

## Library Lines by Lily Collins, CCS '21

Way back last March when the quarantine began, people picked up new hobbies. From baking to needlework, people's interests left craft stores and baking aisles looking a bit desolate. Even as the pandemic hopefully starts to end, there's still time to work on those hobbies. I'm sure many people have some half-finished (or at least somewhat started) projects throughout their house, and I'm really hoping I'm not the only one with a dead sourdough starter on the counter.

A great way to learn a new skill is to read a book about it. The Kirkland Town Library and other libraries in the Mid-York System have lots of great books available to check out on everything from gardening to watercolors.

For the last 11 months, I've found myself covered in flour about once a week or so. Baking has been a ton of fun, but it's also been a bit tough. Many of my various attempts have ended in something that looks more like a brick than a cake. One fun trick I picked up as I learn to bake is to "bake your way" through a cookbook. "Essentials of Baking : Recipes and Techniques for Successful Home Baking" by Cathy Burgettnot not only has a ton of different recipes to try out but also provides the techniques to, as the title suggests, be a successful home baker. So whether you're just trying to make bread or you're brushing up on your skills for the next season of "The Great British Baking Show," this book will help build up those fundamental skills (while giving your fellow household members some tasty treats!)

Although it may seem like the snow will never go away, spring is right around the corner. Hopefully before long we will be able to be in our backyards again. For fun ideas and helpful tips on how to garden, check out "DIY Garden Projects : Easy Activities for Edible Gardening and Backyard Fun" by Mat Pember. Being able to pop out to the backyard to get some fresh vegetables or herbs is an awesome resource, and (once the weather warms up), spending more time outside will be nice! If you need some seeds, the Kirkland Town Library Seed Exchange will re-open sometime this Spring. Information on this program can be found on our website, and please contact the library if you would like to be notified of when seeds are available.

Developing artistic skills is another thing at the top of many people's hobby lists. If painting or painting using a new medium is your pick, books can provide both inspiration and techniques to incorporate into your paintings. Take a look at "Beginning Pastel: Tips and Techniques for Learning to Paint in Pastel" by Paul Pigram or "Paint Lab: 52 Exercises Inspired by Artists, Materials, Time, Place and Method" by Deborah Forman to get some new ideas!

More interested in picking up a needle and thread? Perhaps you would like "Embroidery: Techniques & Patterns" or "Alabama Stitch Book: Projects and Stories Celebrating Hand-Sewing, Quilting, and Embroidery for Contemporary Sustainable Style" by Natalie Chanin. talie.

Learning a new language is both practical and super fun. It also helps exercise your brain. You can check out "Talking With Your Hands, Listening With Your Eyes: A Complete Photographic Guide to American Sign Language" by Gabriel Grayson or "French Conversation" an audio course described as "an entertaining, nonintimidating way for beginners to build conversational proficiency."

Whatever hobby you decide to take up, the library can help you develop your skill!