



Violet's Porch

The Newsletter of the Jefferson Township Public Library



From the Director's Desk: Summer Reading

Some people love reading during the summer, but dislike summer reading.

My son loves to read. I have actually found him alternating between reading and instant messaging with his friends on the computer. At times he will stay awake until the early hours of the morning reading. This summer he has been assigned books that he has to read in preparation for next year's English class. Although I know he loves to read, I know he's not looking forward to reading to reading these books.

Some parents say that forcing a student to read a book is unfair and unproductive. To an extent, I agree with this statement. As unjust as it is to have to read while on vacation, I realize that the many reading assignments in my life have taught me self-discipline. It's not unlike training for sports. Sometimes training can be hard, painful, and boring, but one endures be-

cause he knows that in end he will benefit from his efforts.

But just as it is not advisable to train for sports without guidance, demanding a student or anyone else to read a book without the offer of assistance is unwise and potentially harmful.

In college I took an English class that required me to read William Shakespeare's *Othello*. The professor expected that I could read the play and understand it without any help from him. Reading *Othello* was a terrible and humiliating experience. The only thing I gained from it was the mistaken belief that I was not smart enough to appreciate Shakespeare. It was only through my wife, who loves Shakespeare, that I came to appreciate the wonder of his writings. With her patience and confidence in my abilities I realized that I was "smart enough" to read Shakespeare.

The best way to take the bite out of summer reading is to share the experience with your child. Learn something about the books your son or daughter has been asked to read. This way you can ask questions about the book as they are reading it. It also helps to learn something about the author. One of the books my son is reading was written by an author who was blacklisted because he was suspected of being a communist. I know this tidbit will appeal to his teen rebel instincts. You can also read the books along with your child. Reading a difficult book becomes easier when you can share it with someone else.

If you need to learn about a summer reading book don't be afraid to ask a librarian. We are here to help, know all about books and authors, and like nothing more than talking with you about what you're reading --- for better or worse. Enjoy your reading this summer!



Tales Well Told: The Bedquilt

One library event that you don't want to miss is *Tales Well Told: The Bedquilt*, a dramatic reading of a short story by Dorothy Canfield Fisher on Thursday, August 11 at 2 PM,

Actress Michele LaRue (AEA, SAG, AFTRA) gives a vibrant performance of this vintage short story, "a paean to the quilter's craft and the indomitability of a woman's spirit." It is an enjoyable story of a timid old maid who conceives of a quilting design "beyond which no pattern could go." In the process, she finds herself

through her art, and realizes her ideal.

LaRue admits "I'm especially fond of the New England women writers, in whose homely, small-town settings seemingly negligible events change lives entirely."

Tales Well Told consists of a wide repertoire of vibrant short story readings illuminating a variety of themes, seasons and holidays. LaRue has toured nationally and has played more than 200 performances of *Tales Well Told* in 12 states. Though firmly rout-

ed in the past, the stories connect immediately with modern audiences, who see themselves and their own familiar dilemmas in those of our ancestors.

"Over the years," LaRue says, "I've seen contemporary adults light up like children being told a story. Despite TV and film, the Internet and special effects, we still crave to simply listen to a tale well told."

Light refreshments will be served following the performance. Please register.





...all is hushed at Shiloh...

Shiloh: A Requiem

Skimming lightly, wheeling still,
 The swallows fly low
 Over the fields in clouded days,
 The forest-field of Shiloh —
 Over the field where April rain
 Solaced the parched ones stretched in pain
 Through the pause of night
 That followed the Sunday fight
 Around the church of Shiloh —
 The church so lone, the log-guilt one,
 That echoed to many a parting groan and natural prayer
 Of dying foeman mingled there —
 Foemen at morn, but friends at eve —
 Fame or country least their care:
 (What like a bullet can undeceive!)
 But now they lie low,
 While over them the swallows skim,
 And all is hushed at Shiloh.

—by Herman Melville
(April, 1862)



The library will be closed for the **Labor Day** holiday on Sunday, 9/4 and Monday, 9/5.



YES, YOU CAN...
use your laptop to connect to the Internet
 @
the Library— a WiFi Hot Spot!

Classic Corner: Tales of Edgar Allan Poe

Although primarily a poet, Poe has achieved greater popularity for his tales of horror and mystery. Since his death in 1849, stories such as *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Gold Bug*, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, and *The Purloined Letter* have been included in many anthologies. These stories have made deep and haunting impressions on the psyches of generations of readers.

rifying as his fictional work. The little praise Poe received as a poet and writer in his own time was far outweighed by the criticism and misfortune he endured.

Though it came too late for Poe to appreciate, the lasting popularity of his work has delivered the final, and affirmative, verdict on his literary talent.

Poe's own life was almost as hor-

From *52 Great Books to Read*
By Lynn Gordon

BEST FICTION FOR TEENS

The Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, announced its 2011 list of Best Fiction for Young Adults. This year's list of 99 books was drawn from 191 official nominations.

The books are recommended for ages 12-18, and meet the criteria of both good quality literature and appealing reading for teens. This list comprises a wide range of genres and styles, including contemporary realistic fiction, fantasy, horror, science fiction and novels in verse. The top ten titles are:

- *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi
- *Revolution* by Jennifer Donnelly
- *Finnikin of the Rock* by Melina Marchetta
- *Amy & Roger's Epic Detour* by Morgan Matson
- *Hold Me Closer, Necromancer* by Lish McBride
- *Trash* by Andy Mulligan
- *Bamboo People* by Mitali Perkins
- *The Things a Brother Knows* by Dana Reinhardt
- *Last Night I Sang to the Monster* by Benjamin Saenz
- *Revolver* by Marcus Sedgwick

All books are available either at the library or through Interlibrary Loan. The full list can be found at www.ala.org/yalsa/bfya.





What the Staff is Reading

Predator by Terri Blackstock
Desperate to find her 14-year old sister's murderer, Krista discovers that the social network GrapeVyne might be where the killer is finding his victims. She teams up with GrapeVyne's CEO to try to locate the killer. Facebook fans should love this mystery! (Diane Hess)

Franklin and Eleanor by Hazel Rowley. A fresh look at the Roosevelts, a great couple whose goal was always to make the USA a better place. The author depicts their unconventional 40 year marriage and the whole community of friends, neighbors, advisors and lovers that surrounded them. I kept thinking "I didn't know that!" (Pat McGraw)

Room by Emma Donahue. For five year old Jack, who narrates this story, the "room" is his world. He's never been outside. Find out why in this riveting read that will leave you pondering psychological, sociological and emotional issues long after you're done reading it. (Christine O'Brien)

Batman vs. the Undead by Kevin Van Hook. Gory as any horror movie, this graphic novel features Batman and Superman trying to stop a madman from completing a dark voodoo ritual. (Tony Punch)

The Hidden Gifts of Helping Others by Stephen G. Post. "Intertwined with scientific research and spiritual understanding," this inspirational book explores how we can make *helping* a lifetime activity. A good read that makes good sense. (Christine Kabshura)

Wedding of the Waters by Peter L. Bernstein. A marvelous story about the building of the Erie Canal (1817-1825,) including period history and politics. This construction led to the opening of the West and the transport of goods to the East Coast and beyond. (Nancy Chamberlain)



What are **you** reading this summer?



New Railroading Books

The library recently received a donation of railroad books. The following titles are now ready for you to borrow:

- *26 Miles to Jersey City* by Peter L. Komelski
- *The Morristown & Erie Railway* by Bob Pennini
- *Erie Railroad...NJ Memories* by Bob Pennisi
- *A Colorful Look At: The Erie Lackawanna* by Rich Pennisi
- *Diamondbugs: The Story of the rail motor cars on the Erie Railroad* by Jack Grasso
- *The Hard Coal Carriers v. 1 & 2* by Gerard E. Bernet
- *Anthracite Country Color* by Gerard Bernet
- *Third Avenue Railway: A Cityscape of Manhattan & the Bronx* by Frederick A. Kramer
- *BQT: The Brooklyn & Queens Transit* by Harold A. Smith and Frederick A. Kramer

Get Reminders via Email

No more overdue books! No more missed items! Your library can now conveniently provide you with reminders and notifications via email.

You will be notified that your books are due, or that a book you requested is ready to be picked up. Just give us your email address, and you'll automatically receive *Courtesy Notices* and *Hold Pickup*

Notices via your personal email.

Courtesy Notices offer a friendly reminder that your library materials are due in three days. *Hold Pickup Notices* let you know that requested items are available for you to pick up at the library.

Get it all under control just by providing us with your email address. You'll be glad you did!

Hey, Smart Phone Users!



Have you downloaded a mobile QR Code app yet? If so, check out our JTPL Events QR code, at left. One quick scan with your smart phone, and you can view and bookmark our events calendar.



Meet and greet members of the wild-life kingdom on 8/10.

Coming Up for Kids



Rizzo's Reptiles returns to the library on Wednesday, August 10 at 12 noon. This "wild" one-hour introduction to nature features real live mammals, a (very) large snake, frogs, insects, shells, skulls and more!

The newly formed **Chess Club** for kids meets on Thursday nights from 6 to 8 PM on August 14, 21 and 28. All skill levels are welcome, and instruction will be pro-

vided by members of the High School Chess Club. Please register for this event.

Remember that the **One World, Many Stories** summer reading logs must be turned in to the library by Friday, August 26 to be eligible for the end-of-summer prize drawings.

If you like constructing LEGO projects, come to the

library's **LEGO Free Play** days on Monday, August 8 at 2 PM, and Wednesday, August 17 at 11:30 AM. The library supplies the LEGO pieces, you build and create, and the finished projects will be displayed in the library.

Gamers aged 9-12, don't miss **Wii Game Nights** on Friday, August 12 & 26 from 5 to 6:30 PM. Snacks will be provided by the library.

Enjoy, discover, listen, meet, discuss, pursue, read, learn, grow — all at your library this summer!



Teen Territory

Attend the **Teen Song Writing Workshop** from 6 to 8 PM on Tuesday, August 2. This hands-on workshop is led by award-winning song writer Kathy Moser. You'll learn how to write, rehearse and record an original song, which will be posted online so you can share it with friends and family.

Get Your Henna On on Thursday, August 11, 6:30 to 8 PM.

Learn about the history and background of Henna and Mendhi. Create your own Henna tattoo and have it applied. Tattoos last about 2 weeks. Henna mixture contains lavender and can stain clothing.

Do you have what it takes to be a **Library Chef**? Join us on Monday, August 15, 6:30 to 8 PM for a fun night of food. You will create

and sample a fabulous dish. All supplies will be provided by the library. For Ages 12 and up.

Also coming up in August are craft nights for teens, a Teen Café, and a movie & pizza night. Check out the online event calendar at www.jeffersonlibrary.net for more information on library programs.

2011 Scholarship Winners



Board President Michael Stewart, Meaghan Cuddy and Alexandra Kazimir

The Library Board of Trustees has selected Meaghan Cuddy to receive the Jeanne Craig Scholarship, and Alexandra Kazimir to receive the Rose Lange Scholarship. The scholarships were established by the Board to recognize the contributions of those who served for many years as volunteers and Trustees of the library.

Both student recipients graduated from Jefferson Township High School this June. In the Fall, Meaghan Cuddy will attend American University, and Alexandra Kazimir will attend the University of Rochester.

The Trustees selected both recipients on the strength of the essays that they wrote for their scholarship applications. Each wrote of the importance of the library in their academic and personal lives.

Both Meaghan and Alexandra are wished the best of luck in their future endeavors!



What's Happening @Your Library: Programs for Adults

Wednesday, August 3 at 6:30 PM—**One Stroke Painting: Sun Catchers**—Anyone can do it! Instructor Dawn Davis returns to the library to show you how to paint a beautiful sun catcher. All materials provided by the library. *Space is limited!*

Thursday, August 4 at 11 AM—**Try It! Chair Yoga**—A gentle, therapeutic approach, great for those who have physical challenges or for those a little hesitant to try a regular class. Learn wonderful stress-reducing techniques, and wear comfortable clothes.

Sunday, August 7 at 2 PM—**The Conflict, the County & the Citizens: Morris County in the Civil War**—Observe the Civil War's 150th anniversary at this MC Historical Society program on County soldiers, regiments, politics and the homefront during those tumultuous years

Tuesday, August 9 at 7 PM—**Hitchcock: The Master of Suspense**—Film clips, anecdotes, film history and Q&A with Chris Messineo of the New Jersey Film School. Find out what made Hitchcock the "master of suspense," and why his popularity endures.

Thursday, August 11 at 2 PM—**Tales Well Told: The Bedquilt**—A vibrant performance of a vintage story. Actress Michele LaRue gives a dramatic reading of Dorothy Canfield Fisher's *The Bedquilt*, in which a long-neglected maiden aunt earns celebrity and respect through her art.

Saturday, August 13 at 3 PM—**Live with Christine DeLeon**—Enjoy the "brilliant voice and artful songs" of singer and guitarist Christine DeLeon. She pleases a wide range of tastes, and sings her own songs, as well as folk and popular standards.

Tuesday, August 16 at 7 PM—**Setting SMART Goals**—Goals are the driving force behind achievement. Create your SMART goals and a mission statement by focusing on what you want to achieve, your perfect day, your interior motives and your "ideal you."

Thursday, August 18 at 2 PM—**Tea Traditions from Around the World**—Start in China, and travel through India, Japan, Russia, Turkey, and Great Britain while you learn how different cultures celebrate "tea time." See a Russian samovar, Chinese Gong Fu tea set, Turkish teapot and Tibetan tea bowl, and enjoy a cup of tea!



Sunday, August 21 at 2 PM—**Civil War Scribes**—Out of necessity, soldiers used berry ink and feathers as pens during the Civil War. Mark the 150th anniversary by making ink from fresh berries, and write a letter using a feather pen. Listen to songs and view powerful images from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.



Ten Things to do at the Library

10. Research new job opportunities

9. Pick up a DVD

8. Connect to the Internet with free Wi-Fi

7. Attend a lecture or program

6. Download an audiobook or some tunes for your next road trip

5. Take a computer class

4. Attend preschool story time with your child

3. Update your Facebook page

2. Borrow magazines to bring to the beach

1. Find a quiet spot, curl up with a good book, and read!



Enjoy the music of Christine DeLeon on 8/13.

FUNNY NEW WORDS!

From a *Washington Post* humor contest called the *Style Invitational*, readers were invited to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. This list is an "oldie but goodie!"

- * **Cashtration** (n): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
- * **Reintarnation**: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- * **Bozone** (n): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- * **Giraffiti**: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
- * **Sarchasm**: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
- * **Inoculate**: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- * **Karmageddon**: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bumper.
- * **Glibido**: All talk and no action.



Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month in September

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Saturday 9:30-6
Sunday 1-5

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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.



COMPUTER CLASSES

Mondays

Sept. 19, 7:30 to 8:30 PM

- Computer for Parents: How do I turn this thing on? A class for parents who want to be able to use a computer

Sept. 26, 7:30 to 8:30 PM

- Computing for Parents: Using the Internet for homework help



Fridays

Sept. 9, 9:30 to 10:30 AM

- Healthy Computers 101—How to keep your computer clean, safe and reliable.

Sept. 16, 9:30 to 10:30 AM

- Safe sailing on the Internet—How to safely find what you're looking for on the Internet

Sept. 23, 9:30 to 10:30 AM

- Where is my Mail @? - An introduction to living well with your email.

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