



Passport



**CONNECTICUT
AUTHOR
TRAIL**

2024



We're Back! Join us this summer
at these free library events across
Eastern CT to meet your favorite
local authors!

July 9th - September 19th

Finale: September 19th, 6:30PM
@ The Garde Arts Center





Welcome!!



ABOUT THE TRAIL

The Connecticut Author Trail consists of a consortium of libraries in Eastern Connecticut who love our local authors and continue to be amazed at the variety of genres and diverse styles of writing among those who live in or are associated with the Nutmeg State. All events are free!

HOW IT WORKS



We would love to see you at as many author talks as possible! First, follow the schedule of events to your right. Read about each author and book to be spoken about. Be sure to collect a stamp at each library you visit and then bring your passport to the finale for an opportunity to win a prize! Make it your goal to see them all!



THE FINALE!

It wouldn't be the Connecticut Author Trail without a rockstar finale! We are proud to welcome Martha Hall Kelly at the Garde Arts Center in New London, CT on Thursday, September 19th @ 6:30PM.

The Finale is free and open to the public, but please be sure to register with your local participating library.

This allows us to gather a proper headcount and ensure an exciting event for all!



FOLLOW THE TRAIL

July 9th @ 6:00	JCC Library, Franklin	Tessa Wegert
July 16th @ 6:30	Cragin Memorial, Colchester	Gail Chianese
July 17th @ 6:30	Scotland Public Library	Catherine Grow
July 20th @ 1:00	Bill Memorial, Groton	Ron & Roxanne Steed
July 23rd @ 6:00	Slater Library, Jewett City	D.M. Foley
July 25th @ 6:30	Waterford Public Library	Barbara Hawes
July 30th @ 6:30	Groton Public Library	Rick Koster
July 31st @ 5:30	Otis Library - Norwich	Charles Rosenay
Aug. 7th @ 6:00	Mystic/Noank Library	Tom Brillat
Aug. 10th @ 12:30	Guilford Smith, Windham	Luanne Rice
Aug. 11th @ 5:00	Stonington Free Library	Lara Erlich
Aug. 19th @ 7:00	Sprague Public Library	Susan Schoenberger
Aug. 27th @ 6:30	Jonathan Trumbull Library	Marty Podskoch
Aug. 30th @ 6:30	Canterbury Public Library	Zac Topping
Sept. 5th @ 5:30	New London Library	Rose Young
Sept. 10th @ 6:00	Ledyard Public Library	Matt Reardon
Sept. 12th @ 5:30	Preston Public Library	Ken Keeley

FINALE

Sept. 19th @ 6:30 Garde Arts Center Martha Hall Kelly



Janet Carlson Calvert Library

5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, CT 06254

calvertlibrary.org
860.642.6207



TESSA WEGERT

Tuesday, July 9th, 2024
6:00PM | Fiction

Tessa Wegert is the author of the popular Shana Merchant mysteries, which include *Death in the Family*, *The Dead Season*, *Dead Wind*, *The Kind to Kill*, *Devils at the Door*, and the upcoming *The Coldest Case*. Her books have received starred reviews from Publishers Weekly and Shelf Awareness and have been featured on PBS and NPR Radio. A former journalist and copywriter, Tessa has contributed to publications like HuffPost, The Economist, and The Globe and Mail and has written ad copy for such brands as Audible and Audi. She grew up in Quebec and now lives with her husband and children in Connecticut, where she co-founded Sisters in Crime CT and currently serves on the board of International Thriller Writers (ITW).

Death in the Family is the first of five in the Detective Shana Merchant mystery series.

A storm-struck island. A blood-soaked bed. A missing man. In this captivating mystery that's perfect for fans of Knives Out, Senior Investigator Shana Merchant discovers that murder is a family affair.





Cragin Memorial Library

8 Linwood Ave
Colchester, CT 06415

colchesterct.gov/
cragin-memorial-library
860.537.5752



GAIL CHIANESE

Tuesday, July 16th, 2024
6:30PM | Fiction

Hi, I'm the multi-published author of contemporary romance and paranormal romantic suspense stories. Residing in Connecticut, I'm loving life and living my fantasy with my husband, one precious pup, and two adorable cats who rule the roost. Beyond my writing, I delve into diverse interests such as ghost hunting and painting.

My work has garnered recognition for its excellence as a recipient of the Indiana Golden Opportunity Award and a finalist in respected competitions like the Book Buyers Best Award, National Reader's Choice Award, and Epic eBook Awards. In addition to these honors, I've has been nominated for a RONE Award.

I invite readers to come hang out with me on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok, under the username *authorgailchianese*, where I share glimpses of my writing journey and life.

Tell Me Lies

You'd think with a guardian who's a ghost, P.I. Lexie Smith would see what's coming. But nope, that's not how it works.





Scotland Public Library

21 Brook Rd scotlandpubliclibrary.org
Scotland, CT 06264 860.423.1492



CATHERINE GROW

Wednesday, July 17th, 2024
6:30PM | Fiction

Catherine Grow, a former Women's Studies instructor at Ohio University, is a writer living with her husband and golden retriever in Scotland, Connecticut since 2005. Though currently residing in northeastern Connecticut, much of her work is inspired by the decade she spent as a back-to-the-lander in the southern Missouri Ozarks. Her recently published novel, *The Evolution of Hallie Jo Everheart: A Novel in Stories* (Amherst, MA: White River Press, 2023), draws on that experience. Her work has also appeared in a variety of journals, including Reed Magazine, The Copperfield Review, Arkansas Review, The Christian Science Monitor, and others.

The Evolution of Hallie Jo Everheart: A Novel in Stories

Hallie Jo Everheart's life on an Ozark farm transforms after her mother's death. Encountering the mysterious Old Man Morrison sparks a thrilling journey of self-discovery and adventure. Through ten gripping tales, Hallie navigates love, loss, and triumphs, guided by colorful mentors. Amidst the breathtaking backdrop of the Ozarks, she learns profound lessons and emerges as a beacon of hope and mentorship.





Bill Memorial Library

240 Monument Street billmemorial.org
Groton, CT 06340 860.445.0392



RON & ROXANNE STEED

Saturday, July 20th, 2024
1:00PM | Non-Fiction

The Rev. Ron Steed is a writer and an Episcopal Deacon in Southeast Connecticut. He has served the New London Homeless Hospitality Center in a variety of ways, and is now a chaplain at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London, Connecticut. He is the author of *Focal Points in France- Artful Practices that Bring More Peace*, and *5-Minute Devotions for Dad: A Christian Parenting Book for Strength and Calm*. Ron writes lyrical heart-stories that are spiritual, simple, and artful.

Roxanne Steed is an artist, instructor, and mentor in watercolor, specializing in oil and watercolor-journal paintings in New England and Europe.

Ron and Roxanne live in Mystic, Connecticut.

Focal Points in France - Artful Practices that Bring More Peace, evokes many peaceful practices, one focal point at a time. Each point will have a watercolor painting rendered by Roxanne, with a haiku and a meditation by Ronald, centered on a peace-practice that can be tried. These practices have a focal point; the place of greatest contrast between conflict and peace, where the sharpest spiritual edges are located.





The Slater Library

26 Main Street
Jewett City, CT 06351

[sites.google.com/site/
slaterlibrary/](https://sites.google.com/site/slaterlibrary/)
860.376.0024



D.M. FOLEY

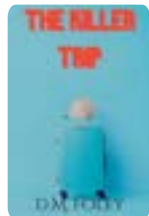
Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024
6:00PM | Fiction

D.M. Foley's debut book, *Family Ties: The Lyons Garden Book One*, earned the New York Best Sellers Gold Award in December 2021, shortly after its September release. Since then, she's completed the trilogy with *Erasing Secrets: Book Two* and *Pawns: Book Three*, adding to her total of five published books in the last three years, including the young adult psychic thriller *Deric Dream Changer: Book 1 of The Dream Walkers Series* and her latest psychological thriller, *The Killer Trip*.

Residing in Southeastern CT with her husband, three sons, and mother, Foley draws inspiration from local places to engage her readers. Formerly a preschool teacher, she pursued higher education in Early Childhood Education and Human Development, subsequently working as a paraeducator in a local school system. Her passion for reading and writing extends into her teaching, aiming to instill a love of reading in her students.

The Killer Trip

Laney Wilson discovers the past doesn't always stay in the past when she returns to Canada after thirty years. An innocent date on a past trip lands her in jail for murder in the present. As she sits in jail, she tries to remember that week and everything that occurred. While her friends fight to clear her name, back home, her husband faces a woman trying to impersonate his wife. If Laney is being framed, who and why? Not all things are as improbable as they seem.





Waterford Public Library

49 Rope Ferry Road waterfordct.org/158/library
 Waterford, CT 06385 860.444.5805



BARBARA HAWES

Thursday, July 25th, 2024
 6:30PM | Fiction

Barbara Hawes was born in Massachusetts and lived in Cohasset, but at a very young age she moved to Chappaqua, New York where she grew up. At nineteen, she moved to Connecticut and has been a resident ever since. She majored in art and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Connecticut State University. Barbara worked in the commercial real estate field as a marketing administrator and a graphic designer for many years.

Between the Rocks is Barbara's first novel. *Hawk Dove Ridge* is her second novel. In between, she wrote and illustrated a children's book when she learned she was to become a grandmother for the first time. That book is called *What's That? What is That Animal in the Yard?*

Hawk Dove Ridge

Gem Dougherty's life changes for the better after her best friend, Bridget invites her to go visit her brother, James Tanner, in Oklahoma. Gem jumps at the chance to see her secret high school crush again. The romantic relationship Gem always dreamed of becomes a reality there. Ultimately, Gem's decision to permanently move out West is made easier after she returns home to Massachusetts and goes back to living with her domineering mother.

One event changes Gem's life irrevocably and as a result she is faced with many decisions, some of which are life or death. She is fiercely defiant and determined, but is it enough to survive her ordeal?





Groton Public Library

52 Newtown Road
Groton, CT 06340

grotonpl.org
860.441.6750



RICK KOSTER

Tuesday, July 30th, 2024
6:30PM | Fiction

Rick lives in New London, CT, with his wife, Eileen Jenkins, and their Catahoula Leopard Dog, Gumbo. He writes for The Day newspaper, enjoys cheap beer and beef jerky, and exults over the triumphs of the New Orleans Saints and the Boston Red Sox.

Gris Gris Gumbo

Crayton Breaux makes minimum wage clerking in a French Quarter voodoo shop catering to tourists. It's enough to pay the rent and keep him in beer and partying because, in New Orleans, every day is Fat Tuesday, brah!

As for the "voodoo"? Well, the shop, with its skull-and-candles altar and clouds of incense, definitely spooks the visitors in from Iowa or Delaware. They clutch their go-cup hurricanes and nervously joke about sticking pins in dolls or picking up a gris-gris bag full of REVENGE ON YOUR ENEMY! powder. Crayton thinks it's hilarious. More than a few of these idiots think this stuff's real...He won't be laughing long.





Otis Library

261 Main Street otislibrarynorwich.org
 Norwich, CT 06360 860.889.2365



CHARLES F. ROSENAY

Wednesday, July 31st, 2024
 5:30PM | Non-Fiction

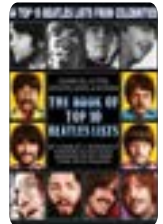
Charles F. Rosenay is best known to Beatles fans for all his promotional efforts and productions over the past four decades. Since 1978, he has presented Beatles conventions and festivals. Along with musical events, he published a magazine on the Beatles called Good Day Sunshine for 20 years. He has organized and hosted the annual "Magical History Tour," the original and greatest Beatles Fans Tours to Liverpool and London. 2024 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Beatles invading America. Come celebrate at Otis Library!

Celebrities, Actors, Athletes, Mods & Rockers: The Book of Top 10 Beatles Lists

Most people have a favorite Beatles song. In fact, most people grew up having a favorite Beatle. In this book, sixty-four celebrities and Beatles associates reveal their Top 10 favorite Beatles songs, albums, themes, and memories.

Who doesn't love a Top 10 List? They're short, they're fun, and we always want to see if their choices match.

Will your favorite Beatles song show up on any of these lists?





Mystic & Noank Library

40 Library Street mysticnoanklibrary.org
 Mystic, CT 06355 860.536.7721



TOM BRILLAT

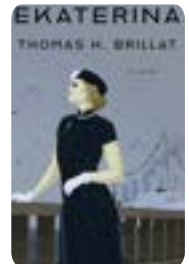
Wednesday, Aug. 7th, 2024
 6:00PM | Fiction

Thomas H. Brillat has been a naval officer, life insurance rep, coastal planner, commercial seaport harbormaster, Rainbow salesman, square-rig sailor, oral storyteller, air-freight manager, non-profit executive, adult educator, and maritime museum professional. *Ekaterina* is his first novel.

Ekaterina

Across continents and immersed in strange cultures, Ekaterina confronts war, hunger, failure, death, and lost love. From one life-altering ordeal to the next, she must adapt or perish.

A tale of historical fiction based on a true story.





Guilford Smith Memorial Library

17 Main Street
South Windham, CT 06266

guilfordsmith.blog
860.423.5159



LUANNE RICE

Saturday, Aug. 10th, 2024
12:30PM | Fiction

Luanne Rice is the New York Times bestselling author of 37 novels, which have been translated into 25 languages. The author of *Last Day*, *Dream Country*, *Beach Girls*, *Pretend She's Here* and others, Rice often writes about love, family, nature, and the sea. She received the 2014 Connecticut Governor's Arts Award for excellence and lifetime achievement in the Literary Arts category.

Several of Rice's novels have been adapted for television, including *Crazy in Love* for TNT, *Blue Moon* for CBS, *Follow the Stars Home* and *Silver Bells* for the Hallmark Hall of Fame, and *Beach Girls* for Lifetime. She lives in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Last Night

From the Amazon Charts and New York Times bestselling author of *The Shadow Box* and *Last Day* comes a breathtaking thriller about a family shaken by lies, vengeance, and a cold-blooded crime.





Stonington Free Library

20 High Street stoningtonfreelibrary.org
Stonington, CT 06378 860.535.0658



LARA EHRlich

Sunday, Aug. 11th, 2024
5:00PM | Fiction

Lara Ehrlich embraces and reexamines qualities that in women are often considered monstrous, like selfishness, desire, and ambition. She is the author of the novel *Bind Me Tighter Still* (Red Hen Press, 2025) and *Animal Wife*, a collection of stories about women's transformations from girls into wives, mothers, and monsters. *Animal Wife* won Red Hen Press's Fiction Award judged by Ann Hood and was published by the press in 2020. Lara teaches writing and has led workshops and panels at Bread Loaf Writers Workshop, Yale Writers Workshop, AWP, and Story Studio Chicago, among others, and teaches at the University of Connecticut. Lara is the host of Writer Mother Monster, a conversation series devoted to dismantling the myth of "having it all" and offering writer-moms solidarity, support, and advice. She is the founder and director of Thought Fox Writers Den, which builds community and supports writers of all levels with in-person and virtual workshops, coaching, events, and more.

Animal Wife is composed of fifteen stories unified by girls and women seeking liberation from family responsibilities, from societal expectations, from their own minds. They address the complexities of transitioning from innocence to experience and take on the anxiety of motherhood. The majority of the stories are set in an off-kilter version of our world, where the fantastical can exist side by side with—and reveal the absurdities of—the mundane. They often include monsters, mothers, and monstrous mothers.





Sprague Public Library

76 Main Street
Baltic, CT 06330

[sites.google.com/view/
spraguepubliclibrary](https://sites.google.com/view/spraguepubliclibrary)
860.822.3012



SUSAN SCHOENBERGER

Monday, Aug. 19th, 2024
7:00PM | Fiction

Susan Schoenberger was a reporter, editor and copy editor at various newspapers for many years, and now serves as Director of Communications at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace.

Susan's articles, essays, and short stories have appeared in many publications, including Northeast magazine, Reader's Digest, and several anthologies. In 2022, she was thrilled to publish a humor piece with her illustrator daughter, Claire Wyman, in *The New Yorker*. Her first novel, *A Watershed Year*, won the top prize in the William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing competition and was published in 2011. Susan's second novel, *The Virtues of Oxygen*, was published by Lake Union Publishing in 2014. *The Liability of Love*, published in July 2021, received a starred Kirkus Review and the 2022 Gold Medal in Popular Fiction from the Independent Publisher Book Awards.

Susan lives in West Hartford with her husband and a small, disruptive dog named Leo.

The Liability of Love

This deeply moving novel is a window into class and privilege, the mysteries of marriage, and the destructive power of secrets...





Jonathan Trumbull Library

580 Exeter Road lebanonctlibrary.org
Lebanon, CT 06249 860.642.7763



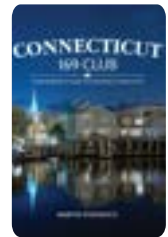
MARTY PODSKOCH

Tuesday, Aug. 27th, 2024
6:30PM | Non-Fiction

Join us for a book talk and signing by author and historian Marty Podskoch. His new book, *The Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport and Guide to Exploring Connecticut*, encourages travelers to visit all of the towns and villages of our beautiful and unique state.

Connecticut 169 Club

Podskoch created this book to be a guide and a passport. He found someone from each town to write a short description highlighting their town's location, history, and interesting places to visit. The book has a space for travelers to journal about their experiences and a place to get the book stamped or signed by a resident or business. Travelers will get to know the locals and perhaps learn about a good place to eat or an interesting local attraction and learn a lot about Connecticut and its residents in the process. People who visit all 169 towns will receive the "Leatherman Award" patch at a luncheon or dinner held at a different town each year. The award is named after the vagabond who lived in caves and traveled a route regularly (approx. 34 days) from the Connecticut River to the Hudson River during the late 1800s.





Canterbury Public Library

1 Municipal Drive canterburylibrary.org
 Canterbury, CT 06331 860.546.9022



ZAC TOPPING

Friday, Aug. 30th, 2024
 6:30PM | Fiction

Zac Topping grew up in Eastern Connecticut where he discovered a passion for writing early in life. He is a veteran of the United States Army and has served two tours in Iraq. He currently works as a career firefighter. His debut novel, *Wake of War*, was published on July 19, 2022, and his next book, *Rogue Sequence*, was released June 11th, 2024.

Rogue Sequence

It's 2091 and independent contract companies around the world are producing genetically modified soldiers...to be sold to the highest bidders.

Ander Rade is a super-soldier, a genetically engineered living weapon, and has been dutifully following orders since he gave himself to Scythe Industries' Gene-Mod Program several years ago. But when a mission goes sideways, he's captured, imprisoned, and forced into brutally violent fighting pits for the better part of the next decade...until agents from the Genetic Compliance Department of the United American Provinces appear in the visitors room.

Things have changed since Rade was captured. Shortly after his incarceration, the World Unity Council banned human genetic engineering and deemed all modified individuals a threat to society. Overnight, an entire subculture of people became outlaws simply for existing. But instead of leaving Rade locked behind bars, the GCD agents have come with an offer: Freedom in exchange for his help tracking down one of his former teammates from that ill-fated mission all those years ago.

It's an offer Rade can't refuse, but he soon realizes the situation is far more volatile than anyone had anticipated, and must take matters into his own hands as he tries to figure out whose side he's really on, and why?





Public Library of New London

63 Huntington Street
New London, CT 06320

plnl.org
860.447.1411



ROSE YOUNG

Thursday, Sept. 5th, 2024
5:30PM | Fiction

Rose's most recent novel *Love of Art & Murder – From Mystic to the City of Steeples* begins with the death of artist Marilyn Maroney. The investigation leads us through the labyrinth of the art world and is inspired by a notorious true art crime. The reader is lured into a multifaceted view of art– the personal world of artists, the private world of art collectors, and the public's view of art in museums and galleries. Rose's novel ventures into the intoxicating realm of art obsession with astounding profits, especially after death.

In her mystery series, Rose enjoys celebrating the highlights of New London, CT through her character's entanglements from art and wine happenings in the city, to historic sites and waterfront vistas of Long Island Sound. Rose's soft mission - is to entice the reader to explore these locales and regions of New England - with book in-hand.

Love of Art & Murder – From Mystic to the City of Steeples
Inspired by a True Art Crime

*This alluring mystery defines the beauty of art and observes
the beasts who lurk in the art world.*





Ledyard Public Library - Bill Library

718 Colonel Ledyard Hwy ledyardlibrary.org
Ledyard, CT 06339 860.464.9912



MATT REARDON

Tuesday, Sept. 10th, 2024
6:00PM | Non-Fiction

Matthew Reardon is a native of northeastern Connecticut. He earned his BA in history and an MA in education from Sacred Heart University. His research interests mainly focus on Connecticut during the American Revolution and the Civil War. He served as executive director of the New England Civil War Museum & Research Center for more than 15 years. He currently works as a middle school teacher in Vernon, Connecticut, and serves as a command historian for the Connecticut Military Department. Matthew, his wife Melisa, and son Michael live in Enfield, Connecticut.

The Traitor's Homecoming

*Almost everyone is familiar with the name of at least one Revolutionary War battle. Some, like Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, and Yorktown are nearly household names. Others are less well known but readily recognized when mentioned. An engagement in Connecticut during the war's sixth year, commanded by one of history's most famous military names, is not among them. Matthew E. Reardon has set out to rectify that oversight with the publication of *The Traitor's Homecoming: Benedict Arnold's Raid on New London, Connecticut, September 4-13, 1781*.*





Preston Public Library

389 Route CT-2
Preston, CT 06365

prestonpubliclibrary.org
860.886.1010



KEN KEELEY

Thursday, Sept. 12th, 2024
5:30PM | Non-Fiction

Ken is a 5th generation Norwich Irishman, born, raised, and educated in Norwich, CT. He has published 12 pictorial books of Norwich history, covering 1860 to 1980.

Some of Ken's pictorial books include:

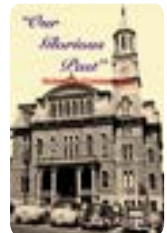
History of the Norwich Fire Department: Norwich, Connecticut

New London, CT "FourScore & Fifty Years": A Pictorial Journal

Memories of a Norwich Boomer: Norwich, Connecticut

Norwich, Our Glorious Past

A visual history of Norwich, from 1850 to 1980, of over 250 black & white photoshopped images with descriptions. The streets, the harbor, the mansions, NFA, the downtown, the West Side, Norwichtown, the trolleys and much more.





Finale - Garde Arts Center

325 State Street
New London, CT 06320

gardearts.org
860.444.7373 x1



MARTHA HALL KELLY

Thursday, Sept. 19th, 2024
6:30PM | Fiction

Martha's debut novel *Lilac Girls*, became a New York Times bestseller the week it was published in 2016 and then went on to sell over two million copies and publish in 50 countries.

Martha followed *Lilac Girls* with *Lost Roses* and *Sunflower Sisters*, which also became instant New York Times best sellers. Her latest novel, *The Golden Doves*, which returns to WWII, arrived in bookstores April 18th, 2023.

Martha grew up in Massachusetts and now splits her time between Litchfield, Connecticut, Hobe Sound, Florida, and New York City.

The Golden Doves

Two former female spies, bound together by their past, risk everything to hunt down an infamous Nazi doctor in the aftermath of World War II—an extraordinary novel inspired by true events





*** Library Stamps ***



*** Library Stamps ***

See you next year!

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

CThumanities

Connecticut Humanities champions the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society. Through grant funding and capacity building, CTH strives to ensure the public humanities will continue to inspire storytelling, lifelong learning, informed public dialogue and civic engagement in ways that strengthen communities and enhance quality of life for all Connecticut's residents.



The Friends of the Janet Carlson Calvert Library are reading enthusiasts who make the library even more awesome! We're all about boosting what our wonderful library offers and ensuring it's a hub of excitement for Franklin. Dive into our programs, explore our many offerings, and help us raise funds for new additions. When you back the Friends, you're backing the library!



Southeastern Connecticut's non-profit home for the performing arts, cinema and education, the Garde Arts Center was founded in 1985 to save, restore and operate in the heart of downtown New London the historic (1926) Garde Theater and Building as a regional cultural gathering place and economic catalyst.



Serving the business community for over 50 years, Minuteman Press provides digital print, design, promotional products and services to businesses. Today we are much more than just print. We can provide anything you can put a name, image or logo on!