

The Library Times

Avon, Connecticut

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

November

THANK YOU AVON!

Expansion Update

On behalf of the Library Board of Directors, I want to extend a very big thank you to all who helped to make the library referendum a success. One of the most important hallmarks of a high quality community is a first rate library and we are finally launched on an exciting plan to make our already wonderful library bigger and better.

Herb Pandiscio so ably mobilized and lead his Library Expansion Action Plan committee to accomplish a great deal in a short few weeks. Many individuals made contributions to LEAP which enabled them to develop communications, lawn signs, buttons, banners and much more to assure that the referendum stayed visible and that voters had accurate information on which to base their decision on October 22. Many other *Friends of the Library*, as well as the Avon Historical Society, contributed in various ways to assure the referendum passed. *The Friends*, as usual, did yeoman's service, conveying their enthusiasm for the project and communicating the importance of getting the vote out. We are tremendously appreciative of all their efforts and contributions to achieve this great result. Finally, we wish to thank the people of Avon who voted for the library expansion, which will benefit the entire community in many ways.

The Board of Directors has developed a detailed plan for a fundraising campaign which will be formally launched in a few weeks. However, we have already opened an expansion fund and we hope that people will consider making donations to this fund as part of their year end tax planning. We expect to have a talented committee of Avon people involved with the campaign and we welcome your ideas about how we can make this an inclusive and highly successful effort. Many more details about the fundraising campaign will be forthcoming.

— *Mary LaBelle Suter*

President, Avon Library Board of Directors

President's Letter

Although it may seem a bit early to think about the holidays, *the Friends of the Library* are already planning for the annual Holiday Boutique. This event was a huge success last year, with many people finding items even for those "hard to shop for" folks. If you are searching for a unique but affordable gift, you might want to stop in and browse through some of the remarkable items we have collected. Looking for a beautifully illustrated garden or cookbook? We have it. Great children's books? Yes, we have a large selection, all in wonderful condition. For that hard to please bibliophile, how about an item from our first edition or rare book collection? Our Boutique is right before Thanksgiving so you can get some of those presents out of the way and checked off your list. Bring a friend and stop in to the *Friends' Holiday Boutique* and browse as long as you wish for that perfect gift. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dates for the Holiday Boutique:

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| Thursday, November 19 | Noon - 8:00 |
| Friday, November 20 | 10:00 - 5:00 |
| Saturday, November 21 | 10:00 - 2:00 |

— *Barbara Leonard*

President, Friends of Avon Library



Friends and LEAP members, Martha Dixon and Jim Kielt spread the word on Saturday before the referendum.



Benjamin Ajak and Alephonsion Deng, two of the authors of the book *They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky*, spoke to an audience of 500 on the night of October 8, 2009, at Avon High School. Earlier in the day, Benjamin spoke to an assembly of the entire Avon Middle School and to individual classrooms. Alephonsion spoke to the Humanities classes, Amnesty International Club, and a full auditorium of students at the end of the day. Their presentation in the evening, open to the general public, included a video on the history of the situation in Sudan, and how they came to be known as Lost Boys. A book signing and reception followed, allowing the public to interact with these survivors, shaking hands and thanking them for sharing their story. The Friends of the Avon Library provided refreshments, and the Avon Church youth groups raised \$562 for the Lost Boys Educational Fund. This event was made possible by grants from the Avon Education Foundation and the Wattis Foundation.

What is a Podcast?

A podcast is an audio recording that can be played on a computer, ipod, or MP3 player. Usually, an event or speaker is recorded live, then edited and uploaded to the internet so the public can access the presentation. The library now has two podcasts available! Visit our website to access "Understanding Darfur" and "An Evening with the Lost Boys" at Avon High School. Watch for the podcast of the lecture by Connecticut State archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni—Vampires in New England.

Volunteers are Priceless!

Thanks to the 30 *Friends* who made voting reminder calls to 882 Avon *Friends* and a special thanks to the 100 *Friends* who allowed us to place big yellow signs in their front yards. Your help made a big difference!

Library Timeline

Now that the referendum has passed, everyone is asking us "what's next?" Answer: now, the fun begins! Here is a Timeline for the project --if everything goes smoothly.

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| Nov. - May | Detailed design phase. Get state grant funds released. Library Board fundraising gets underway. |
| May - July | Bids for project |
| Fall 2010 | Library moves into temporary location in Avon; construction begins |
| Fall 2011 | Move back into expanded and renovated Library; Grand opening! |

Please Consider an IRA Rollover to the Library Expansion Fund

Thanks to a deadline extension added to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, if you are 70 or older you now have the opportunity until the end of 2009 to use your IRA funds to make charitable gifts without the amount of the gift counting as a taxable distribution. If you are eligible, please contact your financial advisor to arrange for a gift to the library expansion fund.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers are needed to help set up chairs for programs. Time of day: during the week, and weekends. Number of chairs: 25 to 75, depending on the program. Let us know if you would like to be on the call list.
- The Children's Room is looking for volunteers to go inside costumes mornings or early afternoons for story times. Call us at 673-9712 for more information.

Library Hours

The Library will be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27. We will be open on Saturday, November 28. Sunday hours begin on January 3, 2010.

Literary Discussions

Thursday, November 12 Classics Book Discussion: *If On a Winter's Night a Traveler* by Italo Calvino with Professor Nels Highberg, University of Hartford at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 3 Poetry discussion: The Poetry of Pablo Neruda with Professor Ravi Shankar, CCSU at 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 10 Book Discussion: *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* by Jon Meacham with Professor Jack Chatfield, Trinity College at 7:00 p.m.



Edwardian Tea

Saturday, Dec 5, 1:00 pm

Enjoy an afternoon of holiday cheer as Mrs. Gordon (as portrayed by Rita Parisi) transports you back to Christmas 1908. Find out what ladies, gentlemen and children wanted in their stockings that year, as well as the holiday traditions. Take a moment from the holiday stress as Mrs. Gordon shares with you her plans for the holiday, including her preparation of a Christmas dinner. And don't forget to bring along your "Christmas Wish List" and she will open up her 1908 Sears & Roebuck catalogue and let you know how much it will cost!

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

First two Tuesdays each month: CHESS CLUB from 3:30 – 5:00 for ages 8 and up – get a student contract from the Children's Room.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Wed. Nov. 11: VETERAN'S DAY: LIBRARY CLOSED.

Thu. Nov. 12: Book Mates discussion for grades 1 – 3 with Mrs. DeLuca, from 4:00 – 5:00 pm, registration required, and please ask how and when book is available for check-out.

Sat. Nov. 14: ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY sponsored by *the Friends* at 3:00 pm sharp, featuring nationally known mime Robert Rivest. Ages 3 & up drop in. Refreshments follow the performance.

Sat. Nov. 21: Pirate Story time for ages 3 – 6, sign up for 2:00 – 3:00 pm with Mrs. Randolph.

Tue. Nov. 17: Nutmeg Book Group with Mrs. Randolph for grades 4 – 6, from 4:30 – 5:30 pm, sign up and get *Attack Of The Turtle*.

Tue. Dec. 1 & 8: Chess Club, 3:30 – 5:00 PM, for ages 8 and up, ask for a contract.

Tue. Dec. 1: Bring Your Own Snack Story time, Grades 1 – 3 sign up, from 4:00 – 5:00 pm with Mrs. D.

Tue. Dec. 1: PJ story time with Mrs. St. Jean, ages 3 – 6 please sign up for 6:30 pm. Wear pajamas!

Sat. Dec. 5: Joel Ferola's Simple Origami for grades 4 and up from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Register, please.

JANUARY 2010

Jan. 4 - 20, 2010: Sign up for Feb./March Storytime (ages 1-6).

Tue. Jan. 5 & 12: Chess Club, 3:30 – 5:00 pm for ages 8 and up who are registered.

Tue. Jan. 5: PJ story time with Mrs. St. Jean, ages 3 – 6 please sign up for 6:30 pm. Wear pajamas!

Sat. Jan. 16: *The Friends* present an informational program on beekeeping from 3:00 – 4:00 pm for ages 5 and older. Howland Blackiston demystifies pollination and shows kids how to BEE in the know!! Just drop into the Community Room.

Sat. Jan. 23: Author and dance teacher Catherine Gibson combines ballet and being deaf in an exquisite picture book journey of a young girl's love of dance. *Through Sophie's Eyes* is a fingerspell sign language book illustrated by beloved Avon artist Robert Noreika. Ages 4 and up: wear your tutu and join this special storytelling event. Refreshments. From 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Sign up in the children's room, please.

Tues. Jan 26: Nutmeg Book Group for grades 4 – 6 from 4:30 – 5:30 pm, sign up and get *The Year Of The Dog*.

TEEN CORNER

Winter Teen Programs



Tuesdays, November 3, December 1 and January 5 - Teen Crafters Club, 3:30-5:00 pm

Tuesday, November 17 - High School Book Discussion, 6:30-8:00 pm: Featuring "New Moon" by Stephenie Meyer

Tuesday, November 24 - Chocolate!! Chocolate!!, 4:00-5:30 pm

Saturday, December 5 - ACT Test practice and review, 9:00-1:00

Tuesday, December 8 - Teen Advisory Board meeting, 6:30-8:00

Friday, December 11 - Teen Holiday Dinner, 4:00-6:00 pm

Friday, December 18 - Teen Holiday Crafts, 4:30-6:30 pm. Save a buck, make your presents this year! All supplies provided and free!!

Friday, January 8 - "Reader's Theater Club!!", 5:30-7:00 pm: Join us in re-creating a favorite children's book. We'll create the costumes, the props, the whole shebang and then present it to the children of Avon!! See Amber for more info!



Sunday Music Series 2010

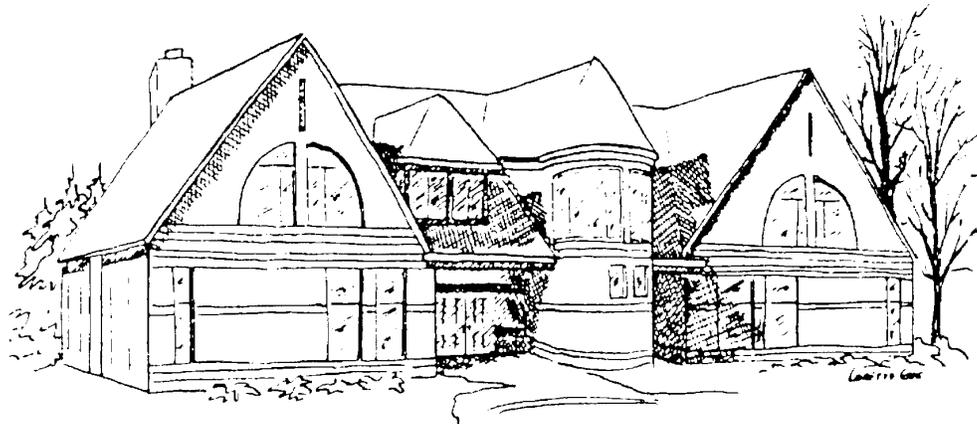
Join us Sunday afternoons for an exciting variety of musical programs

First Concert - January 10 • Brunilda Myftaraj and Adrian Sylveen, violins and Jurate Sveidate-Waller, soprano. A classical mix of Bach, Mozart and Strauss.

January 24 • Rose-Gibbs Duo – Benita Rose, piano, Tony Gibbs, saxophone. Works by Liszt, Milhaud, Desenclos, and others.

For a complete schedule check the Library website
www.avonctlibrary.info

All performances begin at 3:00 PM and are free to the public.



FRIENDS SECOND ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Second Annual Friends of the Avon Library Author Luncheon, held at the Golf Club of Avon on Friday October 16, was a well-received event and a successful fundraiser. As one attendee said, "It was wonderful to see such a cross-section of our community in one place, all talking about books." Area book clubs were well-represented at the luncheon.



This year's event featured New York Times bestselling author Chris Bohjalian. Author of such favorites as *Midwives* and *The Buffalo Soldier*. Over 150 guests were on hand to hear Bohjalian discuss his most recent novel *Skeletons at the Feast*, a work of historical fiction set at the end of World War II. Mr. Bohjalian's next book, *Secrets of Eden*, will be released on February 2, 2010.

The luncheon also included silent and tea cup auctions and music by Airborne Jazz. *The Friends of the Avon Library* are grateful for the assistance it received from event sponsors and donors, and for all those who spent the afternoon at the luncheon in support of the library and literary arts in our community.

The Secret Life of Louisa May Alcott

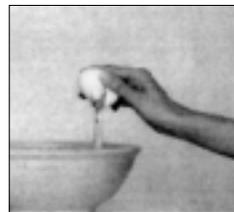
Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 pm.

An interpretive discussion presented by Ruth Crockett



Louisa May Alcott, one of America's most beloved writers and life-long resident of Concord, MA, was the author of *Little Women* and *Little Men*, among other books.

This presentation is co-sponsored by the Avon Historical Society and the Avon Free Public Library. Refreshments will be served.



641.5 with Julie

Check out Julie's cooking blog on the library website. Our own Julie Styles shares her experiences as she cooks her way around the library, one recipe at a time, exploring the library's fantastic cookbook collection.

<http://avonlibrarycookbooks.blogspot.com/>