January Calendar of Events for Adults

Whether you want to get a head start on your TBR pile or if you want to plan out your yearly goals, we’ve got you covered in January. Discover the basics of bullet journaling with Kat and Kristen (1/6), attend one or more of our five book discussions, solve a murder mystery (1/10), reflect on our history and remember both Holocaust survivors and victims (1/11 & 1/27), and learn about the first tycoon (1/27). Find a full listing of our January programs below with details on attending.

You can reach us Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 914-422-1400, by texting WPPL to 66746, or by emailing us anytime.

Ideas for programs or activities? Send them my way.

Take care,
Brian Kenney
Library Director
bkenney@whiteplainslibrary.org

Note: Most newsletters will be clipped at the bottom when they reach your inbox. Please make sure you click on [Message clipped] View entire message at the bottom of your email for the full newsletter.

To attend a virtual event, either register through the provided link or, if attendance is open, visit the link for information on joining on the date the
event occurs. Adult events are in orange, events for parents are in yellow, and events for assorted age groups are in blue. NOTE: To increase security in youth-focused programs, we are now requiring attendees to have a Zoom account to login to the event. Creating an account is easy and free.

Future is Female Book Discussion
Monday, January 3
2:00–3:00 p.m.
Ellen O’Connell, White Plains resident and retired English teacher, will moderate a discussion of Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague, by Maggie O’Farrell. This beautiful and timely work, published during the COVID pandemic and focused on the ravages of the plague during Shakespeare’s lifetime, is a winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction and the Women’s Prize for Fiction. Available from the Library in print and Large Print

Lunchtime Meditation @ the Library
Wednesday, January 5, 12, 19, & 26
12:00–12:45 p.m.
Brief beginning instruction followed by meditation. No experience or special equipment needed. A variety of guest instructors will lead the program. For the Zoom link, click on the date(s) you wish to attend: 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26.

English Conversation Group
Wednesday, January 5 & 19
2:00–3:00 p.m.
OverDrive/Libby has both the eBook and audiobook. Click here for the Zoom link.

Poetry Slam & Open Mic Wednesday, January 5 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Join Zork and Kristen for the First Wednesday Poetry Slam! Pre-registration is required to try and accommodate as many poets as possible. Register here to attend or perform. Please be sure to provide an active email address as we will contact you to confirm whether you will be performing or just attending. Adults & teens welcome!

ESL speakers, come practice your English conversation skills in this fun, supportive virtual setting! Feel free to bring your own conversation topics. For the Zoom link, click on the date(s) you wish to attend: 1/5 1/19.

Short Story Book Discussion Series Thursday, January 6 2:00–4:15 p.m.
Join librarian Barbara Wenglin for our short-story series using the anthology 100 Years of the Best American Short Stories focusing on the theme of couples. For this session, read "Harmony of the World" by Charles Baxter (p.352). A failed concert pianist takes a job as accompanist to a flawed singer as the two try to connect. Anthology is available to borrow in print, also as an eBook in Hoopla and Libby/OverDrive. Program made
Quick n Easy Bullet Journals
Thursday, January 6
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Join Kristen and Kat to learn about the basics of bullet journals, a type of planner that you can design to your own specific needs. We’ll go over the core principles, share some samples and resources, and practice making a few spreads of our own. Registration is limited and required. Each participant will receive a kit with supplies needed for the program. Please include an email address when registering so we can let you know when your kit is ready for pickup. Click here to register. Adults and Teens welcome!

Agatha is Missing!
Monday, January 10
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Join us for a fun-filled interactive murder mystery about the real-life disappearance of Agatha Christie in 1926. Prudence Wright Holmes plays Detective Miss Clarissa Marbles and the audience members are all suspects who are called "on stage" to answer for their criminal pasts. Was it the cook, the butler? Maybe it was her cat-hating neighbor, Hortense Hopwell Hoggins, or her randy golf partner, Sir Reginald Horncastle, or maybe YOU! This program was made possible by a partnership between Tuckahoe Public Library, Warner possible with support of the Friends of the Library. Click here for information on how to attend.

Slow Reading Book Discussion
Monday, January 10 & 24
2:00–4:00 p.m.
For the Winter and Spring sessions, the group will engage in a detailed exploration of the short stories of Anton Chekhov, often viewed as the originator of the contemporary short-story form. We will begin on 1/10 with "Master and Man," by Chekhov's predecessor, Leo Tolstoy. For 1/24, we will discuss Chekhov's stories "Enemies" and "Gusev," as well as texts in Anton Chekhov's Selected Stories (2014). Leading the group is Ellen Lambert, who has a Ph.D. from Yale in English and taught high-school English at The Dalton School for over 25 years. Feel free to contact Ellen at ellenzlambert@gmail.com or 914-582-4050 with any questions. For
Speaker Event:
Anna Leiser-Kleinhaus, Holocaust Survivor
Tuesday, January 11
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Anna Leiser-Kleinhaus, born in 1936 in Antwerp, Belgium, describes her life while in hiding during the war, her times in a French orphanage, posing as a Catholic in a French town with her mother and returning to Antwerp with her mother after the war and reuniting with her father after his liberation from a concentration camp. She studied in Geneva, Switzerland where she met her husband. Immigrated to the US where she received a doctorate in pharmacology and had a productive career while raising three children. Now retired she enjoys the company of her grandchildren.

Click here to register.

Taller de Escritura en Español
El martes, 11 de enero–1 de marzo
7:00–8:30 p.m.
Un taller de escritura creativa en español que se enfoca en descubrir la belleza de cada historia mientras discute los temas y la cultura de las historias. Para asistir, visite nuestro sitio web.

A creative writing workshop that focuses on uncovering the beauty of each story as you discuss the themes and culture within the storylines while you improve your Spanish-speaking ability.
Individual Tech Help

Wednesday, January 12
10:30–11:30 a.m. &
Tuesday, January 18
2:00–3:00 p.m.

Need help with a general computer issue or have questions about a particular piece of technology? Ask Digital Media Specialist Austin Olney in this virtual assistance program. Whether a beginner or advanced user, all are welcome. Register in advance for the date(s) you wish to attend: 1/12, 1/18. Please be sure to provide your email address.

Short Story Film Discussion

Thursday, January 13 & 20
2:00–4:15 p.m.

Join Librarian Barbara Wenglin on 1/13 to explore the award-winning film, Love Story. Ryan O'Neal stars as the old-money Harvard man, Oliver Barrett III, who is smitten by a no-money Radcliffe music student, Jenny Cavilleri, played by Ali MacGraw. View before meeting on Library's Kanopy or borrow DVD.

On 1/20, discuss the riveting documentary The Loving Story (2011) as we conclude our series exploring the theme of "Couples." The landmark case of Richard and Mildred Loving, a mixed racial couple from Virginia, went to the US Supreme Court in 1967 in this dramatic account with background history. Please view the film before our meeting on hoopla, or check it out as a DVD. Optional added feature film, Loving (2016), available to borrow as DVD and BluRay.

Program made possible with support of the Friends of the Library. Click
Join Digital Media Specialist Austin Olney and learn about popular online library resources. Beginners are encouraged, all are welcome. For adults, parents. Register in advance here.

Zoom Tips & Tricks
Wednesday, January 26
2:00–2:30 p.m.
Participants of this session will learn tips and tricks for attending (and hosting) Zoom events. Click here to register.

Common Ground
Thursday, January 20
6:00–8:00 p.m.
Common Ground is a community conversation series where participants can express their viewpoints and listen to different perspectives in a civic environment. These conversations are offered through a partnership with the League of Women Voters of White Plains, the Library, and the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester. This month's topic is: "Is Voting Rights an issue in White Plains?"
For information on joining, click here.

Book 'Em

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When No One Is Watching
Alyssa Cole

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Wednesday, January 26  
2:30–3:30 p.m.
Library Director Brian Kenney will lead a discussion of Alyssa Cole’s *When No One is Watching*. “This outstanding thriller… builds to a credible finale. This stellar and unflinching look at racism and greed will have readers hooked till the end.”—*Publishers Weekly*. This title is available in print and Large Print as well as an eBook and audiobook on OverDrive/Libby. For information on joining, [click here](#).

![Ma, if I had a boat of my own I could make more than Pa right now. There's good money in the harbor, and I can find it. Cornelius Vanderbilt, at the age of 15, being saved by his mother. What would you like to do, if you don't go to sea?](#)

*Cornelius Vanderbilt, the First Tycoon*  
Thursday, January 27  
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Professor Rick Feingold will explore the life of Cornelius Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt began operating his own ferry in New York Harbor at the age of 16. He would work from dawn until dark ferrying passengers between Staten Island and the tip of Manhattan. The tiny business would grow into a massive steamship company. Eventually he built a railroad empire from New York to Chicago and the First Grand Central Station at 42nd Street. Bonus content: Special Anderson Cooper tribute to mother, Gloria Vanderbilt.

Holocaust Remembrance Day  
Virtual Author Visit  
Thursday, January 27  
4:30–5:30 p.m.
Join us for a visit from author Michelle Bisson to discuss her book, *Hedy’s Journey: The True Story of a Hungarian Girl Fleeing the Holocaust*. This event is for children in fourth grade and up, as well as teens and adults. [Click here](#) for the Zoom link.
Forever Young Adult Book Club
Thursday, January 27
7:00–8:00 p.m.

Forever Young Adult is a group for YA fans who are a little less "Y" and a bit more "A." Whether you're a regular YA reader or you need a break from your usual "To Read" list, all are welcome! We will discuss *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden at this session. This book is available in print and as an eBook and audiobook from OverDrive/Libby. This book club is made possible by a partnership between Yonkers Public Library and White Plains Public Library. For information on attending, click here.