



# Violet's Porch

The Newsletter of the Jefferson Township Public Library

## From the Director's Desk – *The Rights of the Reader: The Right to Skip*

Skipping is okay when you're reading. Many may disagree with that statement. After all, you can't skip ahead in line, and you can't eat your dessert first.

When you go to a movie or a concert, the quality of your experience is largely controlled by the performer or the director of the movie. You can't really not listen to only part of the concert or not watch the parts of the movie you dislike. You can't skip ahead in a concert or a movie. Reading is different.

When I was in college I had a professor who, in response to complaints about the size of his assigned reading list, said it was necessary to learn to read discriminately, or to learn to skip.

With all due respect to authors, not every word is of equal importance. Nor are all words equally appealing. Learning which words are more or less important, or which words we like and which ones we don't, is an essential part of reading.

Making choices about what we read, or skipping, makes reading our own experience. And that is the great thing about reading.

We can control the experience of reading. We create our own unique experiences when we read.

So go ahead and skip when you're reading. It's part of the experience!



...not every word is of equal importance.

### by the numbers: FEBRUARY

# of items borrowed  
**7,738**

# of people visiting  
**8,173**

# of items added to the library's collection  
**362**



## New for You: Research Tools

Two useful new resources are now available through the library's web site — **Pronunciator**, a language-learning service, and **World Vital Records**, a resource for genealogy research.

**Pronunciator** is the most comprehensive language-learning service available. It offers 80 foreign languages;

ESL for 50 non-English languages; and full-featured apps for all Android and Apple devices. Pronunciator meets the needs of all users, from kids to seniors.

**World Vital Records** is a user-friendly genealogy resource. It is an offshoot of Ancestry.com and can be accessed from home. Access billions of names

in family history record collections worldwide. It includes US and UK censuses and much more, and is especially suitable for those who do not have much information at hand.

Look for the new resources on the library's web site, under "Research Tools."

## April is Autism Awareness Month

**National Autism Awareness Month** is recognized each year during the month of April to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder. Numbers vary, but as many as one in 50, to one in 88, children are affected by autism. The chance that you know someone with autism is high. That is why it is very important to understand what autism is.

Autism is defined in *The American Heritage Stedman's Medical Dictionary* as "a pervasive developmental disorder characterized by severe deficits in social interaction and communication; by an extremely limited range of activities and interests; and often by the presence of repetitive, stereotyped behaviors."

One of the best ways to learn about autism is to read about it. Below are some books available at the library:

- Amenta, Charles. *Russel's World: a Story About Kids with Autism*.
- *Autism Spectrum Disorders: What Every Parent Needs to Know* edited by Alan I. Rosenblatt and Paul S. Carbone.
- Grandin, Temple. *The Autistic Brain: Thinking Across the Spectrum*.
- Higashida, Naoki. *The Reason I Jump: The Inner voice of a Thirteen-year-old Boy with Autism*.
- Sicile-Kira, Chantel. *A Full Life with Autism: From Learning to Forming Relationships to Achieving Independence*.

### May I Recommend... *The Spark* by Kristine Barnett

"This is a remarkable memoir of a mother and son — the story of an autistic child, a genius in disguise. Kristine decides to follow Jacob's "spark" — his passionate interests — after the failure of the educational plan suggested to them. You'll both laugh and cry through their trials and tribulations. Despite their difficulties, this is a positive story that leaves the reader feeling inspired and uplifted. It is one of the best memoirs I've read in a long time." (Diane Hess)

### NEW DVDS

About Time  
All is Lost  
American Hustle  
Austenland  
A Case of You  
Dallas Buyers Club  
Enders Game: 3rd Season  
Enough Said  
Free Birds  
Game of Thrones: 3rd Season  
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire  
Nebraska  
Saving Mr. Banks  
Sherlock: 3rd Season  
Thor: The Dark World  
12 Years a Slave

## MAY

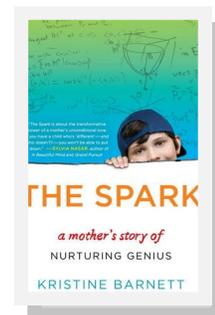
Now children may  
Go out of doors,  
Without their coats,  
To candy stores.

The apple branches  
And the pear  
May float their blossoms  
Through the air,

And Daddy may  
Get out his hoe  
To plant tomatoes  
In a row,

And, afterwards,  
May lazily  
Look at some baseball  
On TV.

—John Updike



## "Poems for Pockets" Giveaway

"Poetry is the journal of the sea animal living on land, wanting to fly in the air. Poetry is a search for syllables to shoot at the barriers of the unknown and the unknowable... (Carl Sandburg, *Poetry Considered*)

Get a poem for **YOUR** pocket from April 16 through 24 at the library. Then, carry the poem with you — to read, to enjoy, to ponder, to share —on **Poem in**

**Your Pocket Day**, Thursday, April 24. On this day, people throughout the United States carry a poem, read it, and share it with others. You can to!

In 2002 **Poem in Your Pocket Day** was initiated in New York City. The event went national in 2008. It's time for you to channel your inner bard — share a poem on April 24!

## Programs for Adults

Wednesday, April 9 at 3 PM

### Poetry of Resilience

A film by Katja Esson (US, 2011, 40 min., unrated) exploring the power of the human spirit as expressed through poetry. She highlights six different poets, who individually survived Hiroshima, the Holocaust, China's Cultural Revolution, the Kurdish Genocide in Iraq, the Rwandan genocide, and the Iranian Revolution.

Saturday, April 12 at 1 PM

### I've Written a Book—Now What? A Journey to Self-Publishing

Is 2014 the year YOU get published? Author Audra Osorio talks about how to select the publisher that is right for you, cover art, final editing, PR, distributors and more. She'll have autographed copies of her book, *The Swear Jar*, available for purchase.

Wednesday, April 16 at 7 PM

### Timeline: New Jersey

Celebrate New Jersey's 350th anniversary with photographer, author and advocate of state pride Walter Choroszewski. Travel on a timeline, meet New Jersey's first people and explorers, take pride in our heritage, and celebrate the chronology of events and "firsts" that make New Jersey special!

Tuesday, April 22 at 7 PM

### The Germans in New Jersey

Dr. Peter T. Lubrecht discusses his new book and the integral part German immigrants and their descendants have played in New Jersey history. Learn about the Germans who played a patriotic part in the state's growth — scholars, artists, war heroes, industrialists — and about discrimination they faced, especially during the world wars.

Wednesday, April 30 at 7 PM

### Blackout Poetry: Creative Destruction

Create poetry by subtraction! This interesting new art form involves crossing out unnecessary words in newspaper articles, old book pages or magazine spreads to create completely new messages. We'll create new poems and mat them for framing.

Sunday, May 4 at 2 PM

### How to Be "Bear Smart"

Black bears are a natural part of our environment. Learn the "bear facts" — what to do if you see one, how to peacefully coexist, bear-proofing tips and more — from members of The Bear Education and Resource Group, whose mission is to protect black bears and their habitat.

Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30 PM

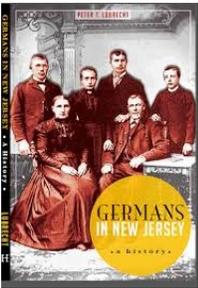
### Pruning Ornamental Shrubs & Trees

Pruning is a simple and logical process, but many people are afraid to make that first cut. Learn about the right procedures, tools and timing to achieve the shapes and sizes you desire. Hands on pruning on library grounds is a possibility!

Saturday, May 17 at 1:30 PM

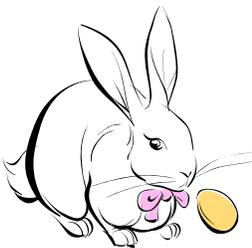
### Celestial Conversations: Healing Grief and Relationships after Death

Wishing she could mend the relationship she had with her deceased mother, LoAnne began exploring journaling and meditation as healing tools. Her book is a result of her successful experience. She will talk about the tools you too can use to find acceptance and peace.



The Germans in New Jersey—4/22 at 7 PM

Make something special for Easter!



## For Children

Keep the kiddies entertained at the library during spring break, the first week in April this year!

Children in Grades 1 and up learn how to keep our rivers, lakes and streams cleaner at a NJ Watershed program, **What's In Your Water**, on Tuesday, April 1 at 1 PM.

On Thursday, April 3 at 4

PM, the Travelling Lantern Company returns to the library with a live presentation of **Pinocchio**. Enjoy the hair-raising adventures of the little puppet as he learns what it takes to become human. A fun event for the family!

Author Roxie Warner reads her book **Mama, Mama What will I Be?** on Friday, April 4 at 1

PM, followed by a Q&A and other fun activities. Enter a drawing to win a signed copy of her book, and stay to decorate cookies to take home.

An **Easter Drop In Craft** takes place on Thursday, April 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Make something special, have a snack and bring home a treat just in time for Easter!

**Jefferson Township Public Library**

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**Hours**

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

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New Jersey ( 1664–2014) is celebrating 350 years of history in 2014. *How do YOU plan to celebrate?* Visit the official New Jersey 350th anniversary web site at [officialnj350.com](http://officialnj350.com) for information and a list of New Jersey events to help you celebrate our state's birthday!

The library is presenting two programs, **Timeline: New Jersey** and **The Germans in New Jersey**, for your consideration. (see p. 3 for details)



**Spring Computer Classes**

Stay on the cutting edge of technology by taking a free computer class at the library:

**Skype**

Monday evenings 7:30 –8:30 PM  
April 7; April 14\*; April 21;  
Friday mornings 9:30–10:30 AM  
April 4; April 11; April 18

**Google Tools**

Monday evenings, 7:30–8:30 PM  
May 5; May 12\*; May 19

**Your pictures and Your computer**

Friday mornings 9:30–10:30 AM  
May 9; May 16; May 23

Sign up for all classes at [www.jeffersonlibrary.net](http://www.jeffersonlibrary.net)

*\*Class held from 6:30–7:30 PM*

