

Silas Bronson Library
267 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

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SPARK A CONVERSATION!
THE BIG READ



THE BIG READ: WATERBURY
Fahrenheit 451
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



Museum...Library
SERVICES



PRESENTED BY

The Silas Bronson Library

Waterbury Public Schools and
Smaller Learning Communities Project
Connecticut Community Foundation
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury
The Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center

Join The Big Read in Waterbury

Area residents are invited to read Ray Bradbury's classic novel *Fahrenheit 451*. Our goal is to inspire 5,000 people to read the novel and to participate in related public programs, nearly all of which are free.

How to participate

Everyone and anyone can participate by reading the book, organizing a discussion and attending or volunteering at a program. If you've read the book, visit The Big Read at www.bronsonlibrary.org or sign in at an event.

How to get the book

Check out a copy from the Silas Bronson Library or purchase at Barnes & Noble at the Brass Mill Commons, where there is a Big Read display.

Learn more

For updates, visit www.bronsonlibrary.org or call 203-574-8225. Listen for weekly updates on WATR. There will also be Big Read news in the Republican-American and on Skye Cable.

The Silas Bronson Library's community partners

Barnes & Noble
Chase Collegiate School
Connecticut Community Foundation
Friends of the Silas Bronson Library
Greystone Arts
Holy Cross High School
John Bale Book Company
Kiva Dance Collective
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury
Main Street Waterbury
Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center
Naugatuck Valley Community College
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Connecticut-Waterbury
Palace Theater
Post University
Republican-American
Sacred Heart High School
Seven Angels Theatre

Shakesperience Productions, Inc.
Sisters to Sisters Book Club
Taft School
Thomaston High School
Thomaston Opera House
Timexpo: The Timex Museum
Waterbury Public Schools:
Crosby, Kennedy and Wilby H.S.
Enlightenment School
Waterbury Arts Magnet School
Smaller Learning Communities Project
Waterbury Rotary Club
Waterbury Fire Department
Waterbury Police Department
Waterbury Police Activity League
Waterbury Symphony Orchestra
WATR – 1320 AM
Westover School
W.F. Kaynor Technical School

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



INSTITUTE OF
MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
SERVICES



CONNECTICUT
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

RepublicanAmerican



WATR 1320-AM
NEWS • TALK

About The Big Read

The Big Read answers a big need. *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*, a 2004 report by the National Endowment for the Arts, found that not only is literary reading in America declining rapidly among all groups, but that the rate of decline has accelerated, especially among the young. The Big Read aims to address this crisis squarely and effectively by providing citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. The Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. For more information, visit www.neabigread.org.

About *Fahrenheit 451*

In a gripping story at once disturbing and poetic, Ray Bradbury takes the materials of pulp fiction and transforms them into a visionary parable of a society gone awry, in which firemen burn books and the state suppresses learning. Meanwhile, the citizenry sits by in a drug-induced and media-saturated indifference. More relevant than ever a half-century later, *Fahrenheit 451* has achieved the rare distinction of being both a literary classic and a perennial best seller.

The story behind the book

In 1951, with a house full of young children and no money to rent an office, Ray Bradbury took refuge in the basement of the UCLA library, where typewriters could be rented for 10 cents for a half hour. He worked quickly, often running upstairs to find books to quote.

**“The book
wrote itself
in nine days,
because the
library told
me to do it.”**

— Ray Bradbury



The Big Read: Waterbury celebrates *Fahrenheit 451*

September 12-14 and 19-21

Fridays/Saturdays 7:30 p.m.

Sundays 2 p.m.

Fall Festival of Theatre

Shakespeare Productions Studio
117 Bank Street

Join Shakespeare Productions and a wonderful cast of actors from our community for *All in the Timing*, six one-act comedies by David Ives. Admission: \$15 for adults, \$7 for 12 and under.

For more information visit
www.shakespeareproductions.org
or call 203-754-2531.

Wednesday, September 17 5-7 p.m.

Exhibit Opening:

The Brave and the Valiant: Waterbury's Fire Department

Mattatuck Museum

144 West Main Street

See "Ongoing Events" for details.

Thursday, September 25 5:30 p.m.

"Words on Fire": *Fahrenheit 451* Kick-Off Celebration

Silas Bronson Library
267 Grand Street

Get fired up to read *Fahrenheit 451* with this rousing opening event! Hear excerpts from the book, read by some familiar faces. Local leaders, including members of the Waterbury Fire and Police departments, will read selected passages aloud, pausing for performances by the Kiva Dance Collective, Shakespeare Productions and more.

Friday, September 26 5:30 p.m.

Fahrenheit 451 Kick-Off Celebration II

Waterbury Police Activity League
William J. Sullivan Learning Center
58 Griggs Street

A special interpretation designed for the teen audience and sponsored by the Waterbury Police Activity League. Community leaders, including members of the Waterbury Fire and Police departments, will read excerpts of *Fahrenheit 451* interspersed with dramatic performances.

Saturday, September 27

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Waterbury's Big Read Family Day

Brass Mill Commons, Union Street
Enjoy a free showing of the movie version of *Fahrenheit 451* at Timexpo: The Timex Museum at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Children and adults are invited to watch François Truffaut's 1966 film adaptation and then join a group discussion. Children may also create a clock for just \$11. Visit the Waterbury Fire Department's *Fire Safety Trailer* from 12 to 2 p.m. The trailer teaches fire safety by simulating various real-life situations in a house setting. Also, be sure to stop by Barnes & Noble to view a display of banned books.

Saturday, September 27 7:15 p.m.

WSO "Banned Music" Concert

Naugatuck Valley Community College
Fine Arts Center

750 Chase Parkway

The Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Leif Bjaland, will perform works by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, and Shostakovich that have histories of being outlawed or suppressed. Guest pianist Yevgeny Sudbin joins the performance. A discussion at 7:15 p.m. is followed by the performance at 8 p.m. Admission: \$40/\$30/\$15 for adults, \$5 for students. Tickets: 203-574-4283 or www.waterburysymphony.org.

Thursday, October 2 7 p.m.

Dine & Discuss

The Waterbury Club

30 Holmes Avenue

How about dinner and a ...book?

Greystone Arts invites book groups and individuals for dining and conversation about *Fahrenheit 451*. For reservations, call Mary Beth Thompson at 203-754-8150 by September 25. Guests are responsible for the cost of their dinner and drinks.

Saturday, October 4 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

4th Annual "Downtown Draw"

Waterbury Green

Main Street Waterbury presents the return of this dynamic outdoor art competition that brings the sidewalks of downtown alive with chalk drawings by students, families, artists and community groups. School teams will create chalk art inspired by favorite books. Winners will be announced immediately after judging at 1 p.m. In case of rain, check www.mainstreetwaterbury.com for updates. Registration requested but not required. Registration information online or call 203-757-0701, ext. 302.

Saturday, October 4 1-3 p.m.

The Big Read for Little Kids: Waterbury Firefighters, Our Heroes

Neighborhood firehouses

Tour neighborhood firehouses to see fire trucks and equipment, then listen as firefighters read children's stories such as *Curious George and the Firefighters* and *Even Firefighters Hug Their Moms*. Presented by the Mattatuck Museum in conjunction with the exhibit *The Brave and the Valiant: Waterbury's Fire Department*. For participating firehouse locations, check www.bronsonlibrary.org.

Monday, October 6 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Set Your Mind on Fire: Book Discussion

Silas Bronson Library (Auditorium)
267 Grand Street

Join the Sisters to Sisters Book Club for a discussion of *Fahrenheit 451*. Explore the themes of the novel with your fellow readers.

Tuesday, October 7 10 a.m.

Fire Safety Storytime for Children

Silas Bronson Library

267 Grand Street

Presented by Children's Services, this interactive storytime will provide important fire prevention information for children and their parents/caregivers. For more information, call 203-574-8212.

Thursday, October 9 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Literature and Lunch: Book Discussion

John Bale Book Company

158 Grand Street

Ede Reynolds of John Bale Book Company will lead this engaging discussion. Lunch will be available for purchase from JoBa Café. To register, call 203-591-1801.

Tuesday, October 14 4 p.m.

Book Discussion with Dr. Mark Schenker

UConn Waterbury, Room 119

99 East Main Street

Mark Schenker of Yale University will lead this book discussion hosted by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Connecticut-Waterbury. To register, call Rita Quinn at 203-236-9924 or Brian Chapman at 203-236-9881.

Saturday, October 18 2 p.m.

Discover Ray Bradbury: The Spark Behind *Fahrenheit 451*

Silas Bronson Library

267 Grand Street

Sam Weller, author of *The Bradbury Chronicles*, will discuss the life of the remarkable author of *Fahrenheit 451*. A book signing will follow the talk, and books will be available for purchase.

Thursday, October 23 5 to 6 p.m.

Burning Thoughts: Book Discussion

Shakespeare Productions Studio
117 Bank Street

Emily Mattina, Shakespeare's producing director, will lead this discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* focusing on use of language to provoke emotion, instigate change and explore the human spirit.

Thursday, October 23 6 p.m.

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury's Scrabble Challenge 2008

Howland-Hughes Center
140 Bank Street

The competition is hot as teams vie for the big win, all to benefit Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury. A light supper starts the evening, then it's on to the Scrabble game, which will spotlight The Big Read. Admission: \$25 per person or \$100 per team of five. Registration required. Call 203-754-1164 by Oct. 17.

Wednesday, October 29 7 p.m.

The Big Halloween Social for Teens & Young Adults

Silas Bronson Library

267 Grand Street

Celebrate Halloween with a treasure hunt, magic fun and spooky snacks!

Wednesday, November 5 1 to 2 p.m.

Discussion: The Arts and the First Amendment

Mattatuck Museum

144 West Main Street

Discussion will focus on the impact of the First Amendment on Books, Movies and Art. Bring a brown bag lunch; beverages and light snacks will be provided. Call 203-753-0381 x.10 to register by November 3.

Thursday, November 6 5:30 p.m.

After the Fire: The Big Read Closing Ceremony

Silas Bronson Library

267 Grand Street

Celebrate our community's successful finish of The Big Read as students from Thomaston High School perform excerpts from the stage adaptation of *Fahrenheit 451*. Winners of the student Art and Writing contests will be announced.

Friday, November 14 8 p.m.

Saturday November 15 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 16 2 p.m.

Fahrenheit 451: The Play

Thomaston High School

185 Branch Road, Thomaston

Developed by Ray Bradbury in the late 1970s, this adaptation will be performed by a talented group of Thomaston High School students. For ticket information, call the Thomaston Opera House box office at 860-283-6250 or visit www.thomastonoperahouse.org.

Ongoing Events

Playwriting Contest

As part of its Fall Festival of Theatre, Shakespeare Productions is seeking short plays on the subject of censorship. Submit your script of 20 pages or less by sending it to Shakespeare (117 Bank Street, Waterbury, CT 06702) by September 1. A staged reading of the winning play will precede the 2 p.m. performance of *All in the Timing* at the Shakespeare studio on Sunday, September 14. For more information see www.shakespeareproductions.org or call 203-754-2531.

STOP, DROP & READ

Various Locations

Copies of *Fahrenheit 451* will be placed around Waterbury. If you find one, STOP and pick it up, DROP what you're doing, and READ the book! Find a book and you can enter a drawing to win a prize. Sponsored by Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury.

WATR's Big Read / Big Trivia

Listen to WATR 1320 AM each Friday morning for Big Read news and a trivia contest inspired by Ray Bradbury and *Fahrenheit 451*. Learn interesting information and win prizes.

Sunday, September 14-

Thursday, November 6

Banned Books Display

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Brass Mill Commons/235 Union Street

Browse a selection of titles that have been banned or challenged.

Wednesday, September 17-

Sunday, December 28

The Brave and the Valiant: Waterbury's Fire Department

Mattatuck Museum

144 West Main Street

Using historic photos, oral histories, and memorabilia loaned by firefighters and their families, the Mattatuck Museum, in partnership with the Waterbury Fire Department, will tell the story of these community heroes who put themselves at risk everyday. The exhibit is open during regular museum hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. For related programs, visit www.mattatuckmuseum.org.

The Big Read in the Schools

Waterbury Board of Education and the Smaller Learning Communities will sponsor *Fahrenheit 451* presentations for high school students from students from Crosby, Wilby, Kennedy, Waterbury Arts Magnet School and Enlightenment School. Students will experience scenes from the book creatively adapted and performed by Shakespeare Productions in collaboration with Kiva Dance Collective. At Chase Collegiate School, ninth grade student actors will play the roles of Ray Bradbury and characters from *Fahrenheit 451* while other students pose questions as "literary reporters."

Visit www.bronsonlibrary.org to see how other students are participating in The Big Read.

Join your neighbors in reading Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.
For updated events, visit www.bronsonlibrary.org or call 203-574-8225.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.