

# *The Library Times*

Avon, Connecticut

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

January 2009



## **Expansion Update**

We have some great news to share with you. The Avon Free Public Library has been awarded a \$1 million Connecticut State Library construction grant. Officials at the Library recently received notification that the Connecticut State Library Board approved our grant application, which was one of sixteen requests submitted by municipalities around the state. The next step in the process is approval by the State Bonding Commission which will meet sometime after the first of the year. This grant will help fund the expansion and renovation plans of the library.

At the November Town Council Meeting, a decision was made to postpone the library referendum, which was planned for February 2009. The Council expressed concern about the worldwide financial crisis and the resulting challenges this presents for managing a municipal budget. While the Council remains supportive of the library expansion and renovation, the members felt that the timing was not favorable to moving forward with a capital improvement project. They agreed to reconsider the library project in July 2009 and to determine whether a fall 2009 referendum was possible.

In the meantime, the library staff, the Library Board, the Building Committee and the Friends of the Library will continue with our community outreach efforts, to assure that the public is well informed about the library expansion plans. Each committee will also continue its planning responsibilities to assure that we are prepared to move the library project forward as soon as it is feasible.

You can see the architectural designs and more detail about what the renovation and expansion will accomplish at the library or on the library website.

— *Mary LaBelle Suter*

*President, Avon Library Board of Directors*

## **President's Letter**

Although the holidays are but a memory, don't settle in for a boring winter. Join ***the Friends of the Library*** for the popular Sunday afternoon concerts this winter. There is a variety of music that should suit just about everybody, from jazz to classical. So peruse the list below and mark your calendars for 3:00 and get ready to be entertained. Linger over refreshments after the concerts and get to know the musicians.

Be sure to check out the variety of programs that are being offered this winter for both adults and children. No need to watch the snowflakes fall when you can come to the Library where there is something for everyone.

A big thank you to all who helped to make the Friends' Holiday Boutique such a success. ***The Friends*** raised over \$1,100 in this two day event. Your generosity will help the Friends provide programs and services to the library that would otherwise not be possible.

— *Barbara Leonard*

*President, Friends of Avon Library*

## **Have you considered a tax-free Rollover of IRA Assets to the Library?**

As part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, certain individuals who are 70+ years of age or older, have the opportunity to transfer up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to a charity of the donor's choice. This legislation presents a great opportunity to make a gift to the Avon Library in a tax advantageous way. Please consider this; discuss it with your attorney or financial planner and if you have any questions of the Library please contact Virginia Vocelli, Library Director. 673-9712 or [vvocelli@avonctlibrary.info](mailto:vvocelli@avonctlibrary.info). Thank you.

# CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT



*Pine Grove Kindergarteners show books they have just checked with their brand-new library cards. Kindergarteners from both elementary schools visited the library in December to get their own library cards and a special storytime.*

Our polar bear winter reading club, "CHILL OUT AND READ," is underway. Sign up and get your reading log. Weekly raffle winners. Prizes and party on March 7. All ages. Stay motivated and warm!

## JANUARY

**Mon. Jan. 5:** Storytime registration for the Feb/Mar session. Registration ends Jan. 22, followed by lottery and notification. Most groups begin week of Feb. 2.

**Sat. Jan. 10:** Mad Science presents a "Wind and Bubbles" show at 3:00 pm, featuring Mr. Sponge, the Vortex Generator, and a bubble shower. Explore AIR. DROP IN: Ages 3 and up sit with adult.

**Tue. Jan. 13:** Lars The Polar Bear storytime at 10:30 am for ages 3 and up, sign-up required.

**Tue. Jan. 13:** Mrs. DeLuca's BOOKMATES discussion, 4:00 -5:00 pm, grades 1 – 3 sign up and get the book.

**Wed. Jan. 14:** Lars The Polar Bear storytime at 1:30 pm for ages 3 and up, sign-up required.

**Thu. Jan. 15:** Lars The Polar Bear storytime at 10:30 am for 2 year olds, sign-up required.

**Fri. Jan. 16:** No school! Lars The Polar Bear storytime at 10:30 am for grades 1 – 2, sign-up required.

**Wed. Jan. 21:** Miss Amber's "Petite" Princess Party at 11:00 am for ages 2 1/2 - 3's. Please sign up.

**Thu. Jan. 22:** Janet Brown's musical storytime for ages 2 and up, 11:00 am. Adults sit with kids.

**Mon. Jan. 26:** BYOS (bring your own snack) storytime for grades 1 – 3 at 4:00 pm, sign up required.

**Tue. Jan. 27:** Mrs. Randolph's Nutmeg Book Group at 4:30 pm. Grades 4 – 6 please sign up and get the book : *Shakespeare's Secret*.

**Sat. Jan. 31:** BOOK BINGO with Mrs. DeLuca for grades 1 – 3 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm, sign up please.

## FEBRUARY

**Mon. Feb. 2:** Winter storytime session begins daily for those who have registered prior.

**Tue. Feb. 3:** PJ Storytime with Mrs. St. Jean at 6:30 pm for ages 3 and up, please sign up.

## FEBRUARY *continued*

**Thu. Feb. 5:** Valentine Card Making for grades 4 and up, at 4:00 pm, with Mrs. Randolph, sign up.

**Sat. Feb. 7:** "CT LOVES TO READ DAY!" 11:00 a.m. Ages 4 and up sign up for winter stories and craft.

**Tue. Feb. 10:** Mrs. DeLuca's BOOKMATES discussion group, 4:00 -5:00 pm, grades 1 – 3 sign up and get the book.

**Thu. Feb. 12:** Celebrate Lincoln's BIG birthday with story & craft. Grades 1 – 5 sign up for 4:00 – 5:00 pm.

### **SCHOOL VACATION WEEK**

***(all programs require registration, space limited):***

**Tue. Feb. 17:** Grades 1 – 3: Bring Your Own Snack Storytime. 4:00 – 5:00 pm with Mrs. DeLuca.

**Wed. Feb. 18:** Grades 3 – 5: Lego Building Contest, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Keep what you make.

**Wed. Feb 18:** Grades 4 and up: create a "star book" with Mrs. Randolph. 2:00–3:00 pm. Ask her about it! Sign up.

**Thu. Feb. 19:** Grades 1 – 5: Snowflake craft from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Teen volunteers will help children. Sign up.

**Fri. Feb. 20:** Grades K–2: Tacky The Penguin Storytime, with Tacky appearing. 11:00 – 11:40 am. Sign up.

**Tue. Feb 24:** Mrs. Randolph's 2009 Nutmeg TRIVIA party at 4:30 pm. Grades 4 – 6 please sign up.

**Sat. Feb. 28:** Based on Rumpelstiltskin, Purple Rock Productions Presents, "Spinning Straw Into Gold," a puppet and marionette show at 3:00 pm sharp for ages 4 and older. This is a drop-in program, bring a blanket to sit on. Babies / toddlers not admitted. Adults need to sit WITH children, please.

## MARCH

**Mon. Mar. 2 thru Fri. Mar. 6:** Patrons begin to turn in winter reading logs for prize.

**Tue. Mar. 3:** PJ Storytime with Mrs. St. Jean at 6:30 pm for ages 3 - 6, please sign up.

**Sat. Mar. 7:** Winter Reading Club Party, sign up requested. Dance party from 12:30-1:15 pm. Turn in reading logs & collect prize at 1:30 pm. Eat light lunch! Refreshments provided. Final raffle tickets collected.

## TEEN CORNER

(Grades 7-12 unless noted otherwise)

• **Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30-8:00**

***TAB Meeting***

Find out how you can help out your library by attending our TAB (Teen Advisory Board) meeting- Exclusive to high school students

• **Friday, February 13th, 5:00-7:00**

***Avon's Got Talent- Teen Talent Show-SIGN UP!***

Do you have a special talent? Show it off at the library during our Teen Talent Show.

• **Saturday, February 21st, 1:30-2:30**

***Marshmallow Masquers presents***

***"Teen Comedy Improv"- SIGN UP!***

Back by popular demand, laugh so hard you cry at this "Whose Line is it anyway?" based comedy program.

• **Friday, March 13th, 5:00-7:00,**

***Mystery Theater- SIGN UP!***

Enjoy some pizza and refreshments while you play a game of whodunit.

• **Friday, March 20th, 3:00-4:30**

***After School Flix***

Check out a new release on the big screen. Snacks and refreshments provided.



### New Technical Services Supervisor

We welcome Julie Styles as our new full-time Technical Services Supervisor and Collection Man-

ager. Julie began working here at Avon Library on November 3. She received her MLS from the University of Wisconsin in 2005 and previously worked at the Western Connecticut State University Library in Danbury and Kent Memorial Library. Julie's focus this past month has been to begin streamlining the department; making the ordering and cataloging of library materials more efficient. Julie lives in Lakeville, CT and is married to Eric, another librarian. You will also see Julie at the Reference Desk on Thursday mornings and some Saturdays. Please stop by and say hello.



## Digital TV Conversion

***Have questions,  
get answers!***

Thursday--January 22, 2009

2:00-3:00 pm.

Guest speaker Keith Barbaria, Director of Technology and Engineering NBC Connecticut, will cover details relating to the digital conversion scheduled for February 17th. Be ready so that you do not experience disruption of television service.

## Library Services are a Great Value!

*According to the ALA's 2008 State of America's Libraries Report, Americans visited their libraries nearly 1.3 billion times and checked out more than 2 billion items in the past year, an increase of more than 10 percent in both checked out items and library visits, compared to data from the last economic downturn in 2001.*

*ALA President Jim Rettig said, "During tough economic times, people turn to libraries for their incredible array of free resources, from computers to books, DVDs and CDs, for help with a job hunt or health information. The average annual cost to the taxpayer for access to this wide range of resources is about \$31, the cost of one hardcover book. In good times or bad, libraries are a great value!"*

At Avon Public Library more residents are coming to the library to save money in various ways: buying fewer books and reading library copies instead; discontinuing their Netflix subscription to reserve DVDs at the library; using our Ancestry.com database here in the library instead of paying the more than \$300 annual fee for the service at home; using the public computers for Internet access or bringing in a laptop to use the free WIFI service; reading the library's newspapers and magazines and referring to library resources for job hunting and money saving ideas.





## Sunday Music Series at the Library

All performances will begin at 3:00 pm.  
Reception for the artists will follow.

**January 11** Airborne Jazz. Contemporary and smooth jazz sounds featuring keyboard and electric guitar.

**January 25** Lorena Garey. Blend of classical guitar and Latin rhythms will be performed.

**February 8** Silk City Chorus. All male chorus featuring the blended harmonies of popular tunes and old time favorites.

**February 22** "The Siren of Song", NYC-based sopranos, Naomi Katz Cohen, comes back to Avon for an encore performance. Accompanied by Arielle Levioff.

**March 1** Paul Bisaccia. Pianist, winner of the Hartt School "Alumnus of the Year" award will display his masterful skills from Chopin to Gershwin.

**March 15** Cantilena Trio. Clarinet, cello and piano chamber music featuring Richard Barnes, Andrew Salvo and Bridget de Moura Castro.

**March 29** Joe Carter Samba Rio Trio. Guitar, bass & percussion trio will play Brazilian jazz including Samba and Bossa Nova.

This series is sponsored by  
*the Friends of the Avon Library*



## Spring 2009 Garden Series

**Saturday, March 14**, 1:00 pm  
Christie Higginbottom will present "Fashions in Flowers."

**Saturday, March 28**, 11:00 am  
Carol Johnson will present a program on landscape design.

**Saturday, April 4**, 2:00 pm  
Patricia Carr will present a program on Spanish and Italian Gardens.

## TaxTalk: Life Changes and Your Taxes

**Saturday January 24, 2009 2:00-3:30 pm**

A free educational seminar co-sponsored by the Avon Free Public Library and H. & R. Block. Frederick Sokolowski, guest speaker, will cover how life changes such as retirement, divorce, college, mortgage pay-off, death of a spouse, inheritance can affect your tax return. Register by calling the Reference Desk 673-9712.



## Return to the Classics Spring 2009

Join us this spring for some lively discussions of four classic literary works. Guest speakers from the academic community will lead the discussions on Thursday evenings from 7:00- 8:30. All are welcome.

**February 19, 2009**

*The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath  
Nels Highberg, University of Hartford

**March 26, 2009**

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
Carole Shmurak, Central Connecticut State University

**April 23, 2009**

*The Optimist's Daughter* by Eudora Welty  
Kerry Driscoll, Saint Joseph College

**May 14, 2009**

*Dubliners* by James Joyce  
Tom Shea, University of Connecticut

## Literary Luncheon with Elinor Lipman



Members of the organizing committee of the first annual (and very successful) Friends Literary Luncheon pose with featured author, Elinor Lipman. October 24, 2008.

Left to right: Kerry Magrini, Robin Oremland, Debbie Callahan, Janet Stokesbury, Irene Herrera, Elinor Lipman, Suzanne Hard, Linda Jordano, Tom Mitchell, Barbara Leonard. Not pictured: Lisa Alexander and Amy Roth.



## Free Income Tax Assistance

IRS certified VITA Tax Assistance volunteers will be available at the Avon Free

Public Library to offer free tax preparation help and electronic filing to low income, elderly, disabled and limited English speaking people, with low to moderate income (\$60,000 per year or less) on Saturdays from February 7 through April 11, and on Wednesdays from February 11 through April 15 in the Avon History Room.

For an appointment call Reference at 673-9712. No walk-ins, please, but you may call reference at 10 A.M. Saturday mornings to see if there is a cancellation and you may be fit in. Please note that this site prepares simple tax returns, with income no higher than around \$60,00 per year to qualify for VITA help. To see if you qualify, go to [www.avonctlibrary.info](http://www.avonctlibrary.info). Be sure to bring the following: social security card and photo I.D., a copy of last year's return, W-2, 1099 and other needed forms, amount paid last year on Town auto and property taxes, plus original cost of stocks. The Library has a wide variety of federal tax forms and publications available to the public, or they can be accessed online through the library's website, at Tax Forms.

## Attention Avon Book Clubs

We currently have eleven local book groups registered with the library for our interlibrary loan service. This new service is a big hit. By signing up, the book groups receive multiple copies of the next month's selection. If your book club is interested in this service please email Alice Pentz at [apentz@avonctlibrary.info](mailto:apentz@avonctlibrary.info). We need one contact person from the group to coordinate the requests. Also, if your group is interested in doing a shared program with other groups here at the library please let us know.

## New Wireless FM Transmitters



Try our new Wireless FM Transmitters for Playaways. Plug the transmitter into the playaway, tune your car stereo to the clearest FM frequency, and listen. Ask at the Reference Desk!

## VFW Post 3272 Presentation



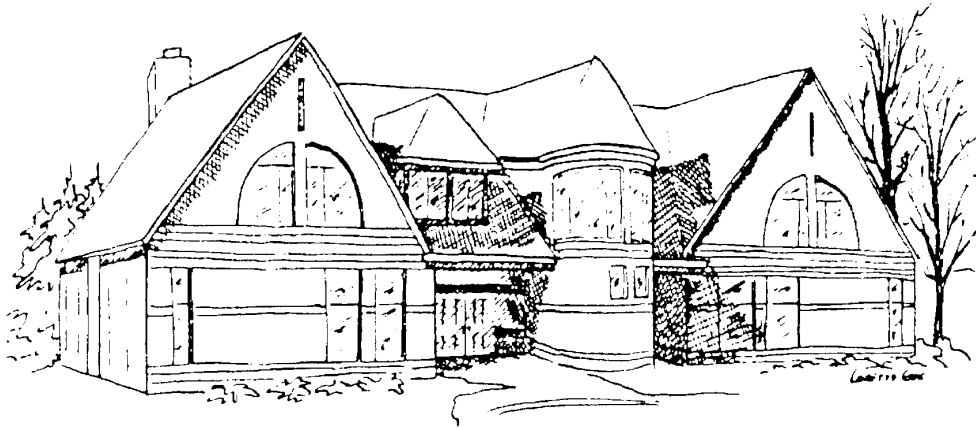
*Bill Newman and other veterans from VFW Post 3272 as they make the presentation to Virginia Vocelli, Library Director.*

The History Room now has a collection of personal histories of veterans from VFW Post 3272 compiled by Bill Newman, commander of the post. Presently containing 52 stories, the goal is to have over twice that number. There are 150 members of the Post but since its inception, there have been 500 members. The personal histories include basic information such as military branch, rank, dates of service, assignments and decorations, and any other experiences they wanted to share. The Library is proud to be the repository of such a rich and important history.

The Collection will be available at the Reference Desk but will eventually be kept in the Marian Hunter History Room on the second floor.



Celebrate the 20th library anniversary of Karen McNulty, Avon Children's Librarian, with us on Thursday, January 15, 2:30 pm. Stop by for a piece of cake and congratulate Karen for all that she has accomplished.



## NEW MUSIC CDs



Soundtrack: *Cadillac Records*  
Lil Wayne, *Tha Carter III*  
Britney Spears, *Circus*  
Beyonce, *I am...Sasha Fierce*  
Dido, *Safe Trip Home*  
David Archuleta, self-titled  
David Cook, self-titled  
Lucinda Williams, *Little Honey*  
Various, *NOW 29!*  
*Ultimate Classics: The Essential Masterpieces*  
*Voices: The Ultimate Gospel Choir Collection*  
Shiva Rea, *Yoga Sol*  
Jimmy Wayne, *Do you believe me now?*

## Newly Purchased PLAYAWAYS -

### Classical Music Series

The Best of Brahms, Mozart, J. S. Bach, Beethoven  
and Classical Music A-Z.

### Fiction

*Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult  
*The Other Boleyn Girl* by Philippa Gregory  
*Finn* by Jon Clinch  
*The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski

### Nonfiction

*The First 90 Days* by Michael Watkins  
*1776* by David McCullough  
*Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich  
*The Giants of Irish Literature* by George O'Brien  
*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

This is only a sample of the new items we have at the Library. Any of these items can be put on hold from home at [www.avonctlibrary.info](http://www.avonctlibrary.info), at the Library using the online catalog, or by calling us. We'll do it for you or walk you through the steps.