



Friends of Acton Public Library

Winter was a relatively quiet time for the Acton Friends. Most of our activity centered on processing incoming donations of books from the community, for which we continue to be extremely grateful. We were especially grateful for a generous donation of large print books given to us by Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore (LVSS). Large print books are often not readily accessible to everyone and we appreciate LVSS for choosing the Acton Friends as the recipient of this generous donation. Fiction, nonfiction, trade paperbacks, large print books, puzzles and more will be available at the next Friends book sale. We hope you'll mark your calendars now and plan to join us at the Friends Annual Book Sale, June 27 - June 29th!

Winter was also the time that we learned that we were accepted into the Essex Savings Bank Community Investment Program. During the month of February, people who have an account with Essex Savings Bank have the opportunity to vote for a variety of local, nonprofit organizations who will then receive a share of funds available. The Friends of Acton Library thank the Essex Savings Bank for this unique funding support and thank all of you who are able to vote for the Acton Friends. Your vote is needed and most appreciated!

<https://www.essexsavings.com/about/community-investment-program/>

Please feel free to contact one of the co-presidents,
Nancy Prescott at nancyaprescott@gmail.com or Emily Miller at beacon137@aol.com.

SEED LIBRARY



Acton Public Library Seed Library is coming back for its third year! This year we will have more open-pollinated and non-GMO varieties of seeds. Seed companies that have donated this year, so far, are High Mowing Organic Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, and Hudson Valley Seed Company. Seeds can be reserved starting Monday, March 11th. 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.

30TH ANNUAL POETRY COMPETITION



Entries for Acton Public Library's 30th Annual Poetry Competition will be accepted from April 1 - 30, 2024 in the following divisions: Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6, Grades 7-8, Grades 9-12 and Adult. 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 on Saturday, June 1, 2024.

Awards will be provided by the Friends of Acton Public Library.
For more information, contact Cindy Baklik at
860-510-5062 or cbaklik@actonlibrary.org.



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LIBRARY HOURS

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

CLOSINGS

- Good Friday
Fri. March 29
- Easter
Sun. March 31

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



The Beacon

March-April 2024

BUILDING THE FUTURE LIBRARY FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

by Amanda Brouwer



On November 28th, 2023 the Acton Public Library was alerted that we were awarded a State of Connecticut Construction Grant in the amount of Two (2) million dollars. We are so excited to begin working on creating a library that can be utilized by more of the community in new and forward thinking ways. The need for an updated library space originated back in the Library's Strategic Planning we completed in 2020. In various focus groups with local groups, in survey results, and in discussion with staff and local leaders, the recommendations for flexible furniture, a dedicated teen space, smaller meeting spaces and upgraded technology offerings were discussed and developed.

Soon after completing the Strategic Plan, the Library, in collaboration with Economic Development, won a grant to complete an Architectural Feasibility Study. Through this study, the themes initiated in the Strategic Plan we expanded upon and developed into preliminary drawings.

This work allowed the library to put out an RFP/RFQ for an architectural firm to create more concrete plans and drawings with the help of a staff/Board of Trustees committee. After this work was done, we submitted these drawings with our application for the very competitive 2 million dollar CT Construction Grant. The grant stipulates that the library must raise matching funds in under 3 years; so we will be busy doing some fundraising! The library has created a [web page](#) where you can follow the project as it moves forward.

If you would like to learn more about the project or help support it, please call, 860.388.8924 or [email](#) Amanda Brouwer, Library Director.



READ TO HENRY

1st Saturdays, March 2 & April 6 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Read to our local therapy dog Henry, the Bernese Mountain Dog!
No registration.



OPEN MIC

Wednesdays, March 6 & April 17 at 6:00 p.m.

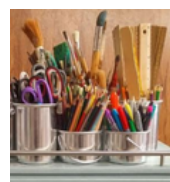
Join us for a strum and a song. A poem or rant. Some comedy or read aloud? Karaoke? Hosted by YA librarian, Brian Story. Registration suggested.



MAKE A LEPRECHAUN TRAP

Saturday, March 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Bring your creativity and build your very own leprechaun trap using our supplies! Free and open to all. Space is limited and registration is required.



FAMILY PAINT NIGHT

Wednesday, March 20 at 6:00 p.m.

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



SOLAR ECLIPSE PRESENTATION

Thursday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m.

On April 8th, 2024 CT will experience an almost total Solar Eclipse. This presentation will cover safety precautions, including proper use of a telescope to view the eclipse. Also we will describe how an eclipse occurs, a bit of history about previous eclipses and what the Sun, our very own star is actually doing. Registration suggested.



TINY ART PAINTING

Saturday, March 23 at 2:00 p.m.

Create a tiny masterpiece to be displayed in our Tiny Art Show during the month of April. Free and open to all. Space is limited, and registration is required.



TECH TIME WITH BRIAN

Mondays by appointment



TECH TIME WITH EMILY

Thursdays 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
by appointment



ORGANIZING YOUR COMPUTER FILES

Wednesday, March 13 at 10:30 a.m.



STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Wednesday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m.



COLORING & CONVERSATION

1st Mondays at 2:00 p.m.
March 4 & April 1



CRAFT NIGHT

3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

March 19: Fairy Houses
with the Florence Griswold Museum

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Library

April 16: Seeds of Intention Terrarium

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Library



COMPASSION-KNITS

Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.



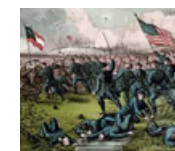
RUMMIKUB

Mondays at 2:00 p.m.
March 18 & April 15



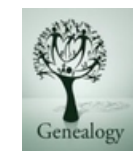
MEXICAN TRAIN

Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.
March 13 & April 10



SHORELINE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

1st Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
March 5 & April 2



VIRTUAL- GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP

4th Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
March 28 & April 25



SATURDAY CINEMA

Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.

March 9

The Creator

2023, rated PG-13, 133 min.

April 27

Dreamin' Wild

2023, rated PG, 110 min.



COOKBOOK CLUB

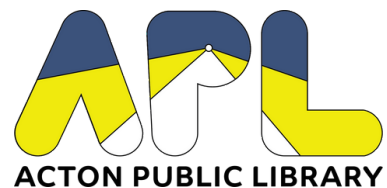
4th Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

March 26: Indian cuisine

April 23: Greek cuisine

New format: Find your own recipe for the chosen cuisine. Make the dish and bring it to share with the group.

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



Adult Special Events



CT WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Thursday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m.

The Connecticut Women in the Sciences program explores women in the field of science who were tenacious, courageous pioneers. These women were denied access to the education and professions they aspired to because of their gender and at times, their race. Presented by the CT Women's Hall of Fame.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.

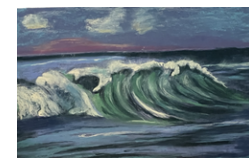


IRISH MUSIC: DAN RINGROSE

Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Join Celtic balladeer Dan Ringrose for an evening of song, stories & poetry celebrating the Emerald Isle.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



SEASCAPE PASTEL WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Join Greg Maichack for a seascape pastel workshop. All materials included.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library.



COOPERATIVE LEGO BUILDING

Tuesday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Participants will cooperatively build the LEGO Succulents set of 9 individual succulents.



INTRO TO VEGETABLE GARDENING

Saturday, April 13 & 20 at 12:30 p.m.

This course offers an introduction to vegetable gardening – the art and the science. It addresses what is needed to grow a bountiful vegetable garden. It explores the key factors to achieving and sustaining gardening success. Part 2, on April 20th, will be a visit to Common Good Gardens, a ½ acre working vegetable garden in Old Saybrook, CT.



WALKING GROUP

Fridays, starting April 19 - May 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Join Cindy in a 45 minute walk around the neighborhood.



All Ages Events



S'MORES & MOVIE DAY

Friday, April 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Wish, 2023, rated PG 92 min.

Everyone is invited to enjoy s'mores and watch a movie on the big screen. No registration.



SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY

Monday, April 8 at 12:00 p.m.

Join us at the library for a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party! We will have crafts, snacks and eclipse viewing glasses! Free and open to all. No registration required. Supplies are limited and available on a first come first served basis.



Adult Book Groups

WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

March 6

Being Heumann: an unrepentant memoir of a disability rights activist
by Judith Heumann

April 3

Rules of Civility
by Amor Towles

BOOKS ON TAP BOOK GROUP

2nd Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

March 13

The Golden Spoon
by Jessa Maxwell.

April 10

West With Giraffes
by Lynda Rutledge

FOODIE FICTION BOOK CLUB

3rd Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

March 20

The Hundred Foot Journey
by Richard C. Morais

April 17

Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club
by J. Ryan Stradal

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

4th Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

March 27

Local Woman Missing
by Mary Kubica

April 24

Defending Jacob
by William Landay

HYBRID - SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION

April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

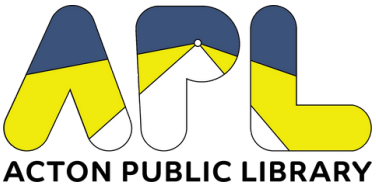
Title TBD

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

ACTONLIBRARY.ORG | 860-395-3184 | 60 OLD BOSTON POST ROAD | OLD SAYBROOK, CT

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Children's Events



GRAB & GO CRAFTS
Mondays
Stop by the library each week to pick up one of Miss Rebecca's Grab & Go craft kits. Available while supplies last. No registration required.



LEARN & PLAY PLAYGROUP
Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
February 26 - April 1 (No class March 4)
April 15 - May 20
This child-focused playgroup is for young children and their caregivers. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with others, make new friends, and learn by playing in a literacy-enriched environment. Each session will include activities, sensory materials, and toys. Registration is suggested.



STORY TIME
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
February 27 - April 2
April 16 - May 21
Story time for all! Children and a caregiver are welcome to join Miss Emily for stories, fingerplays, songs and so much more. Registration is suggested.



SING & STOMP
Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
March 15- April 5
April 19 - May 24
A song and dance party for children of all ages and their grown up. Sing & Stomp is a noisy half hour of songs, dances and fingerplays. Cool down afterwards with toys and music. Registration is suggested.



BUNNY HOP WITH ASTRA DANCE
Friday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m.
Join us for a Bunny Hop dance party with Astra Dance Studio. Free and open to children ages 2 and up. Space is limited and registration is required.



GRUB CLUB
Wednesdays, March 6 - April 3 from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Learn basic cooking skills and fun new recipes to make for the family. All supplies are provided. 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.

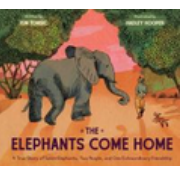


Children's Events



PIZZA & PAGES BOOK CLUB
2nd Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.
Join Miss Emily every month for pizza and to discuss two of the Nutmeg Book Award Nominees. We will be reading from the Elementary Nominee list which contains books geared towards children reading at a 2nd - 3rd grade reading level. Space is limited and registration is suggested. Copies of the books will be available at the library.

- March 14**
- Elephants Come Home
 - Sugar in Milk



- April 18**
- Wind Riders: Rescue on Turtle Beach



EARTH DAY WITH OS GARDEN CLUB
Saturday, April 20 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
The Old Saybrook Garden Club is hosting an Earth Day Celebration at the Acton Library. Families with elementary school age children are welcome to join us. Activities will include: nature trail treasure hunt, making a birdhouse & storytime. In addition to these activities we will be handing out free saplings. Free and open to all. Registration is not required.



Young Adult Events



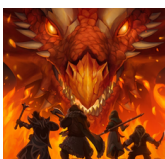
Y.A.L.L. DROP-IN SESSIONS
Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m.



IN-HOUSE GAME DAY
Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.
March 7, 14 & 28
April 4, 11 & 25



HYBRID - KAHOOT
Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.
March 21
April 18



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2.0
16+
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
March 13 & 27
April 10 & 24



HYBRID - DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
Fridays at 3:00 p.m.



TEEN TIME CAPSULE
Saturday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m.