

## Calendar of Events

### January

January 10, 17, 24, 31	Pre-Threes classes for children	10 & 11 am
January 11, 18, 25	Been There Done That classes for children	10 am
January 11, 18, 25	Baby Sign	11 am
January 11, 18, 25	Little's classes for children	1 pm
January 13, 20, 27	Music and Movement classes for children	10 & 11 am
January 11, 18, 25	Teen Film Club	3:30 pm
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Computer classes for Adults	6-7 pm
January 4, 11, 18, 25		10:30-11:30 am
January 5, 12, 19, 26		10:30 am
January 8, 15, 22, 29	Needlers Club for adults	1-3:00 pm
January 6	Scrabble for Teens & Adults	6:15 pm
January 10	Tai Chi (first class of new session)	6:30 pm
January 11	Poets' Corner	7:00 pm
January 12	Bedtime Music and Movement for children	6:30 pm
January 17	<b>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY – LIBRARY IS OPEN</b>	
January 17	Tai Chi	6:30 pm
January 17	Culture Club	12:30 pm
January 19	Reading to Thor and Cosmo – for children	6:00 pm
January 24	Tai Chi	6:30 pm
January 25	Current Events Club	6:30 pm
January 31	Tai Chi	6:30 pm



### February

February 1, 8, 22	Been There Done That classes for children	10 am
February 1, 8, 22	Baby Sign classes for infants	11 am
February 1, 8, 22	Little's classes for children	1 pm
February 3, 10, 24	Music & Movement classes for children	10 & 11 am
February 7, 21, 28	PreThrees classes for children	10 & 11 am
February 1, 8, 22	Teen Film Club	3:30 pm
February 1, 8, 15, 22	Computer classes for adults	10:30 am
February 2, 9, 16, 23		10:30 am
February 7, 14, 21, 28		6 pm
February 5, 12, 19, 26	Needlers Club for adults	1-3 pm
February 3	Scrabble for Teens and Adults	6:15 pm
February 6	VITA Tax Preparation Site opens – Tax help	1-5 pm
February 7	Tai Chi	6:30 pm
February 8	Poets' Corner	7 pm
February 9	Bedtime Music & Movement for children	6:30 pm
February 14	<b>VALENTINE'S DAY – LIBRARY IS OPEN</b>	
February 16	Reading to Thor & Cosmo for children	6-7 pm
February 21	<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY – LIBRARY IS OPEN</b>	
February 21	Culture Club	12:30 pm
February 21	Tai Chi – last class of the series	6:30 pm
February 22	Current Events Club	6:30 pm
February 28	Tai Chi – first class of the next series	6:30 pm

Winter Forecast:  
Will I see my shadow?



## Over a century of service to the Valley Community



January - February 2011  
VOL. 4 ISSUE 1

## DERBY NECK LIBRARY

### Staff Profile

#### Christina Baclawski

My name is Christina Baclawski, and you may have seen me around lately after I was recently hired as a substitute library assistant. I received my bachelor's degree in library science from Southern Connecticut State University this past May, and plan to pursue a master's degree in the same subject.

I became interested in library science when I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, after my teacher volunteered me and a few other students to help out in the school library. At first I was irritated about losing my study hall period, but I owe that teacher my thanks because I continued volunteering throughout high school and ultimately chose to pursue library science as a career.

Unsurprisingly, I enjoy reading. I love fantasy novels, historical fiction and mysteries. I almost never choose the right culprit, although I'm getting better at it. My other hobbies include writing and video gaming.

That's me in a nutshell. I look forward to seeing you soon.



Christina Baclawski

Privately Funded  
Regional Library

(203) 734-1492  
(203) 732-2913 FAX

307 Hawthorne Avenue  
Derby, Connecticut 06418

www.derbynecklibrary.org  
email: derbynecklibrary@biblio.org

**Hours:**  
Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sat. - Sun. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
(Open Sat. & Sun. all year)

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**BROKE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS?**

Spend too much on gifts? Facing big fines on Library items you didn't have time to get back promptly to the Library? Bring in a nonperishable food item for Spooner House Homeless Shelter (run by Area Congregations Together) and we'll cut your fines in half! Offer expires after January 31<sup>st</sup>, so take advantage of our offer soon, improve your financial state and help those in need – it's a three-for!

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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Derby Neck Library will be offering a new program during tax time to help people in Connecticut with their federal and state tax returns. The service will be free, and will be provided by certified tax preparers. To undertake this service, we will need a few volunteers to serve as greeters, information recorders, tax preparers, and a site coordinator to serve as organizer of the service at the Library. This program will be offered in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and TEAM Inc. of Derby.

If you are looking for a different kind of volunteer work to perk up the winter doldrums, how about volunteering to do taxes for Derby area residents this tax season?

The Derby Neck Library is looking for volunteers to spend a little time learning about taxes. If you're interested, you'll be trained with Internal Revenue Service tax materials to help people whose incomes are \$49,000 or less with their federal and state individual income tax returns.

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program, you will learn to prepare simple federal and state tax returns. In return, you will be asked to donate about 4 hours a week helping at a VITA/TCE site from mid-January through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Most VITA/TCE sites use computers to prepare and electronically transmit tax returns (e-file). If you're interested in learning to e-file tax returns on a volunteer basis, then VITA/TCE can teach you.

You need not have any accounting experience. All that's required is a desire to help others who cannot prepare their basic tax returns or afford to pay a preparer. VITA/TCE volunteers participate in a short training session – in class or through self study, online courses – then are tested on what they learned. Once certified, volunteers are assigned to VITA/TCE sites in neighborhood community centers, libraries, churches, etc. in locations convenient to VITA/TCE customers.

Don't wait! For more information or to volunteer, contact Judy Augusta, Head Librarian (203) 734-1492.

## My Problem with Pixar

By Andrew Bisaccia

Many film critics have hailed the rapid ascent of computer-animation giant Pixar Studios over the past decade or so as a new dawn for the floundering genre of animation. Films like *The Incredibles* (2004), *Ratatouille* (2007), *Wall-E* (2008), and *Up* (2009) have cemented Pixar's reputation as a major producer of both box-office hits and critical establishment darlings. Not since the glory days of Walt Disney and Chuck Jones has animation reached so wide and so receptive an audience. However, I fear that Pixar's growing influence may be the writing on the wall for traditional animation and the immense strides it has made in recent years. Defenders of 3D computer-animation like to portray traditional animation as a stagnant, bankrupt, obsolete genre; but the fact is that since the late 1980s 2D animation has been experiencing a period of incredible creative fecundity, especially abroad. Japanese anime films particularly, beginning with Isao Takahata's mournful neo-realist elegy *Grave of the Fireflies* (1988), have been increasingly willing to use the medium to tackle adult subject matter. In fact, Hideaki Anno's postmodern masterwork *Neon Genesis Evangelion* (1995) even goes so far as to cynically deconstruct the classic trope of the "child hero" (typified, for example, in *The Incredibles*), by showing just how psychologically disturbed such children would necessarily become. At the other end of the spectrum, the transcendent "children's films" of Hayao Miyazaki—especially *Kiki's Delivery Service* (1994), *Spirited Away* (2001), and *Ponyo* (2009)—rank among the greatest works of art ever made with children in mind; *Up* was vaunted for the sense of childlike wonder it supposedly engendered, but Miyazaki's films make it appear as trite and formulaic in comparison as an old rerun of *Everybody Loves Raymond*. And I haven't even mentioned my three favorite anime—Miyazaki's *Princess Mononoke* (1997), Shinichiro Watanabe's *Cowboy Bebop* (1998), and Seiji Mizushima's *Fullmetal Alchemist* (2003): all three of which are among the greatest films ever made, period. Even here in America, traditional animation is not yet entirely dead, as Brad Bird's fantastic *The Iron Giant* (1999) demonstrates. Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride* (2005) and Wes Anderson's *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* (2009) show the continued creativity present in the claymation niche as well. Unfortunately, however, such productions are on the decline—Anderson's excellent picture, for instance, barely broke even at the box office. Pixar's influence has even infiltrated Japanese productions, such as Miyazaki's *Howl's Moving Castle* (2004) and Mizushima's *Conqueror of Shamballa* (2005), both of which were otherwise good films marred by the overuse of 3D computer graphics. I encourage people whose experience of recent animation has been limited to Pixar or their ugly (but lucrative) little cousin DreamWorks to expand their horizons, and check out the riches of traditional animation—before it's gone for good.



Editor's Note: Many of these DVDs are available to borrow from the Library.

## WE DON'T HAVE THE DVD BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE

### BUT WE DO HAVE THE NOOK AND KINDLE

Once again Derby Neck Library will be offering a new technology to our patrons. E-readers have been a hot item for holiday giving this Christmas, and we now have the Kindle and Nook versions available to be checked out – FOR USE IN THE LIBRARY ONLY. Just leave your driver's license while you have the e-reader. Patrons may download a book from our Overdrive database, accessible from the Derby Neck website, and read it on our Nook in the comfort of the Library (enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while you're reading!). If you prefer to try out the Kindle, ask at the desk for Bob to download a book of your choice from the Amazon.com database.



These e-readers are light-weight, easy to operate from buttons on the device, the print is clear and, best of all, the font can be enlarged to change the book from regular to very large print. Within a few months, we will be offering these readers for home use to our patrons. Why not learn how to use one now so you'll be familiar with it when we offer it for you to take home?

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## Frances Osborne Kellogg's Famous Ancestor

By Patricia E. Sweeney

Frances Kellogg had an interesting lineage, which she had fully researched to gain membership in the D.A.R. Among her forbearers was Susan Durand who married John White Osborne in 1835, both were from Derby. John White Osborne spent his early adult years as a school teacher, before changing professions to become a dry goods merchant. The Osbornes had four children, three daughters and one son, Wilbur Fisk Osborne. Wilbur would have one daughter who lived to adulthood—Frances Eliza Osborne. The family lineage, traced back through Susan's ancestors, includes Dr. John Durand. He was most likely born on Dec. 26, 1664 in La Rochelle, Poitou, France.

At some point early in his life, he immigrated to America with an uncle and two of his cousins. John Durand lived in New Rochelle, New York and from there moved and settled permanently in Connecticut. Descendants of John believe that he returned to visit France and came back to Connecticut with "French hybrid lilacs" specially cultivated in his native land. Some of the doctor's medical practice was in Milford, so he may have at one time lived there as well as in Derby. 1700 is the date that can be verified by land records as the family's settlement in Derby, on six acres of land.



The designation of Derby being the "Lilac City" of Connecticut results from Dr. Durand's French lilac plantings in his new home in Derby.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT

When we have snow and ice, the Library sometimes closes. In general, if the Derby schools are closed, we will at least start the day closed. If the snow stops early enough, and our plow service and the City can get our grounds and McEvoy Place cleared, we may open later in the day. We suggest you phone the library (203-734-1492) before coming in – if we answer, we're open! Closing announcements will also be posted on WICC radio – 600 on the AM dial, and on WICC's weather website at [www.wicc600.com](http://www.wicc600.com), click on Weather—Cancellations. For current information also, go to our website at [www.derbynecklibrary.org](http://www.derbynecklibrary.org) and click on our Twitter page. You do not have to be a registered Twitter user to access our Tweets.



## Children's Corner



Children's programs will start Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and continue through Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Sign up for a new session will be February 14<sup>th</sup>. In case of inclement weather, please go to our web page at [derbynecklibrary.org](http://derbynecklibrary.org) and click on the Twitter bird. If

classes are delayed or cancelled I will Tweet about it. You do not have to have a Twitter account to access this site. In addition to Sandy and Zoe, we will have two new doggy listeners – Thor and Cosmo (Saint Bernards) in January. Please encourage your children to come and read to them and get a bookmark with their picture on it.

Our YA film group is gearing up to produce some short films this winter. Anyone 12 and older is encouraged to submit a short story to film and be included in our next DVD. The group usually meets on Tuesdays after 3:30 PM. Anyone interested in writing music to be used in films is encouraged to come and work with the group. Check out the Teen Space on our web page.

- Miss Kathi



### COFFEE PERKING BY AN OPEN FIRE . . .

With frigid weather here way ahead of schedule, we had to do SOMETHING to create a warm and cozy atmosphere in the Library and drive the chills away. We invite you to warm yourself before our fireplace and enjoy a complimentary hot beverage from our new Keurig machine.



Coffee, decaf coffee, tea, chai and hot chocolate are available. Sitting before the fire, reading the newspaper or enjoying fellowship with other patrons while sipping a cup of something hot, is the surest way to create a summer space in the midst of winter. See you here soon!