



Violet's Porch

The Newsletter of the Jefferson Township Public Library

From the Director's Desk: Books Men Might Like

The consideration of a new library book discussion group reminded me of a conversation I had many years ago. A middle-aged woman asked if I could recommend some *good* books to read. I forget the author I suggested, but she politely replied that she knew that author and that he wrote men's books. She wanted a woman's author.

Ever since that conversation I have been trying to understand what constitutes women's books and men's books. I know women read Tom Clancy, a very popular author, whom some consider a man's author. Con-

versely, I know some men read Danielle Steel, a popular so-called women's author.

Beyond associating books with a particular gender, I think many people want some foreknowledge of what a book will be about, so they attempt to relate it to something they can understand. Hence if you pick up a Danielle Steele book, you can reasonably assume that it will have something to do with romance and relationships — topics traditionally associated with women. The same can be said of Tom Clancy. If you select one of his books, you know you are going to

read about global politics, technology and the CIA— topics traditionally associated with men.

Some people I know get quite upset at the assignment of gender characteristics to books. On the contrary, I find it very interesting to learn of people's notions of gender.

And that, I think, is one of the great assets of the public library. You can ascribe the characteristics of a gender to a book if you wish. I am certain someone will either agree or disagree with you, and hopefully that difference or similarity will increase your appreciation of your



Men read about global politics, technology and the CIA...

neighbors and of our differences and similarities. And all of this happens while reading a book at the library!

Note: *The library's new book discussion group, **Books Men Might Like**, meets on Wednesday April 20, 2011 at 2:30 PM in the library. The first book is *The Great Bridge* by David McCullough — the story of the building of the eighth wonder of the world, *The Brooklyn Bridge*. To get a copy of this book ask a librarian.*

Number of people who visited the library in February 2011

8,165

Number who visited in February 2010

7,391

Picturing America: Women

Visit the new library exhibit featuring three beautiful museum quality reproductions of the following works of art:

****Quilts: 19th through 20th Centuries** featuring photographs of *Crazy Quilt* by Hannah and Emm Greenlee, *Grandmother's Fan Quilt* by Susan Noakes McCord and six other quilts, rep-

resenting the works of African Americans in slavery, of farmwomen settling the West, and of Amish women descended from those who came to America seeking religious freedom.

****The Boating Party**, an oil on canvas by Mary Cassatt, from the Chester Dale Collection at the National Gallery of Art,

Washington, D.C.

****Migrant Mother**, a black and white photograph by Dorothea Lange, from the Photograph Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

The library is a recipient of The National Endowment for the Humanities *Picturing America* initiative.

Memory Lane

Yearbooks are like time capsules, full of memories (good and bad!) that can instantly bring you back to times gone by.

Here at the library we have an interesting, though incomplete, set of *The Aerie*, the Jefferson Township High School yearbook.

We've got yearbooks from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 00s. Why not stop by to see if your old yearbook is here, or just to take a trip down memory lane?

Don't forget to ask yourself "Did I really look like that?" "Was I really that young once?" "I can't believe I had a crush on her!" And don't forget the all-important "What was I thinking with that hairstyle!"

Additionally, if anyone has any old Jefferson yearbooks that they'd like to donate to the library, we are always looking for missing editions of *The Aerie* to complete our collection.

National Library Week

April 10-16, 2011

Visit your library today and create your own story!

Can't get to the library?

Visit us at

www.jeffersonlibrary.net

A Taste of Poetry

Wednesday, April 13 at 1 PM

Come for lunch at the library and bring your appetite for poetry! We'll celebrate National Poetry Month by looking at a few poems from well-known poets. Enjoy a light lunch, receive copies of the poems, and join in a discussion after we read the poems aloud. *Registration required* at www.jeffersonlibrary.net.



Always Marry An April Girl

Praise the spells and bless the charms,
I found April in my arms.
April golden, April cloudy,
Gracious, cruel, tender, rowdy;
April soft in flowered languor,
April cold with sudden anger,
Ever changing, ever true --
I love April, I love you.

—Ogden Nash

Classics Corner: *Gone with the Wind*

Margaret Mitchell wrote one novel, a romantic epic that won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize. *Gone with the Wind* characters demonstrate the passion and ideals of the Confederate South during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Shrewd, defiant, and headstrong, Scarlett O'Hara will go to

any lengths to defend her family homestead, Tara. In contrast, Melanie Wilkes's gentle, generous nature and her loyalty to Scarlett make her willing to overlook the long list of Scarlett's flaws, betrayals, and indiscretions.



Tara, the family homestead

Rhett Butler, a dashing, scheming entrepreneur who could match wits with today's corporate raiders, tries to capture Scarlett's heart. The rest, as they say, is southern literary history.

From *52 Great Books to Read*
by Lynn Gordon

What the Staff is Reading



Saturday Morning

by Lauraine Snelling

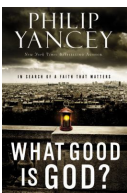
A compelling fictional story of four women whose lives converge in San Francisco. This is a beautifully written story of friendship, faith and the power of prayer. Each character brings her own struggles to the story. Great characters, real problems and a satisfying ending. (Christine Kabshura)



A Wedding in December

by Anita Shreve

This wedding is like a high school reunion, as former classmates of an elite prep school, now in their 40s, gather at an inn in the Berkshires. Full of affairs, rediscovery of lost loves, jealousy, regrets and secrets, this novel will keep you reading as you become entwined in the lives of Shreve's characters and the choices they make. (Christine O'Brien)

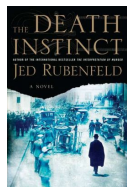


What Good Is God?

by Philip Yancey

The author, a former magazine journalist, visited ten places from China to Chicago. He interviewed many people, asking questions such as "Does

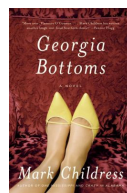
faith really matter when you're struggling?" and "What can faith offer during times of tragedy?" This is an interesting book offering insights that can be applied to everyday life. (Diane Hess)



The Death Instinct

by Jed Rubenfeld

In September 16, 1920, a bomb exploded on Wall Street and killed 38 people. Today that bombing is a *cold case*. Those responsible for the bombing have never been identified. Using fiction the author conjures a possible solution and supposes an eerie parallel to the events of 9/11. This is an enthralling book weighed down by too many plot lines. (Seth Stephens)



Georgia Bottoms

by Mark Childress

Georgia Bottoms, like Scarlett O'Hara, always has a plan for another day. She lives in a southern town that she eventually blows the lid off of with her southern truths. The down-home humor keeps you reading, but it falls a little short at the end—like it's missing a few pages! (Pat McGraw)



Free Online
Test Preparation Service.
Help with SATs, ACTs,
PSATs, or PLAN.
Get better scores with ePrep!

NEW SERVICE!

ePrep, the library's new online test preparation service, helps students of all ability levels reach their educational goals by offering expert instruction in a way that is engaging, convenient, and student-adaptable. Get help with SATs, ACTs, PSATs, or PLAN.

Master teachers engage students as they impart the knowledge and strategies proven to maximize test scores. ePrep makes connecting with an expert affordable and possible — anytime and from virtually anywhere in the world.

To get started, visit www.jeffersonlibrary.net and click on the ePrep icon. (seen above.) Authenticate yourself with your Jefferson library card number, then create your ePrep account. In a few short steps you'll be on your way to better test scores!

Library Board meetings

The Library Board of Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 4 PM in the library's Riker Room. Upcoming dates are:

- April 19
- May 17
- June 21
- September 20
- October 18

- November 15
- December 20

For more information visit www.jeffersonlibrary.net. Select *Our Library* and *Library Board of Trustees* for the names and email addresses of Board Members. You may also select *Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes* and *Meeting Agendas*, to discover what deci-

sions are being made about library issues and policies.

The Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public, and your input and suggestions are always welcomed.



*Board meetings
are open to
the public.*

Coming Up for Kids



Bring a favorite teddy bear to the *Teddy Bear Picnic!*

Jefferson schools are closed during the first week in April. If you are looking for something to do with your kids, why not come to one of the following programs?

The *Just So Stories Puppet Show*, featuring Puppeteer Robert Rogers, will delight children with enchanting versions of four famous short stories. This is fun for the whole family, and takes place on Monday, April 4 from 6 to 6:45 PM.

Bears, bears, bears everywhere. The always popular *Teddy Bear Picnic Storytime* takes place on Wednesday, April 6 from 11 to 11:45 AM. Kids are invited to bring a favorite teddy bear or two, listen to bear tales, and make a “beary” sweet craft!

Consider *Rocking and Rolling With Nina* on Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 PM. Her “Sing-Sign-Dance!” program is a highly interactive music show for young children that the whole family will enjoy.

Teen Territory

Catch a flick with friends at the library this spring! Countdown to the Final Battle at a Harry Potter movie night, Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. As Harry’s final confrontation with Voldemort approaches, grab your Time Turner and step back to the Boy-Who-Lived’s past battles with the Dark Lord. Movie snacks will be provided by the library. Show

dates are: Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets (4/15); Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban (5/6); and Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire (5/20.)

Teen Craft Nights are held on selected Mondays from 7-8 PM. This spring you can design and create a colored, scented bar of soap at a *Soap Making Night* (4/11); decorate and personalize a

notebooks with pictures, quotes and poems at an *Inspirational Notebook Event* (4/25); and learn how to grow a plant in a paper cup at a *Green Thumb Night* (5/9)



Who’s at the Library?



Resident Bill O’Brien visits the library once or twice a week, and is an avid reader of short stories. He was at the library on a Saturday morning attending *Wordsmiths*, a crea-

tive writing group of which he is a founding member.

The group “allows him to write in a focused manner,” and he enjoys the camaraderie of, and the positive feedback offered by, his fellow writers. *Wordsmiths* meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month, and new members are always welcome.

Bill would love to see guest writers attend the meetings, and more programs for writers at the library.



Audrey Kazimir, resident and library card holder, is a regular library visitor who loves her reciprocal borrowing privileges, which she considers “a wonderful thing!”

Audrey was at the library on a Tuesday afternoon, making photocopies and looking for movies and reading material. Her reading preferences are mysteries, history, good cookbooks, and craft books.

A “very satisfied patron,” Audrey wouldn’t change a thing here. She’s never disappointed, and always pleasantly surprised, especially with the library’s interlibrary loan services.

What's Happening @ Your Library

Please visit www.jeffersonlibrary.net for a full list of programs and events for children, teens and adults.



A Thank You to Therapy Dogs — Sunday, April 3 at 2 PM

Stop in to meet and greet some of these loving, gentle dogs, and their volunteer handlers, who visit nursing homes, hospitals and wherever else therapy dogs are needed.

The British Isles Traveler Program—Tuesday, April 5, 7 PM

Take an armchair trip to the British Isles, immerse yourself in all things British, and become acquainted with the people and culture there. (Just in time for the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton!)

A Taste of Poetry—Wednesday, April 13 at 1 PM

Enjoy a light lunch at the library, and bring your appetite for poetry! We will celebrate National Poetry Month by reading a few poems from well-known poets, and discussing them afterwards.

Spring Gardening—Wednesday, April 20 at 7 PM

Rejuvenate your old garden, or create a new one with help from Master Gardener Bill Moran. Learn about proper tools and equipment, new annuals and perennials, purchasing healthy plants and the 3-season vegetable garden.

In the Raw: The Benefits of a Raw Food Diet—Tuesday, April 26, 7 PM

Discover the benefits of raw food in conquering disease and creating a healthy lifestyle from Karen Ranzi, an author, speaker and consultant on the raw foods lifestyle.

Exotic Birds as Pets—Wednesday, May 11 at 7 PM

See a large Green-Winged Macaw, an Orange-Winged Amazon and a Sengalese Parrot at the library. Members of the Sussex County Exotic Bird Club will bring 4-5 birds of different species and talk about keeping exotics as pets. The talk will be followed by a question and answer session.



What Kind of Smart are YOU? - Tuesday, May 17, 7 PM

Create balance, relieve anxiety and find happiness by discovering your strengths, your purpose and your passion. Then learn how to put these elements to work for you! You'll be invited to take a personality quiz during the workshop to find out your own strengths.

Computer Classes

Friday Mornings
9:30 to 10:30 AM

4/1—Using Excel Everyday, Part 1
4/8—Using Excel Everyday, Part 2
4/15—Using Excel Everyday, Part 3

5/6—Improve Your Resume with Word, Pt. 1
5/13—Improve Your Resume with Word, Pt. 2
5/20—Improve Your resume with Word, Pt. 3

Ongoing Programs

Wordsmiths

Writing Workshop

2nd Saturday of the month

(4/9 and 5/14)

10 AM to noon

Library Knitting Circle

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month

(4/2 & 16; 5/7 & 21)

11 AM to 1 PM

**Jefferson Township
Public Library**

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www.jeffersonlibrary.net

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Hours

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

Board of Trustees

Michael Stewart, President
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Rosemarie Lange, Treasurer
Anne Augustyn

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.

*
* **Proverbs to Live By** *
*
* *The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.* *
*
* Mothers have a powerful influence — if indirectly — on *
* world affairs, because it is they who mold the characters of *
* future leaders. The proverb comes from William Ross Wal- *
* lace's poem "What Rules the World" (1865) *
*
* —from *The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs* *
*
* *Happy Mother's Day!* *
*

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