

Lessons in Chemistry- Volusia Reads Together

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Each year, the Volusia County Public Library hosts a major reading event called, Volusia Reads Together. Simply, a book is selected and recommended for library patrons to read and join in activities related to the selected book.

In the past, *Shoeless Joe* by W.P. Kinsella and *Other Birds*, by Sarah Addison Allen were the featured books. The featured book for 2025 is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, set in the late 1950s and early 1960s in Southern California.

Lessons in Chemistry has won many prestigious awards and made the New York Times Book Reader's Picks list for the best one hundred books of the last 25 years.

Part of the reason readers find this book so enjoyable is that chemist, Elizabeth Zott, is not your average woman.

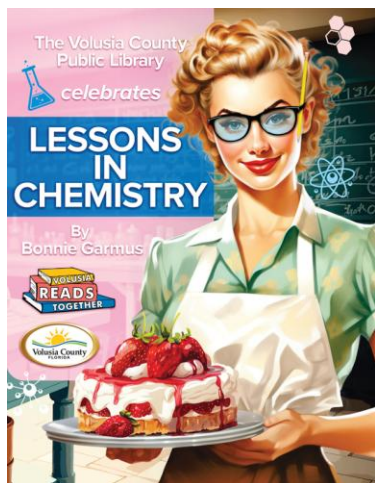
In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s, and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life doesn't always follow a straight line. This 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. That's because 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.

Throughout the month of March 2025, there will be book discussions, musical performances, cooking presentations, cooking videos, costume days, and numerous activities centered around the content and timeframe of the book, that being the 50s and 60s.

A 32-page program booklet will be available by January 2025. Copies of the book, *Lessons in Chemistry* will be available as well.



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