



# Violet's Porch

The Newsletter of the Jefferson Township Public Library



## From the Director's Desk: The Reading Experience

I am taking an on-line course called *Opening the Book*. The aim of the class is to improve the participant's ability to speak with people about books.

*Opening the Books* starts with a novel premise—the key to speaking with people about books is to talk about the experience of reading. The book urges librarians to ask why, how and where people read, and how reading fits into their lives.

What does the popularity of e-books say about the type of experience readers are seeking? Many of the people I've helped purchased their e-book readers for convenience. They like the idea that they can instantaneously have a book of their choosing downloaded to their reader. One person was thrilled to find she could download a library e-book from her winter home in Florida. Some e-book owners like the fact that they

won't have to stuff their suitcases with books when they are travelling. They can easily have more books on their e-readers than they could ever fit in a suitcase. Other readers like the fact that you can adjust the print size of an e-book to suit your comfort.

All of these benefits are part of the e-book experience. Unfortunately there are also some undesirable aspects of using an e-book. Depending on your comfort with using technology your e-reader may not be so easy to use. Some people have been unable to retrieve their e-book from the "cloud". Depending on which e-reader you are using you need either a wireless or a wired internet connection to transfer your e-book to the e-book reader. And you can only read those e-books that are compatible with your e-reader.

Now consider the reading experience

I had last week at the library. I was reading an article about great pigs in literature, and I was inspired to read *Babe- the Sheep Pig* by Dick King-Smith. The library had a copy of this book, and I was able to easily find it on the shelf and start reading it in a few minutes. It was a great experience—no downloading, no selecting the right format, no battery charging, no touching or pushing buttons. (To be fair, there are also unpleasant aspects to reading a book from the library.)

However you choose to read— be it an e-reader or a print book—I hope that the experience is so rewarding that it will lead to you to an eternity of reading. And hopefully your reading experience will lead you to the library!

## You Belong @Your Library

*"More than just books and banks of computers, libraries are still places where individuals gather to explore, interact, and imagine."* (Public Libraries, Nov/Dec 2011)

National Library Week, April 8-14, is a national observance celebrating libraries. Libraries have historically served as our nation's great equalizers of knowledge. Our strength has always been in the diversity of our collections and in our commitment to serving all people. This National Library Week, join us in celebrating the place where we all belong. Whether you're a job seeker looking for resources, a parent bringing your child to story time, a student searching for your next favorite book, or an arts lover attending a book discussion or musical performance, you belong @ your library!

The Jefferson Township Public Library strives to bring value to the community every day by offering a variety of programs and events in addition to print and digital information that is affordable, available and accessible to all people.

## Notary Services

*A Notary Public serves as an impartial witness to the signing of documents, and attests to the signature on the document. For your convenience, there is a Notary Public on staff at the library.*

*Last year 332 items were notarized at the library!*

*Please call ahead for notary hours.*

## What the Staff is Reading

### ***Cursor's Fury* by Jim Butcher**

Set in an ancient Roman society where all people have some magical control over the elements, this third book in the Codex Alera series is the best so far. When all the higher ranking officers are wiped out, our hero Tavi is thrust into command of an untested military unit facing one of the most vicious and formidable enemies of the empire. (Tony Punch)

### ***The Sisters* by Nancy Jensen**

Bertie and Mabel, two sisters with unspeakable secrets, are separated in their youth. The breach that separates them continues through generations of women with family bonds that are stretched to the limit. Jensen's debut has its flaws, but it's definitely a page-turner. (Pat McGraw)

### ***Celebrity in Death* by J. D. Robb**

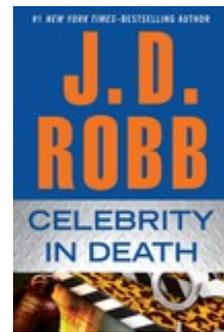
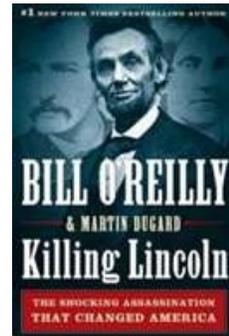
The most recent Eve Dallas novel by Robb (who is also author Nora Roberts,) is a thriller in which the futuristic detective solves her latest murder involving the making of a movie based on one of her past cases. An intriguing mystery with humor and romance. (Gina Nardella)

### ***The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes**

A profound and exquisite story about youth, time and memory, this Man Booker Prize winner grapples with universal truths by examining the life of one middle-aged man. (Chris O'Brien)

### ***Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever* by Bill O'Reilly**

This historical account of the events surrounding President Lincoln's assassination includes many details previously unreported. *Killing Lincoln* reads like a thriller. I listened to it on audio, read by the author. (Diane Hess)



### Events for CHILDREN

Please register for all programs

**Glass Fusion Art Class**—Monday, April 9 at 11 AM

**Make Lunch @ the Library**— Monday, April 9 at 1 PM

**Chemical Magic**—Tuesday, April 10 at 2 PM

**Lego Star Wars**—Thursday, April 12 at 4PM and Friday, April 13 at 11 AM

**Rock 'n Read with Kurt Gallagher**—Thursday, April 12 at 6:30 PM

**Tales of Traveling Water, an Earth Day Program**—Thursday, April 19 at 4:30 PM

## Classic Corner: *The War of the Worlds*

When Orson Welles and his Mercury Theater read *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells on a 1938 radio show, it was mistaken for an actual news break and touched off a national panic. The dramatization of this seminal science fiction story was so vivid that Americans actually believed it, causing traffic jams as they fled the (fictional) invasion of the Martians.

Now almost a hundred years old and comparatively unsophisticated by today's science fiction standards, *The War of the Worlds* still holds up as a good read in spite of the charmingly naïve, romantic, and rather outdated fascination with Martians.

Or is it so outdated???

from *52 Great Books to Read*  
by Lynn Gordon

### *Meadowlarks*

by Sara Teasdale

In the silver light after a storm,  
Under dripping boughs of bright new green,  
I take the low path to hear the meadowlarks  
Alone and high-hearted as if I were a queen.

What have I to fear in life or death  
Who have known three things: the kiss in the night,  
The white flying joy when a song is born,  
And meadowlarks whistling in silver light.

## What's Happening @Your Library: Programs for Adults

Wednesday, April 4 at 6:30 PM

### **One Stroke Painting: Potpourri Jars**

Back by popular demand, painting instructor Dawn Davis leads this hands-on class in the art of one stroke painting. Everyone can do it! You will "make and take" a pretty painted potpourri jar.

Tuesday, April 10 at 7 PM

### **Owls: Watchers of the Night**

Two or three live owls accompany a representative from the Avian Wildlife Center in Wantage for this slide presentation on owls and their habits. The Center is a New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation established to promote the welfare of New Jersey's orphaned and injured birds through rehabilitation and medical care, field research, information and advice, and educational programs.

Wednesday, April 11 at 7 PM

### **Poetry Reading by Renee Ashley**

Author, poetry editor and faculty member of Fairleigh Dickinson University, a portion of Renee's poem *First Book of the Moon* is etched in marble in Penn Station Terminal in Manhattan. Her reading will include poems from her newest book, *Basic Heart* a "primer on the emotional topography of the human heart..." Join us for refreshments afterwards.

Wednesday, April 18 at 7 PM

### **Charles Dickens Bicentennial Birthday Celebration**

One of our greatest novelists, Dickens gave us Scrooge, Pip, Olliver Twist, David Copperfield, Tiny Tim, and many more unfor-

gettable books and characters. We're giving him a birthday celebration. A 30-minute film biography (at 7 PM) will be followed by conversation and cake!

Sunday, April 22 at 2 PM

### **100 Years: The Titanic**

The Titanic was the largest ship the world had ever seen, and her end was the greatest maritime disaster known. This living history production by the Traveling Literary Theater tells the story of the Titanic from its survivors. The actors are dressed in period costume, and readings from transcripts and actual words of the survivors are featured, along with a few songs plays by various onboard musicians during the maiden voyage. **Please note:** Registration is required for this program.

Tuesday, April 24 at 7 PM

### **New Jersey State Parks**

Some of our most exciting history is found in our more than two dozen State Parks — old names remind us of the Lenni Lanape; historic battlefields recall our role in the Revolutionary War; abandoned forges speak of our first great industry, and the canals show the beginning of our transportation network. Original photography and vintage maps and images are included in this fascinating regional history slide show.

Sunday, April 29, 1:30—4:30 PM

### **Creative Writing Workshop**

Marian Calabro, an affiliate of Amherst Writers & Artists, leads this workshop based on the book *Writing Alone and With Others* by Pat Schneider. Writers of all pro-

fessions, skill levels and genres are welcome. Those attending will write in response to prompts, in a safe and nurturing environment.

Tuesday, May 1 at 6:30 PM

### **Movie & a Smoothie Night**

Featuring the documentary *Forks Over Knives*. (2011, 90 minutes). Despite the most advanced medical technology in the world, we are sicker than ever by nearly every measure. Could it be there's a single solution to all of these problems? This film examines the profound claim that most, if not all, of the degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled, or even reversed, by changing our diet.

Tuesday, May 8 at 7 PM

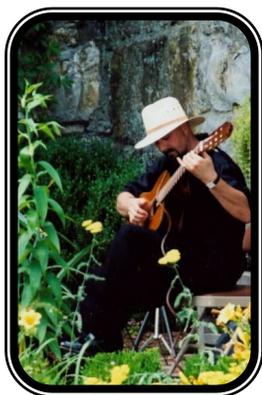
### **Spring Tonics & Stamina**

Writer and herbalist Robin Rose Bennett "loves the earth and gives voice to the healing wild food and medicine plants which surround us..." She will talk about how to use common plants to make spring tonics, and how to use them to boost your energy and increase your stamina, vitality, and focus.

Wednesday, May 30 at 7 PM

### **Nature's Paradise: Costa Rica**

Visit a tropical paradise at this narrated slide show based on photographer Doug Goodell's new book, which includes images of birds (Doug's main interest is Avian photography), butterflies, reptiles, mammals and scenes of great beauty. The book will be available, and the author will sign copies for interested participants.



Guitar virtuoso  
Leonel Lorador

## Friday Solos: Live Entertainment at the Library

Three solo artists will perform at the library on Friday evenings this spring. Live music, coffee and light refreshments — what better way to kick-start your weekend? Best of all it's local, and it's free!

Friday, April 20—**The Music of Simon and Garfunkel**, with Kenny Cunningham

Friday, May 4—**Spanish and Latin Guitar**, with Leonel Lorador

Friday, May 18—**Americana, Celtic and Folk Favorites**, with Heather Mulvey

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**Jefferson Township Public Library**

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Saturday 9:30-6  
Sunday 1-5

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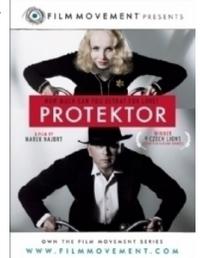
The Library of Jefferson Township  
is a sound public investment that exists  
to improve the lives of residents through  
self-education, recreation and  
the exchange of ideas.

## For Film Fans

Award-winning independent and foreign films are currently available for borrowing at the library through the library's subscription DVD service, Film Movement. We receive one film a month, and these films are released on DVD at the same time they open in theaters.

As fewer and fewer films receive wide releases, movie lovers often don't get to see many of the year's most remarkable films. The library is pleased to bring these films to the community.

Recently added films include *Queen of Hearts* (France); *Protektor* (Czech Republic); *Letters to Father Jacob* (Finland); *The Piano Factory* (China); and *The Colors of the Mountain* (Colombia).



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Oak Ridge, New Jersey 07438