

Two Towns – One Book Celebrating our Twelfth Community Read



Clifton Park & Halfmoon Read
www.twotownsonebook.org

2024 Community Activities

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: The New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, Oprah Daily, Entertainment Weekly, and Newsweek.

“Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it’s the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America’s most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth’s unusual approach to cooking (combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride) proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn’t just teaching women to cook. She’s daring them to change the status quo.

Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.” Goodreads 4.31

*****KICK-OFF *** Saturday, January 20, 2:00 pm (Snow Day, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2:00 pm), Library Program Rooms A & B**

‘Dessert at Two’ - A Cooking Demonstration: Block Party Blackberry Pie

Presenter, Abby Shea, Graduate - Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, Chairperson: Linda Conklin.

Abby will perform a cooking demonstration similar to those Elizabeth Zott offered on her TV program, “*Supper at Six*”. Join us for this demonstration, “Dessert at Two.” You’ll end the session with a time for questions and an opportunity to enjoy a slice of Block Party Blackberry Pie and a cup of tea or punch. A special event mug will be provided while the supplies last and our Program of Community Activities for 2024 will be shared. Tickets for our March luncheon at SCCC can be purchased at the Ask Desk, and you’ll also be able to register for our April Author event.



**Thursday, February 22, 9:30-10:15 am – VIRTUAL AT HOME EVENT –
Afternoon Tea with Author, Bonnie Garmus**

Grab a cuppa and get to know American author and 2023 Paul Torday Memorial Prize winner, Bonnie Garmus. Bonnie will be in conversation with children’s writer Piers Torday to discuss her book, *Lessons in Chemistry*, her career, and to offer a glimpse into her creative routine. Simply click on or use the web address that follows, then click on RSVP, and follow the directions to register for this free event.

<https://www.bonniegarmus.com/news-events>

Sunday, February 25, 2:00 pm - Reading is Sweet, Brownie Bake Off, in Library Program Rooms A & B – Chairperson: Jo Anne Robbins

Each team will be led by a well-known community leader and a member of the Friends of the Library leadership. Each team will enlist the help of volunteer bakers. On bake off day, teams will share their secret recipes for a delicious brownie and participants will taste and vote for their favorites. Prizes will be awarded. This should be a delightful way to meet your Friends, enjoy some treats, and have some FUN! Punch and a hot drink will be served. Please bring your mug from the Kick-Off or your favorite mug from home. Help us cut down on paper products.

Bake Off Leaders

Alex Gutelius, Director of Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

Dr. Oliver Robinson, Shenendehowa Superintendent

Phil Barrett, Town of Clifton Park, Supervisor

Kevin Tollison, Halfmoon Supervisor

Elizabeth Zott, Supper at 6:00, Led by our Hospitality Chair

Wednesday, March 6, 11:00 am – SUNY Schenectady County Community College Luncheon, Casola Dining Room, including Tour of their Kitchen, in Elston Hall - Chairperson: Rosemary Maguire

Participants should arrive no later than 11:00 am at the Casola Dining Room, located on the first floor of Elston Hall. The address is [100 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY](#). Driving directions are available on Google Maps. The Casola Dining Room provides students in the Department of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism the opportunity to learn the necessary cooking, service, and managerial skills required for a la carte service. Tickets are **\$26.00 including tax and gratuity. Limit -100**. Tickets will be sold at the Library Ask Desk, first come first served. Your ticket is your reservation.

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 pm - Author Ruth Reichl, Gowana Middle School Auditorium

[Ruth Reichl](#) is the author of *My Kitchen Year: 136 Recipes That Saved My Life*, a cookbook published in September 2015. She was Editor in Chief of *Gourmet Magazine* from 1999 to 2009. Before that she was the restaurant critic of



both *The New York Times* (1993-1999) and the *Los Angeles Times* (1984-1993), where she was also named food editor. As co-owner of The Swallow Restaurant from 1974 to 1977, she played a part in the culinary revolution that took place in Berkeley, California. In the years that followed, she served as restaurant critic for *New West* and *California* magazines. Ruth's books will be available for sale at the event by the Open Door Bookstore. Ruth will be autographing her books. [Registration on the library website required.](#)

Saturday, May 4, 2:00 pm – Get to Know the Rowing Community in Clifton Park and Halfmoon

Community Participants, including the Shenendehowa Rowing Team with Amy Pfaffenbach, Shen Rowing Coach, followed by *The Boys of '36* PBS Documentary. **Library Program Rooms A & B - Chairperson: Mary Fran Verostek**

Inspired by Daniel James Brown's critically acclaimed nonfiction book, *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*, *THE BOYS OF '36* is the thrilling documentary about that American Olympic rowing team that triumphed against all odds in Nazi Germany.

Beginning January 10, 2024 - Help Us Build an FOL Community Recipe and Cooking Hack

Resource: An At Home Activity – Chairperson: Wilma Jozwiak

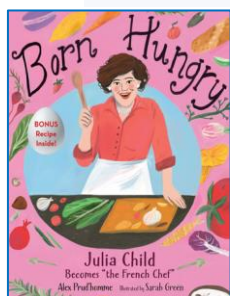
Send your favorite recipe with a little back story about why you love it. Or, send your favorite hacks for making cooking more fun, easier, or better (things like recipe substitutions that work really well, innovative ways to use cooking tools, strategies for keeping pie crusts from burning, you name it). We'll put all submissions together and make them available to everyone online. Send your recipes and great hacks to friendsofthecphlibrary@gmail.com. We reserve the right to edit for length or ease of understanding; but we'll share any edits with you before the whole thing goes live.

Kids Read, Too!

Lessons in Chemistry is a wonderful book for adults, but our goal is to get *everyone* engaged and talking about what they've read. In an effort to include our entire community, we have identified two titles recommended for our younger friends. *Born Hungry* was selected for our youngest children and *Who was Julia Child?*, for our older elementary school children. These texts relate to some of the themes in our book Community Read, *Lessons in Chemistry*. There will be an expanded list of tie-ins at the Kick-Off on January 20th. Suggested titles are available in our public and/or school libraries, so check them out!

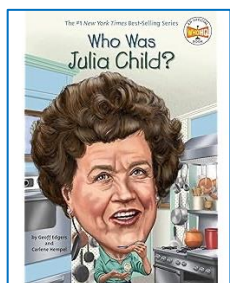
Happy Reading!

Our Kids' Books



***Born Hungry: Julia Becomes the French Chef* by Alex Prud'homme**

Julia Child was born hungry, but she was not born a chef. In fact, Julia didn't discover her passion for cooking until she had a life-changing luncheon in France and became determined to share her newfound love of food with everyone. How did Julia Child become one of America's most celebrated and beloved chefs? Her grandnephew reveals her story in this picture book that Jacques Pepin calls a "vivid portrait . . . an enjoyable read." Julia's kid-friendly recipe for Oeufs Brouillés (Scrambled Eggs) is included!



***Who Was Julia Child?* by Geoff Edgars and Carlene Hempel**

Born in California in 1912, Julia Child enlisted in the Army and met her future husband, Paul, during World War II. She discovered her love of French food while stationed in Paris and enrolled in Le Cordon Bleu cooking school after her service. Child knew that Americans would love French food as much as she did, so she wrote *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* in 1961. The book was a success and the public wanted more. America fell in love with Julia Child. Her TV show, ***The French Chef***, premiered in 1963 and brought the bubbling and lovable chef into millions of homes. Her shows may still be viewed (streaming) on [PBS](https://www.pbs.org).

[Please check our website](#) for additions to our 2024 programming. Many thanks to our TTOB Steering Committee for creating such an interesting program.

Thank You TTOB Community Partners: Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, Town of Clifton Park, Town of Halfmoon, Shenendehowa Central Schools, Halfmoon Senior Center, Clifton Park Senior Center, CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services and Southern Saratoga YMCA .

**Thank You, Town of Clifton Park, Town of Halfmoon and
Stewarts' Holiday Match Program for Your Generous Contributions!**

Keep up to date with TTOB events on our website.

www.twotownsonlinebook.org