

WELCOME, NICOLE LANGLEY!



The Friends are delighted to welcome Nicole Langley, new director of our Library, who started work in July. Nicole comes to us from Stoneham, where she was the library director for six years. Nicole has worked in public, private, and federal institutions from Boston to Florida and believes deeply in the cultural importance of libraries for communities, from local to national. She is looking forward to working with residents, local businesses, the town government, and visitors—anyone who can benefit from the holdings and services the Library offers. If you see her around the building, stop and introduce yourself—she wants to meet everyone!

SPOTLIGHT ON: WINCHESTER LIBRARY CLASSICS BOOK CLUB

INTERVIEW WITH DORIS TABER

by Debbie Catalano

Whether you're an avid reader or just casually exploring your literary options, joining a book club/book group offers a fun, creative, and new way of choosing your next book—with the added social aspect of sharing thoughts and speculations on what you're all reading. But that's not all—among the multitude of benefits of participating in a book club (along with meeting people and discovering new books), a book club helps with accountability, offers different perspectives, and in the case of the Winchester Public Library book groups, connects you with the Library community. There are currently six book clubs (see page 3) either sponsored or hosted by our Library with a little something for everyone; however, in this edition we are shining a light on the Classics Book Club.

The Classics Book Club was formed in 2010 by then-Library Director Ann Wirtanen and Doris Taber. Doris took some time recently to tell us a bit more about it. First, what defines a “classic book”? As Doris shared, a classic is not based on how old a book is. They are more held to the standard of being among the 100 best, highly recommended books, much more than the date. In fact, the books that have been chosen since 2010, when the club originated, are from selected lists and date from the nineteenth century to the late twenty-first century, from 1866's *Crime and Punishment* to the most recent selection, 1997's *The Untouchable*, with a rich variety in between—*Jude the Obscure*, *French Lieutenant's Woman*, *The Moviegoer*, *Riddle of the Sands*, *Lucky Jim*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Appointment in Samarra*, just to name a few. The book ideas are culled from a few sources, including the Modern Library Classics list, Wikipedia's list of classic books, NPR's “100 Years, 100 Novels, One List,” and other “100 best” major book lists. The club, which meets once every six months (giving everyone ample time to read each novel at their own pace), thoughtfully decides on the next book selection from a narrowed-down list of six.

No matter if you've read one of these classics before or if it's your first time, the pure joy of digging into a classic book is one of the many reasons this book club has sustained—even through the pandemic, when they met remotely. Doris, a former English and French teacher, continues to enjoy leading and participating in the club, which she now does with the Library's Michelle Beau. When asked what her favorite part about the Classics Book Club is, Doris quickly replied how wonderful the members are and how much she enjoys hearing everyone's interpretations of the books, in addition to how much she loves “becoming acquainted with authors I don't know and reading books I haven't yet read.” With about six to eight regular members, the club would welcome new members of all ages. They meet the third Tuesday of each October and April from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the Small Meeting Room of the Library.

Continued on page 3

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Check for timely updates on our online calendar to see if the program will be in-person or online.

<https://www.winpublib.org/events/>

ADULT PROGRAM

Registration required unless otherwise noted.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2:00 PM

Ad Blockers

The web is full of advertisements—some are malicious and most are annoying. Join Craig Smith from the Winchester Public Library to learn about ways to cut digital advertisements out of your online life.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2:00 PM

Email Safety & Phishing

Email is great at keeping you connected, but it also exposes you to scams and malicious software. In this program Craig Smith from the Winchester Public Library will tell you about the most common pitfalls lurking in your inbox and how you can keep your email safe.



TEEN PROGRAMS

For Grades 6–12. Registration required unless otherwise noted.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 4:00 PM

Kit Kat Taste Test

We'll provide participants with a variety of Kit Kat flavors from around the world and we'll see if we can figure out what it is we're tasting!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:00 PM

Blacklight Bingo

Embrace the winter darkness and come play some rousing rounds of Blacklight Bingo and possibly win some bookish prizes. Dress in fluorescent neon colors to enhance the effect!



THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 12, & 19, 4:00 PM

Learning Together: Colored Pencil Art

Learn the ins and outs of colored pencil artwork in this three-class series.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

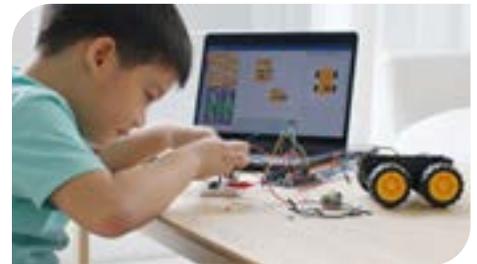
Registration required and one hour long unless otherwise noted.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 10:30 AM

Preschool STEAM

Preschoolers can try hands-on activities that will spark an early interest in STEAM topics. Ages 3–5.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 11:00–11:45 AM

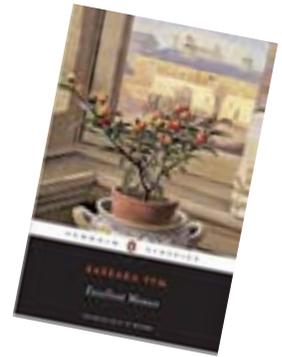
Rockabye Beats

Rock the ABCs and 123s with Rockabye Beats. Ages 6 and under. No registration is required.

WINCHESTER LIBRARY CLASSICS BOOK CLUB

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As a side note, this writer became so enthralled hearing about it that I will be added to the list as a new Classics Book Club member! If you'd like to become a member or take part in the next classic book chosen, please contact Nicole Langley at the Library at 781-721-7177 to have your email address added to the reminder list for upcoming Classic Book Club meetings and to find out the title of each book chosen for discussion. Then stop by the next meeting in April 2023, when the book will be *Excellent Women* by Barbara Pym.



BOOK CLUBS AT THE WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

(*denotes date change due to holiday)

MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF APRIL: 1:00–2:30 PM *Classics Book Club*

The next book for discussion in April is *Excellent Women* by Barbara Pym. Copies of each chosen book will be available at the Library at least one month before the meeting.

Contact: Nicole Langley at 781-721-7177 to add your email address to the reminder list for upcoming meeting.

FOURTH THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM: JANUARY 26 *Hot Reads for Young Professionals*

Calling all young professionals, recent college grads and stay at home parents for a group dedicated to reading and discussing buzz worthy and scintillating books!

Contact: Brittany at BDeLorme@minlib

FIRST MONDAYS AT 10:00 AM: NOVEMBER 7, DECEMBER 5, JANUARY 9*

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

Join us for our monthly drop-in conversations about how to successfully navigate disruptions in our lives. Research and proven techniques from the field of transition serve as our guide and inspiration! Hosted by author and creator of the podcast, *Destination Unknown*, Linda Rossetti.



SECOND TUESDAYS AT 7:30 PM: NOVEMBER 8, DECEMBER 13, JANUARY 10 *Second Tuesday Women's Reading Group*

Copies of the book are generally available one month prior to the meeting and are located near the Reference

Desk. Group members can call the Reference Department at 781-721-7171 x320 to have a copy reserved for themselves. Librarians will gladly assist you in locating a large print, downloadable, or audio copy.
Contact: Sarah Levinson at slevinson15@gmail.com

THIRD MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM: NOVEMBER 21, JANUARY 17*

WPL Book Discussion Group

Copies of the book are generally available one month prior to the meeting and are located behind the Circulation Desk. Librarians will gladly assist you in locating a large print, downloadable, or audio copy.
Contact: Colleen at ccoop01@gmail.com

SECOND TUESDAYS, 5:00–5:45 PM: NOVEMBER 8, DECEMBER 13, JANUARY 10

Kids Graphic Novel Book Club

For grades 3–5; Storytime Room

If you enjoy reading graphic novels, and you are in grades 3–5, this is the perfect book club for you! We will meet and discuss a different graphic novel once a month. Registration required. Copies will be available in the Children's Room or you can request a copy.

Contact: winchild@minlib.net



POPULAR BOOKS

With holidays coming at the end of the year—and just because books are never a bad idea—the Library has supplied these lists of the most popular books borrowed this fall.

FICTION

It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit, by Justin A. Reynolds



© Illustration by the author

When the electricity goes out, twelve-year-old Eddie and his friends set out to investigate what is going on. They make the startling discovery that they are the only ones left in their neighborhood—and perhaps the only people left anywhere. Editor's choice for favorite book of 2021.

Celestial Mechanism Cycle #1: The Nightsilver Promise, by Annaliese Avery

In the empire of Albion, the Great Dragons of old are long gone. Now governed by the science of Celestial Physicists, everyone's life is foretold by the track of stars on their wrist. When Paisley Fitzwilliam receives her track, she discovers that she is destined to die before the end of her fourteenth turning. Then, when her mother goes missing, Paisley is the only one left who can protect her Dragon Touched brother, Dax, from being exposed as a descendant of the Great Dragons.

Maizy Chen's Last Chance, by Lisa Yee

Eleven-year-old Maizy Chen visits her estranged grandparents, who own and run a Chinese restaurant in Last Chance, Minnesota. As her visit lengthens, she makes unexpected discoveries about her family's history and herself.

The Forgotten Five #1: Map of Flames,

by Lisa McMann

Five children who are the offspring of supernatural criminals and who have special abilities of their own leave their isolated tropical home and head to the city of Estero, where they hope to find their parents and the treasure they hid years ago.

Esme's Birthday Conga Line, by Lourdes Heuer

Esme plans her own birthday party with the help of the eclectic neighbors who reside in her apartment building.



© Illustration by Marissa Valdez

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Swim Team, by Johnnie Christmas

Bree and her father move to Florida where she has to take a swim class at school, but—unlike everyone else—she doesn't know how to swim! She faces her fears with the help of her elderly neighbor, Etta.

Scout Is Not a Band Kid, by Jade Armstrong

Scout joins her middle school's band in order to go on the band's annual trip and meet her favorite author, but she is forced to face the music when the trombone section leader realizes Scout does not know how to play.

Spy School: The Graphic Novel,

by Stu Gibbs

Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.



© Illustration by Anjan Sarkar

The Tryout, by Christina Soontornvat

When cheerleading tryouts are announced, Christina and her best friend, Megan, literally jump at the chance to join the squad. As two of the only kids of color in the school, they have always yearned to fit in—and the middle school cheerleaders are popular and accepted by everyone. But will the girls survive the terrifying tryouts, with their whole grade watching? And will their friendship withstand the pressures of competition?

Bird and Squirrel: All Together, by James Burks

Best friends Bird and Squirrel embark on one last adventure (to follow a treasure map)—and this time, Red and Birdie come along, too!

The Pigeon Will Ride the Roller Coaster,

by Mo Willems

Pigeon experiences an emotional loop-de-loop as he anticipates his turn to ride the roller coaster.



© Illustration by the author

John's Turn, by Mac Barnett

Every Friday, in the cafeteria, one of the kids gets up in front of the whole school and does something. And today it's John's turn . . .

Continued on back page

POPULAR BOOKS (continued)

GRAPHIC NOVELS (continued)

Somewhere in the Bayou, by Jarrett Pumphrey

Rat, Squirrel, Rabbit, and Mouse want to cross the bayou, but next to the log they are considering as a bridge is a sneaky tail, which may be attached to someone dangerous. Each of the four approaches the problem with a different strategy, with varying results.

Big Truck, Little Island, by Chris Van Dusen

Based on a real incident that occurred in the island town of Vinalhaven, Maine, this rhyming story recounts what happens when a really big flatbed truck carrying a mysterious, covered load across a small island gets stuck on a tight curve and blocks traffic in both directions.

Luli and the Language of Tea, by Andrea Wang

When five-year-old Luli joins her new English as a Second Language class, the playroom is quiet. Luli can't speak English, neither can anyone else. That's when she has a brilliant idea to host a tea party and bring them all together. Tea is a tasty language they all know well, and it gives them a chance to share and enjoy each other's company.



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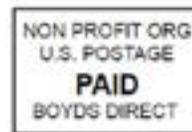
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Winchester
PUBLIC LIBRARY



LIBRARY HOURS

As of January 2022, the Library is open for our regular hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:30 am–9:00 pm; Friday–Saturday, 9:30 am–5:30 pm; and Sunday, 2:00–5:00 pm. Please check the our website for updated information on masking protocol.

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 that are not included in the Town’s budget but enhance the Library’s mission of improving the quality of life for Winchester residents.

Editors:

Robert Rosenberg
Debbie Catalano, Assistant Editor

Library Liaison:

Brittany DeLorme, Interim Assistant Director

POPULAR BOOKS (continued) **NONFICTION**

What Can I Say? A Kid’s Guide to Super-Useful Social Skills to Help You Get Along and Express Yourself, by Catherine Newman

Author Catherine Newman provides supportive guidance and instruction to help kids establish or and maintain meaningful relationships and effective communication with friends, teachers, family members, and others in their communities.

Sunday Funday: An Activity for Every Weekend of the Year, by Katherine Halligan

Make every Sunday a fun day with an amazing activity to keep you busy each weekend of the year. From gardening projects and obstacle courses to creative crafts and recipes, there’s something fun to do no matter what the weather is.

Because of You, John Lewis: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship, by Andrea Davis Pinkney

When young Tybre Faw discovers Congressman John Lewis and his heroic march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in the fight for the right to vote, Tybre is determined to meet him. Tybre’s two grandmothers take him on the seven-hour drive to Selma, Alabama, where Lewis invites Tybre to join him in the annual memorial walk across the bridge. And so begins a most amazing friendship!

Who’s Looking: How Animals See the World, by Carol Matsas

In this gorgeously illustrated nonfiction picture book, a young girl and her baby sister explore the land around them while various animals and insects look on. The art reflects the world as viewed by the animals along with the text explaining some science behind the animal’s unique vision.

The Extraordinary World of Birds, by David Lindo

From frozen icescapes to sweltering deserts, from prehistoric ancestors to amazing adaptations, young enthusiasts discover the surprising homes and habits of our feathered friends. They’ll also find out about how we can help protect birds and their natural habitats.



John Lewis in the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965