



Violet's Porch

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

From the Director's Desk: Reading as the Core Mission

I recently read an article that applauded a public library for establishing an innovative "maker" space. The author, at the end of the article, said that while technological innovation is nice, reading should be at the core of the public library mission.

My goal for 2013 is to explore what it means to have reading at the core of the public library mission.

Reading has a variety of aspects. Elementary education reading approaches reading as a skill in which students must become proficient. Much attention, in this aspect of reading, is given to comprehension levels and vocabulary building. Many libraries have embraced this aspect of reading by focusing on litera-

cy and portraying it as an essential survival skill for adult life.

Reading groups, or book clubs, represent another aspect of reading. Here reading is an activity that leads to interaction among people who read.

For college students reading is directly related to learning. In college reading is the chief means by which students are exposed to information and ideas.

For young children, reading is about learning to listen and understanding the meaning of words.

This year I want to learn as much as I can about all aspects of reading in Jefferson. I believe that many people

would agree that reading should be at the core of the library mission, but I am less certain of what that means in relation to the library. Does this mean giving books more attention than other media formats? Does it mean that the library should emphasize adult literacy? Can reading for recreation co-exist with reading for instruction and learning?

Let me know what you think about reading and the role it should play at the library. I am always listening so please call me at 973-208-6245, speak with me in person, or e-mail me at seth.stephens@jeffersonlibrary.net with your thoughts. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please Note:

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES —

- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18 FOR **PRESIDENT'S DAY**
- FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 30 AND 31 FOR **THE EASTER HOLIDAY.**



Read a Winner

Looking for your next great read? RUSA, the Reference & User section of the American Library Association selects their notable books of the year in early December. If you like fiction, try:

The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes: A 60-something retiree living near London searches through his memories to discern what role, if any, he may have played in a decades-old tragedy.

The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach: One man's failure to attain perfection on the baseball field reveals the pain and

beauty that life offers in this psychologically astute novel.

Say Her Name by Francisco Goldman: Poetic novelization of the author's struggle to cope with his young wife's accidental death.

If you read nonfiction, consider:

The Memory Palace by Mira Bartok: A beautiful memoir chronicling the 17-year estrangement of the author and her homeless, schizophrenic mother, and the painful reunion that brings them together.

The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood by James Gleick. This comprehensive study, a melodious interplay between science and literature, documents the transmission of human knowledge from the talking drums to the internet.

Arguably: Essays by Christopher Hitchens. A polymath and public intellectual displays his considerable range and biting wit in these thoughtful, incisive pieces that provoke and challenge.

For the full list, visit <http://www.ala.org/rusa/awards/notablebooks/lists/2012>

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"I breathed a song
into the air..."

The Arrow and the Song

I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroken;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



New on DVD

Arthur Christmas
The Bourne Legacy
Brave
The Campaign
The Dark Knight Rises
Hope Springs
Ice Age: Continental Drift
Lawless
Men in Black 3
The Odd Life of Timothy Green
Rock of Ages
12 Dogs of Christmas: Great Puppy Rescue

"BOOK
CLUBS...PROVIDE
US A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY
TO ESTABLISH
AND REINFORCE
IMPORTANT
CONNECTIONS."

—JANE KINNEYDENNING

Let's Talk About It

After you've turned the last page of an intriguing book, do you ever wish you had someone to discuss it with? If so, consider joining **Cover to Cover**, the library's book discussion group for adults.

This group, still going strong after 8+ years, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM. We've read many novels, from best-

selling to classics, and have enjoyed talking about them all. Usually it is the books that we disagree on (ie: some of us love, and some of us hate) that generate the best discussions!

Reading gives us a wonderful opportunity to slow down and reflect. Perhaps Pace University professor Jane Denning said it best in her

recent article in *Publisher's Weekly*, *The Joy of Shared Reading*: "In today's world, where technology has affected every aspect of our daily lives, including how we read, shared reading, and book clubs in particular, provide us with a unique opportunity to establish and reinforce important connections."

Come connect at the library!

Classic Corner: Hamlet

"To be or not to be: that is the question." is just one of the many famous lines from Shakespeare's great tragedy about the Prince of Denmark.

Considered by many scholars to be Shakespeare's greatest play, *Hamlet* is undeniably one of the most tragic — judging by the body count

alone. Fertile with familial misunderstandings, *Hamlet* contains all the melodramatic elements of a contemporary soap opera, from insanity, depression, suicide, father fixation, betrayal, and mistaken homicide to aborted romance, treachery, heart-break and bloodshed.

Although the play is four hundred years old, its themes are universal, and Hamlet's philosophical, sensitive disposition makes him a very sympathetic character.

Rich in timeless melodrama and familiar expressions, *Hamlet* remains a pertinent tale.



Hamlet's "themes are
universal"

FREE help with Tax Returns

This year AARP Tax-Aide volunteers will be at the library on Wednesdays, from February 6 to April 10, 2013, to help you prepare your tax return.

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are trained to answer most of the tax

questions faced by low – and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60+. Since 1968, this volunteer-based program has helped nearly 50 million people in every state and the District of Columbia. AARP

Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in cooperation with the IRS.

Appointments may be scheduled from 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Please call the library at 973-208-6244 to schedule your appointment.



Schedule your appointment today!

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 4 PM in the library's Riker Room. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the library web site.

Upcoming meetings:

FEBRUARY 19

MARCH 19

APRIL 16

**VALENTINE'S DAY
CHOCOLATE FONDUE**

Fondue is making a comeback, and this quick recipe is perfect for Valentine's Day:

16 oz. dark or semi-sweet chocolate
1 1/2 cups light cream
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Break chocolate squares into smaller pieces and drop them into the fondue pot. Add cream and stir gently but constantly until chocolate is melted and smooth. Add vanilla extract, and stir in. For variety, you may add some chopped nuts, a tbs. of instant coffee, or your favorite syrup flavor. *Use a fondue fork to spear and dip cake cubes, dried apricots, small strawberries, apple slices, kiwi, etc.*

Read Your Way to...IRELAND

The following novels are all set in Ireland — mystery, romance, history — but most of all great storytelling in the Irish tradition:

The Night Swimmer by Matt Bondurant. An “utterly riveting modern gothic novel of marriage and belonging” in a small town on the southern coast of Ireland.

The Last Storyteller by Frank Delaney. An absorbing tale of lasting love, dangerous risk, and the healing power of redemption by the “unparalleled master of Irish historical fiction.”

Broken Harbor by Tana French. Dublin Murder Squad detective Mick “Scorcher” Kennedy and his partner are sent to the abandoned hous-

ing development *Broken Harbor* to investigate the brutal murder of the Spain family.

Behold a Pale Horse by Peter Tremayne. Returning to Ireland in AD 664, Sister Fidelma encounters a perplexing case of murder and conspiracy in the pagan wilds of Northern Italy



Take a literary trip to Ireland.

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Just for Kids



Happy Birthday Clifford!

The winter session of **Story Time for Children** is now underway, but it's not too late to register and get started! The library offers something for everyone, from Lapsit Story Time for babies, to Songs & Stories, Drop-in Crafts and more. The winter session runs through March 29th. Check out the story

time schedule on the library's web site under "Kids & Teens."

Clifford the Big Red Dog Turns 50 on Wednesday, February 13 from 5 to 7 PM. Everybody loves Clifford! Come celebrate his birthday at the library with crafts, stories and a birthday cake. Clifford will make a guest

appearance! (Please register for this event.)

For those who can't make it to the library during the day, try the evening **Pajama Story Time**, on Thursdays at 6 PM through March 29th. Enjoy some "cuddly" bedtime stories, followed by a snack and a craft. Pajama-wearing is optional!

TO GET THE MOST BENEFIT FROM THE COMPUTER CLASSES, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ATTEND ALL SESSIONS OF THE CLASS.

Sharpen Your Computer Skills @ the Library

Introduction to MS Word is a six week course that teaches valuable word processing skills such as creating, saving and retrieving documents; inserting and deleting text; formatting, text; and using cut, copy and paste. This course is for people with some computer experience. The course meets for six Monday nights at 7:30 PM on

February 4; February 25; March 4; March 18; March 25; and April 1.

Looking at Windows is a four week course that takes place on Friday mornings at 9:30 AM. Refresh your skills or learn more about Windows. You'll learn skills that are useful for beginning computer users including resizing and manipulating Windows;

changing mouse properties; using toolbars, rearranging the Desktop and getting online support. Dates are: February 1; February 8; February 15 and March 1.

Please register for these computer classes. To get the most benefit, participants should attend all sessions of the class.

Program Spotlight: Oscar Winning Songs

Take a trip down memory lane at this "Red Carpet Event" — *Oscar Winning Songs from Hollywood's Golden Era* — on Sunday, February 3 at 2 PM.

Presenter Bill Levy leads a discussion, and shows film clips of twelve classic Oscar winning songs including *Gigi*,

When You Wish Upon a Star, *High Hopes*, and *Moon River*. Bill is engaging, knowledgeable, and entertaining. He's the author of a widely acclaimed book on the four-time Oscar winning director John Ford, and his "Forgotten Gems" columns on overlooked vintage films are published in the New Jersey

monthly *50 Plus*.

This exciting one-hour program, featuring active audience participation and fun trivia questions, will appeal to all film buffs, particularly those that remember (and long for!) the days when you could understand the lyrics to a song. Come enjoy the music!



Remember when you could understand the lyrics?

Programs and Events for Adults

Oscar Winning Songs from Hollywood's Golden Era—

Sunday, February 3 at 2 PM

Gear up for the Academy Awards (Sunday, February 24 this year) with this red carpet event which includes a presentation by film enthusiast Bill Levy featuring film clips, discussion, trivia, a contest and lots of fun!

One Stroke Painting: Valentines' Day—

Wednesday, February 6 at 6:30 PM

"Make and Take" a special something for Valentine's Day at this hands on art class led by Dawn Davis, certified Donna Dewberry One Stroke instructor. All materials provided by the library. No experience needed — everyone can do it!

Healthy You Film Series: *Eating* (2008, 88 min.)—

Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30 PM

A riveting video experience that offers a "compelling and often shocking look at the standard American diet," followed by healthy smoothies for all, and Q&A with holistic health coach Audrey Dworak.

Living History: Sojourner Truth—

Sunday, February 17 at 2 PM

The Traveling Stage Company presents "Women in History," featuring Carmen Artis as Sojourner Truth. Against all odds, this 18th century slave withstood years of oppression to become a foremost speaker for human rights. Follow her journey from plantation to her eventual meeting with President Abraham Lincoln.

Celtic Music Journey—

Friday, March 15 at 7 PM

Songstress and guitarist Heather Mulvey brings the audience to her ancestral homeland through songs such as *Wild Mountain Thyme*, *Danny Boy*, and *The Fields of Athenry*. A brief history of each song is given, and audience participation is encouraged!

Planning, Planting & Care of Your Vegetable Garden—

Tues., March 26 at 6:30 PM

Who doesn't want to shrink the food budget, eat healthier, or just get outside and enjoy Mother Nature? This talk and Power Point Presentation by Master Gardener Rich Fennelly takes you through location, seed selection and all the tasks and issues for the entire growing season.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Library Knitting Circle—Meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 11 AM to 1 PM (February 2 & 16; March 2 & 16.) Needlecrafters of all types and experience levels are welcome to drop in!

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Wordsmiths Writing Workshop—Meets on the second Saturday of each month in the library's Riker Room from 10 AM to 12 noon (February 9; March 9.) This leader-directed group writes on subjects suggested by writing prompts, and members offer positive feedback.

*

A Taste of Poetry—Meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 1 to 2 PM (February 13, March 13.) Various poets and/or poetic forms are featured in a fun and informal hour. We chat, snack, read poems and talk about what they mean to us.

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Cover to Cover Book Group—Meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, from 10:30 to 11:30 AM in the library's Riker Room. A different novel is featured each month. For February: *Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller; for March: *The Absolutist* by Joseph O'Connor.



**Jefferson Township
Public Library**

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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.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT...

The lady who called the library about the overdue notice she had received for a book & CD set she had checked out? The library must be wrong, she said. The item couldn't be overdue, because she had only had it for four weeks and the title said, "Learn Spanish in Three Months."



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