



BOOKS AND BEYOND...

NEWS OF THE LEDYARD LIBRARIES

<http://www.lioninc.org/ledyard>

Spring 2009

Volume 22 No. 2

The Ledyard Libraries support and encourage the freedom to read, learn and discover in a welcoming environment. We provide friendly, knowledgeable service and free access to a diversity of ideas, resources and experiences. We strive to enhance the quality of life in our community, encourage lifelong learning and the love of reading.

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Save money @ Your Library !

Where do people go when times are tough? They go to the library. Libraries across the country report they have been busier than usual in this current economic downturn and Ledyard is no exception. Ledyard Library circulation has increased 35% over the last two years. It is not surprising to hear and witness this as libraries offer many free resources and activities to patrons of all ages. Instead of buying that best seller or favorite magazine, patrons are borrowing them from the library. Why pay to rent a movie when they can be borrowed for free? Job seekers use the library's computers and internet access every day to update a resume or search for a job. Parents and grandparents borrow the library's museum passes for free or reduced admission to area museums. Library programs also offer free entertainment to our patrons. Be sure to notice our program in April called "Life in the 'Free' World" that will offer lots of advice on saving money.

Do you have a story about using the resources and services at your library to save money, search for a job, or manage your small business? If so, you could be selected to appear in *Woman's Day* magazine. Women 18 and over are invited to tell their story in 700 words or less and send it to womansday@ala.org before May 18, 2009. Up to four stories will be highlighted in the March 2010 issue of *Woman's Day*. For more information and to read the official rules, visit www.womansday.com/ala.

The initiative was developed by *Woman's Day* and the American Library Association's (ALA) Campaign for America's Libraries, (ala.org/@yourlibrary) ALA's public awareness campaign that promotes the value of libraries and librarians.



Children's Programs



We have an exciting April vacation week coming to the Ledyard Libraries. Please note these programs on your calendar and join us for some great fun. An adult must accompany preschoolers. All programs are free and open to the public. If you have any questions, please call 464-9912.

Tuesday, April 14 **10:00 a.m.**

Zach Ivins presents: Magic!

Ledyard Center School **All Ages**

Come join us for a fun show! Zach is a magician from Waterford and will delight you with his tricks. There is no registration required for this show.

Wednesday, April 15 **1:00 p.m.**

Sparky's Puppets presents: Aesop's Fables

Ledyard Center School

Join the fun as you cheer for the rabbit or the tortoise. Sing with the grasshopper and meet the country and city mice. These fables have been entertaining and teaching children since they were first told in Greece. There is no registration required for this show.

Summer Program Alert!

We are in the process of designing our summer reading program and to give you a sneak preview, our theme this summer is "Be Creative @ Your Library!" The program will begin after school gets out in June and will end the beginning of August. There will be a Read-to-Me program for children born in 2005 through entering 1st grade. Please check the next newsletter for more information and special programs.

Teen Summer Reading Program 2009 Express yourself @ your library

Get ready for a great summer here at the libraries! We will be exploring creativity of all sorts, and trying new things. The program is open to students entering 7-12th grades in fall 2009. You can sign up for volunteer time helping the younger children with their Summer Reading game, attend a cooking class, make crafty things, or make a film, artwork or written piece and enter it in our film festival and artists & writers show. Volunteer orientations begin in June, so stay tuned. Look for the Ledyard Libraries Teen Program on Facebook coming soon!

Andrea Buka, Teen Program Coordinator
teenlibrarian@ledyard.lioninc.org

Adult Programs

Book Discussions

Join our monthly book discussions on Wednesday evenings at Bill Library at 7:00 p.m. We always welcome new participants and provide evening refreshments.



April 15, 2009: *The Invention of Everything Else* by Samantha Hunt. This magical new historical novel is a love letter to one of the world's most remarkable inventors. Nikola Tesla briefly outshone Edison and Westinghouse. Tesla was born in Serbia in 1856, and his life followed a rags-to-riches-to-rags trajectory that would sound melodramatic if it weren't so tragic and true -- or told with such surprising charm. The novel is something of a time machine itself and not just because of its lyrical recreation of New York in the first half of the 20th century. The story is a Rube Goldberg contraption of history, slapstick, biography and science fiction: a narrative bricolage that looks too precarious to work but is too alluring to resist. (From *The Washington Post*.)

May 20, 2009: *The Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan. From the same author who wrote *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, this book is also from the genre of "creative non-fiction." Pollan writes about four plants that humans have attempted to domesticate to meet the human desires of sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control. A great book by an accomplished gardener, *The Chicago Tribune* called this book "a don't want to put it down unspooling of the socio-political, economic and historical forces that led to the cultivation of four crops."

June 17, 2009: *The Book of Chameleons* by Jose Eduardo Agualusa. The University of Rochester has a web page called Three Percent, a page dedicated to the premise that some of the best books have been written in languages other than English. This book originally written in Portuguese, was translated in 2008, was a Three Percent "Best Translated Book of the Year" Nominee "and is said to be a cross between the writings of J. M. Coetzee and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. In it, a gecko narrates the story of Felix Ventura, an albino who secretly sells new pasts to people who desire better lineages, histories and memories.

Family Fitness Fun @ your Library

The Library Friends will sponsor one more hike this spring and invite you to join us. Children must be accompanied by an adult and while we love dogs we must ask that they be left behind. Call either library to sign up for the Earth Day hike at Morgan Reservoir.

Saturday, April 18
Earth Day at Morgan Reservoir 1:00 p.m.



Hikers will return to Morgan Reservoir this time to explore the Northern area. Karl Acimovic will be with us and will talk about Earth Day and its impact on the reservoir.

Special Events @ your Library

Saturday, April 4 1-5 p.m.
Artists & Writers Showcase/ Edible Books Contest
Bill Library

Come enjoy the works of local artists and writers at our 4th annual showcase of talent! Talk with your talented neighbors about their art, while viewing or reading their pieces, and sampling refreshments. Due to space constraints, entries are limited to three per artist, with (with no limit for writers,) and must be submitted to Bill Library by Wednesday, April 1st. Please fill out an entry form and submit your visual or written pieces.



In conjunction with the Showcase, we will again be participating in the International Edible Book Festival. This is a contest that invites you to use your creativity to fashion an edible entry that refers to a book in some way. It can be a pun on the title, about a character, or be an actual book made to eat! Go to the official website: www.colophon.com/ediblebooks/photos.html for more information about the international festival, and some inspirational ideas.



Edible Book entries may be dropped off Saturday, April 4th from 12:30-1:30, and viewed by the public until 3:00. They will then be served to all attendees. Beverages will be provided by the Library Friends. Entries may be submitted by families, individuals, businesses, civic organizations, etc.

Contact Andrea Buka at abuka@ledyard.lioninc.org or leave a message at either library if you have any questions. We are looking forward to seeing all the wonderful creativity our town has to offer!

⇒ **Wednesday, April 22** 6:30-8:30 pm
Life in the "Free" World
Bill Library

Living in the free world means stacking coupons to get free products; requesting free samples; never having to pay for another magazine subscription; visiting museums and art galleries for free; getting movies for free; getting free meals and hotel stays, traveling for free, or even driving your next vehicle absolutely free! Wendy Limage, a local freebie expert, will teach you her secrets for getting just about anything you want for free.



⇒ **Wednesday, May 13, 2009** 7:00 P.M.
Save money with locally grown products

Ledyard resident Jennifer Finlayson will talk about how to become a "locavore" (someone who eats foods grown or produced locally or within a certain radius such as 50, 100, or 150 miles.) The locavore movement encourages consumers to buy from farmers' markets or even to produce their own food, with the argument that fresh, local products are more nutritious and taste better. Locally grown seasonal food is safer, often less expensive and much better for the environment. Jennifer will explain what she and her family have done to become locavores over the past few years, including planting her own garden and planting gardens for others. She'll bring a bibliography, hand-outs, local farm contacts and a few good things she's cooked from local food sources.



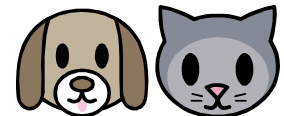
⇒ Please register by calling Bill Library

Mad Hatters/ Stitch and Dish

Thank you to all the Mad Hatters who donated hats, scarves and mittens throughout the winter. Items were donated to Ledyard Social Services as well as area shelters.

Now that warmer weather has arrived, we will move on to other projects. We know you need something to keep your hands occupied as you watch baseball on television, in the stands, or at your children's or grandchildren's games. Or maybe, as you soak up the sun in your lawn chair.

We have been made aware of the Snuggles Project that benefits Humane Societies and animal shelters. Snuggles are blankets used in cages for dogs and cats and can be made in any size, color or pattern, as long as it is machine washable yarn. Pattern suggestions will be available at the libraries.



We would also like to continue to donate items to the veteran's centers in Connecticut. Suggested items are wheelchair and walker totes, bed and slipper socks and lap robes. These items should also be made in machine washable yarn. Patterns may be picked up at either library. Don't feel rushed, as we will be collecting through the end of August.



If you want company while you knit or crochet, our Stitch and Dish knitting group continues to meet on the 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and the 4th Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. at the Gales Ferry Library.

Focus Group Report

The Library Commission recently held two focus group sessions to get feedback from the community about the library. Participants were asked to comment on a variety of topics about their libraries including the strengths and weaknesses, services provided, teen usage and use of other town libraries. The strengths mentioned included staff and the libraries' automated system that allows them to search the collection, place holds and check their accounts from home. The weaknesses include space at both libraries, marketing of programs and services, ambiance and comfort in the library. Among the service priorities books ranked first for both groups. Other priorities were common space, DVD/CD's, meeting room and library programs. Both focus groups were supportive of creating a teen area at Bill Library and suggested getting input from the teens. Participants in the focus group who used other libraries cited a greater number of materials and more space along with convenience as reasons for visiting them. These comments were very helpful and will help us to develop the next long range plan for the libraries.



The Library Commission wishes to thank Dr. Michael Graner for facilitating each session and all the participants for their feedback. We also thank the Library Friends for providing the refreshments.

Library Survey

The Library Commission also wants to hear from you and is conducting a survey through May 31, 2009. Help us plan for the future by telling us how we are doing and what you want from your library. The survey is available online from the library and the town webpages. Simply click on the link "Ledyard Library Survey". A computer will also be set up in each library for patrons to take the survey.

Display Case

The Bill Library Association display case at Bill Library now has the unique button collection of Mary Butler. Mrs. Butler was intrigued by the unusual buttons she would see at yard sales and for the past 30 years has been collecting them. She also frequents estate sales looking for the "perfect" button. Her collection contains buttons from as early as the 1840's and features glass, metal and shell buttons.

If you are interested in displaying a collection contact Sandy or Jim Seaton at

bill-lib@ledyard.lioninc.org. May and June will feature the train collection of Dave Engelman

Eagle Scout Project

The Library Commission and library staff wish to thank Adam Strickland for the work he did at Bill Library to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Adam organized a crew of Scout volunteers who enriched the soil, planted over 80 assorted bulbs and mulched the beds around the library, and replaced some of the shrubs that were lost during the ramp project. We look forward to seeing them bloom this spring. In addition he built two picnic tables for the "Green" area and refinished the bench along the sidewalk.



Thank you Adam, for choosing the library for your project.

Newbery/Caldecott 2009



The American Library Association chooses two children's books each year for the Newbery and Caldecott Award with honor books in each category.



The Newbery Medal is awarded for the most distinguished American children's book published the previous year. The Caldecott medal is given to the artist who created the most distinguished picture book of the year. The winners for this year are as follows:

Newbery Award:

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Newbery Honor Books:

The Underneath by Kathi Appelt

The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom by Margarita Engle

Savvy by Ingrid Law

After Tupac & D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson

Caldecott Award:

The House in the Night by Susan Marie Swanson

Caldecott Honor Books:

A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever
by Marla Frazee

How I Learned Geography by Uri Shulevitz

A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams by Jen Bryant

All of these books have been ordered for our libraries. If you wish to read any, please put holds on them!

Donations

We have recently received a donation to honor the 92nd birthday of Nancy Phillips a long-time Ledyard resident who now lives in Mystic. In addition an audio book will be donated to Bill Library, in honor of Dr. Michael Graner who recently facilitated two focus groups for the library.

New Book Preview

Baldacci, David	<i>First Family</i>	April
Chiaverini, Jennifer	<i>The Lost Qult</i>	April
Clark, Mary Higgins	<i>Just Take my Heart</i>	April
Devereaux, Jude	<i>Lavender Morning</i>	April
Quick, Amanda	<i>The Perfect Poison</i>	April
Woods, Stuart	<i>Loitering with Intent</i>	April
Connelly, Michael	<i>The Scarecrow</i>	May
Leonard, Elmore	<i>Road Dogs</i>	May
Patterson, James	<i>The 8th Confession</i>	May
Sandford, John	<i>Wicked Prey</i>	May
Smith, Wilbur	<i>Assegai</i>	May
Brown, Dale	<i>Rogue Forces</i>	June
Coulter, Catherine	<i>Knockout</i>	June
Cussler, Clive	<i>Medusa</i>	June
Evanovich, Janet	<i>Finger Lickin'</i>	June

Holiday Hours

April 12	Easter	Closed
May 24	Memorial Day	Closed
May 25	Memorial Day	Closed

A Word from the Ledyard Library Friends

Plans are underway for the Gales Ferry Book sale in June. Jessie Baker has been working hard sorting and organizing in anticipation of a great book sale.

Marie and Dave Engelman, who are in charge of the Bill Library book sale, and Joan and Chris Hausmann have put together a fabulous team of enthusiastic volunteers to organize and sort books throughout the year. We are so grateful for the hard work and dedication of the following people:

Judy & Norm Owsley	Sandy & Jim Seaton
Stella Briggs	Gayle Wilson
Sara Holdridge	Nancy Avery
Marion Cutler	Stephanie Convey
Janet Barnett	Marie & Dave Engelman
Joan & Chris Hausmann	

Joan and Chris Hausmann, who did such a fabulous job of organizing the books for the Bill Library book sale, have been researching the Friends

of Libraries throughout Connecticut. We can take ideas from other groups as we see the ways they help support their libraries in towns throughout the state.

The Friends are currently exploring additional ways we can help support the Ledyard Libraries, as well as ideas to improve publicity for events.

The Friends hope you had a chance to enjoy some of the recent programs they sponsored including Dan Gordon, author of *Haunted Baseball* and "American Pie and Baseball" which featured foods from nine baseball cities.

Many thanks also to Karen Davies, Membership Chair for organizing and updating the membership lists. A streamlined renewal system makes it easier to stay up to date. Please consider joining the Friends. At \$5 for an individual and \$10 for a family, the cost is small and the rewards are great. Active friends get a first peek and a chance to purchase at the book sales the night before it opens to the public---a fabulous benefit! Your support is *so* important, and helps our libraries to grow and meet the needs of our community. Money from the book sale supports programs and equipment purchases for the libraries.

Stop in the library anytime and check out the ongoing book sale. We also have a case with special books, collectibles and gift quality items at special prices sure to please. We have done the research to make sure the items are a good value for you. In the case you will find beautiful illustrated editions, rare books, perfect like new items for children, books on entertaining, history, and more, all at reasonable prices. Before going online for that special purchase, check us out! And while you are here, enjoy a coffee or tea and a yummy muffin at Henry's Cafe!

Thursday, April 2 Spring Meeting

Betsy Shafer
7:00 p.m.
Bill Library

The Friends are planning a spring meeting in April to prepare for the June book sale and other activities. Plan to join us and give us your input.

June 3 – 13 Gales Ferry Book Sale

The Gales Ferry Book Sale is on track for a great sale! A wonderful selection of books has nearly filled our shelves. We will be accepting donations through the end of April due to limited space. After May 1st please bring your donations to the Bill Library.



The Sale will start with our Member's Preview on the evening of June 3, followed by the excitement of the sale proper on June 4 and throughout the following week. The Sale will be open during regular library hours. Come early, come often.

National Library Week

April 12 – 18, 2009

Worlds connect @ your library[®]

LIBRARY HOURS

BILL

464-9912

Monday – Thursday 9-9

Friday - Saturday 9-5

Sunday 1-5

email: bill-lib@ledyard.lioninc.org

GALES FERRY

464-6943

Monday – Thursday 9-8

Friday - Saturday 9-5

Sunday 1-5

email: gf-lib@ledyard.lioninc.org

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