



# Violet's Porch

The Newsletter of the Jefferson Township Public Library

## From the Director's Desk: *Entertainment and the library*

2011 will be my 25<sup>th</sup> year in the librarian profession. While I have witnessed many changes in libraries, I have also noticed that some things don't change — they just appear in different guises.

The role of entertainment in the public library is one such guise. 100 years ago it was not unusual for librarians to debate the appropriateness of popular fiction in public library collections. Recently critics of a public library in California that hosted a "Black Ops" videogame tournament questioned the compatibility of video games and the mission of the public library.

It seems that many people are more supportive of public library collections that contain *serious* literature and educational materials than they are of collections that are

aimed at *entertainment*. In a Chicago suburb, a Mayor recently said he'd be more supportive of his community's library if it spent less on DVDs and more on books.

For the public librarian the dichotomy between *serious books* and *entertainment* is very foggy. What some people consider entertainment may be seen as being quite serious by others.

As a child I frequently watched Mr. Magoo's retelling of classic tales on television. By the time I was ten I knew who Gunga Din was because I had seen Mr. Magoo present his version of Rudyard Kipling's poem in a cartoon. Mr. Magoo also introduced me to Edmund Dantes (*The Count of Monte Cristo*) and Jean Val Jean (*Les Miserables*). As an adult, when I told a college professor that Mr.

Magoo inspired my interest in literature, I was quietly dismissed with a polite smile.

At the Library we strive to build collections that are informative, thought provoking and entertaining. We believe that entertainment is an inclusive rather than an exclusive qualification for library materials. That is why, at the Jefferson Library, you will find Jeeves and Bertie Wooster sharing the same shelves as Danielle Steele and Jonathan Franzen.



"...the dichotomy between *serious books* and *entertainment* is very foggy..."



## The Year in Numbers



Busy, challenging, rewarding—  
2010 was a very good year!

- Number of people who visited the library in **JULY** — 10, 745
- Number of people who got their library card in **SEPTEMBER** — 72
- Number of new items added to the library's collection in **FEBRUARY** — 318
- Number of items that people borrowed in **AUGUST** — 12,554
- Number of reference questions answered in **MARCH** — 132
- Number of adults who attended library programs in **APRIL** — 130
- Number of hours open in **OCTOBER** — 285.5
- Number of magazines borrowed in **JUNE** — 255
- Number of community groups who used the Riker Room in **MAY** — 8
- Number of books borrowed through Interlibrary Loan in **JANUARY** — 1,324
- Number of people who visited the library web site in **SEPTEMBER** — 3,545
- Number of audiobooks borrowed in **OCTOBER** — 654



Jumpstart your job search with *Job & Career Accelerator!* Start by creating an account at the library, and then take your search to the next level with personalized, step-by-step job search assistance. Once you've created your account, you may access the Job & Career Accelerator from your home computer.

This new comprehensive online job search system provides detailed information on occupations that suit your interests. Access current job listings from over 5 million job postings, which are collected from all major job boards. Create professional resumes and cover letters, master interviewing and networking techniques, and more.

Visit or call the library today to create your account. *Job & Career Accelerator* is your guide to getting hired!

## Attention for Job Seekers!

Two programs at the library this winter target those who are looking for work or seeking to change jobs.

On Saturday, February 26 at 10 a.m., Paul Cecala of Cecala Career Consultants presents *Targeting Your Job Search*. You'll learn how to identify the specific employers you want to work for, how to seek out the positions you are best suited for, and how to keep your momentum going when stagnation sets in!

Career counselor Shiela Santiago presents *Making Your Resume*

*a Valuable Marketing Tool* on Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. Since research shows that the average employer spends about 10-20 seconds scanning a resume, get professional advice on how to convey your skills in that short time frame by selecting the most appropriate format, utilizing power words, writing an effective cover letter, and posting an Electronic Resume.

Please register for either or both of these programs at [www.jeffersonlibrary.net](http://www.jeffersonlibrary.net).

### Poetry Place: *On the Vanity of Earthly Greatness*

THE tusks which clashed in mighty brawls  
of mastodons, are billiard balls.

The sword of Charlemagne the Just  
is Ferric Oxide, known as rust.

The grizzly bear, whose potent hug,  
was feared by all, is now a rug.

Great Caesar's bust is on the shelf,  
and I don't feel so well myself.

—Arthur Guiterman



## Classics Corner: *The Catcher in the Rye*

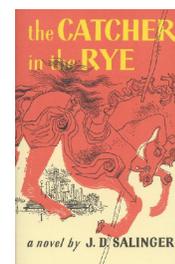
Salinger could not have expected the long-running success and impact of this book. Nor did he want it, as his intensely reclusive behavior would suggest. Published in 1951, *The Catcher in the Rye* is the seminal Young Adult novel.

Through the language and thoughts of an alienated teenage boy, Salinger documents two days of Holden Caulfield's life after he runs

away from prep school and wanders around New York City.

Salinger was the first writer to use the troubled adolescent as a central character in literature: what was once considered a shocking tale of teenage rebellion is now standard reading in many literature classes. But read it anyway — it has held up amazingly well!

From *52 Great Books to Read* by Lynn Gordon



A novel told "through the language and thoughts of an alienated teenage boy."

## What the Staff is Reading



### *Katie Up and Down the Hall* by Glenn Plaskin

The author's life is enriched the day he adopts Katie, a cocker spaniel puppy. Because of Katie's magnetic personality, Glenn meets neighbors he did not know previously, and they become like a family. This is a wonderful story of mutual devotion between a man and his dog. (Diane Hess)



### *Homer & Langley* by E. L. Doctorow

Beautiful writing illuminates the story of the Collier Brothers of New York City. Born with silver spoons in their mouths, they became famous horders as their world shrinks around them. Loosely based on fact, the novel offers telling glimpses of the city during the early 20th century, and is historical fiction at its best. (Chris O'Brien)



### *Amandine* by Marlene de Blair

Amandine, a lost child, grows up in a convent with Solange, her special caregiver. When World War II

threatens Europe, they start on a journey to find home. This is a story of innocence, loneliness and hope, which has a perfect conclusion! (Pat McGraw)



### *Mushishi (Volumes 1-3)* by Yuki Urushibasa

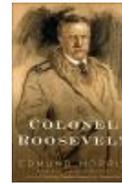
Unlike my usual preferences, this is not a comedy but more of a drama about a traveler named Ginko. He studies spirit creatures called mushi, and helps normal people along the way who have been in contact with harmful mushi. I'd suggest borrowing multiple volumes today. (Tony Punch)



### *Growing Up Laughing* by Marlo Thomas

Marlo tells her story of growing up with her father Danny Thomas, and becoming an entertainer in her own right as "That Girl." She does this through past interviews with her father's contemporaries such as George Burns and Sid Cesar, and current conversations with modern comedians Jerry Seinfeld, Billy Crystal and others. She manages to convey their warm fam-

ily relationship through a celebrity lifestyle. (Gina Nardella)



### *Colonel Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris

The third and final volume of the author's biography of Theodore Roosevelt, this is an exhausting and memorable chronicle of his post-presidency life. The parallels between the permeating issues of Roosevelt's final years and our world in 2010 are amazing. (Seth Stephens)



### *Call Me Mrs. Miracle* by Debbie Macomber

In this story, miracles happen at Christmas, but in the world that this author creates, they can happen at any time. Her stories are heartwarming, uplifting and usually have happy endings. If this is for you, try one of her many other books, such as *1022 Evergreen Place*, *One Night*, *Hannah's List* or *Orchard Valley Brides*. (Chris Kabshura)



For this was on St. Valentine's Day,  
When every fowl cometh there to  
choose his mate.

- Geoffrey Chaucer,  
*The Parlement of Fowles*

## FREE help with tax returns

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest, free, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service. They can answer most of the tax questions faced by low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older.



The Jefferson Township Public Library is pleased to once again offer this very popular and convenient service to the public in 2011.

Tax Aide volunteers will be preparing returns at the library

on Wednesdays from February 2 to April 13. Appointments may be scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

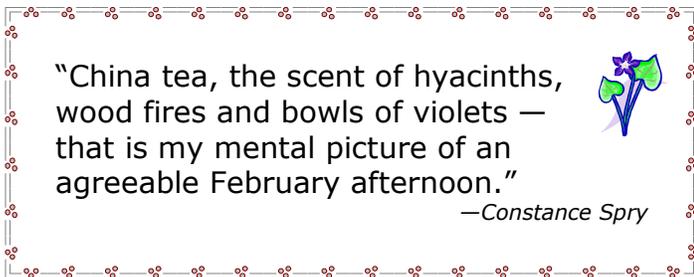
If you have any further questions, or you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the library at 973-208-6244.

## Event Spotlight: Fandom Party

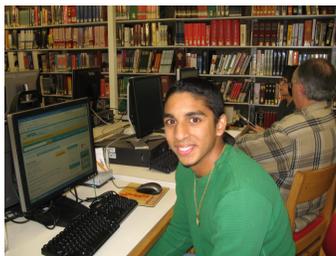
*Webster's New Explorer College Dictionary* defines a **fan** as "an enthusiastic follower of a sport or entertainment (probably short for **fanatic**.)" Does this describe you? Do you love Harry Potter? Think Percy is divine? Can't wait for the next *Warriors* book? No matter what book you love, come celebrate the fan community!

Enter challenges to create a fan-fiction or fan-art of your favorite book. You'll also learn about websites where you can post fan-created material, and connect with other fans. If you've created art, fiction or a video, please bring it with you to share.

The Fandom Party takes place on Friday, February 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be snacks and giveaways provided by the library.



## Who's at the Library?



A Senior at JTHS, **Ryan Persaud** is an honors student who plans a Pre-Med major in Biology. He comes to the library regularly, but visits more often when he has multi-

ple projects due. He likes to work at the library with friends.

Ryan is an avid reader whose favorite series is Harry Potter. He likes fantasy fiction in general, and plans to read *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini next.

If he could change something at the library, Ryan would like to be able to eat here, because he often works through dinnertime!

## Event Spotlight: Super Couponing Video Workshop

Learn how to maximize your grocery savings with Jill Cataldo's *Super-Couponing Video Workshop*. You'll learn couponing secrets of the pros, which stores will let you stack multiple coupons, how to track sales and discounts online, and best of all — how to get the store to pay YOU to shop.

Jill's couponing habits have captured the attention of ABC's Nightline, the CBS Early Show, ABC News, NBC News, Fox News, and many other media outlets. She is also the author of a syndicated newspaper column, *The Coupon Queen*, read by over 20 million people nationwide. Now she'll share her money-saving methods with you!

The *Super Couponing Video Workshop* takes place at the library on Sunday, February 20 at 2 p.m. Attendees will receive a copy of the 4-page Super Couponing handout that participants receive at Jill's live classes.

Super-Couponing is easy, fun, and it saves you big money! Sound too good to be true? It isn't — and anyone can do it. Registration for this workshop is strongly suggested. Register today at [www.jeffersonlibrary.net](http://www.jeffersonlibrary.net).



Resident and library card holder Danielle Roberts visits the library a few times a week at the end of her work day to do paperwork. She works for a nonprofit employ-

ment agency, and is currently finishing up her Associates degree at CCM.

Danielle uses the library because "your computers are fast with big screens, you have wireless access, it's quiet, clean and everyone here is really helpful."

She likes to read inspirational books, and recommends more independent study areas and a separate study room in the library.

# What's Going On @ Your Library

Please visit the library web site at [www.jeffersonlibrary.net](http://www.jeffersonlibrary.net) for a full list of programs and events for children, teens and adults.

## Sweetheart Fresh Floral Demonstration

Wednesday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m.  
Join floral designer Rosemary Allen for a one hour fresh flower demonstration of *Sweetheart* designs for Valentine's Day. Her creations will be given away as door prizes at the end of the presentation.

## Sweets for Your Sweet Candy Making Workshop

Saturday, February 12 at 11 a.m.  
Kids in Grades 2 and up are invited to make an assortment of Valentine candies to share with someone special.

## Skiing in New Jersey

Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m.  
Local author and skier Elizabeth Holtz has penned a history of the sport in the Garden State, home to over 40 different ski areas including Jefferson's Snow Bowl. Her presentation includes a slide show and some interesting New Jersey ski memorabilia.



## Re-decorate Like a Pro

Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.  
Carrie Oesmann, ASID, of Bailiwick Design LLC presents a mini-seminar on how to approach your interior design projects. Learn how to find that perfect combination of color, pattern, texture and light to express your style.

## Computer Classes

Fridays  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
\*

## Drop-in Crafts for Kids

Tuesdays  
1:45 to 2:30 p.m.  
\*

## Technology Club

Wednesdays  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Ages 7 and up  
\*

## Teen Craft Nights

Selected Mondays  
(2/7, 2/28, 3/14, & 3/28)  
7 to 8 p.m., Ages 12 and up  
\*

## After School Tales

Thursdays  
4:30 to 5 p.m.  
Stories for Grades K-2  
\*

## Wii Gaming Nights

Selected Fridays  
(2/4, 2/18, 3/4 & 3/18)  
5 to 6:30 p.m.  
Ages 9 to 12  
\*

## Wordsmiths

### Writing Workshop

2nd Saturday of the month  
(2/12 and 3/12)  
10 a.m. to noon  
\*

## Library Knitting Circle

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month  
(2/5, 3/5 & 3/19)  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
\*

## Cover to Cover Book Club

4th Thursday of the month  
(2/24 and 3/24)  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
\*

## Computer Classes

Friday mornings  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

2/4—Finding Your Ancestors on the Internet, Part 1

2/11—Finding Your Ancestors on the Internet, Part 2

2/18—Finding Your Ancestors on the Internet, Part 3

3/4—Using Your Computer with your Camera, Part 1

3/11—Using Your Computer with your Camera, Part 2

3/18—Using Your Computer with your Camera, Part 3

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **Story Times -1/30 to 4/15** \*  
\* Toddlers are hungry for words, 3 & 4 \*  
\* year olds are constantly adding new \*  
\* words to their vocabularies, and chil- \*  
\* dren of all ages like to listen to stories. \*  
\* Bring them to a library story time! \*  
\* Lapsit & 2 1/2 year olds \*  
\* Mondays, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. \*  
\* Tuesdays, 10:30 to 11 a.m. \*  
\* 3 year olds \*  
\* Mondays, 1 to 1:30 p.m. \*  
\* Tuesdays, 11:30 to noon \*  
\* 4 & 5 year olds \*  
\* Mondays, 9:30 to 10 a.m. \*  
\* Tuesdays, 1 to 1:30 p.m. \*  
\* Fridays, 1:30 to 2 p.m. \*  
\* Kindergarten \*  
\* Mondays, 2-2:30 p.m. \*  
\* All ages \*  
\* Pajama Story Time & Craft \*  
\* Thursdays, 6 to 6:45 p.m. \*  
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**Jefferson Township  
Public Library**  
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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.*

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## **New Service!**

*Free downloadable eBooks at the  
Jefferson Township Library*

If you have a Sony Reader, Barnes & Noble Nook, Kobo or other eBook device, you may download eBooks free from [www.jeffersonlibrary.net](http://www.jeffersonlibrary.net).  
*(Please note: not compatible with the Kindle)*

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Jefferson Township Public Library  
1031 Weldon Road  
Oak Ridge, N.J. 07438

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