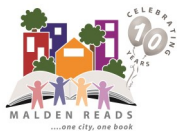
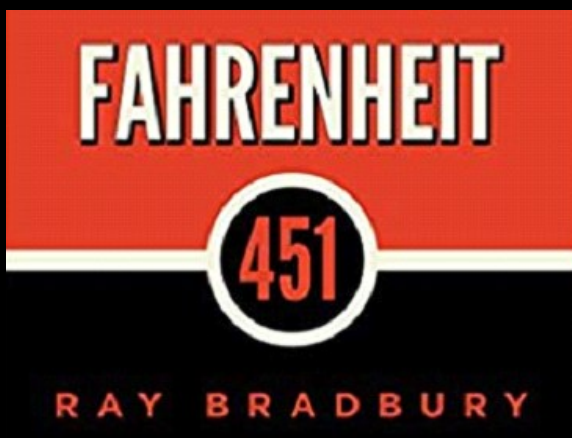


# NEA BIG READ: MALDEN 2020



"IT WAS A PLEASURE TO BURN."



# ABOUT THE NEA BIG READ: MALDEN

**Malden Reads: One City, One Book** presents the “**NEA Big Read: Malden 2020**” featuring the main book selection *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. For the 10th anniversary year of Malden Reads, the organization has received a prestigious national matching grant to further its mission of promoting literacy, encouraging a love of reading, and building community in the city of Malden.

To learn more about these events as well as additional programming and to sign up for email updates, go online to [www.maldenreads.org](http://www.maldenreads.org). Malden Reads is also on social media – find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## ABOUT THE NEA BIG READ

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Arts Midwest, the mission of the NEA Big Read is “to broaden our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.”

## ABOUT THE BOOKS

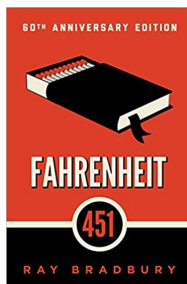
*Books are available at the Malden Public Library to check out to Malden Library card holders, and copies of Fahrenheit 451 are available in translations as well as audio and electronic formats. Books are also available for sale from at The Gallery @ 57 (57 Pleasant Street) and from Malden Reads (contact [maldenreads@gmail.com](mailto:maldenreads@gmail.com) to make arrangements to purchase your copies).*

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury. High School and Adult

***“There must be something in books, something we can’t imagine, to make a woman stay in a burning house.” – Fahrenheit 451***

*Called ‘the book for our social media age’ by the New York Times, Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451 is a gripping story that is at once disturbing and poetic. 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. Fahrenheit 451 is a ‘masterpiece ... everyone should read’ (Boston Globe).”*

*What’s the title mean? Bradbury asserts that Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which book paper burns. In the dystopian world of the novel, firefighters start fires instead of putting them out, and they burn home libraries, which are forbidden. Fahrenheit 451 follows the growth of fireman Guy Montag, who has begun questioning their way of life: always fast, never thinking or reflecting, and full of technological distractions. (Though published in 1953, the novel eerily foretells ear buds, reality television, and more.) The rest of the book reads like an action thriller, with a message of hope for the future at its end.*



## COMPANION BOOKS

*Malden Reads is pleased to announce the selection of companion books for young readers, all of which complement the themes of the 2020 main book selection, Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. In addition to the titles below, check our website for the tenth anniversary celebration books. These books were chosen by a group of educators, librarians, and other individuals in the community offering their support and input.*

***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak. Gr. 7–adult

*Winner of numerous awards, this book was described by The New York Times as “It’s the kind of book that can be life-changing, because without ever denying the essential amorality and randomness of the natural order, The Book Thief offers us a believable hard-won hope...”*

***The Last Book in the Universe*** by Rodman Philbrick. Gr. 4–7

*Newbury Honor author Philbrick’s story is set in an apocalyptic future in which the narrator, a boy with epilepsy, meets an older man who is one of the only people left on earth who appreciate books and literature.*

***Ban This Book*** by Alan Gratz. Gr. 3–6

*Called “A stout defense of the right to read” by Kirkus Reviews, this is a story about a shy fourth grader who fights back after her favorite book has been banned from her school library.*

***The Storyteller*** by Evan Turk. Gr. 2–4

*Kirkus Reviews, in a starred review, writes “The art of storytelling is celebrated as a life-giving force in this enthralling picture book set in Morocco ... Original storytelling with the feel of the best folklore.”*

***Light in the Darkness*** by Lesa Cline-Ransome. Gr. 1–2

*Kirkus Review summarizes this beautifully illustrated book about a “slave mother and her daughter [who] learn to read in spite of the great danger inherent in their enterprise...In this tale, [the author] makes the point that learning was not just a dream of a few famous and accomplished men and women, but one that belonged to ordinary folk willing to risk their lives.”*

***Arthur and the Scare-Your-Pants-Off Club*** by Marc Brown. Gr. K–3

*School Library Journal says this book “...deals with an unusual theme for primary-grade audience censorship. Angry parents have demanded that a series of scary books be banned from the public library because they believe they are frightening their children, and Arthur and his friends decide to fight back.”*

***The Librarian of Basra*** by Jeanette Winter. Gr. K–2

*Barnes and Noble gives this overview: “In this incredible true story of a war-stricken country where civilians seem powerless in the face of battle, this feminist and inspirational tale about a librarian’s struggle to save her community’s priceless collection of books reminds us how, throughout the world, the love of literature can unite us all.”*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Fahrenheit 451 Opening Day Celebration**

**Saturday, January 11**

**2:00–4:00 pm**, Malden Public Library

**Family Movie 2 pm**—Join us for a showing of *Abominable*. This animated family movie follows the themes of *Fahrenheit 451* in its exploration of the importance of nature and the search for truth and peace.

**Converse Art Gallery Tour 2:30 pm**—Take a tour through the historic wing of the Malden Public Library and discover the treasures hidden in the stacks, the stunning architecture, and a review of the amazing art collection in the Converse Memorial Building, which was constructed in 1883-85. Space on the tour is limited. This is a free event.

**6:00–9:00 pm**, Malden Senior Community Center

**Opening Celebration 6:00–8:00 pm**

*This year's (free) Opening Celebration will feature live music, food samplings, community exhibit tables, readings and relevant presentations, and special activities such as the featured Traveling Poetry Emporium, a team that travels with typewriters to type out an original poem composed just for you, on the spot! Find out detailed information about the NEA Big Read: Malden and meet up with your fellow community members in a festive atmosphere.*

**True Story Theater 8:00–9:30 pm**

*This special ticketed event will be held in the auditorium of the John & Christina Markey Senior Community Center. With very little prep time, and a few props, the improvisational actors of True Story Theater take stories from the audience around a common theme and act them out. The results are magical! This Cambridge-based group whose mission is "to build empathy, respect, and understanding across differences that divide us, through the honoring of true life stories," will be focusing on themes from Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* as they invite the audience to take part.*

### **FILM SCREENINGS**

*All are invited to attend these screenings that examine themes related to this year's book selections. Enjoy the film and take part in the discussion following the movie. Light refreshments will be served. *Abominable*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Book Thief*, and *Tyrus* will be shown. Film details, dates, and times will be listed on the Malden Reads website, [www.maldenreads.org](http://www.maldenreads.org).*

### **FIND OUT MORE**

*For details and up-to-date information, visit our website, [www.maldenreads.org](http://www.maldenreads.org).*

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

*Share your thoughts and opinions about this year's book selection, Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, and discuss its themes through a variety of discussion-oriented events.*

### **Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 pm, Dockside Riverview, 229 Center St.**

*Join a lively discussion of Fahrenheit 451 led by Anne D'Urso-Rose, MATV Associate Director and Malden Reads co-facilitator. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. RSVP in advance to maldenreads@gmail.com and feel free to specify your favorite pizza topping!*

### **Tuesday, February 18, 11:00 am, Malden Senior Center, 7 Washington St.**

*The Senior Center Book Group, under the guided leadership of Carmen Arnone, meets in the library at the Malden Senior Center, where they have an annual discussion on the Malden Reads book selection. All are welcome to join the group for their discussion of the 2020 Malden Reads book pick—Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury.*

### **Tuesday, March 10, 6:30–8:30 pm, Idle Hands Craft Ales, 89 Commercial St.**

*We invite you to read Fahrenheit 451 and come talk about it in a casual setting at this popular brewery while you enjoy some made-in-Malden brews (nonalcoholic beverages are also available). Discussion prompts will be provided, and discussions can take place in small conversations or a larger sit-down group. In the spirit of the novel's hopeful ending that celebrates all books, participants are encouraged to come with a memorized passage or quote from one of their favorite books to share on a microphone during the evening. A light dinner will be provided for a pre-paid fee of \$12. Sign up through Eventbrite. The taproom is a 21+ venue.*

### **Thursday, March 19, 6:30 pm, Malden Public Library, 36 Salem St.**

*Come at 6:30 to Skype with The Carson Center for the Performing Arts in Kentucky—another community reading Fahrenheit 451 as part of their 2020 NEA Big Read! Then stay for the book discussion at 7:00 led by our Mayor Gary Christenson. Light refreshments will be served.*

### **Sunday, March 29, 12:00 pm, First Parish Church, 2 Elm St.**

*All are welcome to join First Parish congregants for a lively discussion of Fahrenheit 451, led by Rev. Otto O'Connor (a science fiction enthusiast). A public interfaith Worship Service at 10 am will also be offered that day, followed by coffee hour.*

### **Saturday, May 16, 12:00 pm, Malden River (exact location TBA)**

*Cruise in a canoe on the Malden River with naturalist guide Karen Buck, president of Friends of the Malden River, and experience the natural environment right here in our city that has been largely hidden from view. Then take part in a book discussion with a special focus on one of the central themes of Fahrenheit 451—the disconnection from nature and the natural world. (The date is tentative but will be a weekend in May. More details to follow.)*

### **Goodreads, Ongoing Online Book Discussion**

*Malden Reads has an online book discussion forum on Goodreads. To join, go to goodreads.com, become a member, search for "Malden Reads," and join the group.*

## MALDEN READS COMMUNITY DINNERS

*Malden Reads invites you to join us at these fine local restaurants to enjoy great food, mingle with local Maldonians, and support local businesses. We also encourage conversation about the themes from this year's book and will provide some "Table Talk" topics for diners to discuss. Dinners are fixed price and feature either family style or an à la carte menu. Beverages, tax and tip are **not** included.*

### **Ethiopian Restaurant Tuesday, February 25, 7:00 pm, 1 Highland Ave.**

*Enjoy the exotic taste and presentation of Ethiopian cuisine with other Malden Reads enthusiasts. Ethiopian food is served in a shared platter with both (or either) vegetable and meat dishes atop injera, a large sourdough flatbread. In lieu of utensils, the flavorful food is scooped up with pieces of injera. Honey wine is the popular accompaniment.*

### **Emone Tofu, April Date TBA, 7:00 pm, 184 Salem St.**

*Emone Tofu is an authentic Korean restaurant with traditional recipes. The dinner will be a multi-course meal with soup, appetizer, and a selection of stone bowl entrees.*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **Malden Reads: Influential Books**

*What books have inspired you or made you look at the world in a new way? Share the titles in a participatory art project created by local artist Karen Alzayer, a beautiful giant book with pages of titles that have inspired us all!*

### **Mini Writers Den Program, Beginning in February**

*The Mini Writers' Den is an opportunity for middle school students in the Malden Public Schools to participate in an after-school creative writing workshop in a supportive learning environment with direct supervision from a Tufts University student, Malden High School student mentors, and support from Malden Reads. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Malden Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Interested parents of 8th graders should email [maldenreads@gmail.com](mailto:maldenreads@gmail.com).*



### **Malden Reads Night at Boda Borg, Tuesday, March 24, 4:00–8:00 pm**

**Boda Borg, 90 Pleasant St**

*Join with other Malden Reads participants ages 7 and up for two hours of questing with free admission to Boda Borg! There will be family-friendly activities available in the main gathering room from 4:00 to 8:00. Details on how to get tickets and register for a time slot will be available soon at [www.maldenreads.org](http://www.maldenreads.org).*



*EXPERIENCE THE QUEST!*

### **Worship Service at First Parish, Sunday, March 29, 10:00 am, 2 Elm St.**

*Join Reverend Otto O'Connor and members of First Parish of Malden, a Unitarian Universalist congregation, for an interfaith worship service that is centered around the themes of this year's book selection, Fahrenheit 451. If you'd like, stay for coffee hour following the service and a book discussion at noon.*

## **“Ray Bradbury & the Relevance of Fahrenheit 451 Today,” early April**

Venue TBA

*Sam Weller has published four books on the life of legendary author Ray Bradbury, including The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury—a national bestseller and winner of the 2005 Society of Midland Authors Award for Best Biography. Currently an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Columbia College (Chicago), Mr. Weller has travelled the world lecturing on Bradbury's life and legacy.*

## **Sam Weller Talk at Malden High School, April 3 Malden High School**

*Sam Weller will present to two classes at Malden High School that are reading Fahrenheit 451 as part of their course entitled “The Future.”*

## **Sunset, Storytelling & Stargazing, Waitt’s Mountain, Date TBA**

*Join us at Waitt’s Mount Park in Malden for family storytelling at sunset, followed by storytelling for adults and stargazing at twilight under the guidance of amateur telescope makers. For more details, visit our website later this spring. Co-sponsored by City Councillor Ryan O'Malley.*

## **Malden Reads Fahrenheit 451: Podcast Series**

*Beginning in February, MATV (soon to be UMA) will host a podcast series exploring the themes and current relevance of Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. Community members who have read and thought about the book are invited as guests to this ongoing podcast as we further the conversation in the community. The podcast will also feature special guests (TBA) who will discuss topics related to the book. The podcasts will be available on [www.maldenreads.org](http://www.maldenreads.org).*

## **MASS. MEMORIES ROAD SHOW**

### **Saturday, May 2 10:00–3:00 pm, Malden Senior Community Center**

*Join us for this history-making community event! If you are a member of the Malden community, your story is important! Bring three photographs from your life and share the story behind the photos. The Mass. Memories Road Show is a statewide, event-based participatory archiving project that documents people, places, and events in Massachusetts history through family photographs and stories. A project of UMass Boston launched in 2004, the Mass. Memories Road Show has digitized more than 11,000 photographs and stories from across the state, creating an educational resource of primary sources for future generations.*

### **Outreach Sessions for the Mass. Memories Road Show**

**Tuesday, February 4, 7:00 pm, Malden Public Library**

**Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 pm, Malden Public Library**

*All Malden community groups and interested individuals are encouraged to help plan the Mass. Memories Road Show (which will be held on May 2). Join us for a short info session, meet others in the community, and learn how you can help make our history-making community event a success!*



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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*Printing by Minuteman Press, Malden*



