

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| January 9, 16, 23, 30 | Pre-Threes classes for children | 10:00 & 11:00 am |
| January 10, 17, 24, 31 | Been There Done That classes for children | 10:00 am |
| January 10, 17, 24, 31 | Music and Movement classes for children | 11:00 am |
| January 10, 17, 24, 31 | Littles classes for children | 1:00 pm |
| January 12, 19, 26 | Music and Movement classes for children | 10:00 & 11:00 am |
| January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | Teen Film Club | 4:00 pm |
| January 9, 16, 23, 30 | Computer classes for adults | 10:30-11:30 am |
| January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | Computer classes for adults | 10:30-11:30 am |
| January 4, 11, 18, 25 | Computer classes for adults | 6:00-7:00 pm |
| January 7, 14, 21, 28 | Needlers Club for adults | 1:00-3:00 pm |



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|------------|---|---------------|
| January 1 | LIBRARY CLOSED (New Year's Day) | |
| January 2 | LIBRARY CLOSED (New Year's Day observed) | |
| January 3 | LIBRARY OPENS REGULAR HOURS | |
| January 3 | Zumba with Ana Diaz for teens & adults | 6:30 pm |
| January 5 | Scrabble for teens & adults | 6:15-7:30 pm |
| January 10 | Zumba with Ana Diaz for teens & adults | 6:30 pm |
| January 10 | Poets' Corner | 7:00 pm |
| January 11 | Bedtime Music & Movement class for children | 6:30 pm |
| January 16 | Culture Club for adults | 12:30-1:30 pm |
| January 24 | Current Events Club | 6:30-7:30 pm |

January

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| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| February 5, 12, 19, 26 | VITA tax assistance for eligible households | 1:00-3:30 pm |
| February 6, 13, 27 | Pre-Threes classes for children | 10:00 & 11:00 am |
| February 7, 14, 28 | Been There Done That classes for children | 10:00 am |
| February 7, 14, 28 | Music and Movement classes for children | 11:00 am |
| February 7, 14, 28 | Littles classes for children | 1:00 pm |
| February 2, 9, 16 | Music and Movement classes for children | 10:00 & 11:00 am |
| February 7, 14, 21, 28 | Teen Film Club | 4:00 pm |
| February 6, 13, 20, 27 | Computer classes for adults | 10:30-11:30 am |
| February 7, 14, 21, 28 | Computer classes for adults | 10:30-11:30 am |
| February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | Computer classes for adults | 6:00-7:00 pm |
| February 4, 11, 18, 25 | Needlers Club for adults | 1:00-3:00 pm |



| | | |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| February 2 | Scrabble for teens & adults | 6:15-7:30 pm |
| February 8 | Bedtime Music & Movement class for children | 6:30 pm |
| February 14 | Poets' Corner | 7:00 pm |
| February 20 | Culture Club for adults | 12:30-1:30 pm |
| February 28 | Current Events Club | 6:30-7:30 pm |
| February 29 | Leap Day | |

February

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| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |

Over a century of service to the Valley Community



January - February 2012
VOL. 5 ISSUE 1

DERBY NECK LIBRARY

Spotlight on . . .

Ian Parsells

In October 2011, Derby Neck Library welcomed its new head librarian Ian Parsells. Ian comes to us from New Jersey where he worked as a teen and technology reference librarian in Glen Rock, NJ. He has a B.A. in Literature from Ramapo College and received his Master of Library and Information Science degree from Rutgers. Prior to pursuing public librarianship, Ian worked in publishing as a ghostwriter, proofreader, and public relations coordinator, before taking his skills to the marketing industry.



Ian Parsells

At Glen Rock, Ian introduced some unique and exciting teen programs including video game tournaments, I-Spy movie nights, photo scavenger hunts, mystery nights, trivia contests, the horror club, themed outdoor events, Live Mario Kart, Capture the Flag tag, and more. Taking from that experience, he hopes to introduce new programs for the Derby Neck community of all ages.

A writer and booklover at heart, Ian has an avid affection for the written word in all its forms.



Keeping that in mind, he will work hard to make sure the collection remains strong and grows in the right direction over the coming years. Over time, books will be shifted to accommodate new additions while our treasured historical collection will be relocated and protected. Computer services will continue to advance and play a central role in the library, but not at the expense of information. First and foremost, the information needs of the Valley will drive Ian to make thoughtful, meaningful changes.

Although his first month included moving to a new state as well as a freak October snowstorm with a week of no electricity, Ian remains optimistic about his future in Derby and wishes everyone who walks through our doors a wonderful 2012!

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)

VITA Brings Free Tax Preparation Services to Derby & Connecticut

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program kicks off another year in January, and will offer free tax preparation through April 18th. Households that earned less than \$50,000 in 2011 are eligible for VITA's free tax preparation services, provided by IRS-certified volunteers at community centers, nonprofit organizations, and other convenient locations across Connecticut. The Derby Neck Library will again be participating this year offering Sunday hours to eligible households.

VITA, a nationwide initiative, saves clients an average of \$150 each and ensures that all taxpayers are carefully screened for valuable tax credits, such as the new Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can provide up to \$1,700 to eligible working families. There is no need to use an expensive "Instant Refund" service, because VITA's free tax sites now offer online E-file and Direct Deposit, enabling clients to receive refunds quickly, often within less than a week. Many locations can also link clients to other free services such as savings accounts and financial education classes, tools that can help families to leverage their tax refunds into lasting economic stability.

Hours of operation vary. At the Derby Neck Library, eligible patrons will be able to schedule appointments from 1-3:30pm on Sundays through April 8th. For other VITA sites' hours of operation, dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211ct.org or www.irs.gov for directions and hours.



SmartShield, Flash Drives, & Ear Buds

Our computer network has been undergoing a software adjustment to provide patrons more uniform service. This will allow patrons to find the same items on the desktop, and more secure access to the standard programs that they need to use, regardless of which computer they sit at.

This new software, SmartShield, provides two important items of interest. First, the computers will automatically delete anything that has been saved on a nightly basis. Therefore, we now have 1 gigabyte flash drives for sale at our circulation desk so patrons may save files they personally need. Secondly, all computers will automatically shut down 10 minutes before the library closes.

Lastly, we also have ear buds for sale at our circulation desk so patrons can listen to whatever they need to without disturbing other patrons provided volume is kept at a reasonable level.



Writers' Round

Derby Neck Library is seeking the brightest local writers age 13–130 for the new Writers' Round writing club beginning in

March. Storytellers, poets, songwriters, playwrights, novelists, historians: all are welcome to join the club where we will share, listen, critique, and learn! The signup sheet is available at the circulation desk. Please leave your phone number and/or email. When the first meeting is scheduled, we will let you know! For more information, feel free to contact Ian Parsells, head librarian and club coordinator:

headlibrarian@biblio.org or call 203-734-1492 x11.

Friends' May Book Sale

The next great Friends' Book Sale takes place May 5 – May 13. As such, the Friends of the Library are especially looking for new donations for children: picture books, cardboard books, fiction, and nonfiction, audiobooks, DVDs, and CDs in good/excellent condition! Bring your donations to the Library's circulation desk.

Monthly Book Raffle

Starting January 2012, the library will feature a monthly book raffle. Similar to the Chinese Auctions held in the past, patrons will be entering to win stacks of free books and movies. But, it's not so easy this time around. There are special rules to this game. Find the correct answers to our riddles, scavenger hunts, and trivia questions, check out a related book from our collection, and you could win! At the end of the month, a random drawing will determine the winner of the raffle. See the circulation desk for more details.



ANDREW'S PICKS

The Marriage Plot (Jeffrey Eugenides, 2011). Eugenides is working in a relatively minor mode here—at least in comparison with his tremendously ambitious book *Middlesex* (2002), which is perhaps my favorite contemporary American novel. "Minor" Eugenides, however, still manages to depict masterfully the lives of three Brown University graduates in all their complexity, as they fall into and out of love and search for the answers to life's "Big

Questions." Like the Karamazov brothers in Dostoevsky's *magnum opus*, I believe that each of Eugenides' protagonists comes (roughly, not allegorically) to correspond to a particular human response to these Questions: Leonard Bankhead, the manic-depressive biology major, represents existential despair leading into nihilism; Mitchell Grammaticus, the eccentric religious studies major, represents Christian faith; and Madeleine Hanna, the English major caught between the other two (romantically and ideologically) represents individualism, aestheticism, and Romanticism. Such a reading is outrageously reductive, of course, but it goes to show that even "minor" Eugenides plumbs the depths of the human experience like few other living writers.



Help Local Families Save Money – Volunteer with VITA in Derby

The Derby VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Coalition is seeking volunteers to provide free tax preparation to low-income area residents at local community centers. Volunteers can be trained to serve as tax preparers or as greeters who welcome clients to the tax site & provide important information. Financial background not required, but helpful. Minimum time commitment is 4 hours per week during tax season (Jan-April) plus 12-16 hours of training with the IRS for those serving as volunteer tax preparers. Help working families in your area save money – Become a VITA volunteer!

To sign up, please visit <http://ctvita.volunteerhub.com> or contact Shannon Houston, VITA Coordinator at the Connecticut Association for Human Services, at 860-951-2212 x225 or shouston@cahs.org.

STAFF:

Ian Parsells, *Head Librarian*
Kathleen Gordon, *Assistant Head Librarian/Youth Services*
Patricia Sweeney, *Reference & Cataloging*
Roberto Carmona, *Circulation & IT*
Christina Baclawski, Andrew Bisaccia, Kim MacDonald,
Rita McEvoy, Tyke Ortiz, Linda Ribas, Carol Senfield

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DERBY NECK WINTERS

By Patricia E. Sweeney

From some original letters of Wilbur F. Osborne we can see the conditions during winters past here in the Derby Neck area of Derby. On December 28, 1896, he writes to his daughter Frances, "Cold is no name for it. Ten degrees below zero and everything frozen up including hot water. Delightful sleighing, however." He also writes, "'Colder than John' is an apt and trite expression, but I never could see the relevancy of it. But if John was driving today in New England, he would be a trifle chilly to say the least. The fast-flowing Naugatuck is frozen over, and hundreds of skaters are practicing their art between the two bridges."



LIBRARY PRODUCTIONS UPDATE

By the end of 2011, Derby Neck's award-winning film group will have wrapped production on *Gently in the Sink*, an ambitious new collection of short films exploring themes of

insanity, loneliness, brotherhood, desperation, intergenerational conflict, existential anxiety, and uncomfortable exercise. As always, we are seeking creative middle- and high-school students who are interested in contributing to future projects as actors, writers, or directors. This is a fantastic opportunity for artistically-inclined teens looking to bolster their résumés for college. Those interested should call the library and ask for Kathi or Andrew.



THANKS!

Derby Neck Library Donations

Every year, the library receives thousands of generously-donated materials ranging from books to movies to music. Due to space constraints, the Derby Neck Library can no longer accept all donations. Beginning January 1, 2012, the library will accept new or gently used:

- Hardcover and quality trade paperback books published within the past 10 years.
- Hardcover books published prior to 1930 that are mold-free and in good condition.
- Media materials (DVDs, CDs, Books on CD) that are in good condition.

All materials listed above should be in their original packaging with their covers intact. For example, books with broken spines or missing slip covers will be rejected. If you have questions about a donation, or to see a list of unusable donations, please contact Ian Parsells, head librarian.

Children's Corner

Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the library's warm and delightful. Come on in with your children and snuggle up with Miss Kathi's story and music programs. Take time in your busy day to play and interact with your special someone. Children love to sing and dance and it is even better with their grownup! Classes will start in January and continue through the Spring. Our calendar of events is located on the back of this newsletter and you can go to our Children's Corner on the Website for program dates and times. No registration is necessary, just drop in! Also, check us out on Facebook and Twitter for weather updates.



2012

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

As 2012 begins and many of us think about joining a gym to strengthen our muscles, why not think about joining a free, fun club at the Derby Neck Library and exercising your brain as well (after all the brain is a muscle).

Among the clubs offered at the library are four that are both stimulating and refreshing. On the first Thursday of each month, you are invited to come play Scrabble on our boards, using our dictionaries and supplies. We even offer written materials to help enhance your Scrabble skills. We meet on Thurs., Jan 5 and again on Thurs., Feb. 2 from 6:15-7:30 p.m. On the second Tuesday of each month, you are invited to tap your artistic side by joining Poets' Corner, a club in which we experiment with simple, unique writing exercises to enhance our creative abilities. We meet on Tues., Jan. 10 and again on Tues., Feb. 14 from 7-8 p.m. On the third Monday of each month we offer the Culture Club at which we enjoy lively and timely discussions of literature, focusing primarily on short stories, but on occasion including poetry or history. This group meets on Mon., Jan. 16 and again Mon., Feb. 20 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Bring a light lunch and the library provides coffee and tea free. On the fourth Tuesday of each month we offer the Current Events Club at which we discuss the issues and events of the day, including the arts, finance, politics, medicine, and other related fields. We meet on Tues., Jan. 24 and again on Tues., Feb. 28 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

All four of these clubs—open both to teens and adults—are moderated by our staff member, Patricia Sweeney, Ph.D. For further details on any of these clubs and their offerings, please call Pat at 203-734-1492.



INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT – JUST IN CASE!

With the coming of cold weather, this is a reminder that 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 at 203-734-1492 before coming in. Closing announcements will also be posted on WICC radio – 600 on the AM dial, and on WICC's weather website at www.wicc600.com, click on Weather – Cancellations. Announcements are also posted on our Twitter and Facebook pages. Let's hope we don't have to close this year!