

Our Authors are Hosted
by the Following Libraries:



July 8, 2020
through
September 17, 2020

connecticutauthorstrail.org

Norwich	July 8	W
Jewett City	July 14	T
Columbia	July 21	T
South Windham	July 23	TH
Lebanon	July 28	T
Groton Public	August 4	T
Tolland	August 5	W
Waterford	August 6	TH
Coventry	August 18	T
Chaplin	August 19	W
Mystic & Noank	Sept. 2	W
Salem	Sept. 9	W

Thursday, September 17
Finale with Martha Hall Kelly

Otis Library

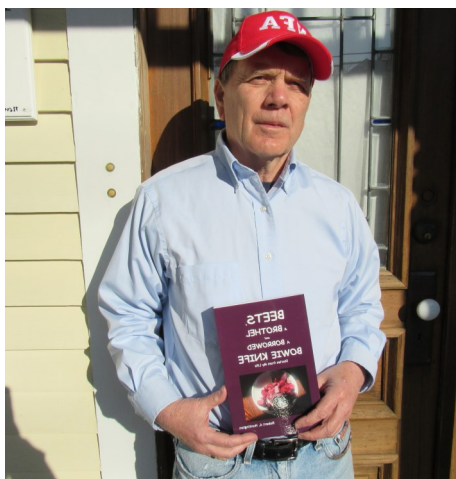
For Registration Contact:
jmenders@otislibrarynorwich.org
860-889-2365



Robert A. Huntington Wednesday, July 8th @ 6:30pm

Beets, a Brothel, and a Borrowed Bowie Knife: Stories from My Life

Robert A. Huntington was born in Norwich, Connecticut, first settled by his ancestors in 1659. After working overseas in the Mid-East and Far-East for 20+ years as an engineer and operator of wastewater treatment plants, Robert and his family (wife Lois, daughter Sarah and son Ryan) have returned home. Robert's hobbies include operating anaerobic digesters, number theory, and drinking beer. He doesn't like beets. Robert has written two previous books, *The Complete Physics of Shot-putting* and *A Critique of The Bible*. Neither book made him famous.



Beets, a Brothel and a Borrowed Bowie Knife is a memoir consisting of 55 short stories that cover events in his life growing up in Norwich and living and working in places as varied as Arkansas City, Kansas, Jerusalem, Afghanistan, a brothel in Vietnam and a rice plantation in Tanzania.

Slater Library

For Registration Contact:
slaterlibrary@yahoo.com
860-376-0024



Walter W. Woodward Tuesday, July 14th @ 6:30pm

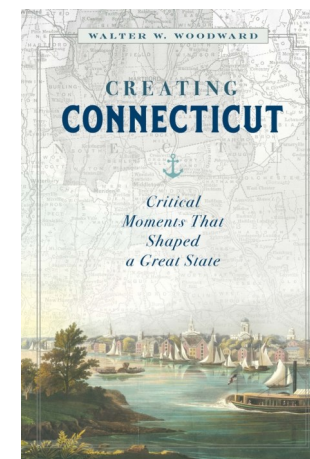
*Creating Connecticut:
Critical Moments That Shaped a Great State*



Walt Woodward is the State Historian of Connecticut and an Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut. He is the narrator and producer of *Today in Connecticut History* (with CT Humanities) and *Grating the Nutmeg: The Podcast of Connecticut History* (with Connecticut Explored

magazine). He also writes the "From the State Historian" column in Connecticut Explored. His book *Prospero's America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy and the Creation of Connecticut Culture* won the Homer Babbidge Prize for the best book on Connecticut History. A widely sought-after public speaker and historian, he lives in Columbia, CT.

At a critical moment in our history, *Creating Connecticut* shows how Connecticutans in other times met the challenges and opportunities of their lives.



Saxton B. Little Free Library

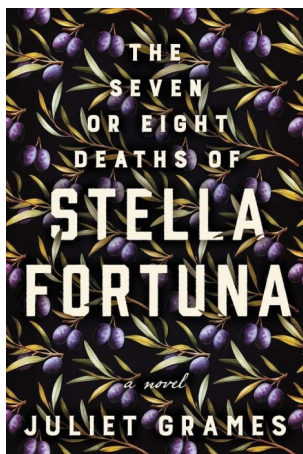
For Registration Contact:
corlomoski@columbiactlibrary.org



Juliet Grames

Tuesday, July 21st @ 6:30pm

The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna



Juliet Grames was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and grew up in a tight-knit Italian-American family. She graduated from Simsbury High School and studied history at Columbia and Oxford before becoming a book editor. She has spent the last decade at Soho Press, where she is associate publisher and curator of the Soho Crime imprint.

The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna, her debut novel set in Calabria and Connecticut about sisterhood and secrets, immigration and the American dream, family loyalty and betrayal, and one woman's tenacious fight against her own fate, has been translated into ten languages, including Italian.

Guilford Smith Memorial Library

For Registration Contact:
guildfordsmith.org
860-423-5159



Amy Nawrocki

Thursday, July 23rd @ 6:30pm

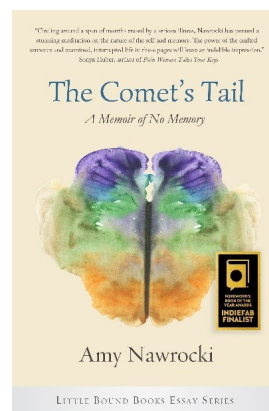
*The Comet's Tail:
A Memoir of No Memory*

Amy Nawrocki is the author of six poetry collections, most recently *Mouthbrooders*, published by Homebound Publications. Her memoir *The Comet's Tail: A Memoir of No Memory* won the 2018 Mind Body Spirit Award from Living Now Book Awards and was a finalist for the Foreward INDIE awards. She is also the co-author of three Connecticut history books. She is an associate professor and



chair of the English Department at the University of Bridgeport. She lives in Hamden, CT with her husband and their two cats.

In prose and poetry, Amy Nawrocki explores the power of language and the struggle to make sense of loss. Her memoir *The Comet's Tail* chronicles a return to consciousness after months of illness.



Jonathan Trumbull Library

For Registration Contact:
librarian@lebanonctlibrary.org



James Rourke

Tuesday, July 28th @ 6:30pm
Out of the Basement



James Rourke has taught at the Norwich Free Academy for 25 years. He currently teaches philosophy, psychology, and US History. These disciplines are infused in his writing with the hope they entertain, intrigue, and elevate readers. He currently lives in Brooklyn, CT and has four children ranging in ages from 11-23. He also has one grandson.

In Rourke's novel *Out of the Basement*, Michael Tanner is a citizen of two worlds. His is an ascending author plagued by the impact of childhood abuse. Only by overcoming his hidden shame can he fully enjoy his life.



Groton Public Library

For Registration Contact:
groton-ct.gov/library
860-441-6750



Patricia W. Chadwick

Tuesday, August 4th @ 6:30pm
Little Sister: A Memoir

Patricia Walsh Chadwick had a thirty-year career on Wall Street as a research analyst, a portfolio manager, and eventually as a Global Partner at Invesco. In 2000, she started Ravengate Partners LLC, a consulting firm engaged in expert witness work and strategic analysis. Patricia sits on the board of directors of WEC Energy Group, a Wisconsin Utility, Amica Mutual Insurance Company, VOYA, and The Royce Funds. Among her many pro-bono activities, she mentors middle school girls at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem. Patricia lives in Greenwich, CT with her husband, John.



In *Little Sister*, the author sheds light on her childhood experience, growing up in a religious cult in the 1950s and 1960s, with no access to the outside world or its influences - radio, newspapers, television - or contact with anyone, including family, that lived outside the community of 100 people, including 39 children. She also discusses how it was to be evicted from the community at the age of 17 and face a world she had never been taught to believe was full of sin and danger.

Tolland Public Library

For Registration Contact:
tolland.org/library
860-871-3620



Amy Oestreicher

Wednesday, August 5th @ 6:30pm

My Beautiful Detour: An Unthinkable Journey from Gutless to Grateful



Amy Oestreicher is a PTSD specialist, multidisciplinary artist, Audie-award nominated author of **My Beautiful Detour**, Huffington Post columnist, RAINN & NSRVC Representative, award-winning health and disability advocate, actress and playwright. She's headlined international conferences with her

signature keynotes, and toured her one-woman musical **Gutless & Grateful** to over 200 venues as a mental health and sexual assault program since in 2012. She's given three TEDx Talks on transforming trauma through creativity, founded the #LoveMyDetour campaign, and her story has appeared on TODAY, Cosmopolitan and CBS.

In **My Beautiful Detour**, Amy had ambitious plans for college and a Broadway career, until her stomach exploded the week before her senior prom. Months later, she awoke from a coma to learn that she might never be able to eat or drink again. After years on IV nutrition, her first bite of food awakened her senses to life's ordinary miracles but also brought back memories of being sexually abused by a trusted mentor for months, just before the unexpected rush to the emergency room that fateful Passover night. With determination, imagination, relentless resilience, and an inner "hunger" for life, Amy created a roadmap where none existed.

Waterford Public Library

For Registration Contact:
waterfordct.org/library
860-444-5805



Greg Gilmartin

Thursday, August 6th @ 7:00pm

Spy Island

Greg Gilmartin is a Connecticut writer, TV producer, and director with over 40 years media and marketing experience. His career includes a dozen years as a news and sports broadcaster in New York, Florida, Massachusetts and WTIC in Hartford, Connecticut. Greg was the public address announcer for the Hartford Whalers, New England



Blizzard and Hartford

Wolfpack. Greg honed his writing skills as a freelance journalist with a special interest in sports, fast cars and boats. He was Marketing Director at Ski Sundown for 6 years and continues producing TV with a wide range of projects and clients.

Spy Island is a spy thriller with a local angle involving stolen submarine secrets, the Feds, and the Russian Mob plus old school spies and sailors drinking mudslides. From Coney Island to Block Island, you can run, hide, spy, but make no mistake, they are coming for you and someone has to die.

Canterbury Public Library

For Registration Contact:
canterburylibrary.org
860-546-9022



Jane Herr Desrosiers Thursday, August 13th @ 6:30pm *Gone Fishing: The Sinker*

Jane Herr Desrosiers retired from 45 years in healthcare information management, where documenting the process for the lives of patients and occurrences with the healthcare setting has given way to a talent for writing heartwarming stories and sharing the humor of life. She resides in Baltic, not far from her hometown of Canterbury, where her husband, two cats and four grandchildren fill her days with all the material she



needs to continue to create wonderful stories. She is also a Justice of the Peace, participates in local theater, and brings Mrs. Claus to life each Christmas holiday season.

Gone Fishing: The Sinker is the final installment of the Gone Fishing Trilogy and a delectable tale of a young mother reaching into unknown waters to discover the secret answers to her mother's life.

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

For Registration Contact:
coventrypl.org
860-742-7606

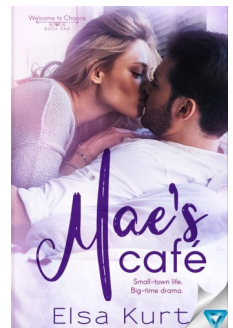


Elsa Kurt Tuesday, August 18th @ 6:30pm *Mae's Café*

Elsa Kurt is a multi-genre published author of over a dozen novels. She's a speaker and the founder and coach of Path To Authorship, a program to help new and aspiring authors navigate the writing, publishing, and promoting process. Her work has appeared in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, *Tales2Inspire*, and more. Several of Elsa's books have joined the ranks of Amazon's Best Seller lists. She's been interviewed on radio, television, print, YouTube shows, and podcasts. When not writing or coaching new aspiring authors, Elsa loves to spend her time with her husband, grown daughters, and three little dogs.



Mae's Café is the first book of the Welcome to Chance series. Welcome to this small, coastal Connecticut town where everyone knows each other's names... and their business. In this close-knit community secrets and lies abound, but so does love, laughter, and unbreakable friendships.



Chaplin Public Library

For Registration Contact:
librarydirector@chaplinct.org
860-455-9424



Mystic & Noank Library

For Registration Contact:
mysticnoanklibrary.org
860-536-7721



Robert Tougias

Wednesday, August 19th @ 6:30pm
Birder on Berry Lane

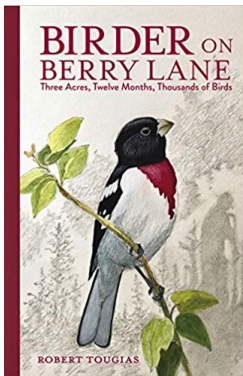
Robert Tougias is the author of *Birding Western Massachusetts*, *The Quest for the Eastern Cougar*, and, most recently, *Birder on Berry Lane*. He also writes nature articles for publications throughout the country. His column "Bird's Eye View" appears regularly in the *New London Day Newspaper*. He received his education in natural resources at the University of



Massachusetts and has worked for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the US Department of Agriculture. He lives in rural Connecticut with his daughter and their dog, Zoey.

Intimate and acutely observed in the tradition of Thoreau, *Birder on Berry Lane* reveals the wonders of migration, the sensitive interaction of birds with their habitat, and the hidden meanings of

birdsong. Identifying species by sight, sound, and nesting behavior, Tougias tunes in to the seasonal rhythms of this delicate ecosystem. Readers are also led to consider the dangers posed by climate change and human development.



Ruth W. Crocker

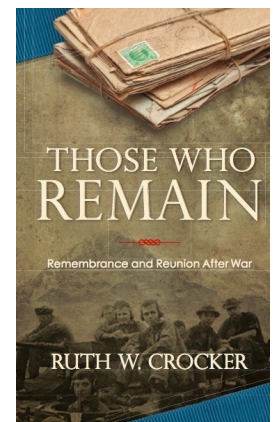
Wednesday, September 2nd @ 6:00pm
*Those Who Remain:
Remembrance and Reunion After War*

Ruth W. Crocker's writing honors include a notable essay in *Best American Essays*, a Pushcart Prize nomination, and first prize in the *Saturday Evening Post's* "Tribute to the Troops" essay contest. Her memoir, **Those Who Remain: Remembrance and Reunion**



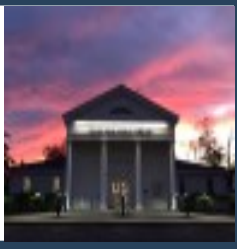
After War, received the Benjamin Franklin Award, and a Silver Medal from the Military Writers Society of America. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from Bennington College and a PhD from the University of Connecticut. She lives and writes in Mystic, CT.

Following her husband's death in Vietnam in 1969 and years of silence about the war, the author describes how a serendipitous reunion in 2006 transformed her grief in **Those Who Remain**.



Salem Free Public Library

For Registration Contact:
salemctlibrary@yahoo.com
860-859-1130
www.salemct.gov/library



Tory Bilski

Wednesday, September 9th @ 6:30pm

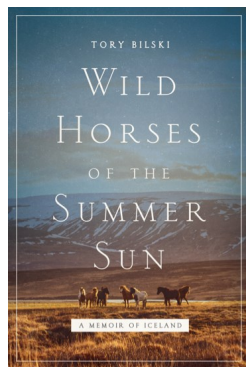
*Wild Horses of the Summer Sun:
A Memoir of Iceland*



Tory Bilski is a writer based in Connecticut. Her most recent pieces have appeared in *Atlas Obscura*, *Hartford Courant*, *Roads & Kingdoms*, and *Iceland Review*. In 2012, she created

an award-winning blog, *Icelandica*, featuring tales of adventure (and misadventure) with a group of women travelers in Iceland. She has had short stories published in *The Kenyon Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *13th Moon*, and other literary magazines. One of her stories was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She has a B.A. from Oswego State, and a M.A.L.S. from Wesleyan University. She works at Yale University and lives in Hamden.

In her memoir, **Wild Horses of the Summer Sun**, the writer goes to northern Iceland every summer in June with a group of adventurous women to ride the spirited Icelandic horses.



The Cabaret Theatre

For Registration Contact:
Janet Carlson Calvert Library at
860-642-6207
connecticutauthortrail@gmail.com



Martha Hall Kelly

Wednesday, September 17th



Martha Hall Kelly is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lilac Girls*. She lives in Connecticut, where she spends her days filling legal pads with stories and reading Civil War books. *Lost Roses* is her second novel.

The runaway *New York Times* bestseller *Lilac Girls* introduced the real-life heroine Caroline Ferriday. In Martha Hall Kelly's highly-anticipated new novel, *Lost Roses*, set a generation earlier and also inspired by true events, Kelly once

again focuses on the unstoppable, real-life Ferriday family, this time on Caroline's mother, Eliza. From the turbulent streets of St. Petersburg to the avenues of Paris and the society of fallen Russian émigrés who live there, the lives of three women will intersect in profound ways, taking readers on a breathtaking ride through a momentous time in history.

