



Friends of Acton Public Library



On November 21 and 22 the Friends of Acton held what has come to be their traditional pre-holiday book and bake sale. The sale is a mini version of the Big Summer Book Sale, and features primarily paperback and trade paperback books, some carefully selected hardcover books, children's books, puzzles and some CDs and DVDs. We also sold some beautiful sets of lighthouse posters donated to us by Kathy Coogan. We have a number left and they would make great stocking stuffers for those who enjoy beautiful nautical artwork. If you would be interested in purchasing posters, please check with the circulation desk. This was the first sale where our volunteers could be identified by the beautiful new aprons they wore. The vivid blue aprons finished with yellow trim were sewn by our talented board member Jan Fraser and decorated with the Friends logo by the library's Cindy Baklik. Kudos to Jan and Cindy for all their hard work! We hope to be wearing the aprons for many sales far into the future.

Thank you to our wonderful library staff, led by director Amanda Brouwer, who helped with set up, baking, flyer design and tech support! We could not have put this together without all your assistance. And thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to clean and sort donated books, to publicize the sale, to set up and take down the sale, and who baked and worked as cashiers during the sale. It was truly a team effort.

One final thank you to everyone from Old Saybrook and the surrounding area who donated books and puzzles and who have continued to be loyal customers. Your donations keep us going. Without them we could not hold these sales. And without the sales we could not provide the support that we give to supplement the programming budget provided by the town or to pay for museum passes and other often unexpected needs.

People may not realize that one of the missions of the Friends is to act as advocates for the library. An intangible benefit of our periodic sales is that they bring people into the library. Many of the people who come in are not regular patrons of the library. When they come to our sales, they have a chance to see what a lovely, welcoming place Acton is. And the Friends, who love to chat, try to mention all the benefits that the library provides for people of all ages, in terms of programming, tech assistance and friendships that can be made in book clubs or games groups. Today, libraries are about much more than book lending. They are community gathering places that just happen to have a fantastic array of books that can be borrowed with a free library card. If you haven't been to a library in a while, stop by Acton to see how great it is.

We hope to hold another sale mid-March. But, of course, that will depend on the size of our inventory, which was significantly depleted after this sale. So, if you love Acton and all it does for the community, please continue to bring your clean and gently used books and puzzles to the circulation desk whenever the library is open. And consider becoming a member of the Friends. Membership envelopes are available at the circulation desk. For information about the Friends, contact co-presidents Nancy Prescott at nancyaprescott@gmail.com or Emily Lebovitz-Miller at Emily.lebovitz@gmail.com.



The Beacon

January - February 2026

CONTENTS

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

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday

10 - 8

Friday - Saturday

10 - 5

Sundays

1-5

CLOSINGS

MLK Day

Mon. Jan. 19

Presidents' Day

Mon. Feb. 16

Register for library events on
our website

www.actonlibrary.org
or call 860-395-3184



ACTON COMPASSION-KNITS

by Karen Giugno



This year the Acton Public Library's Compassion-Knits charity knitting group has been as busy as ever! This free and drop-in group meets on Wednesdays from 3:30 P.M. until 4:30 P.M. and is open to knitters and crocheters of all abilities. We don't provide instruction, but crafters are always generous in sharing their knowledge and skill, as well as their favorite patterns! Knitters are always welcome to bring their own preferred materials, or work through their home stash. The library provides free yarn, needles or hooks, and patterns.

As a group, we are charitable with what we create. This year we donated many boxes of beautiful knitted and crocheted hats and scarves for all ages, as well as baby and lap blankets to the following groups:

- Bare Necessities in Clinton, CT.
- The Marshall House Homeless Shelter in Hartford, CT.
- Old Saybrook YFS for their holiday Giving Tree Event.
- Hartford Kids' Holiday Event
- Acton Public Library. Items displayed in the library's foyer, free for patrons to take.

The receiving organizations are always grateful for such an abundance of beautiful and useful items to keep warm in the cold New England winters.

If you are interested in joining, just stop in. There is no need to register in advance. Also, join us for the 21st World Wide Knit in Public Day on Saturday, June 13, 2026 here at Acton Library.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY

Saturday, February 7
from 10:30 AM—12:30 PM

Join us for our 15th Annual Take Your Child to the Library Day with a Pokémon Party! Crafts, snacks, games, and build a terrarium gym for your Pokémon! Free & Open to All.

No registration required, while supplies last.

Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Library.

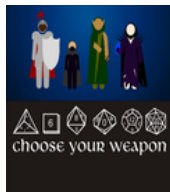




IMAGINARY TAILS WITH IZZY

Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Come read your favorite book with Izzy, our friendly certified reading dog! Sign up at the Children's Desk for 10-minute reading spots.



TABLETOP RPG GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Let's Gather some Adventurers, Give them a table, some dice, some food. See what happens... Gather the gang over a game of Zombicide? Run a one-shot TTPRG, Got MTG Cards? Want to plan your next campaign or perhaps run it here? All options on the table. Register monthly and help decide the game. Facilitated by DM and Librarian Brian Story.



ACOUSTIC ARTISTS STORYTELLER SERIES

Wednesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. - Teri LaChance

Wednesday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m. - Barbara Harvey

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



COMMUNITY STORYTELLER AND POETRY SLAM

Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Join our Mr. Story for a night of community stories and poetry.



KINDERGARTEN KICKBACK WITH LEGOS AND CARS

Wednesday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m.

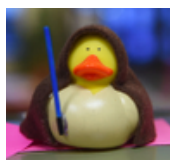
It is a Kindergarten Kickback kind of night as we race cars and compete for the tallest Lego tower in the room. Bring your favorite matchbox racers or try ours on the track. Dinner will be served.



TINY ART

Wednesday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Tonight, we lay out the supplies and relax into some tiny canvases. Submit your best works for display and review in our library display.



RUBBER DUCK COSPLAY: SEASON 2

February 21 - March 21

Season 2 of our Rubber Duck Cosplay will kick-off February 21. Return your Duck for judging by March 21. Prizes, bragging rights and fun to be had.



TECH TIME WITH BRIAN
Mondays by appointment

TECH TIME WITH REBECCA
Thursdays by appointment



MEET-UP MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
Mondays & Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.
(no class 1/19, 2/12 & 2/16)



COMPASSION-KNITS
Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.



SHORELINE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
1st Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.
January 6 & February 3



INDOOR WALKING GROUP @ OS PARK & REC
Wednesdays, January 7 - March 25 at 11:15 a.m.



PEACE CRANE FOLDING
Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.
starting January 8



CRAFT NIGHT:
TIN PUNCHED LANTERNS (AMERICA 250 EVENT)
Tuesday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m.
Create a homemade lantern using a tinsmithing technique from the Colonial era. Materials provided.



SATURDAY CINEMA: DOWNTON ABBEY

Saturday, February 14 at 2:00 p.m.

2025, PG, 123 min.

Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale follows the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s. When Mary finds herself at the center of a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the entire household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change as the staff prepares for a new chapter with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future.

Tea & light refreshments will be served.



COOKBOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m.

This month's cookbook is Indulge: Delicious and Decadent Dishes to Enjoy and Share by Valerie Bertinelli. Make a recipe within the cookbook & bring it to the meeting for members to sample.

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



THE ART OF 18TH CENTURY CHOCOLATE MAKING (AMERICA 250 EVENT)

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

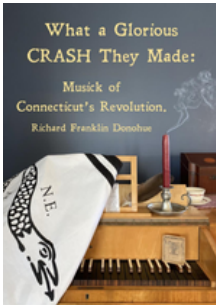
In this interactive experience, Robert Lecce of Pewter Pot Chocolates will showcase historical chocolate-making techniques using authentic methods from the 1700s. Attendees will also enjoy samplings of the chocolate products we make on site.



JIGSAW PUZZLE COMPETITION

Saturday, January 24 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us for our 4th Annual Puzzle Competition. You may join as a team (4 max.) or as an individual (to be added to a team with fewer than 4). Each team will receive the same 500-piece puzzle. The first team to finish the puzzle will receive a gift card to a local business.



WHAT A GLORIOUS CRASH THEY MADE (AMERICA 250 EVENT)

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

This program features a collection of "New Songs" & Hymns published in Connecticut during the American Revolution. From the time of the Stamp Act through the British surrender at Yorktown, Connecticut's seditious colonists used these works to foment rebellion, commemorate victory and give thanks for preservation. Richard Franklin Donohue, tenor & harpsichord, will explore this fiery repertoire that in the words of John Adams "cultivated the sensations of Freedom."



PASTA FROM SCRATCH

Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m.

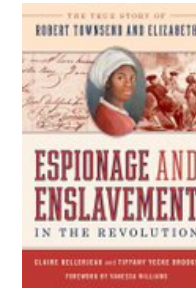
Learn how to mix, knead, roll and cut fresh pasta dough. Cook some tasty sauces and enjoy some delicious food. Presented by Matthew Yanarella.



CALLIGRAPHY THAT INSPIRED A NATION (AMERICA 250 EVENT)

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

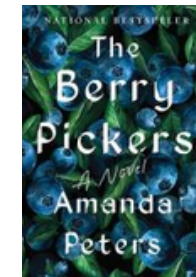
During this program, you will learn about how people wrote during the colonial period. Participants will learn how to set up their own writing desk, paper, nibs and ink. The end goal is to create a signature for themselves that is inspired by signatures from colonial times.



HYBRID: SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION (AMERICA 250 EVENT)

Monday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Espionage and Enslavement in the Revolution: The True Story of Robert Townsend and Elizabeth by Claire Bellerjeau and Tiffany Yecke Brooks
Registration suggested.



WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

1st Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

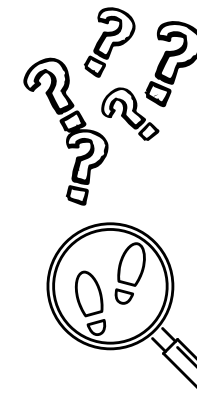
January 7

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters



February 4

Born to Run: a hidden tribe, superathletes, and the greatest race the world has ever seen by Christopher McDougall.



MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

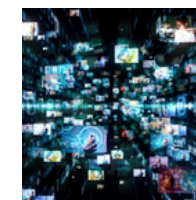
4th Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

January 28

TBD

February 25

TBD



DIGITAL PLAYBOOK: EMPOWERING YOUR CHILDS DIGITAL FUTURE!

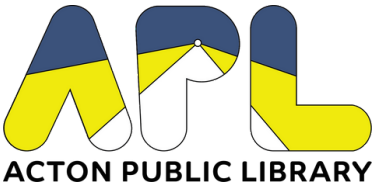
Thursday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Are you ready to take charge of your child's digital well-being? If so, join us for The Digital Playbook: Empowering Your Child's Digital Future! a dynamic learning experience designed to equip and empower families with the tools to safeguard their child's online safety, encourage responsible digital habits, and foster meaningful connections in today's digital world. Presented by Rotasha McBride.

Co-sponsored with Ms President US.

Registration suggested.





Children's Events



PLAYGROUP
Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
(No class 1/19 & 2/16)
No registration.



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



SING & STOMP
Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
No registration.



GRAB & GO CRAFTS
Fridays starting January 2
Available while supplies last.
No registration.



TINKER LAB
Mondays at 3:30 p.m.
Join us for Tinker Lab! We'll use problem-solving skills to imagine, explore, tinker, build, code, play, and design! Marble mazes, Rube Goldberg machines, cardboard construction, and dance party coding are just a few of the activities we will try out!

Jan. - Do you enjoy watching stop-motion movie shorts? Come make your own Lego Movie this month!

Feb. - Ever wonder how they film someone flying through the air? We'll explore using a green screen to film you in wild locations or flying through the air!

For Grades 2 - 4. Registration required.



GRUB CLUB
Wednesdays, January 7 - February 25 (no class 2/18) at 3:30 p.m.
Grub Club is an after-school cooking club. Learn basic cooking skills and fun new recipes to make for the family. All supplies are provided. Please disclose any allergies upon registering. Open to children ages 8 and up. Space is limited, and registration is required.

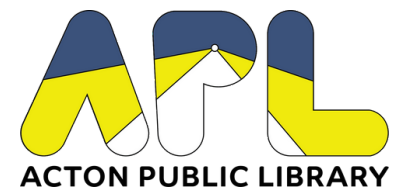
Funded by the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board and presented by Kathy Cobb, MS, RDN, Public Health Nutritionist.



Children's Events



CREATE A SUCCULENT TERRARIUM!
Saturday, February 21 at 10:30 a.m.
Join the Old Saybrook Garden Club and create a succulent terrarium! Learn how to care for succulents while you craft a beautiful terrarium to take home.
All supplies provided by the OS Garden Club.
For Grades Kindergarten - Grade 4. Registration required.



Young Adult Events



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



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
Fridays at 2:45 p.m.
January 9 & 23
February 6 & 20



YA LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PLANNING MEETING
Tuesday, January 6 & February 10 at 3:30 p.m.
First meeting of the year: 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!



YA/Adult Events



APL Poetry Writing Group
First Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
January 7 & February 4
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. Bring your notebook or laptop or use our supplies.