

Silas Bronson Library

BOOKS AND HAPPENINGS

The Newsletter of Waterbury's Public Library

WINTER 2025 - 2026

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HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

If you are a Waterbury resident who is homebound or otherwise unable to visit the library in person, we can bring the library to your home. We now have a home delivery service! You must be a Waterbury resident and have a current, active library card to apply. Applications are available online or can be mailed to you. Contact us at 203-574-8225 or email us at bronsonlibrary@waterburycr.org to request an application.



WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

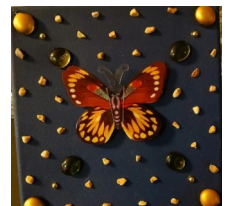
The library is usually open even when the schools are closed. Weather-related closures will be announced on our social media and website; closing alerts will also be sent to area news stations.



WINTER EXHIBITS

Each month we will feature different local artists in our first floor exhibit spaces. We will also have a rotating exhibit of children's artwork on the second floor in the KidZone. Exhibits are open whenever the library is open.

In December, **Anna Morris** will display her artwork on the gallery wall and display cases. A recent arrival to Waterbury, Morris strives to promote love in a world full of hate and to be a spark for positive change for future generations.



Anna Morris

In January, **Linhchi Kompare** will display her artwork on the gallery wall and display cases. Originally from Vietnam, Kompare paints and draws in her free time.



Linhchi Kompare

Our February artist is **Clyde Watson**, a self-taught artist driven by a deep love for art. Born in Jamaica, Watson came to the U.S. when he was 11. For Watson, art embodies his essence and serves as a source of inspiration and upliftment.



Clyde Watson

If you are interested in exhibiting your work at the library, call the Reference Desk at 203-574-8225 or email bronsonlibrary@waterburycr.org.



bronsonlibrary@waterburycr.org

203-574-8200

bronsonlibrary.org



The Friends of the Silas Bronson Library is a volunteer-run 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the library's operation and mission through fundraising, outreach, and other volunteer activities. The Friends provide vital funding for library programs, especially those for children. A contribution is made to the library each year to support public programs and services. Additionally, all sales from our Readers' Garden Bookstore go directly to the library to support programs and services.

The Friends oversee the Philip V. Benevento Fund for Cultural Programs for Adults at the Silas Bronson Library. The fund was established in 2016 in honor of Waterbury's City Historian and former Silas Bronson Library Board member Philip V. Benevento. The fund continues to grow through individual donations made to the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library and allows the library to present programs they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Monthly Meeting of the Friends

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

December 23, January 27, February 24

Hybrid: Auditorium and Zoom

Open to all members of the Friends and anyone interested in joining. If you are unable to join in person, you can join via Zoom.

To register for Zoom participation, email us at silasbronsonfriends@gmail.com.



Readers Garden Book Store

The Friends of the Library book store is located on the first floor of the library. Purchases can be made using cash, credit card, or check at the library's front desk.

Book Store Pricing

Hardcover: \$1.00	VHS: 25¢
Paperback: 50¢	Children's books:
Audiobooks: \$3.00	25¢ (paperback)
DVD: \$1.00	50¢ (hardcover)
CD: 50¢	



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

SISTERS TO SISTERS BOOK CLUB

Thursdays, December 4, January 8,
February 5, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium

New members welcome! Copies of the books are available to borrow from the library.

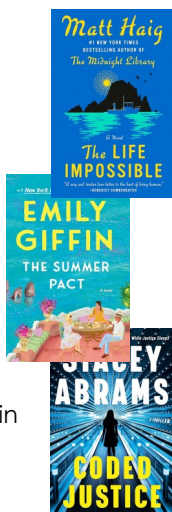
December 4: *The Life Impossible*

by Matt Haig

January 8: *The Summer Pact* by Emily Giffin

February 5: *Coded Justice*

by Stacey Abrams



BUNKER BOOKIES

Thursdays, December 11, January 8,
February 12, 1:00 p.m.

Bunker Hill Branch Library

Join us for a monthly book club at the Bunker Hill Branch Library. Copies of the books are available to borrow from the library.

December 11: *Green Darkness* by Anya Seton

January 8: *Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

February 12: *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*

by Joan Didion

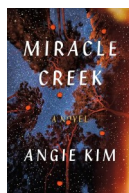


MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 13, 1:00 p.m.

Bunker Hill Branch Library

Join us every other month at the Bunker Hill branch library for a discussion of a mystery book. In January, we'll be discussing *Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim. Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library.



BRASS BOOK CLUB

Thursdays, December 18, January 22,
February 26, 12:30 p.m.

Zoom

Seniors 60+ are invited to join us for a monthly book discussion. Copies of the books are available to borrow from the library. Advance registration is required for this Zoom program.

Sign up at bronsonlibrary.org/programs

December 18: *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey

January 22: *The Lion Women of Tehran*

by Marjan Kamali

February 26: *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden



WATERBURY WRITERS

Thursdays, December 18, January 22,
February 26, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium

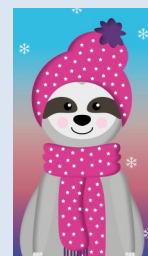
Writers of all experience levels are invited to share their WIPs, brainstorm ideas, or simply connect with other writers.



WINTER READING BINGO

December 1—January 31

Get cozy with a good book this winter! Pick up your winter reading bingo card at the main library or Bunker Hill Branch and complete three activities in a row. Return your card with completed squares to the Reference Desk or the Bunker Hill Branch to be entered into a raffle.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

AFTERNOON COMPUTER CLASSES

Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.

Computer Classroom

Get the skills you need to start using computers today.



December 9: Computer Basics

December 16: Internet Safety

December 30: Editing Pictures

January 6: Internet Basics: Search Engines,
Navigating Websites

January 13: Printing, Downloading,
& Saving Documents

January 20: Google Docs

January 27: Organizing Documents on
Your Computer

February 3: Word

February 10: Computer Basics

February 24: PowerPoint

EVENING COMPUTER CLASSES

Wednesdays, January 7 & 21,

February 4 & 25, 6:30 p.m.

Computer Classroom

Get the computer skills you need
for work or school.



January 7: Word

January 21: File Explorer: Organizing Documents
On Your Computer

February 4: Publisher

February 25: Excel

ONE-ON-ONE COMPUTER HELP

By Appointment

Have a tablet, but don't know how to use it?

Need resume or job search assistance?

Our skilled and friendly staff are available to help you!

Schedule your appointment by calling 203-574-8225,
visit the Reference Desk at the library.

BILINGUAL DOMINO

Wednesdays, December 17,

January 21, February 18, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Play domino in English and Spanish. Meet new friends
and have fun! We will provide dominoes and snacks.



EXERCISE YOUR MIND

Thursdays, December 18,

January 15, February 12, 2:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Stimulate your brain with games,
puzzles, and conversation! Bring a
friend or meet new friends!



COLORING & CONVERSATIONS CLUB

Thursdays, January 29, February 26, 2:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Meet and chat during our Coloring and
Conversation Club. Whether you are
looking to relax and de-stress, practice
your English conversation skills, or meet
new people, you are welcome to join us!
Coloring pages and supplies will be provided.



FUN FRIDAYS

Fridays, December 12, January 9 & 23,

February 6 & 20, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Join us for a different craft project each
time we meet.



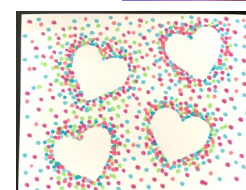
December 12: Tin Ornaments

January 9: Snowman Magnets

January 23: Snow Globes

February 6: Valentine Cards

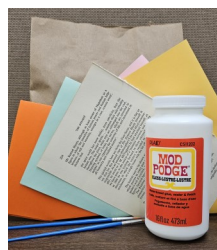
February 20: Make a Zine!



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

TAKE HOME CRAFTS

Stop by the Reference Desk each month for a new take home craft! Kits will include supplies and instructions to make the craft at home. Available while supplies last.



December: Wooden Ornament

January: Snowman Garland

February: Woven Bookmark

PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS

Fridays, December 12, January 9 & 23,
February 6 & 20, 12:00 p.m.

Computer Classroom

Find out how to preserve your family photos and documents. Try out the library's scanning equipment, get tips on organizing your photos, and learn about different ways to share them online, including the new My Town, My Story website.



You can also learn how to transform your memories into a monologue or scene with Shakesperience Productions. Final products may include video recordings accessible through the library and scenes for students to perform in future years.



Mardi Gras Parade, 1995

WRCVB Archive, Silas Bronson Library

DISCOVER YOUR OPTIONS

Thursdays, December 4, January 8,
February 5, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Learn about Medicare, Medicaid, and state assistance programs; how to avoid overpaying for insurance; retirement and life insurance planning. Presented in English & Spanish by Blanca Vasallo, Independent Broker with American Senior Benefits. Snacks and giveaways will be provided.



POM POM KEYCHAIN CRAFT

Thursday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Learn how to make a pom pom keychain using a yarn. Supplies and snacks will be provided.



HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS

Tuesday, December 16, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Estevan Miranda, Onsite Health Coach for the City of Waterbury, will teach you about supplements. He will share his top five supplements that may help you make a difference.



BUSINESS RESOURCES @ YOUR LIBRARY

Wednesday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.

Computer Classroom

Thinking of starting a business, or need help taking it to the next level? Come learn about the great resources the library has, including databases you can access from home and information about other resources and organizations for entrepreneurs in our community.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

PHILIP V. BENEVENTO CULTURAL PROGRAM FOR ADULTS



KWANZAA CELEBRATION

December 26, 29, 30, 31, 1 p.m.

Auditorium

Our Culture Is Beautiful returns to the library for a multi-day Kwanzaa program. Created in 1966, Kwanzaa celebrates history, values, family, community, and culture. Join us to learn about the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Each day will feature djembe rhythms and storytelling, cultural performances and videos, and crafts. You can attend one or all days. Additional sessions will be held off-site when the library is closed. Funded in part by the NAACP Greater Waterbury Branch and the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library.



December 26: Umoja (Unity)

December 29: Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

December 30: Nia (Purpose)

December 31: Kuumba (Creativity)

The Philip V. Benevento Fund for Cultural Programs for Adults at the Silas Bronson Library was established in 2016 in honor of Waterbury's City Historian and former Silas Bronson Library Board member Philip V. Benevento. The fund continues to grow through individual donations made to the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library.

FAIR RENT COMMISSION

Thursday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.

Hybrid: Auditorium & Zoom

Learn about the FRC's mission and how they can mandate repairs, block or phase-in an unfair rent increase, and even force your landlord to accept a lower, fair-market rate. Learn how to transform your questions into a plan for action. They'll break down the complaint process step-by-step so you can confidently use the FRC to protect your financial stability and your home's safety. Join in person or on Zoom.

Advance registration is required to join via Zoom.

Sign up at bronsonlibrary.org/programs

MISINFORMATION IN WELLNESS

Tuesday, January 27, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Estevan Miranda, Onsite Health Coach for the City of Waterbury, will teach you how to spot misinformation in wellness.



FASCIA'S CHOCOLATES

Thursday, January 29, 6:00 p.m.

Main Reading Room

Discover the sweet story of chocolate from Fascia's Chocolates, a Waterbury tradition for over 60 years. Learn about the process from bean to bar and enjoy a delicious sample along the way.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

CT'S CIVIL WAR COLORED REGIMENTS

Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.

Main Reading Room

Hundreds of Black men enlisted and served in segregated Connecticut regiments during the Civil War. John Mills, a genealogist and independent scholar, will share his research into the lives and experiences of some of those soldiers. Mills will also discuss the work of his nonprofit, the Alex Breanne Corporation.



AFRICAN DANCE & CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Thursday, February 12, 6:00 p.m.

Main Reading Room

Experience the powerful rhythms of West Africa with workshop leader Jolyn Walker! Discover the legacy of dancer Katherine Dunham and her journey from Africa to America. Our interactive "village" welcomes all ages to learn historical dances from Ghana. Choose to move your feet or borrow an instrument and help create the beat!



GETTING STARTED WITH PINTEREST

Thursday, February 19, 6:00 p.m.

Computer Classroom

Learn how to use Pinterest, a visual search engine used for discovering and sharing recipes, home and style inspiration, crafts and more. You will create an account, build your collection of boards & pins, follow others, and explore.



CHOLESTEROL

Tuesday, February 24, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Estevan Miranda, Onsite Health

Coach for the City of Waterbury, will discuss about cholesterol, the difference between good and bad cholesterol, ways to naturally lower cholesterol and some other types of evaluations to consider if you're high risk.



VITA TAX PREP

February 7 - April 11

By appointment only

Call 211 to schedule



Get your taxes done for free! The library is once again partnering with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to offer free tax preparation at the library.

The VITA Tax Prep program will be held at the library on Saturdays by appointment only. IRS-trained volunteers will be available to prepare tax returns for individuals who made \$67,000 or less, people with disabilities, and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their tax returns.

To schedule your appointment, call 211, then select 3, then select 6. You will be able to call starting in mid-January.

A national program, VITA provides free tax preparation services to low-to-moderate-income individuals and families. IRS-trained volunteers are certified to prepare simple tax returns, and screen customers for special tax credits.

SILAS BRONSON GEEKDOM

CHESS MEETUP

Tuesdays, December 9 & 23, January 6 & 27,
February 3 & 24, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Each session includes lessons, strategy tips, and open play time to practice what you've learned. All ages and skill levels welcome — come learn the game or take yours to the next level!



DND 101

Wednesdays, December 3 & 17,
January 14 & 28, February 25, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Join us to learn the basics of DND 5th Edition through a tutorial campaign.



CHECKMATE CHALLENGE

Thursdays, December 11, January 8 & 29,
February 5 & 26, 4:30 p.m.

Zoom

Join us for a virtual chess session focused on solving fun and challenging chess puzzles together. Great for beginners looking to learn tactics or seasoned players wanting to stay sharp.



Advance registration is required. Sign up at bronsonlibrary.org/geekdom

WARHAMMER 40,000 GAME NIGHT

Wednesdays, December 10, January 7,
February 4, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Warhammer 40,000 is the most popular tabletop miniature wargame in the world. Come learn how to play using our starter set or bring your own models.



SATURDAY CHESS MEETUP

Saturdays, December 6 & 20,
January 3 & 17, February 21, 1:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Can't make it to chess on Tuesdays? We'll also have chess meetups on Saturdays! All ages and skill levels welcome.



ANIME CLUB

Saturdays, December 13,
January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, 2:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Join fellow anime fans for an escape into action, laughs, and epic stories straight from Japan. Snacks will be provided.



NOT YOUR PARENTS' BOARD GAMES

Saturdays, December 20, January 31,
February 28, 2:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Discover a whole new world of board games beyond traditional choices and see what all the fun is about!

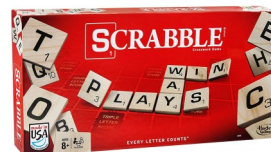


BOARD GAME MEETUP

Saturdays, December 6, January 17, 2:45 p.m.

Auditorium

Love board games? Want to meet others who do too? Bring a favorite game to share, try something new from our collection, or learn a game you've always wanted to play. From classic favorites to hidden gems — let's roll, shuffle, and play together!



TEEN / YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

TEEN LIBRARY LEADERS

Tuesdays, December 16, January 13,
February 10, 6:00 p.m.

TeenZone

Build your leadership skills by developing and participating in library programs and events, as well as becoming library advisors and advocates.



DARN THAT HOOK CLUB

Fridays, December 12, January 16,
February 20, 3:30 p.m.

TeenZone

Bring your crochet or knitting to the library, or get started with a new project using yarn, hooks, and pattern we supply. It's a hangout time to unwind after the busy school week.



WINTER READING BINGO

December 1—January 31

Get cozy with a good book this winter! Pick up your winter reading bingo card at the main library or Bunker Hill Branch and complete three activities in a row. Return your card with completed squares to the Teen Desk or Bunker Hill Branch to be entered into a raffle.



TEENZONE STUDY AREA

The library's TeenZone is a great place for teens to study or meet up to work on projects. Use of the room and computers is restricted to teens only.



51ST ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

Submissions Open: February 1, 2026

Submissions Close: March 19, 2026

Awards Ceremony: Thursday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.

Our annual Poetry Contest is open to all Waterbury students in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. One entry per student. Complete rules and entry forms will be available starting in January at bronsonlibrary.org/kids and at the library.

This year's themes:

1. Your Favorite Animal
2. Use the opening, "If I had three wishes"
3. Write a limerick



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

LITTLE MOVERS STORY TIME

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Picture Book Room

Join us for a story time with music, dance, nursery rhymes, and fables.

For ages 2-4.



KIDZONE CODING CLUB

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Computer Classroom

Have fun learning to code with one of our librarians. For ages 8+. Younger children may require adult assistance.



Note: we will not meet on January 20 or February 17

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY STORIES

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Children's Room

Come listen to wonderful stories that will transport you to far away places.

For ages 2-5.



JAMMIN' WITH MS. JENNY

Thursdays, 5:00 p.m.

Children's Room

We'll have stories, music, and jamming for kids ages 3-5.



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

WHERE IN THE LIBRARY IS SILAS THE CAT?

Wednesdays, December 17, January 14,

February 25, all day

KidZone

Use clues provided by our librarians to find where Silas the Cat is hiding, then snap a photo of him and show your photo to the librarian to win a prize.



SATURDAY MORNING MOVIES

Saturdays, December 6, January 3,

February 7, 11:00 a.m.

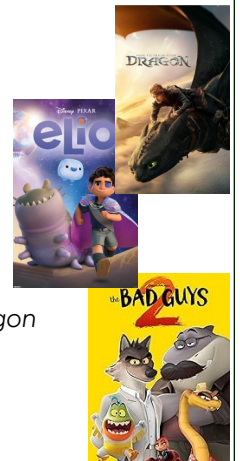
Children's Room

Bring the kids to the library to watch the latest family movies. Rated PG

December 6: *How to Train Your Dragon*

January 3: *Elio*

February 7: *Bad Guys 2*



SNOWBALL READERS

December 1 - January 31

Children's Room

Join our Winter Reading Program to learn and earn while you read this

winter! For all children from birth through 8th grade.

Children who can't read can still join if someone reads to them.



Registration is open from Monday, December 2, 2024 through Friday, January 24, 2025 in person, online at bronsonlibrary.org/kids, or by calling us at 203-574-8213. There will be a raffle for the grand prize at the end of the program. Visit the Children's Room for more information.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

WINTER WONDERLAND CRAFT

Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

Children's Room

Use our craft supplies to make ornaments, wreaths, and other decorations to take home.

HOLIDAY MAGIC SHOW

Thursday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Join us for a Slightly Gross & Disgusting Holiday Magic Show with Waterbury magician CJ May and learn how to enjoy the holiday season by keeping your home and neighborhood free of gross and disgusting things.



HANUKKAH CRAFT

December 15 - 22, all day

Children's Room

Stop by the library during Hanukkah for a special craft activity.



CHRISTMAS WREATH CRAFT

Friday, December 19, 3:45 p.m.

Children's Room

Create a wreath using recyclable material. For ages 6-12.



YARN WEAVING CRAFT

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

Children's Room

Come make coasters, potholders, or bookmarks to take home! We'll provide all the supplies.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH STORY TIME

Thursday, February 5, 10:00 a.m.

Children's Room

Come celebrate African American History with fun & friendly folktales. For ages 6-12.

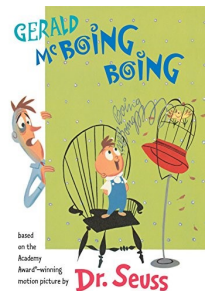


TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY

Saturday, February 7, 1:00 p.m.

Children's Room

Join us for a Dr. Seuss story, a snack, a craft, and a free book!



VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT

Friday, February 13, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 14, all day

Children's Room

Fall in love with your creativity! Make a Valentine's Day card or gift to take home.

51ST ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

Submissions Open: February 1, 2026

Submissions Close: March 19, 2026

Awards Ceremony: Thursday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.



Complete rules and entry forms will be available starting in January.

See page 9 for more information.



THREE KINGS DAY / DIA DE LOS REYES

Tuesday, January 6, all day

Children's Room

Stop by the library to create a special crown for Three Kings Day. For ages 6-12.

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY
267 GRAND STREET
WATERBURY, CT 06702
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

Something for Everyone

LIBRARY HOURS

Main Library

Monday 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday-Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Bunker Hill Branch

Tuesday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTES:

We will close at 4:45 on January 20 and February 18.

For weather closings, please check our social media or website.

LOCATIONS

Main Library

267 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

Bunker Hill Branch

192 Bunker Hill Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Number: 203-574-8200
Bunker Hill Branch: 203-574-8240
Circulation Desk: 203-574-8206
Children's Division: 203-574-8213
Director's Office: 203-574-8222
Reference Desk: 203-574-8225
TTY/TDD: 203-574-8226

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Christmas, December 25
New Year's Day, January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 19
Presidents' Day, February 16 & 17

PARKING INFORMATION

Main Library

Kiosk parking is available on Grand Street and in the parking lot between the Library and City Hall. Spaces are available in the parking lot. Parking rates apply.

Parking rates: \$1 per hour; free after 6:30 p.m.

Bunker Hill Branch

Free parking is available in our lot on Aurora Street.



bronsonlibrary@waterburyct.org

203-574-8200

bronsonlibrary.org