



Violet's Porch

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve
December 24
closed

Christmas
December 25
closed

New Year's Eve
December 31
close at 1 PM

New Year's Day
January 1, 2015
closed

From the Director's Desk: *Makerspaces*

A search of news articles on public libraries will inevitably turn up many articles on public libraries installing **makerspaces**.

The definition of a **makerspace** tends to vary, but generally it is a distinct space that is separated by the availability of a variety of tools to make things. Some makerspaces have 3-D printers, some have sewing machines, others have small kitchens, and one library even has a recording studio.

For public libraries, makerspaces represent innovation and relevance.

I am troubled by the perception of makerspaces as being something new to public libraries. It troubles me further



You can get started at the library...with a book!

when makerspaces are portrayed as being something completely unrelated to books.

For me the creative energy that is inspired and released in makerspaces can also be found in reading a book. Just spend a few minutes with a cookbook by Julia Child, or a wood working guide by Graham Blackburn and you'll see what I mean. Do you want play cricket or build a teepee? You can get started at the library with a book.

I don't object to makerspaces. I object to the notion that they are something new for public libraries! Anyone who has been inspired by a book or picked up a hammer because of an article he read at the library has had the "makerspace" experience!



Happy Holiday Wishes

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Season's Greetings, Joyous Kwanza, Cool Yule—whatever and however

you celebrate we wish you all the joys of the holiday season.

Thank you for your support and goodwill throughout the year. May 2015 bring you peace, happiness, and health, along with lots of good books and the time to read (or listen) to them!

Staff Favorites — 2014



*I heard the bells on
Christmas Day
Their old familiar
carols play,
And wild and sweet
the words repeat
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!*

—Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow



The Silent Sister

by Diane Chamberlain.

While cleaning out her father's house after his death, Riley finds evidence that her older sister, Lisa, may not have committed suicide, as she'd been told all her life. What could she discover without hurting others? This was a moving, suspenseful story. (Diane Hess)

The Museum of Extraordinary Things

by Alice Hoffman.

Coralee grows up above her father's Coney Island museum, and at age 10 is put on display as "The Human Mermaid." Love, rebellion, and Hoffman's trademark magical realism make this novel, which takes place in the early 1900s, a winner. (Christine O'Brien)

The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo

by Tom Reiss

According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, this biography of Alexandre Dumas is "a remarkable and almost compulsively researched account." Fascinating, superb, and vibrant are just some of the superlatives reviewers have used to describe this compelling story. (Tony Punch)

Me Before You

by Jojo Moyes

Lou and Will and a few quirky friends make this love story with its shocking ending a book to remember. It is the one book in my 2014 reading that made me feel, think, and appreciate. (Pat McGraw)

Prep

by Curtis Sittenfeld
Lee achieves her dream of attending a prestigious private boarding school, but for four years she feels like an outsider among her wealthy and privileged classmates. I couldn't stop turning the pages, and enjoyed the author's writing about "the daily lives of fairly ordinary people." (Sandy Cale)

Terminal City

by Linda Fairstein.

A very suspenseful and intriguing thriller with lots of surprising history regarding New York City's Grand Central Terminal. (Gina Nardella)



Could you be the Jefferson Township Library's newest trustee?

The library is looking for an enthusiastic supporter of the library to fill a vacancy on the board of trustees.

There are nine trustees who meet monthly to set policies for the library. They work to pro-

mote the use and growth of the library in the community. Library trustees are appointed by the mayor with the consent of the town council.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee a letter of interest

should be submitted to the Township Clerk's office. For more information about becoming a library trustee you can speak with Library Director Seth Stephens.

Spotlight: Wordsmiths

The New Year is a time for new beginnings, and it is also the perfect time to start writing!

Writers (and writer-wannabes,) why not consider attending the library's writing group, **Wordsmiths**, which

has been meeting once a month for the past five years? It is a small group of creative people who write, read their work, and receive feedback (if desired.)

You will surely have your imagination stimulated at this relaxed, leader-

directed group that uses writing prompts for motivation.

Why not try something new in 2015? The Wordsmiths Writing Workshop meets on the second Saturday of each month, from 10 AM to noon.

Things to do...

This December, make some time to enjoy the simple gifts of the season, such as crafts and cookies!

Enjoy a **Little House Christmas** event (Dec. 6, 11 AM to 3:00 PM), featuring Little House Christmas episodes, crafts and stories, for all ages.



**Yum!
Holiday
Cookies**

At our first **Holiday Cookie Swap** for adults and teens (Dec. 9, 6:30 PM), bring 3 dozen of your favorites and “swap” for an assort-

ment. The library will provide festive packaging for you to take your goodies home!

Listen to poetry read aloud and share your thoughts on December 10 at 1 PM, as the **Taste of Poetry** group meets to read a variety of sonnets. All are welcome!

Once January rolls around, we’re focused on renewal, and looking forward to Spring.

Eternal Spring (January 11, 2 PM) takes you for a stroll through fabulous gardens, ancient and present-day, as seen through the art and plants of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Cloisters.

Winter Wellness with Essential Oils ((Jan. 14, 7 PM) offers you skills for building up the immune system naturally. Learn how to improve your health by using essential oils to cleanse, nourish and strengthen your body. .

Rejuvenate mind and body at **Peak Performance: The 6 Facets of Health** on January 21 at 7 PM. Learn how to get the most out of your day, as well as improve your alertness, focus and productivity.

We appreciate your registering ahead, either online by phone. It helps us plan with supplies, refreshments and set-up.

Remember to check out our website for a complete calendar of programs and events.

and for the Children...

Holiday Crafts for the PreK Crowd Even the youngest art lovers will enjoy creating a foam holiday wreath, (Dec. 3, 9:30 to 10:30 AM) and doing some Tree Painting (Dec. 9, 10 to 11 AM)

Santa Storytime (Dec. 5, 6 to 6:45 PM) Bring the little ones for stories & tales told by Mr. Claus himself!

Cookies, Cookies Everywhere (Dec. 11, 4 to 5 PM) Kids will bring 2 dozen cookies and a container, then exchange with others. Enjoy cookie stories, and milk & cookies, of course!

Drop-in Holiday Crafts (Dec. 18, 4:30 to 5:30 PM) Get creative and make holiday gingerbread placemats (Dec. 18, 4:30 to 5:30 PM, and holiday ornaments (Dec. 23, 12 to 1 PM) For Grades K and up.

Holiday Pajama Storytime (Dec. 18, 6 PM) Come in your jammies, and celebrate the season by listening to some holiday stories.

New Year’s Cake Making (Dec. 30, 11 AM to 1 PM) Learn how to decorate (and take home) a small cake. For Grades 2 and up.

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

—William Arthur Ward

Computer Classes

Introductory classes on **Windows 8.1** will be offered in December. Learn how to accomplish tasks using both touch screen and mouse, such as customizing the start screen, adding and organizing apps, accessing the familiar desktop, adjusting settings and more. Please register online, or call the library.

Morning classes

Friday, December 5, 12 and 19
9:30 to 10:30 AM

Evening classes

Monday, December 1, 15 and 22
7:30 to 8:30 PM

Jefferson Township Public Library

1031 Weldon Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
973-208-6244
www.jeffersonlibrary.net

Library Director

Seth Stephens
seth.stephens@jeffersonlibrary.net

Newsletter Editor

Christine O'Brien
chris.obrien@jeffersonlibrary.net

Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 to 9
Saturday 9:30 to 6
Sunday 1 to 5

Board of Trustees

Michael Stewart, President
Christine Williams, Vice President
Bill Craig, Mayor's Rep., Secretary
Frank Bagnati, Treasurer
Rosemarie Lange
Anne Augustyn
Pearlann McManus

The Library of Jefferson Township is a sound public investment that exists to improve the lives of residents through self-education, recreation and the exchange of ideas.

Looking for a gift that is stimulating, lasting, affordable...and unbreakable?

— BOOKS —

"Books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside them."

—Neil Gaiman

The Teen Choice List

The **Teen Choice** list is an initiative of the American Library Association's Young Adult Library Services Association. Teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Here are the winners for 2013-2014:

1. *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell
2. *Splintered* by A. G. Howard
3. *The Rithmatist* by Brandon Sanderson
4. *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancy
5. *Monument 14: Sky on Fire* by Emmy Laybourne
6. *Earth Girl* by Janet Edwards
7. *The Testing* by Joel Charbonneau
8. *Steelheart* by Brandon Sanderson
9. *Siege and Storm* by Leigh Bardugo
10. *The Eye of Minds* by James Dasher

