



BOOKS AND BEYOND...

NEWS OF THE LEDYARD LIBRARIES

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

Fall 2007

Volume 20 No. 4

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.

In this Issue

- Children's Programs
- Teen Programs
- Adult Programs
- Mad Hatters
- Voting Machines
- Information at your Fingertips
- Rotary Grant
- Holiday Hours
- Newsletters
- Friends News



The 21st Century Library: It's not your Parents' Library!

Technological developments at the end of the 20th century revolutionized global communications and generated utopian predictions for a brave new interconnected world. While many dreams came true, most had unforeseen consequences. The internet has provided instant access to important news, freed us from the constraints of "snail mail," and increased the voice of "ordinary" people in the public sphere. But it has also produced a cacophony of incessantly-repeated, often sensationalized, reports of – "breaking news" – much of it patently un-newsworthy, and escalated the ability of social and economic predators worldwide to con people of their life savings, prey on the young, exploit the weak, and steal identities.



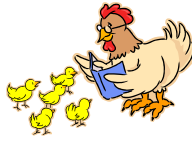
Developments in electronic communications and word processing led to a similar pattern of partially-fulfilled visions and unexpected consequences. By the 1980s the increasing proliferation – and decreasing size – of personal and business computers had pundits proclaiming the advent of a paperless and commute-free society. Henceforth, much of the data needed to conduct personal lives and careers would come to us via the internet. Why drive to a bank when financial transactions and records could be managed, stored, and retrieved without paper, from home? Why drive to the library if electronic books, magazines and newspapers could be read on a computer screen?

Technological advances have indeed transformed

Continued on P. 4

Children's Programs

Registration for Story times at the Ledyard Public Libraries will begin Monday, September 10th. Your child must be the appropriate age within the first week of the story time. You may call in to the library where the program is being offered anytime after 9:30 am. (Bill 464-9912, Gales Ferry 464-6943).



Infant/Toddler

Infants (6-15 mos.)

GF Tuesdays 9:30 am Sept. 25– Oct. 23

Toddlers (16 – 24 mos.)

Bill Mondays 9:30 am Sept. 24 – Oct. 29
(no S.T. 10/8)

Terrific Twos

Bill Mondays 9:30 am Nov. 5 – Dec. 10

GF Tuesdays 9:30 am Nov. 6 – Dec. 11

Threes and Fours

Bill Wednesdays 9:30 am Oct. 3 – Dec. 12

Three to Fives

GF Tuesdays 10:30 am Oct. 2 – Dec. 11

Four to Sixes

Bill Thursdays 1:00 pm Oct. 4 – Dec. 13

Summer Wrap up



We had a great time solving mysteries this summer. There were 268 players in the older programs (grades 2-6) and 71 players in the Read to Me program (ages 4 – grade 1) for a total of 339 children who participated at both Bill and Gales Ferry Libraries. The older children read 283,340 minutes and the younger children read 3,170 books! Our top readers will be announced in the next edition of the newsletter so we can keep their identity a secret until Mrs. Brewer visits the elementary schools. In addition to the reading programs, we had a Sidewalk Chalk Contest, Preschool Story time, Mad Science presentation, Tom Seiling musician, Pizza and a Mystery, and a super finale with The Activated Storytellers.

Teen Program

Teen Writing Group

Wednesday, October 10 7 p.m. Bill Library



We are forming a writing group for those in grades 7-12, which will meet at the libraries once a month to support young writers in their literary careers.

Beginning and more experienced writers are welcome! Please email me at teenlibrarian@ledyard.lioninc.org or leave a message

at Bill Library if you are interested. We will talk about a mutually convenient meeting time and place at the first meeting. If you cannot make it, but are interested, please let me know, and I will inform you of upcoming meetings. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Teen Summer Reading 2007

We had a great time in the Teen Program this summer! There were 74 teens registered in the program, with 54 of them reading, for a total of 758 books recorded, and 58 volunteering 789.5 hours! The teens accrued volunteer time by working two-hour shifts playing the summer reading game with the younger children, as well as hosting the "Pizza and a Mystery" event where the younger detectives were invited to share pizza and solve a mystery the teens staged for them. We held several activities, including a bread baking workshop, a Clue board-game workshop, a life-sized Clue game, mystery movies, and an award ceremony with ice cream sundaes. We also held our first annual Teen Writing contest! The prize winners are listed here, but please see the Teen Page on the library website for more details on volunteer hours and books read, along with some pictures!



Most Books Read: Tia Hunter: 81;

Becca Debus: 67; Samantha Craig: 64.

Honorable Mention: Kayla Fowler: 52;

Sarah Ganong: 46; Katie & Tara Pealer: 40 each.

Most Volunteer Hours: Erica Eakin: 54 hours; Erin Strickland: 46 + 6 (the Sampler) 52; Eva Renski: 42.

Honorable Mention: Paige Gruszkowski: 38; Tara Pealer: 35 + 1 ¼ (Book sale) 36 ¼; Katie Pealer: 35; Brook Lasater: 30

Teen Writing Contest

Congratulations to the winners of our 2007 writing contest! It was truly hard to pick the best because there were many excellent pieces submitted. Many thanks to our judges: Cay Haffey, Marilyn Baseler, and Marty Hubbard from the library staff, and Sue Lantelme, Ledyard High Media Center Specialist.



Poetry: Winner: Sam Graebner

Honorable Mention: Eva Renski

Short fiction: Winner: Sam Graebner

Honorable Mention: Eva Renski

Long Fiction: Winner: Audrey Higgins

Scripts/plays: Winner: Sam Graebner

I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did, and I look forward to seeing you all next summer!

Andrea Buka, Teen Program Coordinator

Adult Programs

Book Discussions

Join our monthly book discussions on Wednesday evenings at Bill Library, beginning at 7 P.M. We always welcome new participants and provide evening refreshments.



October 17, 2007: *Ghost Walk* by Rebecca Stott.



This debut novel tells of the mysterious drowning death of Elizabeth Vogelsang, a Cambridge University scholar who was almost finished writing a controversial biography of Isaac Newton; her son, Cameron Brown; and Lydia Brooke, his former lover, whom he recruits to

complete the book. That request plunges Brooke into probing two ostensibly separate series of murders: One in the 17th century claimed the lives of several who stood between Newton and the fellowship he needed to continue his studies at Cambridge; the other in the present day appears to target those who have offended a radical animal rights group. Brooke's work may be haunted by a ghost from Newton's time who guides her to a radical reinterpretation of the role of alchemy and the supernatural in Newton's life. This book is a well researched historical novel as much as a complex murder mystery!

November 21, 2007: *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan.

Another example of a first historical novel by an author, this book also required a great deal of research. Mamah (pronounced May-ma) Borthwick Cheney met Frank Lloyd Wright when Wright designed a house for the Cheney family in Oak Park Illinois. Sparks flew and eventually Mamah and Frank both left their families to live in Europe for a year - while the scandal slowly broke in the US. The story is touching and unusual, showing a human side to Frank Lloyd Wright and the families, affairs, artists, scholars and architects of the "Prairie Home" years of the early 20th century.

December: No Book Discussion --Happy Holidays!

One Book One Region Author visits

Monday September 24, 2007

Fitch High School 7 P.M.

Tuesday September 25, 2007

Otis Library 2 P.M.

Coast Guard Academy 7 P.M. Leamy Hall

Wednesday September 26, 2007

Eastern Ct. College, Smith Library,

Johnson Room 7 P.M.

Reyna Grande, author of *Across a Hundred Mountains* returns to several locations this fall. If you've had a chance to read her book this past season or attended any of the local library programs for One Book One Region 2007, these presentations will provide a finale for the topics and ideas shared by so many this past summer! Hope to see you all at one of these events. Check the website www.onebookoneregion.org for more details.

Stitch and Dish

The knitting group continues to meet twice a month at the Gales Ferry Library. Stitch and Dish is a social and instructive knitting group for all levels of ability. The only requirement is that you bring needles and yarn. Members will help new people get started or share patterns and yarn ideas. The evening group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and the afternoon group meets on the fourth Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. Both groups are held on a drop-in basis, so stop in for either one when you are looking for knitting buddies.

Mad Hatters

The Ledyard Mad Hatters recently received a generous donation of yarn and knitting needles from the family of the late Priscilla Cruz. We are very grateful for the donation, which we will loan to anyone who is making projects to donate to the Mad Hatters. Please contact the Mad Hatters at the Gales Ferry Library, 464-6943, if you would like to use the yarn or borrow the knitting needles.

Thank you to all the Mad Hatters who participated in our recent drive to collect chemo caps. We have collected over 70 caps to donate to local cancer treatment centers.

The Mad Hatters are now ready to begin their next project. This fall we will begin collecting hats, scarves, mittens and socks to donate to local social service agencies. This project will be ongoing during the winter months. Any size or pattern is acceptable. If you are in need of a pattern, please contact either Bill or Gales Ferry Library.

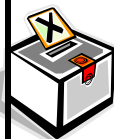


Voting Machines @ Your Library

Monday, Oct 15 5-7 P.M. Gales Ferry Library

Tuesday, Oct 16 5-7 P.M. Bill Library

Representatives from the Registrar of Voters Office will demonstrate the new Voting Machines at each library. Stop in at either library and try out the new machine.



Continued from P. 1

21st century lives and institutions in many ways. We can now correspond, pay bills, shop, apply for jobs and insurance, take exams, check sports scores and TV schedules, and renew library books online – without using a drop of gas or sheet of paper. Despite these trends, the demand for gasoline and printed media has escalated. The proliferation of print is one of the most ironic and surprising consequences of the electronic revolution. It can be explained, in part, by the fact that most people prefer reading books, magazines, and newspapers that they can hold in their hands while sitting in an easy chair with their feet up. Even more important is the nature of new technology. Printing out data and documents stored on disks that become “corrupted” and computers that crash with alarming regularity seems prudent. In addition, computers designed to eliminate the printed page have also made it easy for anyone to produce professional quality documents – whether signs advertising upcoming events, animals available for adoption, or tag sales; “personalized” letters from charities, flyers from people who want to mow our lawns, clean our carpets and deliver fuel oil; or newsletters which, thanks to desktop publishing programs, can be produced by even the smallest organization.



New technology has also transformed public libraries into unprecedented conduits for all forms of media. In Connecticut any state resident with a card issued by his local library has free access to the holdings of every public library in the state – including local libraries from Avon to Stonington, all public universities, and the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. After locating the desired material in the state-wide catalog (which can be searched online or at the library), the requested books, photocopies, audio recordings, music CDs, or movies (video or DVD) are delivered by vans (called CCars), whose pick-up and delivery routes crisscross the state. Connecticut also has an electronic database (iconn.org) that gives anyone with a local library card instant and unprecedented access to the contents of thousands of books, magazines, academic journals, and newspapers published throughout the United States in the last 20+ years. Now people of all ages can read (and print out) articles on all topics published in newspapers across the country, articles from magazines ranging from *Newsweek* and *Sports Illustrated* to *Highlights for Children*, encyclopedias and other reference works, and government reports.

The best way to illustrate the magnitude of these developments is to look at the obstacles faced by previous generations. In years past, students

searched giant green volumes of *The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* – which indexed about 200 general interest magazines – for the title and location of articles relevant to their research. Next came the hunt for the nearest library that had preserved or microfilmed that particular issue of the newspaper or magazine and then, figuring out how and when to get to that library – during the hours they were open and before the report was due. This was a daunting process for students in cities with large public libraries – libraries with the money and space needed to purchase subscriptions (or microfilm) of hundreds of titles and to store them for decades. Now imagine how difficult it would be for those from small towns whose library might not even own a microfilm viewer.

The transformation of libraries in the last two decades has been both dramatic and contrary to expectations. As we have seen, the internet did not eliminate the printed page; neither has it displaced the public library. Web sites provide an abundance of unverified information, but much of it is simply a selection of “facts” designed to promote a particular point of view or business. Think, for example, of the prominence of “sponsored links” in “hits” generated by modern search engines. Internet access to published newspaper and magazine articles is also limited and expensive – often costing more than \$5.00 a page. Twenty-first century libraries transcend these constraints. **Today, patrons of even the smallest libraries in Connecticut, including those in Ledyard, can access, without charge, more authoritative, published media than was available in most 20th century research centers.** Today’s libraries are indeed far more than “your parents’ libraries.”



Marilyn Baseler, Library Assistant

Information at Your Fingertips

The library has added four new databases to our collection that provide you with timely information on auto repair, antiques and collectibles, legal forms, and testing and educational reference. These databases are available online to anyone using a computer from work, home, or at the library. Go to our web page, click on the “Reference Desk” and you’ll find icons for these new databases:

- *Chilton's Auto Repair Manuals* – Car and Truck repair, maintenance and recall information.
- *Price It Antiques and Collectibles* – Prices for antiques and collectibles including prices for rare and first edition books.

- *US Legal Forms* – In addition to State and Federal forms that you can print out including Living Wills, Tax forms, and Divorce forms, this database also lists lawyers by state and specialty with links to their web pages.
- *Testing and Education Reference Center* – Information on colleges and graduate schools as well as sample tests for GEDs, SATs, & ACTs, GREs, many Civil Service Exams, Citizenship Tests, and Military Entrance Exams.

There's a wealth of knowledge available from our databases. Join us for a demo to become familiar with how to use these new resources or ask about them when you are in.

Data Base Demonstrations

Bill Library

Thursday, October 11, 2007 7 P.M.
 Thursday, October 25, 2005 7 P.M.

Gales Ferry Library

Tuesday, October 16, 2007 5 P.M.
 Saturday, November 3, 2007 10 A.M.

Rotary Grant Received

The Ledyard Rotary Club awarded Gales Ferry Library a grant to purchase a table and 2 chairs for the mezzanine area. The table and chairs will provide us with flexibility for use, as a reading table, a study table with room to spread out, or a place where two people could work together. We are grateful to the Rotary for their continued support of our libraries.



Holiday Hours

October 8	Columbus Day	Closed
November 11	Veterans Day	Closed
November 12	Veterans Day	Closed
November 21	Thanksgiving Eve	Close at 5
November 22	Thanksgiving	Closed
November 23	Day after Thanksgiving	Closed

Newsletters, Newsletters, and More Newsletters

The libraries have a collection of newsletters representing several Connecticut organizations and agencies. Want to know what programs a particular group may be sponsoring or up to date information about their activities? Newsletters include AARP,

AAUW, Dennison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Avalonia Land Trust, Historical Society newsletters from Ledyard, North Stonington, Stonington, and New London County, Mystic Art Association, Ledyard Seniors, Connecticut Economy, and many more. The newsletters are posted in a special rack at each library.

Friends News

Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 18 Bill Library
6:30 P.M. Refreshments 7:00 P.M. Meeting



Join us for the Friends annual meeting where we disperse funds that are raised during the year. This is a great opportunity for Friends to gather and exchange ideas about what they would like to see done for the library. Library Staff would like to thank the Friends for all of their hard work and will be hosting the refreshment period.

The Friends 2007 Ledyard Fair Book sale was a tremendous success, earning over \$5,500. This success was a combination of wonderful weather, an outstanding selection of donations, and the work of over 50 volunteers, who sorted, advertised, set-up, sold, constantly maintained and broke down the sale.

Friends who participated in this year's sale were Joan and Chris Hausmann, Andrea and Scott Buka, Diana and Greg Wall, Jean Scialabba, Ed and Pam Kalinowski, Tricia Marcek, Jean Ely, Tom and Gayle Wilson, Betsy Shafer, Linda DeRose, Cay Haffey, Ann King, Rose and Paul Brulotte, Jane Leger, Mary McGrattan, Agnes Carver, Sue Lantelme, Judy Owsley, Jane Kish, Irene and Harold Reed, Laverne Stokes, Susan Austen, Lysa and Hart Kelley, Mary Juber, Frank Busch, Gail Milroy, Bill and Joyce LaFleur, Jessie Baker, Marion Cutler, Claire Murphy, and Dave and Marie Engelman.

A big "thank-you" goes to BSA Troop 16 who labored so intently to bring all the books up from the basement. Their enthusiasm and numbers made the Book sale set-up possible. Thank you to Ledyard 4H Musketeer members, Jacob Geer, Alex Wall, and Zach Collins with their Leader Beth Geer, who at the end of the sale boxed left over books and took bookcases down to the basement. Their help came at a time when Friends needed an "extra" hand the most. An additional "thank you" goes to Charley and Ben Shaffer and Dennis Murphy who helped with the loading and transporting of the books. Also, "thank you" to Gale, Marty, and all the staff of the Bill



Library for their patience and support during the hectic times of the Sale. And a “special” thank-you to Kim Pendleton for regularly vacuuming and cleaning the meeting room during the sale. It helped keep the Sale looking fresh.

The Friends will be accepting books for next year’s Fair Book sale October 1st. Gales Ferry is presently accepting items for their Sale in June. These two events, as well as the libraries on-going

book sales, are major fundraisers for the Ledyard Libraries and help contribute to the quality of our wonderful town libraries. If you would like to join the Friends of Ledyard Libraries and help support our town libraries, please stop by the Gales Ferry Library or the Bill Library and fill out a membership form. Many hands make these projects possible and enjoyable.

Hope to see you on October 18th.

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

*Sunday hours begin September 23rd

Ledyard Public Libraries
P. O. Box 225
Ledyard, CT. 06339

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