Essential Cookbooks

Librarians love to create lists, and at the end of each year we publish lists ranging from the best picture books for children to the best audiobooks. But one of my favorites is Essential Cookbooks, a selection of cookbooks for public libraries.

This wonderful list highlights titles for both avid home chefs and those just learning the rewards of making a meal. The list also supports those who appreciate the many joys of reading cookbooks, even if they rarely venture into the kitchen! These books are sure to become reliable favorites and nourish readers, today and for years to come.

We’re very proud that Sharon Rothman (pictured above), one of our adult services librarians, served on the American Library Association’s Essential Cookbooks committee for the second year in a row, and we caught up with her to learn a little bit more about the selection process.—Brian Kenney

Brian Kenney: Is it true that you don’t just read the books, but actually cook from some of them?

Sharon Rothman: Yes, we cook from all of them. Not only do we cook from the nominations but we recruit our friends and family to be our tasters as well.

BK: What’s the most challenging part of serving on this committee?

SR: We’re scattered all over the country talking about food and recipes yet we will...
never have the opportunity to cook together.

**BK:** What trends are you seeing in cookbook publishing?

**SR:** Several trends in cookbooks include plant-based recipes, chefs’ voices that we haven’t heard before. Also, bloggers and Instagram’s food influencers turned to writing cookbooks.

Read the rest of the interview and find the list of 10 selected cookbooks [here](#).

Take care,

Brian Kenney
Library Director
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**We appreciate support from the White Plains Library Foundation for many of our programs. Events funded by the Foundation are noted with an ✿.**

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**AARP Tax-Aide**

The AARP tax service began this week and will continue **every Monday and Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., through April 12th.** *This service is available by appointment only; no walk-ins.* Two (2) appointments are required. To make appointments, please pick up a flyer and packet of forms from the table in the Library’s lobby.

**All forms must be picked up and completed prior to the first scheduled appointment.** *You will not be seen if forms are not already completed.* The taxpayer packet contains:

- The forms you need to complete.
- A list of documents you will need to bring to the first (intake) appointment.
- A description of these forms and documents and of the process.

At the first appointment, you will meet with an AARP representative who will review the tax documents and the required forms. They will scan the documents needed to prepare the return and give them back. At the second appointment, you will be given the completed tax return for review and for signature.
Library Closed on Friday
Please note that the Library will be closed this **Friday, February 11th**, for Lincoln's Birthday. The Library will open with regular hours from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 12th.

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Cornelius Vanderbilt: The Last Tycoon
Did you miss last month's program on Cornelius Vanderbilt? It's now available to stream [here on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

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1946: The Reintegration of Pro Football
Tomorrow, February 10th
7:00–8:00 p.m.
This webinar highlights the four players who broke the NFL's color line and the owner who drew up the Bigoted design. Presented by John Vorperian, Host/Executive Producer of cable show Beyond the Game. [Click here](https://zoom.us) for the Zoom link.

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February Break Week Programs
Great events are taking place during the week of February school break, 2/22-2/25. Some of these programs require pre-registration, so be sure to check the “more info” or our online calendar. [Click here](https://www.librarycalendar.com) to view the full list, including a 3D Design & Printing workshop for middle grades, a performance by Turtle.
The Harlem Renaissance
Tuesday, February 15th
7:00–8:00 p.m.
As we embark on a journey through the art of the Harlem Renaissance, our virtual showcase will include: a look at the diverse styles of artists working in Harlem from the 1920s–1940s; an overview of two generations of Harlem Renaissance artists—some well-known, others less familiar; an understanding of how contemporary African American artists stand on the shoulders of these breakthrough artists. Click here to register. Presented by Rena Tobey.
Around the Web

Facts on Coronavirus.

Marlon James on internet rabbit holes, dream dinner guests, and looking to the past.

Your literary guide to the 2022 Oscar nominations.
Abraham Galloway is the Black figure from the Civil War you should know about.

**Book review**: thriller *The Violin Conspiracy* addresses racism in classical music.

## Online Author Talks & More

**February 10th, at 7:00 p.m.**: League of Women Voters presents a Westchester County Legislative Gathering. [Click to register](#).

**February 13th, at 5:00 p.m.**: Graphic Novel Draw Off with Zach Smith and David Fremont. [Click here](#) to attend.

**February 16th, at 9:00 p.m.**: Anna Gifty-Opoku-Agyeman, in conversation with Michael Tubbs, discusses *The Black Agenda: Bold Solutions for a Broken System*. [Click to attend](#).

## Photo of the Week

**Above**: *Even buildings need a winter overcoat!* by Lorella.

We want your photos! In each issue of This Week on Martine we feature one patron submitted photo that was taken in White Plains. To submit your photography for a chance to be featured, visit our [submission page](#), upload a photo, and fill out our form with a short description of the photo and your name.