

COLUMBIA



Winter on Columbia Lake
Photo Credit: Nancy Millerd

UPDATE JANUARY 2024



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The month of January starts in earnest with budget preparations for the Fiscal Year 24/25. The Town Departments and Boards/Commissions are in the process of completing their submission of their Operating Budgets and Capital Budgets.

We encourage you to attend the Board of Selectman (BOS) and Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FiPAC) meetings to engage in the budget process and we welcome your input. Meetings are held both in-person and virtually. Please visit our website and click on the Calendar tab for login information. You can also send in your input to PublicInput@columbiact.org.



A MESSAGE FROM DEBBY SMITH AND NANCY MILLERD FROM THE COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM: Greetings and Happy New Year! We would like to express our thanks for the generous support of local families through the Columbia Volunteer Social Service Program. Through your donations and gifts, we were able to share holiday meals, food gift cards and gifts with 24 children, their parents, and 27 seniors.

In addition to donations and gifts, we would also like to thank the volunteers who shopped for gifts, wrapped them, helped with sorting, distribution, and delivery to the families. This would not have been possible without all of you, and we greatly appreciate your willingness to be a helping hand for the families in Columbia.





TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

A MESSAGE FROM DEBBY SMITH AND NANCY MILLERD FROM THE COLUMBIA VOLUNTEER SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM (CONTINUED): Donations were made by: The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, The Columbia Lions Club, The Columbia Leos Club, Horace Porter School Staff, The Columbia Congregational Church, Saint Columba, The Holiday Giving Tree, The Cardless Holiday Fund and many, many generous Columbia residents past and present. Our hearts have been touched by your readiness to fill the gap where it needs to be filled. We will continue doing outreach throughout 2024 during Easter, back to school season, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We look forward to and appreciate your continued support!

EVERBRIDGE NOTIFICATIONS: We will from time to time issue an Everbridge Notification with a message from the First Selectman, Steven M. Everett to help keep you informed. If you would like to sign up for [Everbridge Notifications](#) please go to the Town's website and on the Everbridge Notifications tab.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS: To receive Town news please go to the Town's website and click on the [Email Notifications](#) tab. If you need assistance please do not hesitate to call the Town Administrative Office or the First Selectman at 860-228-0110 or email us at townadministrator@columbiact.org.

Happy New Year and please be safe!

Steven M. Everett, First Selectman
severett@columbiact.org
860-228-0110

Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator
townadministrator@columbiact.org
860-228-0110



TOWN OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE NEW YEARS HOLIDAY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH AND MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST. IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., TOWN OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH.





TOWN OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

SUSTAINABLE CT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking to restart our Sustainable CT Initiative and we are looking for volunteers!

Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program to recognize thriving and resilient Connecticut municipalities. An independently funded, grassroots, municipal effort, Sustainable CT provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices. Municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward certification.

Sustainable CT also provides opportunities for grant funding to help communities promote economic well-being and enhance equity, all while respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment. The program is designed to support all Connecticut municipalities, regardless of size, geography or resources. Sustainable CT empowers municipalities to create high collective impact for current and future residents.

Ace Riker, Sustainable CT Equity Coach will be available to speak to us on **February 29th at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room at Town Hall** regarding the Optimize for Equity portion of the Sustainable CT initiative.

The Equity Coach can help us achieve the goals of optimizing for equity:

- Broaden community connections and work together.
- Value all voices and include the interests of all members of the community in decision making.
- Create a community where all can thrive and where race, gender, age, economic status, religious affiliation, or sexual identity do not determine opportunities or predict outcomes.
- Recognize and embrace the strengths that all community members bring to our cities and towns.

Please consider volunteering your time. To learn more about Sustainable CT please visit their [website](#) or call Jennifer LaVoie, Executive Administrative Assistant at 860-228-0110.



UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS

Many meetings will be held by utilizing remote access; however, some meetings are being held in-person or hybrid (both in-person and virtual). Please check the Town Calendar and the Agenda posted for directions on login information. Each board or committee will provide the information needed to join using an on-line conferencing platform. Please check the Town of Columbia's [website](#) for updates.

- 1/03/24 Wed: Lake Management Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
- 1/04/24 Thur: Szegda Farm Management Committee, 6:00 PM
- 1/04/24 Thur: Recreation Commission, 6:00 PM
- 1/04/24 Thur: Columbia Conservation Commission & Agriculture, 7:00 PM
- 1/04/24 Mon: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, 7:00 PM
- 1/08/24 Mon: Board of Education, 7:30 PM
- 1/08/24 Wed: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM
- 1/08/24 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 1/09/24 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 1/09/24 Tue: Economic Development Committee, 7:00 PM
- 1/10/24 Wed: Fiscal Policy Board, 8:30 AM
- 1/16/24 Tue: Board of Selectmen, 7:00 PM
- 1/16/24 Tue: Hop River Preserve Committee, 5:30 PM
- 1/17/24 Wed: Tri-Board Meeting between FiPAC, BOE & BOS 7:00 PM
- 1/17/24 Wed: Financial Planning & Allocation Commission,(following Tri-board Meeting)
- 1/18/24 Thur: Open Space Committee, 9:00 AM
- 1/17/24 Wed: Safety Committee, 1:30 PM
- 1/22/24 Mon: Horace Porter School HVAC Building Committee, 6:00 PM
- 1/22/24 Mon: Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 PM
- 1/24/24 Wed: Beckish Senior Center, 9:00 AM
- 1/25/24 Thur: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM

Public Comment will be accepted by our dedicated email at PublicInput@columbiact.org or by USPS mail to 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237 and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Happy New Year from the Parks and Recreation Department! We hope you had a peaceful and joyous holiday season filled with warmth, laughter and merriment. As 2024 gets underway, we are looking forward to bringing a lineup of great initiatives, engagements, and opportunities for the Town of Columbia to get involved with in the new year. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with the latest programs and events.

RECAP OF WINTER WONDERLAND: Columbia's Rec Park came to life with lights and holiday activity. People of all ages stopped by the upper pavilion to visit with Santa (who arrived in a festive fire engine!), enjoyed cocoa and cookies from Mrs. Claus, and toast marshmallows over an open fire. Generous donations to the Columbia Food Pantry were collected as well as holiday coloring and Santa letters too. The winner of 'How many Candies in the Jar' was Anna with the guess of 260 who had the closest guess without going over (267 was the actual amount). Here are a few pictures from the event:



TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

OUR STORY WALK HAS CHANGED SEASONS: This time the story is a favorite classic, *Frosty the Snowman*. Looking for an activity outdoors? Head to Rec Park and read the story as you travel from one post to the next along the walking path. Exercise both your mind and your body at the same time! Questions to the story are at the conclusion. Submit your answers to the rec department to receive a prize!



YOUTH REC BASKETBALL IS UNDERWAY! Kindergarten through 8th grade participants have been on the hard court learning, practicing and competing since the beginning of December. The program takes a hiatus over the holidays and then will get back to action early January. Playoffs are set for late February. Thank you to all our volunteer coaches! We couldn't do it without you. Go Columbia Hoops!

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE
At The Lake
Sunday, January 21, 2024
18 Beach Road, Columbia, CT

Music and activities ~ 11:30-1:00pm
Plunge @ NOON

\$20 entry fee: All proceeds will be donated to the Tide Cancer Foundation

TIDE CANCER FOUNDATION
For more information about the Tide Cancer Foundation visit: <https://www.tidecancerfoundation.org>

JANUARY 21ST ~ POLAR PLUNGE: Looking for a little fun this winter that will also be a good deed? Join the Polar Plunge at Columbia Lake where community, fun, and generosity come together. We might get cold, but oh the warmth we will feel in our hearts! Bonfire for warmth and marshmallow toasting, cocoa, small games, costume contest and raffle baskets will all be part of the festivities. All proceeds will be donated to the TIDE Cancer Foundation. Sign-up today on Rec Desk or scan the QR code on the flyer to direct you. Don't want to take the plunge but still be a part of the fun? Not a problem! Stop by to support our 'polar bears' and take in the atmosphere.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED)

ADULT EXERCISE PROGRAMS: The weather has turned wintry. Looking for exercise options indoors? Here are a few:

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Monday evenings; Check Rec Desk for times as start time changes due to gym demands. Registration can be done online through RecDesk or a walk-in option. Online: <http://columbia.recdesk.com>

FIT FUSION ~ Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 4:30 - 5:30 PM; Join instructor Carolyn Ritchie for a total body workout for all fitness levels.

YOGA ~ Gets back into action, January 22nd!

Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30 PM; Join Instructor Laura Jacques for an hour of Yoga that will have you feeling relaxed, stress free, and glad you took the time for YOU. All levels welcome.

ZUMBA ~ Tuesdays, 7 - 8 PM. Join instructor Martin Ricardo for an exhilarating, heart pumping dance class. Fun & Fitness all in one!

COMMIT ~ **Will start again in February** Wednesdays, 6 - 7 PM; Join Instructor Karen Ricardo for a fun, high intensity interval training style dance class from music all over the world. All ages, fitness levels and abilities welcome!

ART WITH ANN DRURY, FOR KIDS! Friday, Jan. 26th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Participants will be lead through various steps to experience a fun and 'just right' challenge to create their own masterpiece. Sign-up in advance (on Rec Desk) is required. *Ages 8+

For more dates and offerings, please visit our Website, follow us on [Instagram](#) and/or [Facebook](#).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



RECREATION BUSINESS: LIFEGUARDS needed for the summer at Columbia Lake. Yes, it is January, but summer will be here before you know it. Start planning for your summer job now. Not certified? We will provide training and certification. Call the Rec office for more details.



SPONSORS: Looking to partner with Columbia Parks & Recreation? Being a sponsor is a great way to not only promote your business but provide financial support to enhance programming and positively impact the community. Call the department for partnership opportunities: 860.228.8513

AROUND TOWN: A Candy Cane Dash (2.5 mile run/walk) was recently held at Rec Park. Some of the proceeds for race entry were donated to Columbia Parks and Recreation. Costumes, smiles and fun were had by all involved.



Pickleballers in action....on the hardcourt AND helping to decorate Winter Wonderland!

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful year ahead filled with warmth and happiness. May 2024 bring new adventures, successes, and shared accomplishments. We can't wait to see what we achieve together this year!

Director: Debbie Fiske ~ 860.228.8513; Recdirector@columbiact.org

Assistant Director: Anyka Fegan ~ 860.228.8513; Recreation@columbiact.org

Office Location:

18 Lake Rd. (Murphy House at the Town Beach)

Columbia, CT 06237

Hours:

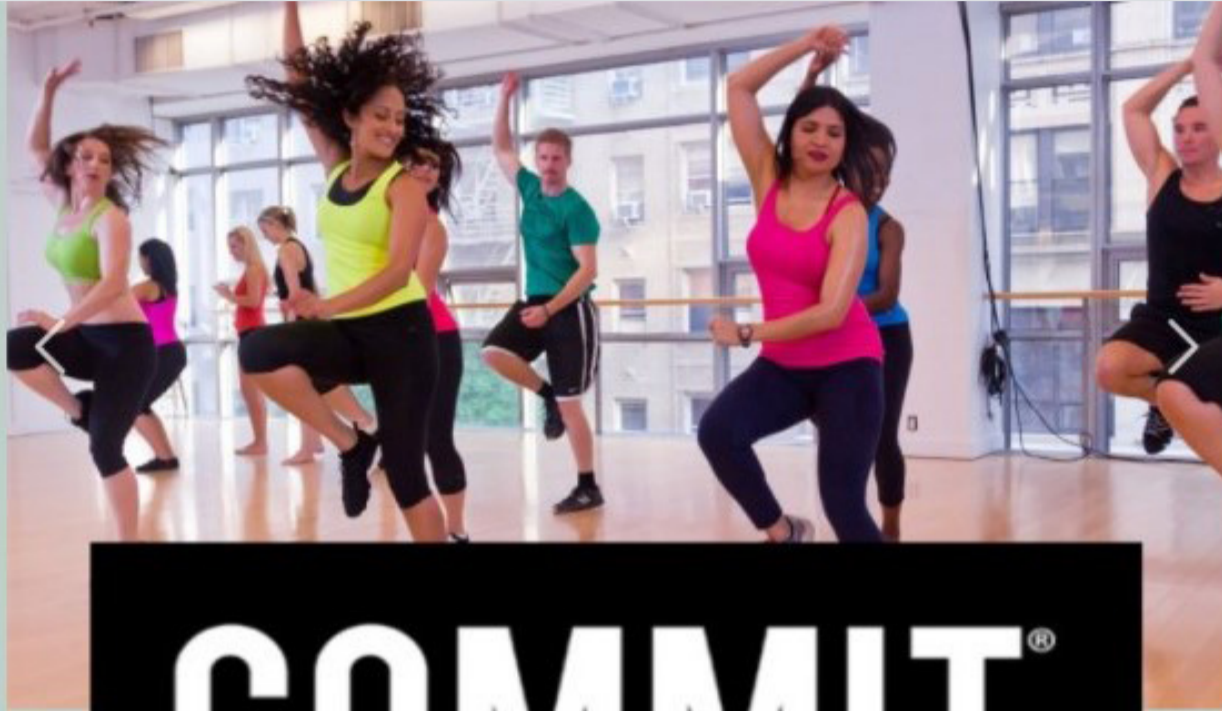
Monday - Wednesday: 8 am - 4 pm

Thursday: 8 am - 6 pm

Friday: 8 am - 12 pm

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



COMMIT[®]
DANCE FITNESS

KAREN RICARDO

Wednesday's from 7PM-8PM

Located at Yoemans Hall

\$6 Walk-in

\$50 Pre-Paid (10 Class Punch Card)

\$90 Pre-Paid (20 Class Punch Card)

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



ZUMBA
With Martín.

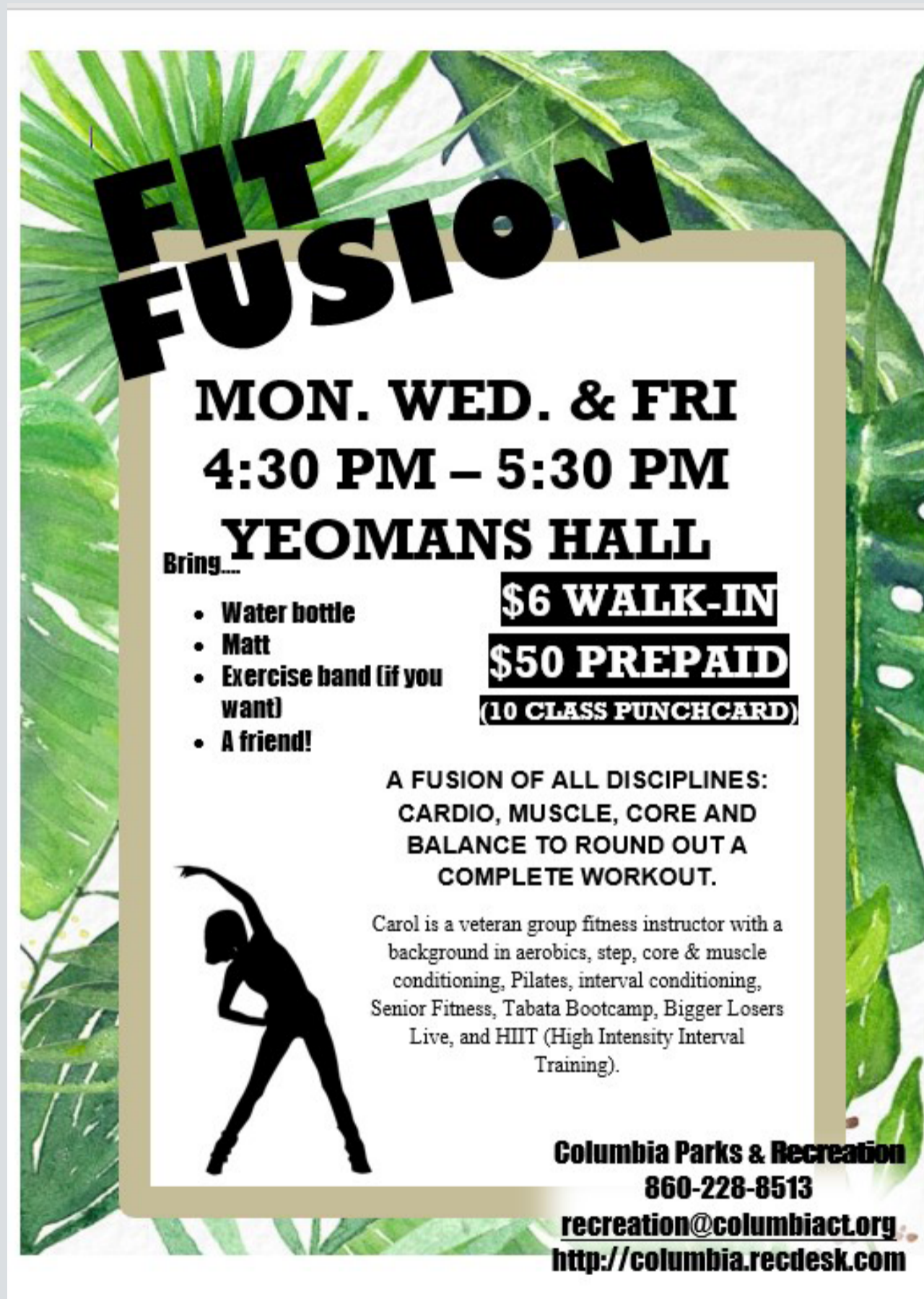
TUESDAY 7:00 PM

\$6 Per Class.
\$50 Ten Class Punch Card.
\$90 Twenty Class Punch Card.

Dance away with Zumba® and experience the exhilaration of Latin-inspired and globally-inspired beats while getting fit and staying active! All skill levels are invited and encouraged to join in the fun!

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):



FIT FUSION

MON. WED. & FRI
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
YEOMANS HALL

Bring...

- Water bottle
- Matt
- Exercise band (if you want)
- A friend!

\$6 WALK-IN
\$50 PREPAID
(10 CLASS PUNCHCARD)

**A FUSION OF ALL DISCIPLINES:
CARDIO, MUSCLE, CORE AND
BALANCE TO ROUND OUT A
COMPLETE WORKOUT.**

Carol is a veteran group fitness instructor with a background in aerobics, step, core & muscle conditioning, Pilates, interval conditioning, Senior Fitness, Tabata Bootcamp, Bigger Losers Live, and HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training).

Columbia Parks & Recreation
860-228-8513
recreation@columbiact.org
<http://columbia.recdesk.com>

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTINUED):

Yoga **At Yeomans Hall**



Mondays

6:30-7:30 pm

September 11th – November 20th

Walk-in \$ 10

Pre-pay: \$85 for the entire session

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:

Presidential Primary

April 2, 2024

6am-8pm

Horace W. Porter School

3 Schoolhouse Rd

PARTY TRANSFER DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY IS JANUARY 2, 2024

Primaries in CT are "Closed Primaries", meaning that only voters registered in the party which is holding the Primary may vote. So, only registered Republicans can vote in the Republican Primary and only registered Democrats can vote in the Democratic Primary. The deadline to transfer registration from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the Primary of the new party (Democratic or Republican) is **JANUARY 2, 2024**. This deadline also applies if you are currently registered in a minor party (Independent, Green Party, Libertarian, etc).

Not sure if you're registered in a party?? [Click here to check your voter registration information](#) or contact our office.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES:

TOWN OF COLUMBIA FOOD BANK: For Columbia residents in need of non-perishables and to check availability of toiletries, please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 to make an appointment.

SNOW REMOVAL GRANT PILOT PROGRAM: If you are a Columbia resident who is a senior 55+ or disabled and have an emergency where you needed to get your driveway and or walkway snow plowed and are having trouble paying the bill please contact Columbia Social Services at 860-228-1008 or kwilt@columbiact.org to apply to the Pilot Snow Removal Grant Program.

Income eligibility is 60% of CT's state median income (household of 1 is \$41,553 and household of 2 is \$54,338)

Required documentation includes gross income (or current Energy Assistance approval), proof of age or disability, completion of the application and release, and invoice from a vendor with a W-9. Household must be willing to share why the service was needed as part of the application.

HEATING ASSISTANCE: The State of CT Energy Assistance Program: Applications for the 2023-24 energy assistance program are underway. This program is available regardless of heating source. Gross income cannot exceed \$41,553/year (single) and \$54,338 (couples). There is no asset limit. Documentation needed: last four weeks of gross income and utility bills, as proof of rent/mortgage. If you are receiving cash assistance or SNAP you can provide benefit documentation instead of proof of income. If you are new to the program DSS requires your Identification and Social Security cards for everyone in the household as well as income and utility bills.

To apply please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008/kwilt@columbiact.org or visit the [DSS Website](#).

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SOCIAL SERVICES CONTINUED:

SENIOR WELLNESS SERIES: "The More You Know" Wellness Series meets every second Friday of the month at the Senior Center. This free program has covered topics such as integrating hope into our thoughts when we feel concern, coping strategies when feeling stress, how to keep an open mind when communicating, tips on talking to a loved one who may be misusing substances. We are building a community that believes in "being kind to your mind" and "mental health is just as important as physical health". Come join us!

To make suggestions, share ideas or get involved in future prevention work for the Town of Columbia please contact Katie Wilt at 860-228-1008 or kwilt@Columbiact.org.

Thank you,

Katie Wilt, Community Social Services Coordinator

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE: Do not forget! The second installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes will become due on January 1, 2024. The last day to pay without a penalty is February 1, 2024. If taxes are not paid on or before February 1, 2024 interest will be charged at the rate of 1½% per month (18% per year) from the due date of January 1st. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00 (per vehicle). Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or interest per CT State Statute. Bills are not sent for this second installment, please put a reminder on your calendar!

Regular office hours for the TAX OFFICE: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and closed on Friday. In December town offices are closed on the 22nd, 25th, 29th and January 1st for the Holidays.

The Tax Office has extended hours during the tax collection month of January and February 1, 2024: Monday through Wednesday 8:00-4:00, Thursday 10:00-6:00 and Friday 8:00-12:00.

Mailing address for tax payments:

Town of Columbia

Dept # 347

PO Box 150512

Hartford, CT 06115-0512

Drop boxes for payments and correspondence are located at the right side of the entrance of the Town Hall and in front of Yeoman's Hall. The drop boxes are emptied at 8:00AM each weekday, weekend tax payments are processed on Monday. Please be aware that tax payments put in the drop box after 8:00AM will be processed the next day the Tax Office is open.

You can view and pay taxes online. Service fees for tax payments are .95 cents to use a bank account and 2.99% for credit and debit cards.

To find your tax bills online:

- Go to www.columbiact.org on the home page click on the pay taxes online tab.
- On the next page click on to view/pay tax bills.
- The search criteria will need to be entered exactly how the tax bill is written. last name, space, and your first initial.

TOWN DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

TAX OFFICE (CONTINUED): You can also utilize this site to look up your payment history. Locate your bill using the instructions above, then hover over the icons in the option column and select tax payment history. If you have any problems using the online system, please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org and we will gladly assist you.

For those seeking an immediate clearance for DMV due to delinquent taxes please contact the Tax Office at 860-228-0230 or taxcollector@columbiact.org for information on the process.

Paying the tax bill online does not clear you immediately at DMV. You will need to contact the tax office during tax office hours for assistance.

Thank you,

Carol Price, Tax Collector

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE: It is business as usual in the Clerk's office for all those services that you might need – Recording and Searching of Land Records, Marriage licenses, Certified copies of Vital Records, Fishing and Hunting licenses, Dog Licenses, Transfer Station stickers, etc.

For your convenience, there is a large white drop box outside the doors to Yeoman's Hall. This box can be used to drop off items for the Town Clerk and is shared with other offices in Town Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us or reach out to us by email – Robin (townclerk@columbiact.org) or Gail (atownclerk@columbiact.org).

Happy New Year!

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

FRIENDS OF MONO POND STATE PARK:

THE BEGINNING: Over the past few years, the State of Connecticut, with the help of the Towns of Columbia and Lebanon and the Trust for Public Land, has acquired several large parcels of land. These acquisitions have expanded the Mono Pond State Park from its pre-existing 200 acres to well over 600.



The property provides opportunities for hiking, biking, running, and horseback riding; skiing, snowshoeing, and skating; and bow hunting, fishing, and kayaking, to name but a few! The property is also steeped in history, with foundations in the Mint Brook parcel dating back to the 18th century.

ENTER, FRIENDS...

As Mono Pond State Park acreage expanded beyond Columbia's town boundaries, the potential benefit of having a similarly expansive alliance of individuals sharing an appreciation of this resource was recognized. In an effort to build such an alliance, in 2022, the Friends of Mono Pond State Park (FOMPSP) was formed. We are an all volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization created to enhance and support conservation, recreation and educational activities within Mono Pond State Park, while preserving the integrity of the park's natural resources and historical artifacts.

JOIN US! Our organization is now inviting people from all communities to support our projects and participate in accomplishing our goals.

Please [Click Here](#) for the full Friends of Mono Pond State Park Pamphlet.

Find us on Face Book! www.facebook.com/friendsofmonopond

Questions? Comments? Ideas? Email us at: FriendsOfMonoPond@gmail.com

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY: Welcome to January at your local library!

We have a lot to be thankful for in 2024 at Saxton B. Little Library. We've joined the majority of other CT libraries in going fine-free; we hope to encourage prior users to come back to the library and attract new users to experience everything our library has to offer, without hesitation.

We're also in the midst of our Annual Giving campaign. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far – your support will help us continue to bring your stellar services in the new year! If you're considering donating, visit our website at <https://www.columbiactlibrary.org/support-the-library/annual-giving/> for information.

Adults – Get in the spirit of new hobbies for 2024!

First, we're offering an Intro to Journal Writing Workshop on Tuesday, January 16th from 6:00-8:00pm. This program is great for novice journal-writers and writers who are looking for new inspiration. As this class is limited to 12 participants, we recommend reserving your space early!

Julie, our Library Director, is also starting a Cookbook Club this month! For our first meeting, we'll be discussing Jerusalem by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamini. As a group, we'll meet to discuss our experiences with this book – the good, the bad, the delicious, the disappointing – it's all up for discussion. If you'd like to bring a sample of something you've made from the book, feel free – but it's not required, and neither is tasting. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30pm – copies of the cookbook are available to borrow from SBL now.

Plus, a little preview of a program coming in February – join us for Get Organized: Managing Your Paper, led by Sandra Wheeler, professional organizer and owner of For Peace of Mind, LLC. On Tuesday, February 20th at 6:30pm, we'll talk about everything you need to keep your paper organized – how to sort it, what to keep and for how long, and where to put it so you can find it. Give us a call to save your seat!

Kids – We have lots of fun planned this month!

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY CONTINUED: Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. with a drop-in art project from January 8th through 12th. Stop in any time SBL is open to read some MLK books and make a painted silhouette portrait of Dr. King.

On Thursday, January 11th at 6:00pm, the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center will be at the Library to talk all about the Magic of Feathers! Join us to learn how birds rely on feathers for survival; use magnifying glasses to look at different feathers; and meet some LIVE birds. All aged children and teens are welcome, and registration is required, so call us to sign up.

SBL is also hosting a Winter Collage Workshop for kids on Thursday, January 25th. Join us to make an oversized snow globe collage. We'll have lots of fun supplies to collage with. Let your creativity shine! You can drop-in for this program any time from 4:00-7:00pm, but registration is required.

This month's Drawing Club for kids aged five and up meets on Tuesday, January 30th at 4:00pm. Join us to practice your drawing skills through fun prompts and projects. Registration for our January session opens on 1/2/24.

Did you know that SBL has three public access computers and free Wifi? Come to the Library for a quiet place to study, get some work done, or just browse the internet. We have comfy places to sit with your laptop – feel free to bring headphones and covered drinks while you work. Additionally, you can print both black-and-white and color copies while you're here for a minimal fee.

We hope to see you at SBL soon!

Saxton B. Little Free Library
319 Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237
860-228-0350
columbiactlibrary.org

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):

The Magic of Feathers

at the Saxton B. Little Library

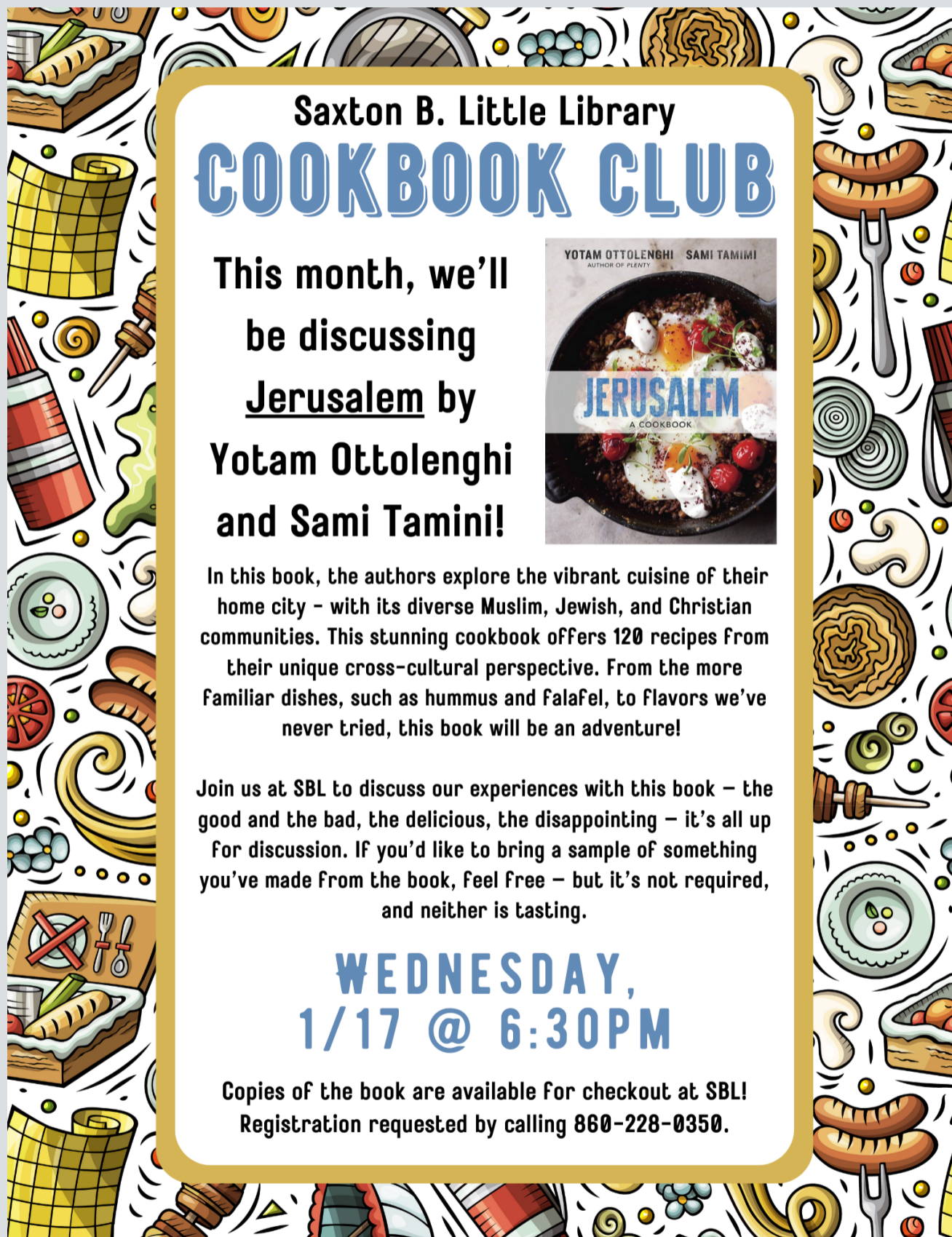
Thursday | Jan. 11TH | 6:00

Join us to learn how birds rely on feathers for survival, use magnifying glasses to look at different feathers, and meet some **LIVE** birds from the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center!

All age children & teens welcome.
Please stop by the Library or call
860-228-0350 to register.

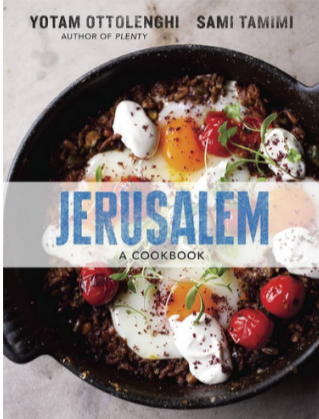
NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):



Saxton B. Little Library
COOKBOOK CLUB

This month, we'll
be discussing
Jerusalem by
Yotam Ottolenghi
and **Sami Tamini!**



In this book, the authors explore the vibrant cuisine of their home city - with its diverse Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities. This stunning cookbook offers 120 recipes from their unique cross-cultural perspective. From the more familiar dishes, such as hummus and falafel, to flavors we've never tried, this book will be an adventure!

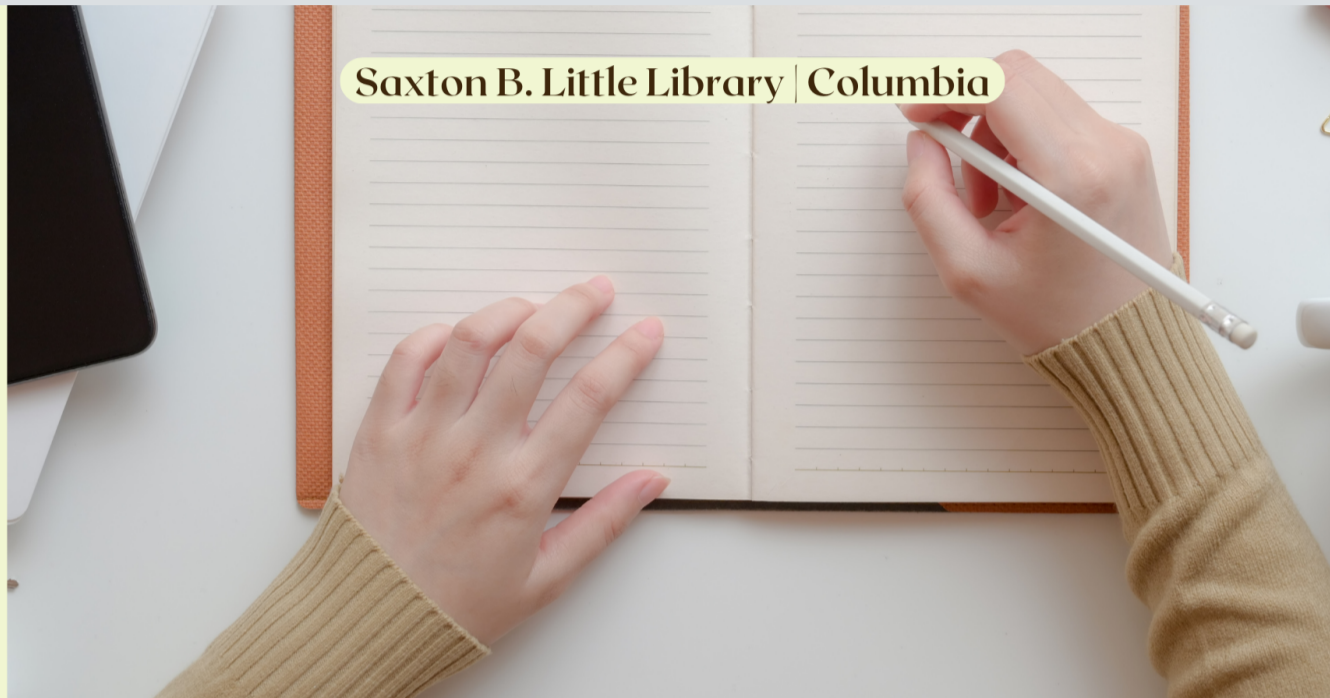
Join us at SBL to discuss our experiences with this book - the good and the bad, the delicious, the disappointing - it's all up for discussion. If you'd like to bring a sample of something you've made from the book, feel free - but it's not required, and neither is tasting.

**WEDNESDAY,
1/17 @ 6:30PM**

Copies of the book are available for checkout at SBL!
Registration requested by calling 860-228-0350.

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):



Intro to Journal Writing workshop with Jane Rossi

Jane is a seasoned instructor and lifelong journal-keeper. As a certified Journal to the Self® instructor and a member of the International Association for Journal Writing, Jane's expertise is your guiding light on this transformative journey.

Participants in the class will:

- *Receive engaging writing prompts to inspire their journal entries.*
- *Learn and practice a variety of journaling techniques.*
- *Experience a supportive and accepting environment.*
- *Learn about the therapeutic benefits of journaling.*

This 2-hour workshop is designed for adults aged 18 and over. To get the most from the experience, please bring your favorite journal or notebook along with a pen.

Tuesday, January 16th from 6-8pm

*Limited to 12 participants!
Pre-registration required by calling 860-228-0350.*

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):

Saxton B. Little Library | Columbia



Get Organized: Managing Your Paper

Sandra Wheeler – Professional Organizer and Owner of For Peace of Mind, LLC – will give useful tips on how to Organize Your Paper:

- How to sort it
- What to keep and for how long
- Where to put it so you can find it


Bring your questions. Walk away motivated to make changes in how you handle the paper in your life. Don't miss this session!

Tuesday, 2/20 @ 6:30pm

Limited seating - registration required.
Call 860-228-0350 to save your space!

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):



SAXTON B.
LITTLE FREE
LIBRARY

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DROP-IN ART PROJECT

**JAN.
8TH - 12TH
ALL DAY**

Stop in to read MLK books and make a painted silhouette portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in honor of MLK Day.

All ages welcome. No registration required.
Stop in any time from January 8th - 12th.

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

SAXTON B. LITTLE LIBRARY (CONTINUED):



**Kid's Craft Night:
Winter Collage
Workshop**

**Thurs. January 25th
Drop in 4:00-7:00**

Join us to make an oversized snow globe collage! We will have lots of fun art supplies to collage with. Let your creativity shine!

All Ages. Limited to 24. Registration required. Stop by the Library or call 860-228-0350 to register.

Saxton B. Little Library
319 Route 87, Columbia, CT

NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



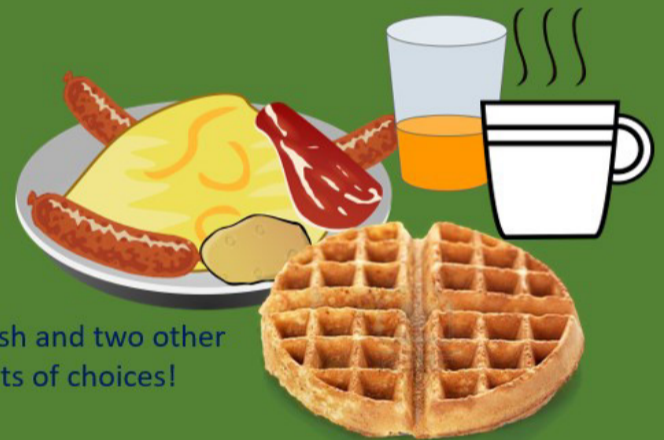
2nd Saturday Community
Breakfast
Saturday January 13th

Share Food and Joy with
Family and Friends

7:30 – 10 AM

All you can eat \$12; Special Rates for
Families with Children

Buffet includes design-your-own omelets, Belgian waffles, corned beef hash and two other meats, hash browns, scrambled eggs, fruit and home baked goods. Lots of choices!



Circle of Trust

Enjoy a moment of peace, a quiet comfort.

Each Tuesday Morning from 8 AM to 8:30 AM
Each Wednesday Evening from 7 PM to 7:30 PM
Beginning Tuesday January 9th
Columbia Congregational Church

325 Rt 87



NON-MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AND NON-PROFIT NEWS AND INFORMATION

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (CONTINUED):



Simple Sustenance

Sunday, Jan 28th

Order **Chicken Brunswick Stew & Corn Bread** to go!
ORDER and PAY **BY Jan. 21st** & PICK UP **Jan. 28th**

Order online at <https://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/>

Or

Pick Up An Order Form At Church

Any questions? Email us at CCChurchFair@gmail.com



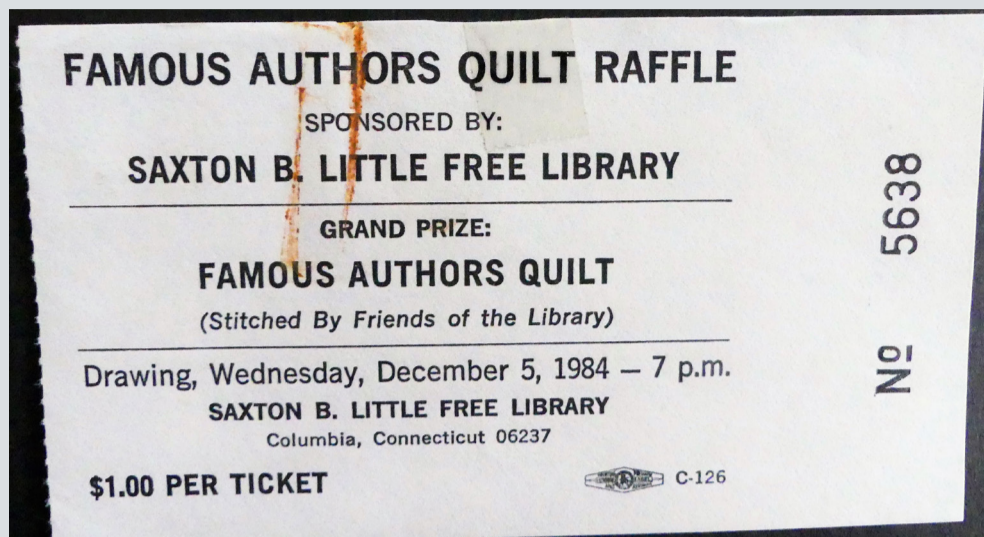
The profits from Simple Sustenance support both the church and local charities.

SPECIAL INTEREST STORY

COLUMBIA'S "FAMOUS AUTHORS' QUILT" – RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE

In 1980 the Friends of the Library conceived of an ambitious fundraising project combining the goodwill of notable literary talents alongside the Friends' considerable quilting skills. Inspired by the success of a similar project at Mansfield's Congregational Church, Gem Marston, Noreen Steele, Linda Spector, Faye Titus, Lorraine Kammerer, Carol

Kubala, and Sue Russo formed the core stitching --- quilting team aided by many other Columbia residents and Friends. The project concluded the day the raffle, December 5, 1984 at 7 p.m. Raffle tickets sold for \$1.00.



ADELMA Simmons purchases the first ticket in a raffle to benefit the Saxton B. Little Free Library in Columbia. Barry Williams of the library board of directors presents the ticket. Simmons, author of "Herbal Harvest," signed a homemade quilt along with other authors, which will be raffled.

Fast forward to October 7, 2022, to an inquiry from Connecticut resident Ms. Lisa Preli. "Hello, I am trying to research a quilt that was made by the Saxton B. Little Library. I know it is a needle in a haystack, but I was hoping you could confirm that the signatures are real. Any help would be greatly appreciated."

Ms. Preli's photographs revealed the embroidered name Saxton B. Little and dates 1883 – 1983 which framed 48 squares, each containing a celebrated

author's embroidered signature. Their names were familiar to most everyone from 1960 – 1990. John Updike, James Michner, Herman Wouk, Theodore White, Alister Cooke, Dr. Suess, Richard Scary, Irving Wallace, Adelman Grenier Simmons, George M. Schulz, Erma Bombeck, Allen Ginsberg, James Baldwin, Michael Creighton, Bruce Clements, Erich Segal, Sylvia Porter, Peg Bracken, and thirty others supported Columbia's library fundraiser.

SPECIAL INTEREST STORY

COLUMBIA'S "FAMOUS AUTHORS' QUILT" – RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE

As it turns out Susan Kelley had bought the winning raffle ticket, and some years later gave the quilt to her daughter. The Columbia "Famous Authors' Quilt" is truly one-of-a-kind. It reflects our literary and cultural heritage of the day, and is a tribute to all the Friends and Authors who made it so.

Ingrid Wood, Town Historian

