



FRIENDS
OF THE
AVON
LIBRARY

Beyond the Bookends



Newsletter of the Friends of the Library & the Board of Trustees

Spring 2021

Goths, Gargoyles & God: The Building of the Magnificent Medieval Cathedrals

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 @ 2:00 pm (via Zoom)

* Part of National Library Week * Sponsored by the Friends of the Avon Library *

At the turn of the millennium in 1000 AD, European churches were small, dark, thick-walled, and dingy. Less than two hundred years later churches were large, spectacular architectural wonders, rising over two hundred feet in the nave, airy and lit by glorious colored glass windows the size of tennis courts. Today, these glorious medieval cathedrals and churches still soar above the European cities for which they are the center of the community and the focus of tourism, architectural renown, and Christian worship. What happened to make this frenzy of church building so marked and spectacular? Presented by Dr. Richard Benfield, CCSU Professor Emeritus of Geography, this session will look at the early antecedents of medieval church building, travel to Great Britain and France to examine how these churches were built to such grandeur. Join this virtual discussion with Dr. Benfield as he shares the finest examples of these Cathedrals across England and France.



Please register @ www.avonctlibrary.info to receive the Zoom link for this program

Letter from the President of the Friends of Avon Public Library

March 2021

Dear Friends,

Spring 2020: I began a journal for my one-year-old granddaughter to document the daily impact of the pandemic. I reread some of the early entries, and I felt myself tearing up. I'm certain you can relate to the ups and the downs of life during the pandemic. My son's family moved into our house for three months. Taking over childcare duties while her parents worked remotely, was a gift for me and also a challenge. Here's a short passage from last April: (Forgive the run-on sentences)

I fell apart this morning. My physical therapist called me because I missed my appointment. She was really nice and told me we could have our weekly sessions via Skype or Zoom or some such online platform. It's a great idea and I agreed to it of course. But for some reason it all hit me hard. The nicer she was to me, the more I cried. And later this morning, I ordered food online from a local grocery store. Chicken and lettuce and mushrooms. And it was easy. I pulled up in front of the market and called them and they brought it out to my car. This way of life is all new for us. I love how kind and patient most people are. I hope when you read this, many years from now, you will appreciate how hard-working and resourceful your parents have been. So much is changing, but their love for you is constant. They adore you and they play with you and they make sure you have delicious foods to eat and everyone reads to you every day and you bring us all so much love and joy. Llama, Llama, Red Pajama is your favorite book. Yesterday was a sunny day and we went for a walk. I also introduced you to the porch swing and YOU LOVED IT!!!

Spring 2021: I look forward to warmer weather, flowers sprouting from gardens, swinging on our porch swing with my granddaughter, and reading *Llama, Llama, Red Pajama* while cuddling side by side. I look forward to our post-vaccinated life, in-person events at the library, and browsing for book in the stacks.

Throughout this difficult year, The Avon Public Library has enriched our lives in many ways. The board members of the Friends meet every month via Zoom. This past month we voted unanimously to support a crop of new, virtual programs. We're excited about a spring travel series, film series, cooking series, wildlife programs, and poetry programs.

Please know how much you are appreciated. With no book sale this past October, we've relied on membership dues and the generosity of friends like you. Thank you for supporting the Avon Public Library. If you haven't checked us out on Facebook, please take a look @ <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofAvonLibrary>. Until we develop and launch our new Friends' website, you may still find us through the main library's website @ www.avonctlibrary.info.

Now back to my book (*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett).

Lynn Katz, President, Friends of Avon Free Public Library

KEEP IN TOUCH!

For awesome booktalks, stories, songs, creativity, and more check out:



Subscribe to "Avon Free Public Library."
Search for us or visit
www.youtube.com/user/afplct

And press the bell to be notified of our newest uploads!



Take ... and Create!

This spring, the Children's Department will continue to display a series of "Take and Create" activities for families to enjoy at home. Found on the table near the self-check, there will be blank books to write and illustrate as well as a changing array of other inspiring art experiences. Hundreds of creative art activities have already gone home with families: blank calendars and puzzles to design; clay for modeling; various paper materials for mural-making, miniature construction, and handmade cards!

For the most up-to-date information, including library hours, services, and virtual programs, visit our website @ www.avonctlibrary.info or call 860-673-9712

Avon Library's **geothermal HVAC system**, installed during the renovation and expansion project in 2012, has experienced multiple failures over the past five years and will be replaced with a more conventional and robust version of geothermal technology this year.

Work began in February with the removal or trimming of several trees on the library's grounds and fencing going up around the work site, which is on the south side of the library building and along the Sunnybrook Drive side of the grounds. Crews are now digging the bore holes for our new geothermal wells.

While this work has occurred outside the library, there will also be extensive work inside the building, predominantly in the basement and attic. Every effort will be made to avoid impacting library programs and services during this project, but inevitably there will be some disruptions that may require a change to library operations. When possible, that will be communicated in advance.

Periodic project updates will be posted on the Library (www.avonctlibrary.info) and the Town (www.avonct.gov) websites. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Glenn Grube, Library Director at 860-673-9712 x207 or ggrube@avonctlibrary.info.

FREE VIRTUAL COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM PRACTICE TEST

YOU CHOOSE: PSAT, SAT, ACT

Open to teens in Grades 8-12.

Sign up required to get your own personalized test link. Link is valid for 72 hours.

Visit us online at www.avonctlibrary.info, go to **EVENTS**.

Avon free public library
THE CENTER OF YOUR COMMUNITY

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

UPCOMING DATES!
TUESDAYS
MAR 16 @ 4 PM
APRIL 13 @ 11 AM
(SCHOOL VACATION)
MAY 11 @ 4 PM

FOR REGISTRATION AND ZOOM LINK, VISIT WWW.AVONCTLIBRARY.INFO

UNEARTHING HISTORY: VIRTUAL LECTURES

* Part of National Library Week * Sponsored by the Friends of the Avon Library *

A Rift, not the River, made the Farmington Valley: the Geology of Western Connecticut Along US RT 44

Thursday, April 8, 2021 @ 7:00 pm (via Zoom)

Presented by Howard Wright, Renbrook School Science Department Head. This will be a first ever photographic journey focused on the geology of Route 44 in western CT and adjacent areas. Understanding the geology of the area will help everyone "read" the local landscape with greater awareness and appreciation of why early people came here.

Connecticut Before History: The Story of Human Settlement of the Farmington Valley

Thursday, May 6, 2021 @ 7:00 pm (via Zoom)

Presented by Dr. Ken Feder, Archaeologist, Central Connecticut State University. The Farmington Valley was originally settled by human beings more than 10,000 years ago. The Farmington River Archaeological Project, led by Feder, has revealed remains of the villages, hunting encampments, and quarries used by these first settlers. Much in the way the police investigate the scene of a crime, archaeologists locate, recover, and examine evidence that reveals the scene of a life lived in the past. Feder will discuss some of the sites his crews have excavated and share the stories that can be told of the lives of the people who lived, worked, and died in those ancient Farmington Valley communities.

Please register @ www.avonctlibrary.info and a Zoom link will be sent to you before the event.



Avon Senior Center



THE AVON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Join us for a series of virtual **Wildlife** events, via Zoom, on Thursdays this Spring! Our presenter for each program is Maureen Heidtmann. Maureen is a Certified Wildlife Conservationist and licensed wildlife caretaker for the state of Connecticut.

April 22nd @ 2:00 pm -- **Turtles are Treasures**

April 29th @ 6:30 pm -- **Majestic Monarchs**

May 6th @ 2:00 pm -- **For Goodness Snakes!**

May 13th @ 6:30 pm -- **The Sting and I: Mosquitoes**

May 20th @ 2:00 pm -- **The Silk Road: Spiders**

Please register for all programs
@ www.avonctlibrary.info and a Zoom
link will be sent to you before the event.

— Sponsored by the Friends of the Avon Library —

Teen Advisory Board

Open to teens in grades 9-12



A great way to get your volunteer hours!
Talk about program ideas, ways to volunteer
and vote on teen books to add to the
collection.

Meets on **Tuesdays & Thursdays**
from **5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

March 25 ● March 30 ● April 27
April 29 ● May 20 ● May 25

Registration required for Zoom link



FOREST BOOK NOOK LIVE!

Most **FRIDAY** Mornings @ 10 am

Special Themes:

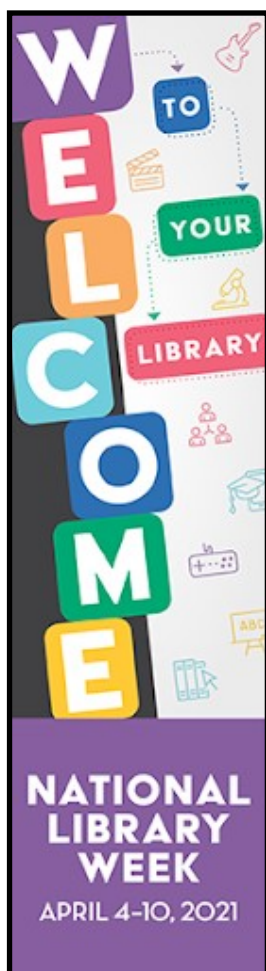
Mar 19 - Spring / Mar 26 - Happy April! / April 16 - Earth Day /
April 30 - Cinco De Mayo / May 7 - Mother's Day

ON ZOOM

For Ages 6 and Under

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National Library Week programs @ Avon Library

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENTS!

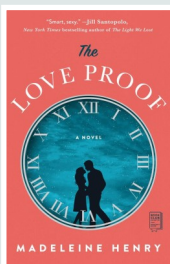
Madeleine Henry

Monday, April 5th @ 7:00 pm

Join us for a virtual author event with **Madeleine Henry**. *The Love Proof* is about a brilliant



physicist studying the nature of time who embarks on a journey to prove that those we love are always connected to us, leading to surprising revelations in this fresh and unique love story.



Danielle Graham

Tuesday, April 6th @ 2:00 pm

Join us for a virtual author event with **Danielle Graham**. We'll discuss her new book, *All We Left Behind*. For fans of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, this is a powerful and



incredibly moving historical novel inspired by an untold story of the Second World War.

Please register for programs at www.avonctlibrary.info and a Zoom link will be sent to you before the event.

All of these programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Avon Library