

# *The Library Times*

Avon, Connecticut

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

June 2008

## **President's Letter**

A big thank you to all of who helped make our 2008 Book Sale a success! **The Friends** raised \$17,500 for our Library-- another record year.

With the proceeds from the Book Sale, we will continue to publish the five newsletters, fund the summer intern position, the museum pass program and the Winter Music Series. Additionally, **the Friends** will sponsor the Nutmeg book discussion groups, children's summer stories and crafts, as well as the popular ice cream social. Additional fall programs will be offered.

Three years ago, **the Friends** started a special fund for monies to be distributed after the new addition to the Library is completed. We were able to add an additional \$10,000 to that fund this year from our profits. We are hoping that this fund will continue to grow and provide some special enhancements to the proposed addition.

A special thank you to the volunteers who made the Book Sale happen! Under the very capable leadership of Martha Dixon, chairperson, over 50 volunteers contributed their time (and hard work) at the Sale. Book Sale 2008 would not have been possible without the generous contribution of sorting space by John Carmon. The use of the basement of the Carmon Family Center provided **the Friends** with a clean, dry, spacious place to sort and store our books. We are very lucky to have been invited back next year. As always, the crew from Avon Public Works moved truckload after truckload of books into the Senior Center in a timely and efficient manner. This year several, very capable (and strong) students from Avon Old Farms School lugged 830 boxes of books from the basement of the sorting space into the waiting trucks --- an arduous task, to say the least. Many, many hours are spent throughout the entire year: sorting, filing, lugging books. It's the volunteers who make the Sale, and we thank you all.

— *Barbara Leonard*  
President, Friends of Avon Library

### **Author Luncheon - Save the Date**

Have lunch with popular author Elinor Lipman. **The Friends of the Avon Library** have invited Elinor Lipman to their fundraising luncheon on Friday, October 24 at the Golf Club of Avon. Check the library for ticket information.

## **Expansion Update**

The architectural firm of Tuthill and Wells continues to make significant progress in the initial design phase of the library expansion. Working closely with the Library Building Committee, architect Peter Wells is refining both the exterior and interior designs, which address the key priorities for the building expansion and renovation. Interior flexibility is very important so that changing needs of the library can be accommodated. The committee has discussed the possibility of moving out of the building during construction, so research on the cost/benefit of doing that is underway.

The Board of Directors has hired the consulting firm of Clemow Associates to assist us in determining the feasibility of conducting a capital campaign to raise funds for certain expenses associated with the library expansion. This firm will conduct a series of interviews this summer with key people in Avon, and will also provide guidance to the Board in capital campaign planning and identifying the campaign committee. We are looking forward to the enthusiasm and broad participation of Avon residents in various aspects of the library campaign. In addition, the town hopes to receive a significant state grant to be applied toward the building costs and is preparing to submit a grant application this summer.

— *Mary LaBelle Suter*  
President, Avon Library Board of Directors



*Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 274!*

# CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

## JUNE

**Sat. June 14 and through July:** All ages sign up for the annual summer reading club, Catch The Reading Bug. Get your bookmarks, reading logs, and enter the raffles!

**\*Tue. June 24:** Mrs. Randolph's Nutmeg Book Club, 4:30, sign up and get the book, *Three Good Deeds*. Going into Grades 4 – 6.

## JULY

Storytime or Music: Every Tuesday in July and August:

**Pre-school Music – Ages 2 and up at 11:00 am:**

July 29 and August 26. Drop in.

**Storytime – Ages 3 – 5 at 11:00 am:**

July 8, July 22 and August 12. Drop in.

**Storytime – for 2 year olds only at 11:00 am:**

July 15, August 5 and August 19. Sign up.

**Tue. July 1:** PJ Storytime, ages 3 – 6 at 6:30 pm, sign up.

**Wed. July 9:** International Skating Center: Sign up for 1 – 2 pm with Jessica of the Center, and bring your doll or American Girl doll to honor Mia, the American skater. Ages 7 and up only.

**\*Tue. July 15:** Story and craft, grades 1 – 3, sign up for 2 – 3 pm.

**\*Wed. July 16:** Annual ice-cream social, 1 – 2 pm, all ages, rain or shine.

**Thu. July 17:** Family Night, 7:00 – 8:00 pm: "Bugs, Magic and More," ages 4 and up drop in.

**\*Tue. July 22:** Miss Amber's Luau Storytime, grades K – 3, sign up for 1:30 – 2:30 pm.

**\*Tue. July 22:** Mrs. Randolph's Nutmeg Book Club, 4:30 pm, sign up for *Close Encounters of a Third World Kind*. Going into Grades 4 – 6.

**Tue. July 29:** BookMates discussion group, with Mrs. DeLuca, grades 1 – 3, sign up. 3 – 4 pm.

## AUGUST

**\*Tue. Aug 5:** Olympic Go USA! Story and craft for grades 1 – 3 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, sign up.

**Tue. Aug 5:** PJ storytime with Mrs. St. Jean, 6:30 pm, ages 3 – 6 sign up please.

**\*Thurs.. Aug. 14:** Mad Science presents "Bugs" Forensic Lab for grades 2 – 6: explore anatomy, habitat and more. Microscopes! Sign up required. 11:00 am – Noon.

**Tue. Aug. 19:** BookMates Discussion Group with Mrs. DeLuca, grades 1 – 3 sign up. 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

**Wed. Aug. 20:** Annual Tag Sale and Craft Fair, donate a portion of your proceeds to charity. On the library lawn from 9:00 – 2:00. You must register and pick up guidelines.

**\*Tue. Aug. 26:** Mrs. Randolph's Nutmeg Book Club, 4:30, sign up for *Homework Machine*. Grades 4 – 6.

**Wed. Aug. 27:** Annual Summer Reading Club Party for all participants, 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Come dressed in a bug costume and enter raffles for extra prizes.

**Thu. Aug. 28:** Back-To-School Storytime, grades K – 3, sign up for 1:30 pm.

\* = sponsored by **the Friends of the Library**

# SUMMER TEEN PROGRAMS

A variety of summer programs for teens are planned. Please pick up a reading log at the **Summer Reading Club KickOff on June 14th**. A list of all summer activities will be included.

*Start the summer off with:*

## Change your Routine

**June 23rd** – Meals & Movies on Metamorphic Monday 7th grade and up. 12:00-2:00 Movie TBA

Schools out for summer!!– Ditch the cafeteria. Bring a bag lunch and watch a movie at the library.

## Adult Summer Reading 2008

**Friday, June 13th**

Books! Prizes!  
Refreshments!  
Weekly prizes!



Stop by the library for summer reading suggestions.

## ATTENTION

## AVON BOOK CLUB MEMBERS

We are happy to add a new service to our library reading community. Starting this spring, we will borrow multiple copies of books from other libraries for your book clubs. We will notify you when the books arrive.

So far we've had an enthusiastic response from book club members. If you are interested in participating please have a member of the book club email Alice Pentz to register your group's name at [apentz@avonctlibrary.info](mailto:apentz@avonctlibrary.info). Please request one title at a time and do not request NEW titles. The lending period is the usual three weeks.



*Book Sale Shoppers*



## FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES AWARD

The Friends of Connecticut Libraries has announced that Barbara Leonard will receive the organization's award for Individual Achievement as a Friend of Connecticut Libraries.

Barbara is recognized for her dedication to libraries and her leadership of our great Friends Board, providing the spark for many of the Avon Library's programs and services for the past ten years. Membership has increased from 310 in 1998 to 750 in 2008. Receipts for the annual book sale have gone from \$7,000 in 1998 to just over \$17,000 in 2007.

The award will be bestowed at *the Friends* annual meeting on June 14 at the Plainville Public Library.

## HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES RETIRES

Susan Turner, Head of Technical Services, retired from the Avon Library on May 1, 2008. Throughout her twenty years of managing the cataloging of materials at Avon Library, Susan witnessed a progression of technical changes: from the typewriter and card catalog to WIFI and downloadable audiobooks. She took pride in her role of maintaining the library collection, both in ordering new materials and weeding out the old. Susan also worked on the Reference Desk and supervised volunteers. We honor her years of service and wish her well in this next phase of her life.

Good luck Susan!

## VOLUNTEERS HONORED



On Wednesday, April 30 the Avon Library staff held a reception for the library volunteers. Our volunteers include the Friends of the Library, the Library Board, and the newly created Expansion Committee.

They also include bakers, boutique attendants, book sale sorters (a few of which were working during the Volunteer Reception!), VITA tax program assistants, and crafters. Each of these people helps the Children's, Adult, and Technical Processing Departments with special projects, homebound delivery, storytimes, clerical tasks, the local history room, music concerts, and numerous assorted tasks as we find them. Without the help of these 200+ people, the library would not be what it is today. THANK YOU for all that you do.

## FARMINGTON VALLEY ONE BOOK

Carlos Eire, the author of *Waiting For Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy* is scheduled to speak on Tuesday, October 7 at the Avon Senior Center. Plan to read this powerful memoir over the summer. Multiple copies of the book are available at the library. All the libraries in the Farmington Valley will be hosting book discussions in the fall. Check the website for more information.

## ROUTE 44: HOW IT'S CHANGED



Long ago, Route 44 was a dirt road connecting Hartford, CT. to Albany NY, winding over Avon Mountain through Avon Center following old Indian

trails. At the bottom of Avon Mountain, travelers could rest at the Inn and have their horses tended at the blacksmith shop. Over time, Avon Center grew with shops, a railroad station, a post office, a general store, a church, a pharmacy, gas stations, and restaurants, with one restaurant, Avon Diner, offering overnight stays in cabins. As Avon grew and changed into a suburban town, Route 44 grew and changed into a major thoroughfare. Stop by the library to check out the current exhibit of photographs from the Marion Hunter Local History Room and see how Rt. 44 has changed.



## FIND A GRAVE

The Reference staff, always eager to provide access to genealogical resources, has recently begun a new project entering headstone inscriptions from the West Avon Cemetery into a new website [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com). This website allows users to access, maintain and expand an online database, currently totaling over 22 million burial records of cemeteries and graves from around the world. Thousands use this site daily trying to locate long-lost ancestors. Using the cemetery transcription records Marian and Ruth Thompson compiled in 1987, staff and volunteers have entered up to 400 records, each containing the headstone inscription. Plans for the future include scanning a photograph of each headstone into the database. Check out the West Avon Cemetery entries at [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com).

## STAFF PICKS FOR SUMMER READING

### Fiction

*The Girl With No Shadow* by Joanne Harris

*The Bridge of Sighs* by Richard Russo

*Unaccustomed Earth* by Lahiri Jhumpa

*The Third Angel* by Alice Hoffman

*So Brave, Young and Handsome* by Leif Enger

*Song Yet Sung* by James McBride

*Run* by Ann Patchett

*Belong to Me* by Marisa de los Santos

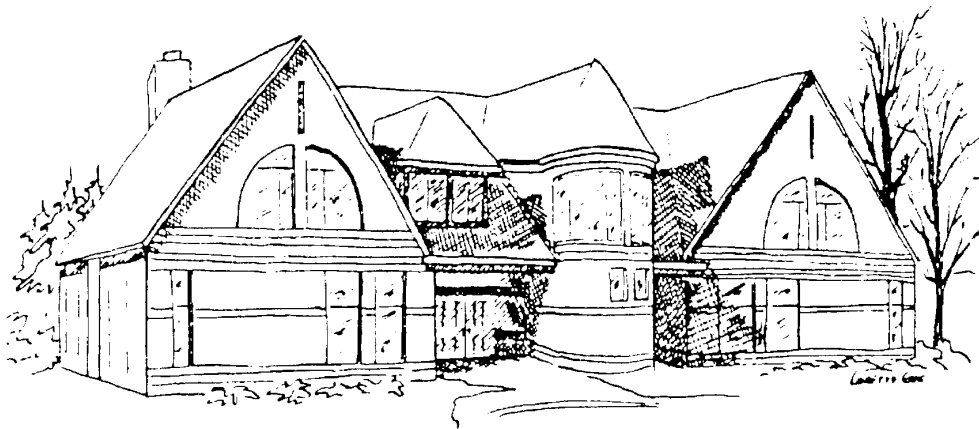
### Non-fiction

*Little Heathens* by Mildred Armstrong Kalish

*Microtrends* by Mark J. Penn

*Waiting for Snow in Havana* by Carlos Eire

*Her Last Death* by Susanna Sonnenberg



## NEW FICTION BOOKS ON CD

*Phantom Prey* – John Sandford  
*The Miracle at Speedy Motors* – Alexander McCall Smith  
*So Brave, Young, and Handsome* – Leif Enger  
*Snow Angels* – Stewart O’Nan  
*Santa Fe Dead* – Stuart Woods  
*The Girl With No Shadow* – Joanne Harris  
*Certain Girls* – Jennifer Weiner  
*The Whole Truth* – David Baldacci  
*Hold Tight* – Harlan Coben  
*The Third Angel* – Alice Hoffman  
*The Front* – Patricia Cornwell  
*Unaccustomed Earth* – Jhumpa Lahiri  
*Where Are You Now?* – Mary Higgins Clark  
*Compulsion* – Jonathan Kellerman  
*Killer Heat* – Linda Fairstein  
*Winter Study* – Nevada Barr  
*Black Widow* – Randy Wayne White



## NEW NON-FICTION BOOKS ON CD

*The Sum of Our Days* – Isabel Allende

## NEW ADULT MUSIC

*Spirit* – Leona Lewis  
*E=mc2* – Mariah Carey  
*Accelerate* – R.E.M.  
*Consolers of the Lonely* – Raconteurs  
*Hard Candy* – Madonna  
*Odd Couple* – Gnarls Barkley  
*This Kind of Love* – Carly Simon  
*Twilight World* – Marian McPartland  
*On My Way Here* – Clay Aiken  
*Narrow Stairs* – Death Cab for Cutie  
*Rockferry* – Duffy  
*Midnight Boom* – Kills  
*The Orchard* – Lizz Wright  
*Backwoods Barbie* – Dolly Parton  
*Asking for Flowers* – Kathleen Edwards  
*Worrisome Heart* – Melody Gardot

## YOUNG ADULT MUSIC

*Boys Like Girls*  
*Last night* - Moby  
*Saturday Nights & Sunday Mornings* – Counting Crows  
*Grammy nominees 2008*