These programs will be conducted on a virtual platform and are free of charge. Registration and internet access are required to attend. Register on the Library website’s Upcoming Events list to receive emailed information on how to access these programs. The link will be emailed the business day prior to the program between 3:00 and 4:00 pm, after registration closes at noon.

**A NOVEL IDEA: VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSION**

*The Viscount Who Loved Me* by Julia Quinn, *The Bridgerton Series* Book 2

**Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30 pm or Wednesday, June 9 at 10:30 am on Cisco Webex**

This time the gossip columnists have it wrong. London’s most elusive bachelor Anthony Bridgerton hasn’t just decided to marry - he’s even chosen a wife! The only obstacle is his intended’s older sister, Kate Sheffield - who is sure that reformed rakes do not make good husbands. Kate is determined to protect her sister - but when Anthony’s lips touch hers, will she be able to resist?

*Moderated by Stephanie Laurino, Library HQ*

**AUTHOR TALK WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR ALEX TRESNIOWSKI**

*The Rope: A True Story of Murder, Heroism, and the Dawn of the NAACP*

**Tuesday, June 8 at 7:00 pm live on Zoom**

An encore presentation will be available on the Library’s website on Thursday, June 17 at 7:00 pm

In the tranquil, segregated seaside resort town of Asbury Park, New Jersey, in November, 1910, ten-year-old schoolgirl Marie Smith was brutally murdered. A black handyman and ex-boxer named Tom Williams was arrested for the crime, and quickly presumed guilty by the white mob that gathered around the town jail, ready for a lynching. But did Tom Williams really do it?

Occurring halfway between the end of the Civil War in 1865 and the formal beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in 1954, the Tom Williams case became only the third legal case ever handled by a new civil rights organization christened just one year earlier—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or the NAACP. The Marie Smith murder sits at the historic intersection of sweeping national forces—religious extremism, class struggle, the infancy of criminal forensics, and America’s Jim Crow racial violence.

*The Rope* also tells the story of Ida B. Wells, the pioneering journalist, political activist and public speaker whose bravery and persistence led directly to the creation of the NAACP. Wells’ investigation of one lynching—and the dramatic, last-second prevention of another—stirred the forces that ultimately produced the most powerful civil rights organization in the world.

Gripping and powerful, *The Rope* is an important piece of history that gives a voice to the voiceless and resurrects a long-forgotten true crime story that speaks to the very divisions tearing at the nation’s fabric today.

*Moderated by Donna Mansfield, Eastern Branch*
Introduction to Personal Storytelling
Wednesday, June 9 at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Live Virtual Presentation by Terry Wolfisch Cole to celebrate the Library’s Summer Reading Program: Tails & Tales

Ira Glass of This American Life says, “Great stories happen to people who know how to tell them.”

Do you want to get better at captivating listeners? Whether you want to tell your story on stage, in a business meeting or college interview, or at the family table, professional storyteller Terry Wolfisch Cole of Tell Me Another will teach you everything you need to know to engage any audience. The session will include an opportunity to hear Terry tell a story as well as tips and tricks for effective storytelling.

Terry Wolfisch Cole is the founder and host of Tell Me Another, a live storytelling show in the Hartford area. She is a Moth GrandSLAM champion, whose story of running away from home was featured on the “Moth Radio Hour” and in Reader’s Digest. Terry has told stories onstage in New York, Boston, Miami, and Washington D.C., as well as at numerous local shows throughout New England. She regularly teaches storytelling workshops and offers one-on-one coaching for a wide range of purposes, including fundraising and professional development.

Terry’s program will be recorded and available to view on the Library’s website through Friday, July 9.

MURDER THEY WROTE: VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSION

The Searcher by Tana French
Thursday, June 17 at 10:30 am on Cisco Webex

Retired Chicago policeman Cal Hooper thought a fixer-upper in a bucolic Irish village would be the perfect escape. But when a local, whose brother has gone missing, presses him into investigating, Cal starts to realize that even small towns shelter dangerous secrets.

Moderated by Jeanmarie Kantor, Library HQ

The Haunted Boy by Carson McCullers
Thursday, June 24 at 10:30 am on Cisco Webex

A young boy is deeply concerned when he returns from school to find that his mother is not at home.

A PDF of the story will be emailed after registration.

Moderated by Mary Patterson, Hazlet Branch

A NOVEL IDEA: VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSION AND AUTHOR TALK WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR ALKA JOSHI

The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi
Wednesday, June 30 at 2:00 pm on Zoom

Escaping an abusive marriage, 17-year-old Lakshmi makes her way to the pink city of Jaipur. There, she becomes the most highly requested henna artist - and confidante - to the upper class. But she can never reveal her own secrets.

Moderated by Robyn Miller, Library HQ

Permission to present a program on behalf of the Virtual Library or in Library facilities is not an endorsement by the Library.