendations. For ages 6+.

JULY DATE TBD

Oh No! The Kidstock! Show. Kids and families of all ages join us for an extra special Kidstock! performance of Oh No! The Kidstock! Show. We'll laugh, create, and have fun together (virtually, of course).

LIBRARY PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Children's Programs, continued

THURSDAY JULY 8, 3:30 PM

Minecraft Building. Love Minecraft? Come build a dwelling (house, castle, etc.) out of sugar cubes and icing. Ages 7+.

TUESDAY JULY 13, 3:30 PM

Coded Jewelry. Learn about codes (including Morse Code and Binary Code) and make some jewelry. We'll be making bracelets and/or necklaces that incorporate a code of your choosing. Ages 7+.

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 4:00 PM

Aesop's Fables. Join Mary Jo Maichack for a virtual presentation of several of Aesop's Fables. We'll craft along with her so bring your imagination. For families with children ages 4+.

MEETS EVERY OTHER THURSDAY AT 4:30 PM.

July 15, July 29, August 12

STEAM Club. STEAM Club is your opportunity to try fun, hands-on science experiments! For kids ages 8 and up. (If the program is virtual, kids ages 6 and up can participate with parent assistance.)

THURSDAY JULY 22, 3:30 PM

Jack and the Beanstalk.

Come listen to a reading of *Jack and the Beanstalk* and plant your own beans. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, JULY 31 AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 11:00 AM

Music Pups. Music Pups is a playful, creative music & movement program guaranteed to spark a love and enjoyment of music in your child—and you. Your child will enjoy singing, dancing, and wiggling.

TUESDAY AUGUST 10, 3:30 PM

Story Cubes. We will create our own story cubes with characters, objects, and places of your choosing. You can then use these creative cubes as cues to tell many, many stories. Ages 5+.

TUESDAY AUGUST 17, 3:30 PM

Weaving Tales with Anansi. Listen to stories about Anansi, the trickster god who often appears in the form of a spider and learn how to weave yarn on a cardboard loom. Ages 7+.

THURSDAY AUGUST 26, 3:30 PM

Minecraft Creepers and Pixel Art. Love Minecraft? Come make some great Minecraft projects with Karen. We will create a woven paper Creeper face and design pixel art that you can transfer to your Minecraft world. Ages 7+.

SATURDAY AUGUST 28, 10:30 AM

Saturday Author Session with Scott Magoon. Kids and families of all ages join us virtually to visit with one of our favorite authors, Scott Magoon. We'll read, draw, learn and even have time to ask questions.

BON APPÉTIT—FOOD AND THE LIBRARY

The Library's collection of 2,051 cookbooks certainly reflects Anthelme Brillat-Savarin's famous quote "You are what you eat," but the Library caters to appetites beyond its cookbook collection. There's both an active cookbook club as well as frequently scheduled exciting programs for both children and adults in the realms of food and cooking.

Cookbook Club

Now into its fourth year, the Club meets on the first Monday of each month (virtually until Covid restrictions are eliminated). Books are selected a few months in advance and copies become available to participants just after the previous meeting.

The sampled cookbooks are diverse—they may reflect a seasonal theme, an ethnic cuisine, new cooking techniques,

or popular authors. Examples include *Vietnamese Food Any Day* (Andrea Nguyen), *Healthyish* (Lindsay Maitland Hunt), *The New Essentials Cookbook* (America's Test Kitchen), and *Plenty* (Yotam Ottolenghi).

Participants find intriguing recipes to prepare from the cookbook and note their recipe when registering on the Library's online calendar. When meeting at the Library, everybody brings the dish to taste; when meeting virtually, contributors describe their dishes and, in some cases, show photos. Those attending consider not only the food but how well the book was written, and also discuss new techniques, ingredients, food styles, and shopping sources they learned about.

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RECOMMENDED READING

A pride booklist for kids and families.

Picture Books

A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo by Jill Twiss

With its message of tolerance and advocacy, this charming children's book explores issues of same-sex marriage and democracy.

Julián is a Mermaid by Jessica Love

While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume.

Love is Love by Michael Genhart

A boy becomes upset when he is teased for having two dads but, viewing his friend's family (with a mom and a dad) as not all that different from his own, he realizes the best way to counter the ridicule is to be proud of who his fathers are and know that it is love that makes a family.

Pink is for Boys by Robb Pearlman

A celebration of how colors are for everyone depicts characters engaging in their favorite activities.

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress by Christine Baldacchino

A young boy faces adversity from classmates when he wears an orange dress at school.

Worm Loves Worm by J.J. Austrian

Two worms in love decide to get married, and with help from Cricket, Beetle, Spider, and The Bees they have everything they need and more, but which one will be the bride and which will be the groom?

Sparkle Boy by Leslea Newman

Three-year-old Casey wants what his older sister, Jessie, has—a shimmery skirt, glittery painted nails, and a sparkly bracelet—but Jessie does not approve. After two boys tease Casey about his appearance, Jessie evolves to a place of acceptance and celebration of her gender-creative younger brother.

Chapter Books

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang

Prince Sebastian hides from his parents his secret life of dressing up as the hottest fashion icon in Paris—the fabulous Lady Crystallia—while his friend Frances the dressmaker strives to keep her friend's secret.

George by Alex Gino

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl.

From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea by Kai Cheng Thom

A magical gender-variant child brings transformation and change to the world around them thanks to their mother's enduring love.

BON APPÉTIT—FOOD AND THE LIBRARY

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Special Programming

Food-related programs are also available virtually on a one-time basis, with participants invited to cook along in their own kitchens. Those who register often get a little promotional gift to pick up outside the Library, along with recipe cards so they'll know what to have on hand. There are programs designed for both adults and families—last winter, 40 people watched Theresa Maturevich make pretzels; before the class they could pick up special pretzel salt at the Library. And Ms. B and Denise have hosted the popular “In the Kitchen with B&D” several times, making savory and sweet treats with kids of all ages (parent participation is required).

Registration is required for both the cookbook club and the programs, so check the Library calendar regularly to see if an upcoming program (including tomato tarts, crepes, and strawberry shortcake) might just tickle your taste buds!



THE WINCHESTER BOWL PACKED ONE HECK OF A PUNCH



Colonel William Parson Winchester, who so graciously lent his name to the town, was a Boston merchant who actually never visited Winchester. But he is well represented by the Winchester Bowl—a hand-formed, punch bowl of silver with a gold-washed liner that can be seen in the Information Services room.

Our punch bowl was given to the Colonel by his yachting friends in appreciation of his hospitality; Colonel Winchester's son donated it to Winchester. A New York yachtsman who was entertained on board

Colonel Winchester's yacht, the *Northern Light*, in 1849 described the delights of a special punch served on the boat:

"But let me whisper to all confident young gentlemen who consider their brains bomb-proof, that on the score of discretion at least they should treat this punch like a pet tiger, only to be trifled with at favorable times, and with adequate caution..."

Obviously our story would not be complete without a recipe for that legendary punch:

- 6 lemons, cut in thin slices
- 1 quart Cognac, brandy, or, historically, arrack
- 1 pound loaf (lump) sugar
- 1 quart boiling water
- Orange and lemon slices

Steep lemon slices in Cognac for 8 hours or overnight. Strain the Cognac. Dissolve the lump sugar in boiling water, cool, and add to the brandy. Chill. Put a block of ice in a punch bowl and pour the liquor over it. Decorate with orange and lemon slices. Serve in 4-ounce punch glasses.

While this punch may never be served again in the Winchester Bowl, should any of you care to try it, we'd love to hear your review!

We would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Friends Board member, Lindsay McSweeney, who is stepping down after 6 years of producing this newsletter. Her enthusiasm and attention to detail is exceptional and her presence will be sorely missed. We wish Lindsay all the best in her new ventures.

*Thank you,
Lindsay!*

WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ann Wirtanen, *Director*

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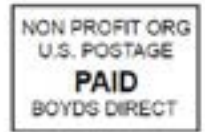
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LIBRARY HOURS

As of March 2021, the Library is open for browsing Mondays through Thursdays. Study rooms may also be reserved. Contactless book pickup appointments are available Monday through Saturday from 9:30 AM—4:30 PM. Virtual programs are as scheduled. Please check the Library website for updated information.

Speaking Volumes is published by the Friends of the Winchester Public Library, a volunteer organization that supports your Library's continuing excellence. We raise funds for publications, equipment, and services which are not included in the Town's budget but enhance the Library's mission of improving the quality of life for Winchester residents.

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Lindsay McSweeney and Emily Schwab

Library Liaison:

Theresa Maturevich, Assistant Director

IN BRIEF

When COVID allows, we will be giving Stephanie Wolflink a proper farewell and best wishes on her retirement from her position as Head of Children's Services. Stephanie's long service to the Library is much appreciated and she will be truly missed. And congratulations to Brittany DeLorme (Ms. B) who will be succeeding Stephanie. Kudos on your new assignment!

Our many, many thanks to those businesses that contributed to the Friends' Spring Raffle: Book & Board, Mitho Restaurant, A Tavola, Fuller Cup, Eleni's Mediterranean Grille, Runway Couture Boutique, Salone Estetica, Anton's Cleaners, Lucia's Restaurant, and Sole Amour. We couldn't have done it without you.

Library Update

- The Library has now added Saturday appointments for curbside pickups.
- Library fines for overdue books are now waived through June, 2021.

