



# Violet's Porch

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

## From the Director's Desk



A great big **THANK YOU** to library employee Pat McGraw and her husband Jim for sharing their beautiful homegrown flowers with the public. Their lovely roses in particular offer library visitors a feast for the senses, and an opportunity to "stop and smell the roses" throughout the growing season!



There's a new catalog at the library. The new catalog continues the library's goal of making it easy to use the library.

Just a hundred years ago, public libraries didn't keep catalogs. They kept lists of books in ledgers. To find a book in the library you had to locate it in the ledger. This method worked fine with a small collection, but as book collections grew the lists became unmanageable. The only way to know what a neighboring library had was to visit that library, and only the librarian knew which books were checked out.

Card catalogs were a vast improvement over lists. Each book owned by the library had a set of catalog cards. These cards were alphabetized in long rectangular drawers which were housed in wooden chests.

The use of catalog cards made it easier to keep track of growing collections, and to create various ways to access the collections. Instead of being limited to an alphabetical list of titles, they allowed you to look for a book by author and subject. But as with the lists, you didn't know what books other libraries owned nor if a book was currently available.

Most libraries maintained card catalogs into the 1980's, when it was discovered that keeping track of library books was a task ideally suited to computers. Computers offered new ways to locate books in the library. In addition to search-

ing by author, title and subject, you could now search with a word from a book's title, by the name of a character, or by the content of a book. Even better, computers allowed you to see if and where a book was available, and to submit book requests to a librarian. You could even see an image of the book's cover.

The newest version of our library catalog is called Polaris. It bears little resemblance to its ancestors, the ledger and the card catalog. Polaris is available 24/7 from any computer. If you are watching TV and learn of an interesting book, you can go directly to your home computer and see if it's available. With Polaris, you can have a book at another Morris County library sent to Jefferson with a few clicks of a mouse. If a book is not available, you can quickly reserve it, so that it is held for you when it is returned.

Most of all Polaris is intended to make it easy for you to locate items in the library. If you find Polaris to be unfriendly and unhelpful, please let us know so that we can improve it. Just like the librarians, Polaris is here to make your visit to the library a great experience.

### Library Holiday Hours

Closed: Saturday, Dec. 24  
 Sunday, Dec. 25  
 Monday, Dec. 26  
**Christmas Eve & Christmas**

Closing: at 1 PM, Sat. Dec. 31  
**New Year's Eve**

Closed: Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012  
 Monday, Jan. 2, 2012  
**New Year's Day**

## Season's Greetings

**O**ur happiest holiday wishes to all, from the staff of the Jefferson Township Public Library.

Have the merriest of Christmases, the brightest of Hanukkahs, the best Kwanzaa — however you celebrate the holiday season, we wish you joy, peace and plenty, happiness and health.

We look forward to serving you in 2012, and hope the New Year brings you lots of good books, and plenty of time to read (or listen) to them!

## Editor's Picks: 2011

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*Here are the best books I read during the last year, in no particular order:*

**The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood** by Jane Leavy (a biography of a personal favorite)



**Emily's Ghost** by Denise Giardina (an atmospheric novel about the Brontes)

**Room** by Emma Donahue (a gripping story with a unique narrator)

**Maine** by J. Courtney Sullivan (a nice big dysfunctional Irish American family saga)

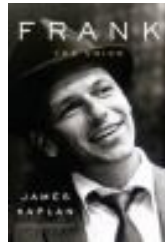
**The Devil She Knows** by Bill Loehfelm (a thriller set in Staten Island)

**Year of the Flood** by Margaret Atwood (a thought-provoking dystopian novel)

**A Visit from the Goon Squad** by Jennifer Egan (winner of this year's Pulitzer Prize for fiction)

**Caleb's Crossing** by Geraldine Brooks (a beautiful, imaginative story)

**Frank: The Voice** by James Kaplan (find out what made "Ol Blue Eyes" tick)



### ***He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven***

Had I the heaven's embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half-light,

I would spread the cloths under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams

by William Butler Yeats

### **We are KINDLE compatible!**

Access the **NJ Digital Library** at [www.jeffersonlibrary.net](http://www.jeffersonlibrary.net) to find ebooks available for download to your Kindle.

*"Libraries are a critical part of our communities, and we're excited to be making Kindle books available at more than 11,000 local libraries around the country."*

—Jay Marine, director of Amazon Kindle

## Classic Corner: ***Wide Sargasso Sea***

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Jean Rhys's previous novels focus on women who live on society's fringes in Paris and London. Here she returns to the Caribbean islands of her childhood to fill in the background story of the first Mrs. Rochester in *Jane Eyre*.

This is the untold story of the "madwoman in the attic," Antoinette Bertha Cosway, a Creole — a

White West Indian. She has grown up in a land where the White women are pampered and high-strung, and the Black women know magic. Her air of mystery and her generous dowry capture the interest of Mr. Rochester, but not his heart. And her magic cannot be transported back to the tepid England where he lives.



*This is the untold story of the "madwoman in the attic."*

Rhys's novel is an example of the tragedy of someone who can't adapt and is finally destroyed.

## Something for Everyone

The American Library Association's *The Reading List* highlights "outstanding genre fiction that merits special attention by general adults readers." The eight categories are: adrenaline titles (suspense, thrillers and action adventure); fantasy; historical fiction; horror; mystery; romance; science fiction and women's fiction. Select a title from your favorite genre, or cozy up to something new!

### Adrenaline

**The Nearest Exit** by Olen Steinhauer. Burned-out spy Milo Weaver confronts layers of deceit as his career collides with his desire to reclaim his family and his humanity. Short list:

- *Caught* by Harlan Coben;
- *Crashers* by Dana Haynes;
- *Deep Shadow* by Randy Wayne White
- *They're Watching* by Gregg Hurwitz

### Fantasy

**Under Heaven** by Guy Gavriel Kay. Haunted by the ghosts of fallen warriors, Shen Tai is forced into the political machinations of the Emperor's court when he receives a rare and valuable gift. Short list:

- *Finch* by Jeff VanderMeer
- *The Half-Made World* by Felix Gilman
- *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* by N.K. Jemisin
- *Nights of Villjamur* by Mark Charan Newton

### Historical Fiction

**The Invisible Bridge** by Julie Orringer. In this sweeping yet intimate portrait of a Hungarian Jewish family in Europe, two lovers become enmeshed in the turmoil of the Holocaust. Short list:

- *A Battle Won* by S. Thomas Russell
- *A Fierce Radiance* by Lauren Belfer
- *The Golden Mean* by Annabel Lyon
- *The Rebellion of Jane Clarke* by Sally Gunning

### Horror

**The Dead Path** by Stephen M. Irwin. Guild ridden Nicholas Close retreats to his family home in Australia after the tragic death of his wife, only to encounter an ancient malevolence lurking in the nearby woods. Short list:

- *The Caretaker of Lome Field* by David Zeltserman
- *The Frenzy Way* by Gregory Lamberson
- *Horns* by Joe Hill
- *So Cold the River* by Michael Koryta

### Mystery

**Bury Your Dead** by Louise Penny. Troubled by past mistakes, Chief Inspector Gamache retreats to snowy and insular Quebec City where he becomes embroiled in intertwining investigations both old and new. Short list:

- *Faithful Place* by Tana French
- *The Taken* by Inger Ash Wolfe
- *Think of a Number* by John Verdon
- *Vermillion Drift* by William Drueger

### Romance

**A Matter of Class** by Mary Balogh. A lady is ruined. A merchant's son is trapped. Class differences loom large in this charming and playful take on the arranged marriage. Short list:

- *Barely a Lady* by Eileen Dreyer



- *The Forbidden Rose* by Joanne Bourne
- *The Iron Duke* by Meljean Brook
- *Something About You* by Julie James

### Science Fiction

**The Dervish House** by Ian McDonald. A terrorist bomb sets off a chain of events that, over the next five days, entangles the lives of six characters in a brilliantly imagined world. Short list:

- *Ark* by Stephen Baxter
- *Blonde Bombshell* by Tom Holt
- *Darkship Thieves* by Sarah Hoyt
- *The Lifecycle of Software Objects* by Ted Chiang

### Women's Fiction

**Solomon's Oak** by Jo-Ann Mapson. Recently widowed Flory Solomon collects stray animals and damaged souls. Facing bankruptcy, she creates a new life catering themed weddings in this unsentimental novel exploring grief, healing and second chances. Short list:

- *The Girl Who Chased the Moon* by Sarah Addison Allen
- *The Language of Sand* by Ellen Block
- *The Love Goddess' Cooking School* by Melissa Senate
- *A Vintage Affair* by Isobel Wolff

## Coming Up for Kids



**Santa loves a good story**, and he's coming to the library on Friday, December 2 to share some of his favorites with the children of Jefferson! He should arrive around 5:30 PM. You don't want to miss him, so make sure to register for this program today!

Kids of all ages are invited to the library on Thursday, December 22 at 6 PM to hear a traditional song brought to life. A partridge, doves, French hens, calling birds, golden rings, a goose and a swan come a caroling with a milking maid, a dancing lady, a piper and a drummer in **The 12 Days of Christmas**.

The **Chess Club** resumes meeting on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 PM on January 12. Registration is required, and all skill levels are welcome.



**NEED A COMPUTER?** *If all computer stations are occupied when you visit the library, laptop computers are available for you to use in house. Stop by the library's main desk, and sign a "Laptop Borrowing Contract," agreeing to the guidelines set forth. You'll need to leave a form of ID (driver's license, Student ID) as a deposit. Anyone 12 or younger must have a parent or guardian sign the contract.*

### Wii Game Night

For KIDS ages 9 to 12  
Fridays, 5 to 6:30 PM  
Dec. 2, 2011 & Jan. 6 and 20, 2012

Play Super Mario Bros., Mariokart,  
Bash Party, Rayman Raving Rabbids,  
Sports Resort & others.  
*There will be snacks!*



*"Adopt the  
pace of nature:  
her secret is  
patience."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



### New Magazines

in the library collection

**The Week**—This digest of the week's news and editorial commentary from global media provides readers with multiple political viewpoints. In addition to news and opinion, the magazine also covers science, business and the arts.

**Entertainment Weekly**—Covering film, television, music, Broadway theatre, books and popular culture, this weekly features entertainment media news and critical reviews geared to a general audience.

**Food Network Magazine** – Each issue reflects the fun, playful sensibility of the Food Network, and features America's favorite TV chefs, with recipes and a behind-the-scenes look at their shows and kitchens.

**New Republic** - Published continuously since 1914, this is a well-respected American journal featuring political commentary, current events and the arts.

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

Thursday, December 8, 7 PM—**Winter Holiday** boxes, paper pompoms, and Christmas confetti.

Enjoy the live music and fun atmosphere created by the Narrow Escape Duo as they perform a selection of holiday songs as well as some winter-themed jazz and swing classics. Their show includes vintage and modern favorites and some pieces from around the world.

Tuesday, December 13, 6:30 PM—**Celebration Designs in Fresh Flowers**

Rosemary Allen of *Dare To Design* demonstrates new techniques in floral design, and creates five unique arrangements for your holiday table. The arrangements will be given away as door prizes at the end of the program.

Wednesday, December 14, 1 PM—**A Taste of Poetry: W. H. Auden**

Bring your lunch and your appetite for poetry to this fun and informal group. We'll read selected poems and discuss them. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to interpret what a poem means to you!

Sunday, January 8 at 2 PM—**Recycle and Reuse: Your Holiday Cards**

They are too pretty to throw away! Make easy, useful items like gift tags, gift bags, tiny

Tuesday, January 10, 7 PM—**Habits: How to Make Them, How to Break Them**

Start 2012 off right with tips from life coach Diane Lang. Now's the time for "out with the old, in with the new!" Start letting go of the baggage that no longer serves you, and putting your health, happiness and well-being first.

Sunday, January 15, 2 PM—**Singing the Bowls: Tibetan Singing Bowls**

Jessica Morris, meditation practitioner, plays the singing bowls and guides you through a simple sound meditation. Learn the story of the singing bowls, and find out about body energy, your healthy frequency and how you can play the bowls yourself.

Sunday, January 22, 2 PM—**The Iditarod Experience**

Learn about the "Last Great Race on Earth," and what it's like to travel and compete in the Alaskan countryside. Kim Darst and lead dog Cotton discuss their experience being the first "musher" from New Jersey to compete in such a challenging race. (snow date Jan. 25, 7 PM)



DON'T MISS  
**WINTER HOLIDAY**  
ON  
THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 8  
7 PM

New Year's Resolution: **Learn something new.** Do it at the library!

### *Wordsmiths Writing Workshop*

*Second Saturday of the month, 10 AM to noon*

Writers, now is the time to start writing! Get your creative juices flowing with writing prompts at this relaxed, leader-directed group, and read your work aloud for feedback, if you desire.

December 10—Create stories with a seasonal theme using holiday story prompts that appeal to your five senses.

January 14—View segments from Pat Schneider's DVD *Writing Alone*, featuring methods described in her book *Writing Alone and With Others*.



### **LIBRARY KNITTING CIRCLE**

Meets on the first and third Saturday of each month, 11 AM to 1 PM. (Dec. 3 & 17; Jan. 7 & 21) All skill levels welcome. Bring something yummy to share for our *Holiday Pot Luck Party* on December 17!

**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.



Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!

—Charles Dickens  
*The Pickwick Papers*, 1836

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