



The Library Times

Avon, Connecticut

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

April 2009

Expansion Update

The library remains a vital, active and much cherished center of the Avon community. In times of economic turmoil, libraries typically experience an increase in business and that has certainly been the case for the Avon Library. Patron visits, circulation statistics and program attendance are all higher than normal. In fact, there were days during the February school vacation week when over a thousand people visited the library.

The Avon Town Council is expected to again consider the feasibility of moving forward with the library expansion plans at its July meeting. A town-wide referendum will be contemplated for the fall of 2009, which, if approved, would allow for continued planning to begin construction in 2010. We have received approval for a \$1 million construction grant from the state which will help defray the costs of the expansion.

The library recently received notice that we are the recipients of a generous gift from the estate of a former patron. The Board of Directors has decided to allocate the full amount of this gift to the library expansion fund. This is a wonderful way to provide a lasting legacy to the Avon Library and we hope that others who are able to do so will consider remembering the library in their estate plans.

We appreciate the support and enthusiasm Avon residents have demonstrated for our wonderful library. The library staff is working hard to keep books, materials, programs and services fresh and relevant to the needs and expectations of our patrons, in spite of overcrowding.

— *Mary LaBelle Suter*

President, Avon Library Board of Directors

Avon Education Foundation Grant Award

Alepho Deng, Benson Deng, and Benjamin Ajak, authors of *They Poured Fire on us from the Sky*, (2005), will visit Avon during early October 2009 thanks to a generous grant from the AEF.



Silk City Chorus performs at the library.

President's Letter

It's been a long winter but spring is just around the corner and **the Friends of the Avon Library** are getting ready for their annual BOOK SALE. Mark your calendars for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 1 through 3. A great benefit of being a **Friend** is receiving a postcard in late April that will admit you to the Friday Preview Night free. If you are not a **Friend**, consider joining today. Please note that we have extended the Friday Preview hours and will open our doors at 6:00 pm to allow more time to peruse all the items. This year's inventory is quite varied so we are betting there is something for everyone.

The Friends accept book donations all year long. We will continue to collect for this year's Sale through April 17. In this economy, forget the high book store prices! Shop the Book Sale and we are sure you will find plenty to interest you at a fraction of what those book stores charge. See you there.

— *Barbara Leonard*

President, Friends of Avon Library

BOOK SALE HOURS:

Friday, May 1:

Preview Night & Book Sale 6:00-9:00 pm
\$5.00 entrance fee

Saturday, May 2: Book Sale 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday, May 3: Bag Sale 12 Noon-2:30 pm
\$5.00 per bag

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT



Jon Smith, one of the winners of our Cherry Pie Contest

APRIL

Winners of our poetry contest and Lion & Lamb contest will be on display!

Chess club meets April 14 and 21
(and NOT during school vacation)

School Vacation Week:

Tue. April 7: Teen Crafters Club, grades 7 – 12, 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Sign up with Amber.

Tue. April 7: Pajama Storytime with Mrs. St. Jean at 6:30 pm. Ages 3 – 6 please sign up.

Wed. April 8: Karen's Kooky KidStory & Kraft: come enjoy a surprise story and kraft with Mrs McNulty. Ages 5 – 7 sign up for 11 – Noon; ages 8 – 11 sign up for 2 – 3 pm. Space limited.

Tue. April 21: BYOS (Bring Your Own Snack) storytime, grades 1 – 3 sign up, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Sat. April 25: Mrs. Randolph's Earth Day storytime and craft, grades K – 3, sign up for 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Tue. April 28: Mrs. Randolph's Nutmeg Discussion Group, grades 4 – 6, sign up for 4:30 pm.

MAY

Several programs will be going on for TV-Turnoff Week (May 1 – 9) and beyond. Maisy will visit storytimes the week of May 18. Chess meets May 5 & 12. Check program notebook, and sign up!

Check the library website for updates.

National Library Week in the Children's Department

The PIG from IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PANCAKE by Laura Numeroff will visit special storytimes on **April 14, 15, 16 and Saturday the 18th**. Pre-schoolers please stop by, sign up for specific times.

Tues. April 14: Mrs. DeLuca's BOOKMATES discussion group will meet from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Sign up and get a copy of the book from a children's librarian.

Sat. April 18: Joel Ferola's ORIGAMI-making for grades 3 and up. 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Space very limited. Sign up is required.

January's snow turned into diamonds as Mrs. Randolph's Nutmeg Group searched the children's room at the end of the month. Following a lead from the mystery "Shakespeare's Secret," by Connecticut author Elise Broach, students discussed the details and then went on a scavenger hunt in teams, turning over concealed fake diamonds by the pocketful in a quest to return to Mrs. Randolph with the most. But diamonds turned back into mystery when staff members started finding the gleaming prizes in their own coat pockets days later. You just never know what diamonds shine in the Children's Room!!!

TEEN'S CORNER SPRING PROGRAMS

All programs grades 7-12 unless otherwise specified

Friday, April 17th-3:30-5:00- After School Gaming.
Try out some Wii games enter prize competitions

Tuesday, April 21st- 6:30-8:00 TAB meeting.
Summer is just around the corner. Come and help us set up our exciting Teen Summer Reading Club program. Plus get in your input about what to buy for the library.

Friday, April 24th- 5:30-7:00 High School Book Discussion. Discuss a book selected by you- for High School Students only! Sign up in YA notebook

Friday, May 8th- 3:00-4:30 Mother's Day Card making.
Create a handmade mother's day card plus other summertime themed cards too.

Friday, May 22nd- 3:30-5:00 Cyber Café
Compete against others at these classic games turned techy. Spaces limited- Sign up!

****New Teen Crafters Club- April 7 and May 5, 3:30-4:30**
Join our all new Teen Craft Club- make something new and cool each month. All materials provided.

****First Tuesday of every month.**

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Treasures in Your Attic: Old & Rare Books

a special evening with Kenneth Gloss

Thursday, April 16, 2009 7:00 pm

Join us as Ken Gloss, appraiser for The Antiques Roadshow and Proprietor of The Brattle Book Shop in Boston, MA, discusses:

The joys of collecting, what makes a book valuable and the history of The Brattle Book Shop.

After the talk, Ken will appraise a couple of books from the audience and answer questions. In addition, he'll give free verbal appraisals to those who have brought old books with them. No registration is required for this event. Co-sponsored by **the Friends** and the Avon Historical Society.

Friday, April 17, 2:00 pm Enjoy Historical Fiction?

Join us for a discussion with Frederick Fenn, author of *Journey to Common Ground* and *Jericho*, the first two books in a trilogy that takes place in Vermont.

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 to 3:00 pm

Open House for the Marian Hunter History Room

Re-acquaint yourself with the treasures in the History room at the Library. Bring your treasures related to Avon History and meet with the directors of the Library and the Avon Historical Society, co-managers of the History room. On display will be photographs by C.B. Hadsell and letters by Mabel Bishop.

“TOTE-AL” KINDNESS



Have you received a tote bag from our mystery donor? We never know when this donor will appear, or how many tote bags will be purchased, but the criteria for giving changes each time. Were you wearing a blue shirt when you visited the library? Were your arms full of books? If so, you may have received a tote bag! The circulation department has enjoyed surprising people with tote bags from our mystery donor, and one recipient even wrote a thank you note for us to pass along.....

More Spring Programs:

Saturday, April 11, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Technology Series from **the Friends** and Best Buy: MP3 players and Computers

Monday, April 20, 7:00-8:30 pm

The Connecticut Forum presents a program: A Conversation with Tom Friedman and Malcolm Gladwell from April 2006.

Thursday, April 23, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

“Is a Reverse Mortgage Right for You?”

A free seminar co-sponsored with Evelyn Taylor and Mary McCoid from Essex Mortgage Lenders.

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Return to Classics: a book discussion of *The Optimist's Daughter* by Eudora Welty
Kerry Driscoll, Saint Joseph College

Spring Programs (continued):

Thursday, May 14, 7:00 -8:30 pm

Return to Classics: a book discussion of *Dubliners* by James Joyce. Tom Shea, University of Connecticut

Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 – 8:00 pm Televisions:

Technology series from **the Friends** and Best Buy:

Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Is Your Retirement at Risk?

A free seminar co-sponsored with Chris Warner and Larry Kushner from Cornerstone Wealth Management Group LLC.

Thursday, June 4, 7:00-8:00 pm Computers:

Technology series from **the Friends** and Best Buy:

Looking for New Exhibits!

The Friends of the Avon Library coordinates the scheduling of displays in the two exhibit cases near the staircase to the Children's Room. The displays cases can be booked on a monthly basis for any exhibits that may be of interest to Library patrons. Past exhibits have included photography, costume jewelry, antique toys, and the history of Avon.

If you are interested in using the exhibit cases for a display, please contact **Friends** Board Member Janet Stokesbury at 675-7961 for details and availability.

Avon Library Ranked in Library Journal survey

A recent survey by Library Journal which rated 7,115 public libraries throughout the country based on their circulation, visits, total program attendance, and public internet terminal uses per capita was just released. Among libraries with budgets ranging from \$1-4.9 million dollars, the Avon Free Public Library is ranked 54th out of 1126 public libraries. Our total score was 1136, and our per capita numbers within the survey are:

17.9 circulation per capita

12.6 visits per capita

0.5 program attendance per capita

7.4 public internet terminal uses per capita

Avon was ranked highest within the greater Hartford area; the Simsbury Library was ranked 57th, the West Hartford Library was ranked 83rd, and the Farmington Library was ranked 142nd. Detailed results of the survey are available in the February 15, 2009 issue of Library Journal.

Save the Date!

Author Event: Doug Evans

Save the evening of Wednesday June 10 to meet Doug Evans, author of the Nutmeg winner by 1,000 votes: “MVP” (*Magellan Voyage Project*), voted on by kids across the state. Doug will give a presentation and then sign books. Mr. Evans is world traveled and author of several children's books. He will be coming from Berkeley, California. In collaboration with the Canton Schools and Simsbury Library.

New additions to the library. Come check them out!

As the library staff removes old, damaged and out of date items in the collection we are constantly selecting, purchasing and processing new items beyond those popular bestsellers. Recently we added many new books on resumes and job hunting, finance, hybrid cars, remodeling, travel, home decorating, art instruction, and computer books on MySpace, Facebook, Web 2.0, YouTube, Quicken, Quickbooks, home networking, wireless home networking, Drupal, Joomla, WordPress, Newton's Telecom Dictionary, Windows Server 2008, some guides for MACs, and more. Visit our website to get a complete list of books ordered.



Thank you to our **Friends** for donations that allowed us to buy new travel DVDs in order to replace videos that were more than 20 years old. The DVDs from the ever-popular Globe Trekker series include England, Italy, France, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece as well as other popular destinations: Australia and New Zealand, Scandinavia, South America, and the Pacific Northwest.

The Friends also provide funds to help us expand our ESL (English as a Second Language) Collection at the Library:

English Simplified by Blanche Ellsworth

ESL Beginner: English as a Second Language Made Nice and Easy! by Sherry Boguchwal (CD-ROM)

Harper Collins *Beginner's ESL Dictionary*, edited by Harper Collins

Mastering the American Accent by Lisa Mojsin (book and CDs)

McGraw-Hill's *Essential ESL Grammar: A Handbook for Intermediate and Advanced ESL Students* by Mark Lester

Thank you **Friends!**

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, at the Library using the online catalog, or by calling us. We'll do it for you or walk you through the steps.